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Garland Farm Garden Update

By Sam Coplon

During the last two seasons, great strides have been made in the rehabilitation of the historic gardens at Garland Farm. The Terrace Garden has been the primary focus, with the Master Gardener team responsible for relocating plants to the holding bed while essential preparations were being made in the garden. The soil was amended after testing and an irrigation system (a gift of the Bar Harbor Garden Club) was installed in 2009. The

original slate edging in the individual terrace beds was reinstalled, the pathways were re-graded and stabilized, and a finish course of tan peastone added. In addition, the carved fence, originally from Chiltern (the Scott estate in Bar Harbor) and later Reef Point, was realigned, cleaned, and repainted.

Approximately 50% of the terrace plantings will have been installed by the end of the 2010 season and it is anticipated that the installation will be completed by next year. In addition to returning the plants to the terrace from the holding bed, arrangements have been made with a local nursery to supply supplemental, historically appropriate plants. The re-planting has closely followed the recommendations outlined in the *Cultural Landscape Report*, but there have been some minor deviations in the central beds containing the heaths, heathers, and lavenders. Given the age and delicacy of these plants, it was decided to retain a weave of some of the plants rather than recreate a uniform line of lavender along the bordering perennials.

There has also been substantial work completed outside the Terrace Garden. Thanks to the generosity of Jim and Emily Fuchs, three new ornamental cherries (*Prunus x 'Accolade'*) were planted on the southern embankment. Added to the existing cherries, these new plantings create a discernable terminus to the Terrace Garden. A new Florida dogwood (*Cornus florida*), donated by the Garden Club of Mount Desert, was planted in the east corner of the terrace, where an invasive stand of the aggressive shrub *Sorbaria sorbifolia* was removed.



Birdbath, July 2010
Carolyn Hollenbeck

Sam Coplon is landscape architect and consultant to The Beatrix Farrand Society for the rehabilitation of Garland Farm. He is a principal at Coplon Associates, a landscape architecture and planning firm located in Bar Harbor.



Terrace Garden, July 2010
Carolyn Hollenbeck

Other improvements on the property include resetting the blue-stone and brick pathway to the front door and adding a new granite ramp to the side entrance of the house to create an accessible entrance for visitors. Additionally, a new walkway and accessible entrance was added to the Barn Educational Center. And last, but not least, a new birdbath based on the original Soderholtz design has been installed to permanently replace one on loan to Garland Farm.

Past Events

On May 30, the BFS hosted a once-in-a-lifetime sale of items from the estates of Beatrix Farrand, Edith Wharton, Mary Cadwalader Jones, and the Garland family. The sale was organized by Diane Cousins, a member of the BFS Advisory Council, who inherited them from Amy Garland. Included in the sale were photographs, books, prints, linens, garden tools, jewelry, clothing (including Wharton's fur coats and muffs), furniture, silver, glass, porcelain, and personal items. Among the offerings was a set of 18th-century hand-colored *vues d'optiques* (perspective views) originally owned by Farrand's great-great grandfather, Gen. John Cadwalader. A number of members subsequently donated their purchases to the BFS. Please contact Diane Cousins dmcousins@roadrunner.com for details of remaining items.



Perspective view
of Venice

Despite the rainy day, Fran West's popular pruning workshop on June 5 attracted a number of hardy gardeners. She discussed the basics of pruning and then encouraged participants to try their hands with some of the shrubs at Garland Farm. On June 26, Betsy Rawley returned to Garland Farm to give her popular lecture and workshop on container plantings for summertime. Five lucky raffle ticket holders brought home containers that Betsy had planted. On June 29, Emily Fuchs welcomed BFS docents to the annual docent orientation program. Volunteers were brought up to date on progress at Garland Farm and shown some recent acquisitions from the Cousins sale, including Beatrix Farrand's compass, pocket watch, gold knife, and signature black grosgrain ribbon neckband.



Letsy Foster,
Ruth Colket,
and Emily Fuchs
at Beatrix Farrand's
Birthday Celebration,
July 2010
Jim Fuchs

The annual celebration of Beatrix Farrand's birthday took place this year on July 7. Guests enjoyed this special day with informal tours of Garland Farm, followed by afternoon tea and presentation of Beatrix's watering can by Letsy Foster. Douglas Tallamy's much-anticipated lecture scheduled for July 14 had to be postponed due to flight delays and missed connections on his journey from Philadelphia. Happily, Peggy Bowditch, the BFS's intrepid program chair, stepped in at the last minute to give a rousing slide talk on garden ornament.



