



Optional hole punch, for putting connection ring,
Airlie can provide ring if needed.
Punch AFTER folding

Instructions for creating cheat sheets

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Garden Guide Cheat Sheet

Please Carry Your Cell Phones or Staff Radio with you when touring

- Welcome to Airlie Gardens, Wilmington NC
- My name is _____
- Airlie is 67 acres of gardens, lakes, and tidal marshes
- Owned and operated by New Hanover County since 1999
- Established over 100 years ago by Sarah & Pembroke Jones as private get away, and then bought by the Corbett family in 1948 for 150,000. (Corbett's owned a packaging company)
- While here, guests will experience a similar **garden** experience that the Jones' guests would have enjoyed when coming to their house to visit.
- 3 themes of Airlie – history, horticulture, and ecology

Minnie Evans Sculpture Garden

- Built in honor of Artist Minnie Evans, Minnie worked for Mrs. Jones at the old house (Minnie Evans: 1892-1987)
- Minnie's husband, Julius, was a coachman and property manager for the Joneses
- The Corbett family then hired Minnie Evans to work ticket booth, and at one time would sell her paintings for 50 cents to garden visitors.
- Minnie saw a vision of an angel that told her she must paint or die
- Her pieces are known for their bright colors, eyes and faces emerging from foliage, many media (including crayon) on same canvas
- Her work is now all over world and at Cameron Art Museum
- Sculpture Garden was dedicated to her in 2004
- Virginia Wright-Frierson is the artist of Bottle Chapel

** Books on Minnie and bottle chapel available in the gift shop*

Airlie Oak

- 465-year-old live oak
- circumference = 21 feet at breast height
- Resurrection fern = epiphyte, can go dormant during drought
- Spanish moss = epiphyte, it is not Spanish, nor a moss at all, it is a native epiphyte, meaning it gets all of its water from the surrounding air and gets nutrients from accumulating organic matter. A relative of the pineapple. It does not hurt the tree.
- The Queen's Luncheon during annual Azalea Festival takes place around Airlie Oak
- Mrs. Jones had ~500,000 azaleas at a time when they were considered rare
- Today we have ~ around 100,000 azaleas and counting

Tranquility Garden

- These Gardens are part of a partnership with local landscape businesses and garden clubs.
- Theme is "Gardens of the World"
- The Centennial Plaza w/ fountain was dedicated in 2002 – on the 100 year anniversary of creating Airlie Lake
- Airlie's Butterfly house, completed in 2010.
- Airlie's Butterfly House flies approx. 20 native species of butterflies, is used as an educational tool for school children.
- Some butterfly species at Airlie include: Monarchs, Painted Ladies, Gulf Fritillaries, Black Swallowtail

Causeway Over Lake

- Sarah Wharton Green married Pembroke Jones in 1884 and bought 52 acres in the same year.
- Mr. Jones named Airlie after ancestral Scottish home
- Renovated Seaside Park Hotel over many years
- The Joneses created this 10-acre freshwater lake in 1902, by damming up what was once a saltwater marsh. Azaleas were planted around the perimeter to reflect into the water in the spring.
- Bridges used to be wooden, removed after vandalism in 1960's
- Yellow Lady Banks' rose on edges of causeway- were here both then and now
- Lake attracts migrating birds in winter, floating green is called duck weed, it is good for oxygenating the water but when it dies, can be harmful.
- Water quality valued – environmental education programs, testing, plants that filter pollutants, organic fertilizer, integrated pest management

Gravestone “Mystery Grave”

- Mystery
- Frenchman buried here, “John Hill”
- He was a Tutor for Bradley children who owned the land in early 1800's
- Thought to be general under Napoleon, who might have changed his name on escaping to America.
- Inscription 1833 says, “Known in Eternity”
- During early 1800's the Bradley and Wright families owned parcels of land including the Airlie Property

Pergola Garden

- Notice how the gardens in Airlie transform from natural to more formal gardens as we move closer to the old house location.
- Most of the pergola columns are original from about 1904
- Mrs. Jones had ideas for garden so she..
- Hired Rudolph Topel in 1906 to execute garden plans
- Pergola is our most popular wedding venue
- Carolina Jessamine - yellow flowers in spring, and Confederate Jasmine fragrant flowers in later spring line the top of the pergola
- Classical elements Pan, wood nymph statue
- The Steps entering the water would have facilitated getting into small boats used by guests
- One could imagine that the pergola garden would have been a romantic spot for a southern lady to escape the watchful eye of a chaperone
- Television series *Dawson's Creek* and *One Tree Hill* were filmed here, along with *A Cinderella Story: Once Upon A Song*, starring Lucy Hale

