Perfect Southern Things
Funky Juke Joints, Hidden Gardens, Hot New Restaurants, and Lots More Reasons to Love the South Now

PADGETT POWELL
Tracks Down an Endangered Species

The Golden Age of SOUTHERN RUM

Merigold, Mississippi’s P’Monkey’s Lounge

SOUL of the SOUTH
APRIL/MAY 2015

Grimesland, or Wilson, on the eastern side of I-95, you’re probably not familiar with North Carolina’s uniquely hedonistic variety. Across the area, cooks like those at Abrams restaurant in Tarboro bake fat knuckles of hoop cheddar in crispy casings of buttermilk biscuit dough. The result: golden-brown softballs that crumble on contact to reveal molten, delightfully greasy centers.

Georgetown, the twenty-seven-acre garden is often overlooked amid the capital’s many landmarks and monuments, but its low profile is also part of the enchantment. Walkways and stairways snake through stands of weeping cherry trees and past blooming collections of dogwoods, wisteria, and Virginia bluebells. And the entrance? You’ll find it, fittingly, off of R Street down Lovers’ Lane. doaks.org

Despite being the only woman among the American Society of Landscape Architects’ founders, Beatrix Farrand preferred the more modest term landscape gardener. The title sums up the naturalistic approach she took when creating her Washington, D.C., masterpiece, Dumbarton Oaks, which opened to the public in 1940. Tucked away in

On his wooded land just east of milepost 338 on the Natchez Trace Parkway near Florence, Tom Hendrix, after retiring from the nearby Ford plant, spent some twenty-five years assembling the Wichahpi Commemorative Stone Wall. Higher than six feet in some spots, it winds for more than a mile. Hendrix built the monument—stacking more