Terrace
Garden
cake

Following the BFS annual meeting on August 7, Judith Tankard gave a lecture about her new book on Beatrix Farrand. There was a lively exchange of information afterward and James Ross brought a surprise cake decorated with a scene of the Terrace Garden in full flower, including the purple clematis. The Annual Fix-It Day at Garland Farm on August 11 attracted many devoted volunteers who worked from a long list compiled by site manager, Caroline Felkel. Cleaning out the attic and weeding the holding bed were among the many accomplishments. Other "helpers" on hand included Fred, board member Howard Monroe's Jack Russell, and BFS gardener Kathy VanGorder's three Khaki Campbell ducks, who happily dined on slugs and snails. There followed a delicious lunch.



Dick Crawford,
Peggy Bowditch,
and Howard Monroe
at Fix-It Day
Jim Fuchs

As expected, Barbara Damrosch's lecture on August 21 was a great success. She explained her work at Four Seasons Farm, where she and her husband work every day to harvest all year long. Sherman's was on hand to sell copies of her book, which she autographed. On September 5, there was a gala open house at Garland Farm for community groups, who had a chance to tour the property and enjoy refreshments and another special cake donated by James Ross.

Treasures from the BFS Library

Don't miss the BFS Library and Collections Committee's upcoming program on October 9 from 3:30PM to 5PM in the library at Garland Farm. Join committee members who will speak informally about their favorite "treasures" from the library and archives. A reception follows and there is no fee for the event. Please RSVP: 207-667-8344 or library@beatrifaxfarrandsociety.org.



Carolyn Hollenbeck

In the News



BSLA Award of Merit, 2010

Asian-themed exhibit received the award for an alternative garden style or design that utilized native or new plant introductions, imaginative use of space, richness of detail, and overall distinction. The BFS hopes to become involved in this award in the 2011 Portland Flower Show.

At the BFS annual meeting on August 7, four new advisors were appointed. Bar Harbor resident Diane Cousins has been an invaluable source of information on Amy and Lewis Garland. Ruth Eveland, who once lived at Garland Farm, is head librarian at the Jesup Memorial Library in Bar Harbor. James Owen Ross, of Skowhegan, is a designer, historian, and philosopher. Valencia Libby is a landscape historian who taught horticultural history at Temple University for many years, prior to moving to Blue Hill, Maine.

On May 6, the *Cultural Landscape Report* for Garland Farm received the Award of Excellence from the Boston Society of Landscape Architects. The award was given to Pressley Associates, Inc. and the Beatrix Farrand Society. On hand to receive the award were BFS board member Diane Kostial McGuire and Patrick Chassé, who initiated Save Garland Farm. "This detailed planning project and report is of great value to our profession and our general society's cultural heritage," remarked one of the jurors. "The jury hopes this work can become a model for other reports covering important places with historical value to landscape culture and design." The framed award is now on display at Garland Farm.

The BFS learned of another award quite by chance. When BFS librarian Marti Harmon attended the Portland (Maine) Flower Show this spring, she discovered that one exhibit had been given the Beatrix Farrand Design Award. The



Portland Flower Show, March 2010
Marti Harmon



Window boxes by Kathy VanGorder,
July 2010 - Jim Fuchs

Wish List

- **Library** - Reference books, books with Reef Point bookplates, letters and archival documents related to Beatrix Farrand, library table and chairs
- **Garden** - Joyce Chen scissors, Felco hand pruners, ARS long-reach 7' pruner, Florian ratchet-cut lopping shears (Mini Loper RL 101), sheep shears; all-purpose trowels, hand-held weeders, dibble, long-handled wire weeder; Collinear hoe, stirrup hoe, rake, and gas-powered shredder
- **Office** - Paper shredder
- **Funding Opportunities** - Bookcases and lighting for the library \$900, microfilm positives of Jekyll Collection \$500, outdoor benches and chairs for front lawn \$2,700, orientation video for visitors \$27,000, essential wall repairs for Farrand Wing \$40,000, custom-made birdbaths, statue, and cistern for Terrace Garden, rehabilitation of Entrance Garden

For more information about funding or naming opportunities, please contact Emily Fuchs visit@beatrifaxfarrandsociety.org
Please send checks with gift identification to Treasurer, Beatrix Farrand Society, P.O. Box 111, Mt. Desert ME 04660. Please note that all donations are tax deductible within the limits of the law.