Walkway Towards Camellia Garden

- See some of the trees common to the garden, such as the Loblolly Pine, and southern magnolia
- Southern Magnolia – *Magnolia grandiflora*
- 12” diameter flowers, magnolias are one of biggest in North America
- Fruit with bright red seeds
- Just past the black gate on the right, before the Lebanon Chapel entrance is the oldest Camellia Tree on site, said to be over 100 years old, it is a Governor Mouton

Mount Lebanon Chapel

- Built in 1835 by Dr. Thomas Henry Wright, and has been restored several times due to vandal damage.
- Built because people living on the sound needed their own church
- The church never belonged to the Joneses – church and 6.5 acres surrounded are deeded to St. James Church
- 1912 Sadie Jones (Sarah's daughter) married here in Lebanon chapel to John Russell Pope, the architect of Thomas Jefferson Memorial
- The Chapel is on the National Register of Historic Places (1986)
- St. James Church still holds services here during the summer months
 - *Lebanon is private property and not owned by Airlie Gardens, please respect the grounds*
 - *Fox's hit television show, Sleepy Hollow did filming here*

Spring Garden

- This garden was the formal area adjacent to the Jones' mansion.
- House torn down in 1958, new Corbett house built in 1960
- The house stood where the house on other side of fence sits, it was the Corbett house, who owned Airlie until New Hanover County bought in 1999, now private residence
- Jones' mansion started with Seaside Park Hotel, ended up with 12 bedrooms, a separate indoor tennis court/ballroom, 38 apartments
- In her 60's, Sarah's first husband dies, and she marries Henry Walters 3 years later (see info on Henry on other sheets)
- Mrs. Jones spent \$300,000/year on entertainment, and partied with all of high-society, including the Vanderbilts. She would give out diamonds and gold watches as party gifts

Camellia Garden

- Rose Arbor structure, damaged caused by Hurricane Ophelia in 2005
- Camellias add color in winter when they bloom
- Garden is Mostly Japonica camellias, which have no scent. There are also Sasanqua Camellias
- Each hybrid of Camellia has different name, such as "Pink Perfection"
- The largest and oldest Camellia Tree in Airlie is the "Governor Mouton" – over~130 years old
- Camellias were very popular in early 1900's
- As you walk deeper into the garden you will come into the Camellia Knoll – it is a woodland garden, protects the camellias from sun.

Stables (dismantled in 2015)

- When the Jones' owned these stables they would have been much more extensive. They were described as finest in NC in 1902. Joneses had 26 carriages to choose from
- Corbett family refurbished and used them in the 1980's
- The remaining structures are used for storing horticultural equipment and supplies.
- Airlie Stables (from Corbett Era) were used for TV show and movie filming - movies & shows such as 28 Days, Black Night, & Dawson's Creek
- The Stables were dismantled in 2015 due to structural damage, and will not be rebuilt due to their location within the flood zone.

Bradley Creek Overlook

- Is an Estuary and Tidal Creek
- Salt marsh plays important role – food, protection, natural nursery
- 90% of commercial fish spend part of their life in similar habitat
- Plants adapted to salt, poor soil, wind and sun exposure like *Spartina alterniflora*, saltmarsh cordgrass
- It is Riparian buffer – which means that it cleans water, prevents sediment runoff, stabilizes bank, plants/trees provide shade
- The tall Palm trees are Cabbage palmetto surrounded by smaller, windmill palm, needle palm, and scrub palms.
- Cannot eat fish or oysters from Bradley Creek. It is too polluted.

Closing

- Thank you for touring Airlie Gardens. We hope you have enjoyed learning about the history, horticulture & ecology of this amazing place. We have many events & programs throughout the year; we invite and encourage you to attend – From May-September we have our Airlie Summer Concert Series on the 1st and 3rd Friday of each month. In the Fall, our Annual Oyster Roast; and in Winter, Enchanted Airlie.
- We would also like to invite you to become a member of Airlie Gardens. Membership allows you to tour the garden year round and attend our events for free! Please come often, each new season brings new delights at Airlie.

Bradley Creek Pier

- Produced with help from a grant and proceeds from Airlie's 2005 Oyster Roast.
- Pier is 270 feet long
- Space is used as an outdoor classroom and provides a launch point to conduct Kayak eco tours when scheduled.
- Cannot be used for public access.

