

Spring 2014

# The Beatrix Farrand Society NEWS



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## Digitization of Reef Point Gardens Herbarium Moves Forward

By Adam Schneider

High-quality images of over three quarters of the nearly 2,000 mounted specimens of plants grown at Beatrix Farrand's Reef Point Gardens and archived at the University Herbarium at the University of California at Berkeley have now been scanned. This ongoing project seeks to improve public and academic access to Farrand's work and vision for landscape design and should be completed by the end of the summer.

Before the gardens at Reef Point were dismantled in 1955, specimens of each planting were collected by Marion Ida Spaulding or Kenneth Beckett, then pressed and dried and sent to Berkeley in September of that year. Labels indicated the genus, species, subspecies, or cultivar, a map showing the exact position in the gardens, and description. Some specimens were collected twice (once in the spring and again in late summer) to show various phenological stages.

This information serves not only as a record of the exact plants Farrand used, but also how they were arranged, how well they grew, which plants she found to be weedy, but also her preferences. Over 150 collections of heaths and heathers were made,



*Reef Point Gardener about 1921, Courtesy Environmental Design Archives, University of California, Berkeley*

representing 8% of the plants in Farrand's garden. Farrand was also fond of Clematis, with 14 species and two cultivars represented at Reef Point.

Graduate student Adam Schneider has been responsible for digitizing each of the specimens under the supervision of Andrew Doran, Assistant Director Of Collections. Each specimen is barcoded, then scanned under high resolution. Accompanying label information is entered into the herbarium database and linked to the image. The label data and images are publicly available online at [https://ucjeps.cspace.berkeley.edu/ucjeps\\_project/public/publicsearch](https://ucjeps.cspace.berkeley.edu/ucjeps_project/public/publicsearch)

Thanking Mrs. Farrand for her gift, then herbarium director Herbert Mason considered the collection as a "nucleus to build an expanded horticultural collection".

It is fitting, therefore, that these specimens represent one of the first complete collections of horticultural specimens to be fully digitized. They will hopefully serve a nucleus for the complete digitization of the horticultural collection at the University herbarium, as well as, an important educational reference at Garland Farm.



*Courtesy University of California Herbarium*

# *News and Events From Around Garland Farm*

Thanks to the combined generosity of our members, donors and the Maine Community Foundation grant that we were awarded, the first phase of the restoration of the Farrand wing will get underway this spring. Our contractor for this very important project will be A.B. & J.R. Hodgkins of Bar Harbor.

Designed for Mrs. Farrand by architect Robert Patterson, her friend and protégé, the addition to the original cape owned by Lewis and Amy Garland was the home of Mrs Farrand beginning in 1955 until her death in 1959.

A second phase will be required to complete the full restoration to include the front facade. With your continued support, we anticipate that phase will be undertaken in 2015.

Another project we plan to initiate in the near future is the renovation of the entrance garden (to the right of the walk in the above photo). With that in mind, we are planning a special event this summer that supports not only our educational mission but the proceeds of which will contribute to the planned garden renovation and completion of the front facade. Please see Programs and Events for more details.

As is the case with all organizations like our own, volunteers are integral to our continued progress. As in past years, Board Members Jim and Emily Fuchs will be offering their excellent docent training to interested volunteers on June 24th from 10:00 am to noon. Lunch will be included and followed by a Garland Farm Tour from 12:30 to 1:00 pm. New board members and advisors are encouraged to attend.

Thanks to the digitization project undertaken by the University of California at Berkley, with assistance from the BFS, Board President and curator Scott Koniecko will mount a new exhibition for 2014 showcasing our growing collection of these images. It will include Ericaceae, a family Mrs. Farrand was very interested



Beatrix Farrand Society Archives

in and one that includes species that are important in Maine landscapes.

Please be sure to visit The Asticou Azalea and Thuya Gardens in Northeast Harbor this summer when on Mount Desert Island. Many of the rare specimen plants from Mrs Farrand's Reef Point were taken to those two gardens as well as to Garland Farm following Reef Point's dismantling. While both gardens were designed by Charles K. Savage, each garden is different and each is well worth a visit.

If you haven't been there recently, I also suggest you visit the "new and improved" Beatrix Farrand Society website (same address – <http://www.beatrixfarrandsociety.org> ). Thanks to the leadership and personal commitment of Shirley Beccue, the site has been redesigned to now be accessible both from your desktop and your mobile devices. Shirley collaborated with a number of Society members to update site photographs and text, as well. Enjoy your visit!