Visitors to Garland Farm



Beatrix Farrand Garden Association, July 2010

2010 was a banner year for visitors to Garland Farm. As word continues to spread about the garden rehabilitation, over 200 visitors from the US, Canada, and France traveled to Maine to see Beatrix Farrand's last home and garden and enjoy the docent-led tours. One of the most frequently asked questions was, "Why did Beatrix Farrand demolish Reef Point?" Visitors were most curious about the circumstances surrounding Farrand's stay at Garland Farm, her education, and the work in the garden. As always, a number of experts among visitors contributed to the knowledge of Garland Farm.



Marti Harmon with Elizabeth and Ronald Epp, June 2010
Jim Fuchs

Among the visitors was a group lead by Jeff Sainsbury www.jeffsainsburytours.com, who specializes in high-quality garden tours. (The editor joined their tour the British Channel Islands in June.) Other groups came from Wave Hill in New York City and the Beacon Hill Garden Club in Massachusetts. One of the most enthusiastic groups was the entire team of garden volunteers from the Beatrix Farrand Garden Association www.beatrixfarrandgarden.org based in Hyde Park, New York. Their efforts in restoring Bellefield, a garden designed by Farrand in 1912 for her Newbold cousins, are exemplar. "We all felt we had made an important pilgrimage to such hallowed ground, and we treasured being there in the house and library and looking at the planting plans and comparing notes with ours. We were so inspired by the mission of the BFS and feel such kindred spirits," reported Anne Symmes, Director of the BFGA. Among the guests in their group was Gail Griffin, Director of Gardens at Dumbarton Oaks.

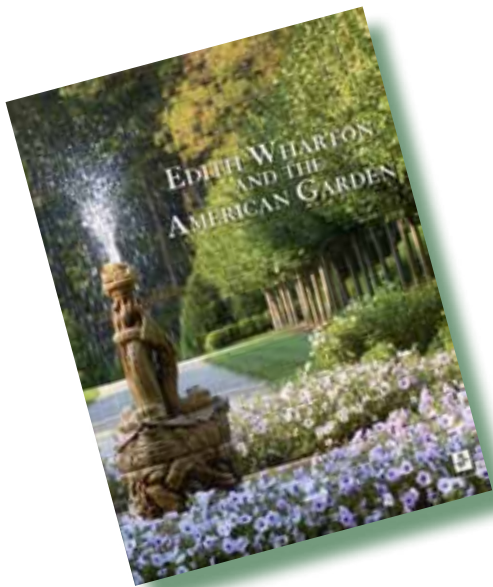


Marti Harmon and COA students, June 2010
Jim Fuchs

In addition to the gardens, the library at Garland Farm has proved an important destination. Scholars from near and far have visited, including 13 students from the College of the Atlantic who used the library for their research papers. Other visitors included Dr. Nancy McKnight of the University of Maine/Orono, who brought her Edith Wharton class, and Ronald Epp, the historian who is preparing a biography of George Dorr and the founding of Acadia National Park.

Fall Reading

Edith Wharton and the American Garden (The Mount Press, 2009), the long-awaited publication based on a symposium held at The Mount in 2006, is now available. The eleven illustrated essays represent some of the more pertinent subjects addressed in the symposium. Of special interest is Diane McGuire's "Edith Wharton's Plants: Her Influence on the Riviera and in Southern California." Diane sets the scene for the Riviera in the 1920s, cautioning her readers that they will no longer find there the "charm and atmosphere that existed in Edith Wharton's day." How true, but one can certainly find the exotic Mediterranean plants that captured everyone's imagination back then. She compares Wharton's expert knowledge of plants with that of her niece, Beatrix Farrand, who was forced to learn about such plants when she moved to California. Examples of Farrand's work at CalTech, Occidental College, and the Santa Barbara Botanical Garden are discussed. Eleanor Dwight's chapter, "The Romantic and the Practical: Edith Wharton and Beatrix Farrand as Gardeners and Garden Writers," is excellent. Dwight, who is a well-known Wharton scholar, compares and contrasts the two women. While one was a renowned writer and keen amateur gardener, the other was a famous garden designer and a dutiful writer. Nonetheless, they both shared a love of plants and gardens that is fully explained in this essay. All the essays contribute useful information, but one that is particularly fresh is Ronald Epp's "Wild Gardens and Pathways at The Mount: George B. Dorr and the Mount Desert Island Influence." His essay brings to light the previously unrecognized interactions between the Jones and Dorr families in Bar Harbor. To order a copy of the book, contact Ryan McLaughlin (rmclaughlin@EdithWharton.org or telephone 413-551-5118) and mention that you are a BFS member.