Emergency Contacts

1. In case of emergency, dial **911** immediately
2. Contact a staff Member:
 - Guest Services (ticket agent): **798-7700**
 - Scott Childs, Airlie Grounds Supervisor: **798-7706**
 - Flo Berry, Guest Services Coordinator: **798-7566**
 - Jennifer O'Keefe, Environmental Education: **798-7564**
 - Rebecca Hunt, Guest Services Manager: **798-7709**
3. Remain with person in emergency until help arrives.
 - ***Bird Hikes: Every 2nd Wednesday of each month**
 - ***County Free-Day: Every 1st Sunday of each month**

Henry Walters: Airlie and the Atlantic Coast Line (Seaside Park Model)

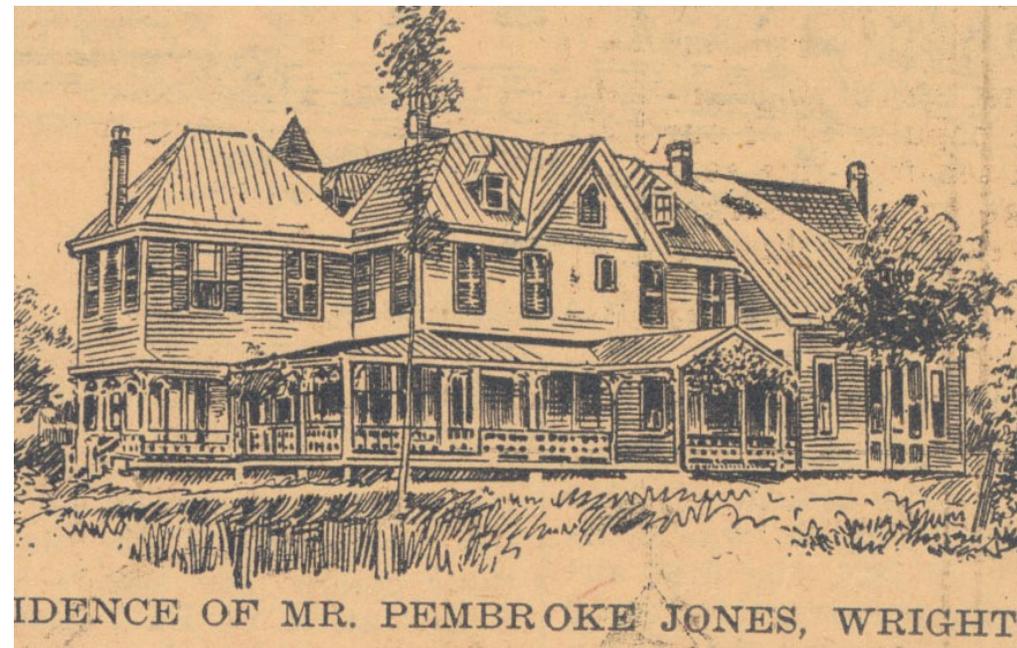
- This is a replica of what the Airlie House may have looked like, a combo of pre and post renovations from original seaside park motel through the renovations that Sarah made.
- The mansion was filled with heirlooms, sculptures, mahogany furniture, paintings and many other things from all around the world.
- Most of the décor was collected by Henry Walters and delivered to Wilmington by Train.
- Henry became very good friends with Pembroke & Sarah Jones once the ACL was headquartered in Wilmington.
- A few years after the passing of Pembroke Jones, Sarah Jones and Henry Walters got married. Not long after that Henry passed his company on to nephew Lyman Delano.



Sarah Wharton Green (Jones) 1890

Henry Walters: Airlie and the Atlantic Coast Line Cont...