Hill-Stead: The Country Place of Theodate Pope Riddle (Princeton Architectural Press, 2010) consists of several well-illustrated essays about the house, furnishings, and gardens of this historic property located in Farmington, Connecticut. Of particular interest is Allyson Hayward's chapter, "The Landscape, Gardens, and Farm,"

which details the history of the farm, including the roles of Warren Manning and Beatrix Farrand. In both cases, Theodate maintained a strong upper hand. While she gave a nod to Manning's recommendations, the character of Hill-Stead is a definite response to Theodate's knowledge of colonial New England. The charming octagonal-shaped sunken garden was originally created for Theodate's mother, but around the time of Ada Pope's death in 1920, she asked Beatrix Farrand to redesign the garden. Whether or not the plan was used is unknown, but the garden fell into decline during World War II, by which time it was nothing more than a patch of mown grass. Farrand's involvement resurfaced in the 1980s when the garden was about to be revitalized by the museum staff and volunteers.

The replanting of the garden has inspired an attractive booklet, *Hill-Stead Plant Book: Beatrix Farrand's Sunken Garden* (Hill-Stead Museum, 2009) that can be purchased at Hill-Stead or online www.hillstead.org. The booklet explains Farrand's role in transforming the garden into thirty-six intensively planted beds, with brick and grass walkways, and framed by a low hedge. There are excellent descriptions of all the plants used organized by color as well as brief essays on various aspects of the replanting. It is an excellent model for an attractive guide to an important garden.



The Quotable Gardener

"They couldn't have been spies. Look at what she did with the hydrangeas," Jessie Gugigi (a neighbor of one of the "spies"), June 29, 2010

Who Was Mary Cadwalader Jones?

Surely everyone knows about Beatrix Farrand's famous aunt, Edith Wharton (1862–1937), but how many people are acquainted with Farrand's equally remarkable mother, Mary Cadwalader Rawle (1850–1935)? Minnie, as she was called, was the great-granddaughter of the Revolutionary War hero, General John Cadwalader. She was known for her beauty, charm, keen intellect, compassion, and perseverance. In 1870, she married Edith Wharton's oldest brother, Frederic Rhineland Jones, and later presided over a famous literary salon at 21 East Eleventh Street, near Washington Square in New York City. Henry James, Henry Adams, F. Marion Crawford, John LaFarge, and Theodore Roosevelt were part of her inner circle. Minnie first met Henry James in 1883 and introduced him to her sister-in-law, Edith Wharton.

After years of separation, the Joneses divorced in 1896, at which time Edith and Minnie cemented their friendship. They corresponded with one another and shared many mutual friends, some of whom became Beatrix's first clients. The divorce seems not to have affected the social standing of Minnie or Beatrix. Both were members of Mrs. Astor's so-called Four Hundred and attended numerous balls, dinners, musicals, and other society events in New York, Tuxedo Park, and Bar Harbor.

In order to support herself after the divorce, Minnie earned some money as a reader for Scribner's, where she enthusiastically recommended the publication of *The Decoration of Houses* by Edith Wharton and Ogden Codman. Minnie wrote articles for *Scribner's Magazine* on the practical aspects of careers for women, such as nursing. An early advocate for hospital reform and healthcare, Minnie used her influence to further the cause of nursing and for over sixty years was associated with the City Hospital School of Nursing. She is also remembered for several books: *A Book About Fans* (1895), *European Travel for Women* (1905), *Gospel Story in Art* (1913), and others.

Minnie worked tirelessly for Edith's various wartime charities and researched many of her books. Edith, in turn, referred to her as "my valued assistant-in-law." After Minnie's death in London in 1935 following her last visit to Edith in France, Beatrix and Max Farrand published a memoir, *Lantern Slides* (1937), about Minnie's early years. There are copies of some of these publications in the BFS library. The BFS collections include an original photograph of Minnie taken in Nice as well as her personal pocket thermometer.



Mary Cadwalader Jones, 1895, *Beatrix Farrand Society Archives*



Plant Profile: *Cornus mas*

By Carolyn Hollenbeck

At Garland Farm, two champion *Cornus mas* (Cornelian Cherry Dogwood) are tucked behind the barn. Covered with yellow flower clusters in the spring and bright-red fruit in the late summer, these beautiful trees possess lovely, exfoliating bark and are sure to delight any visitor regardless of the time of year.

Native to Central and Southern Europe, as well as Western Asia, *Cornus mas* makes a wonderful addition to any home landscape. They require full sun or partial shade and are tolerant of a wide range of soils and pH (5.0 to 7.5). Cornelian Cherry Dogwood can be grown as a small tree or multi-stemmed shrub, either as single specimen or as a hedge. The bark is an attractive mixture of gray and tan. New stem growth is green, becoming reddish-brown to purple on top, but remaining green on the bottom as the season progresses. Bi-coloration persists until the following spring.

In late March or early April, showy bright-yellow flower clusters, attached to nodes of first-year wood or short spur shoots on older wood, burst from small, globular, pendulous bulbs, heralding the arrival of spring. Glossy dark green leaves that are opposite, simple, and elliptic appear after the blooms have faded. Immature green fruits, containing a small drupe, turn red in July and are edible when their color becomes dark maroon. Fruits have an acidic flavor that has been described as a mixture of cranberry and sour cherry.



Cornus mas flower cluster
Carolyn Hollenbeck

Cornus mas responds well to pruning and is best limbed-up, as branching to the ground tends to hide the bark and prevent turf growth if planted near lawns. Usually pest and disease resistant, leaf miners, borers, and cankers may be problematic. Cornelian Dogwood Cherry is adaptable to heat and drought, it is ozone tolerant, resistant to breakage, attractive to wildlife, and beautiful to look at regardless of the season.

Thank You BFS Volunteers

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Trixie (*Mantis religiosa*), a beneficial resident of the Terrace Garden
Carolyn Hollenbeck

From the Library Shelves

By Marti Harmon



The BFS library has received many generous gifts over the past five years and one of the most interesting is the recent donation by Katherine Stark Bull of Washington, D.C., of the first 72 issues of *Hortus*, the British quarterly that began publication in 1984 (www.hortus.co.uk) This privately

printed journal, edited by David Wheeler, is filled with delightful articles that appeal to intellectuals as well as hands-on gardeners. Each volume is 128 pages and contains black and white line drawings, many by Simon Dorrell, art director of *Hortus*. There are in-depth book reviews, poetry, interviews, and commentaries on many aspects of garden appreciation. *Hortus* also reaches out to the worldwide landscape, both natural and manmade.

“Maintaining a garden in Perpetuity” by Pamela Schwerdt (former head gardener at Sissinghurst), “The New American Garden” by Carole Ottesen, “A History of Hardy Heathers” by David McClintock, “English Bones, American Flesh” by the American painter Bob Dash, and “Between

the Waves” and “The Wrinkled-leaf Rose” by Hazel Le Rougetel are just a few of the articles that might interest BFS gardeners. Even more appealing are contributions by Judith Tankard on Gertrude Jekyll, William Robinson, and other topics. Essays by Mirabel Osler and Peter Parker as well as an entire issue devoted to roses all await the reader in our library.

Other gifts include two Morning Room books: *List of Plant Types* by Stephen F. Hamblin and *The Garden Month by Month* by Mabel Cabot Sedgwick, thanks to Tom Hayward of Bates College and a BFS library volunteer.

And finally, a special addition to the library and archives is a microfilm reader donated by Bowdoin College. Bowdoin librarian, Leanne Pander, and three student assistants (Valerie, Chris, and Kyle) arranged for the gift and kindly cleaned and moved the equipment to my car. We will now be able to read the microfilm of the Gertrude Jekyll Collection at University of California at Berkeley, donated by Judith Tankard several years ago.

It is not only the actual choice and siting of plants which keeps a garden alive: there is that atmosphere or “feel” associated with a place which is equally important to perpetuate (Pamela Schwerdt, *Hortus*, Spring 1987).

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