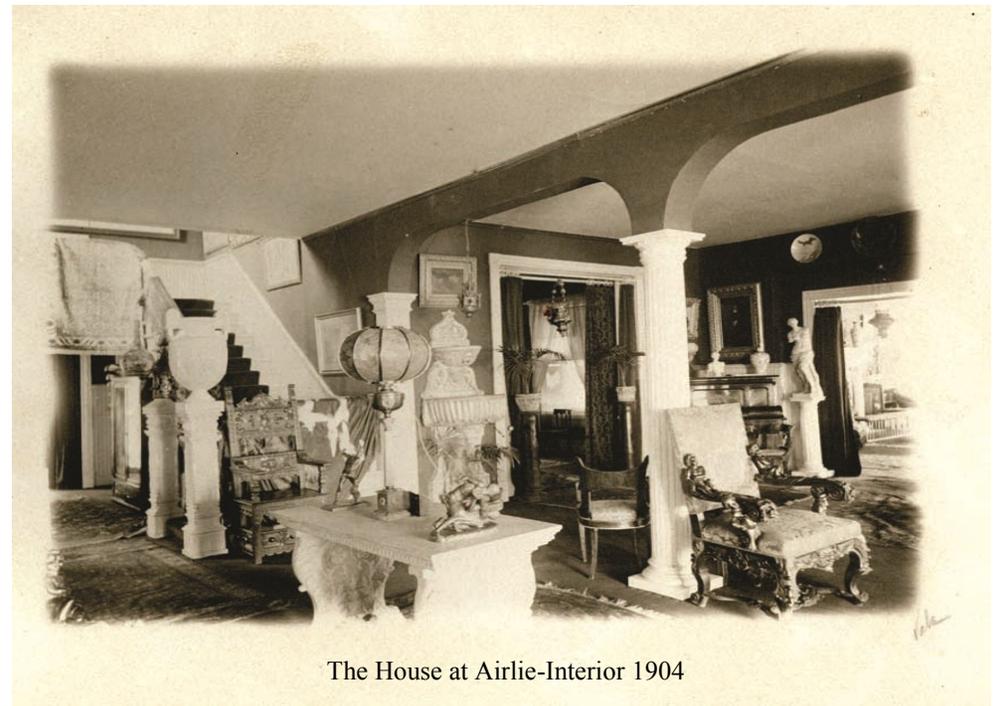
- Henry Walters was the son of William Walters, who owned the Wilmington & Weldon Railroad (W&W) and around 32 other railways that became known as the Atlantic Coast Line (ACL)
- Walters partnered with J P Morgan to ultimately dominate the Southern Railways, controlling interest of over 9,000 miles of track, Pembroke Jones served as a railroad director for the ACL.
- Henry sometimes managed his railways right here from Airlie Gardens or the Joneses Bungalow at Pembroke Park (Landfall).
- MacCumber Station sat on the Wilmington Seacoast Railroad in between Wilmington and Wrightsville Beach and served as the nursery grounds for Airlie's azaleas. It eventually became one of the 22 stations along the beach car line that would bring famous visitors to Airlie.



The House at Airlie (pre-renovations) 1897



The Doll House at Airlie, created in 1902 for daughter Sadie Jones, damaged after Hurricane Hazel



The House at Airlie-Interior 1904



Minnie Evans c.1969



The Bottle Chapel lit at night for Enchanted Airlie

Chuck Carmack '08



Airlie Oak c. 1904, Jones Era



Spring Garden c. 1948, Corbett era



Minnie Evans Art



Minnie Evans Art

Frequently Asked Questions

- Where did the Jones's get all of their money?
 - ~ Pembroke Jones created Carolina Rice Mills with his business partner. Also, he later served as a railroad director for the ACL.
- How many garden staff work at Airlie?
 - ~ 7 full-time garden/grounds staff, 6 administrative staff, & over 100 registered volunteers for events, grounds, trams, tours, edu. Etc.
- What is considered peak season at Airlie, when do Azaleas bloom?
 - ~ Late March, early April, azaleas, tulips
- When do the Camellias bloom?
 - ~ We have different Camellias that bloom at different times, some in late Fall and some in late Winter/early spring.



Car on wooden bridge (now earthen causeway) c. 1950, with lady banks roses



The House at Airlie 1950

- **The House at Airlie**
 - Originally the only hotel close to Wrightsville Beach, the Airlie House began as an inn, "Seaside Park Hotel." When Sarah Greene (Jones) purchased the Seaside Park property in 1886, the inn had just recently been built. After the purchase, Sarah began whimsically transforming the existing waterfront inn into a sprawling 39-room mansion to prepare the home for numerous visitors and entertainment. She expanded her Airlie home at will, often telegraphing or phoning her orders from New York or Newport to talented craftsmen in the area. When completed, the 3-story mansion featured 39 rooms, an indoor tennis court/ballroom, a library filled with over 1,500 books and rare volumes, separate staff quarters over the kitchen, and a telephone room where the first private residential telephone in New Hanover County was installed. During the Jones/Walters era, the rambling mansion was filled with heirloom artifacts, sculptures, mahogany furniture, paintings and assorted artwork from around the world. One of the staircases included an english oak newell post from the home of Sir Walter Raleigh in England.
 - When the Corbett Package Company purchased the property in 1948, the house had been unoccupied for several years. The late Walter A. Corbett and his wife Bertha, restored and decorated the mansion. In the late 50s it was decided that the condition of the house would require too much renovation in order to remain suitable for contemporary living. When the eldest Corbett son Waddell found his family outgrowing their current residence in town, they decided to relocate to the Airlie property. It was then that the family decided to dismantle the original home and build a more modern and livable house on the property.

Palms of Airlie



Sago Palm:
near
mystery
grave



Windmill Palmetto:
sidewalk
toward
Overlook &
in Carribean
garden



Pindo Palm:
Across
from
pergola
area, near
mystery
grave



Cabbage Palmetto:
sidewalk
toward
Bradley
creek
overlook

Area around sidewalk leading to Bradley Creek Overlook



Yucca Plant:
area
before
Bradley
creek
overlook,
does not
always
flower
annually



Brown Turkey Fig:
Fruits in Summer



Camellia Garden Area



Five Leaf Akebia:
On top of
Rose Trellis
in
Camellia
Garden;
blooms early
Summer



Redbud Trees:
Also in other plac-
es of the garden,
Spring bloomer



Camellia Garden Area Cont...



Mahonia:
By sidewalk at entrance to Camellia
garden, blooms in winter. Also
some on bridal walk at Pergola.



French Pussy Willow: blooms cotton-
like blossoms in early spring

Bridal Walk @ Pergola Garden



Florida Anise: behind bench at Bridal Walk, leaves smell like licorice when crushed in hand



Winter Daphne: Fragrant Shrub, Blooms in winter

Viburnum: blooms in March



Bridal Walk(Pergola) & Pergola Garden Cont...



Florida Yew



Carolina Jessamine: non-fragrant, on top of pergola structure, blooms in Spring, also on top of Pergola is Confederate Jasmine

Lily of the Valley: blooms early Summer



Pergola Garden Area



Paper Bush: Blooms early Spring, at entrance to bridal walk as well as start of Pergola structure, fragrant.



Forest Pansy Red Bud: early spring



Pergola Garden Area



Clerodendrum Tree: located off pergola lawn at end of bridal walk, blooms in Fall.



Loropetalum (Zhou Zhou): large shrub in witch hazel family, blooms in March.



Spring Garden Area

Hybrid Sweet Shrub: blooms in may, fragrant



Magnolia Stellata:
Located in Spring garden near staff area fencing, blooms in early spring

Carolina Silver Bell: blooms Spring, located in Spring garden toward camellia garden



Spring Garden Area cont...



Nine Bark:
between spring and camellia garden, leaves only



Cherry Tree, Yoshino: multiple places in spring garden, blooms in spring



Spring Garden Area

Saucer Magnolia (or tulip tree): also located various locations throughout the grounds, blooms in spring



Flowering Apricot: blooms early spring, located near staff fencing in Spring garden

Mystery Grave Area

(also a new red bud planted in 2014 and a Chinese Dogwood, also see *Palms of Airlie sheet* for the Sago Palm & Pindo Palm)



Banana Shrub Plant:
Blooms early Summer, flowers smell like banana

Oak Lawn Entrances



Patio Peach Tree:
mulch path entrance to Oak Lawn, blooms late spring

Mock Orange Tree: minimal branches left, damaged during 2014 ice storm, blooms early spring, located off path from GSC.



Tranquility Garden



Dwarf Cryptomeria: Sam's landscaping area



Confederate Jasmine: located centennial plaza and top of pergola, fragrant, bloom early summer



Weeping Yaupon: garden near butterfly house, red winter berries

Elms of Airlie



Chinese Elms (Allee): In 2013 we replaced our tree-lined entrance way with Allee Elms. This change will help to replenish our overhead canopy in the gardens. It also makes for a more pleasing entrance into the garden and overtime these trees will reach 60-70' in height, they leaf in the Spring.



American Elm: Planted behind bench at Tram stop 1 near seasonal garden. Dutch elm disease wiped out most of the American elms. The cultivar we have, **Princeton** is naturally very resistant to the disease. It was found growing in a cemetery in Princeton, New Jersey and was selected to commercially propagate because of its shape. The disease resistance was a happy accident.



Causeways over Lakes



Lady Banks Roses: edges of large and small causeways over lake. Blooms Spring/Summer



Sycamore Trees: leaf in the spring



Eastern Red Cedar: small causeway

More Common Plants of Airlie:

- Japonica and Sasanqua Camellias
- Southern Magnolias
- Azaleas
- Knockout Roses
- Longleaf Pine Tree
- Bald Cypress Trees
- Spanish Moss



Penta Rose: star shaped flower clusters attract butterflies, blooms in late summer.



Mexican Sage: blooms late Summer



Cardoon (artichoke thistle): Blooms late Summer



Airlie



GARDENS

PLANT GUIDE

Cheat Sheet

(updated Feb 2014)