## *Other Events*

The Garden Club of Mount Desert is sponsoring an Open Garden Day on Saturday, July 26th from 10:00 am to 4:00 pm. Please visit their web site for more information about the six gardens that will be open for visiting and to order advance tickets.



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[www.beatrixfarrandsociety.org](http://www.beatrixfarrandsociety.org)*

# 2014 Beatrix Farrand Society (BFS) Programs

All programs take place at Garland Farm, with a fee of \$10 for BFS members, \$20 for non-members, unless otherwise noted. Detailed information is available on the Beatrix Farrand Society website. Advance registration is required. Please register at [programs@beatrixfarrandsociety.org](mailto:programs@beatrixfarrandsociety.org) or call 207-288-0237, stating the name and date of the program, names of people attending, and contact information in case of a program change. Be sure to check the website for updates. *Please note that the gardens will be open one hour before and after all programs.*



**Monday, June 9, 1–3PM**

## Workshop on Growing Lavender

Lavender does grow in Maine! Lorie Costigan's family owns Glendarragh Lavender Farm in Appleton, Maine, which is home to more than 4,000 English and French lavender plants. The workshop will discuss the differences in fragrance and taste of various varieties, offer tips on growing lavender, and will explore its many uses. Lavender plants from the farm will be available for purchase, and a raffle for special plants will be held. **Advance**



**Tuesday, July 1, 3-5PM**

## Beatrix Farrand's Birthday Celebration

All are invited to celebrate Beatrix Farrand's birthday with the Beatrix Farrand Society. Enjoy a tour of the house and gardens at Garland Farm, along with a traditional afternoon tea. **There is no fee for this event. Advance registration is required.**



**Thursdays, July 3, through September 11, 1-5PM**

**Sundays, July 27, August 3, August 10, and August 17, 1-5PM**

## Open Days at Garland Farm

Please join us for informal tours of the house, library, and grounds. No reservations are necessary. All are welcome. A donation of \$5 is suggested.



**Monday, July 7, 1–3PM**

## What Is Happening to Bats on Mount Desert Island?

Bruce Connery, a biologist with Acadia National Park, will explain how an introduced fungus in North America has caused severe decline to the bat population across eastern North America, and in Maine in particular. Learn what can be done to help bats recover here on MDI and across the country, including installing bat houses. Garland Farm has an excellent example of a bat house, located on the exterior of the barn, which can be viewed while touring the grounds. **Advance registration is required.**



**Monday, July 14, 1-3PM**

## Nature Sketching and Botanical Illustration with Beatrix Farrand's Herbarium

A botanical and nature artist, Carrie Graham will present a variety of nature sketching techniques, suggest resources to start a nature sketchbook, and offer tips for beginners and non-beginners. Specimens from the Reef Point Herbarium will be used as inspiration in practicing botanical illustration skills. Participants who have a nature journal and/or preferred art supplies are encouraged to bring them. Basic supplies will be provided. **Advance registration is required.**



# 2014 Beatrix Farrand Society (BFS) Programs

Sunday, July 20, 12:30-7PM

## Landscape Design Seminar and Tour of Private Properties

The Beatrix Farrand Society is hosting a landscape design seminar and tour of several private properties. The seminar will begin at Garland Farm with a lunch and panel discussion of the principles of landscape design. Leading the discussion will be notable garden designer Dennis Bracale, landscape architect Kennon Williams and Dr. Lois Berg Stack, Professor of Horticulture and Sustainable Agriculture at the University of Maine.

Mid-afternoon, panel members and attendees will board a bus, which will take them to visit four exceptional private properties on Mount Desert Island that are rarely seen and haven't been on garden tours for at least the last 20 years, if at all. These properties will exemplify the principles of landscape design that were discussed during the introductory talk.

The program will conclude with a garden reception at the last property, and then the participants will be transported back to their cars for their return trip home.

Given the private nature of the properties being visited, the program is limited to 30 participants. A prepaid fee of \$250 is required to attend. All proceeds from this unique seminar and tour will be used for further restoration of Beatrix Farrand's front entrance and garden at Garland Farm. If you would like to receive additional information, please email Neil Houghton at [NeilLHough@aol.com](mailto:NeilLHough@aol.com). **Advance registration and prepayment are required.**

Saturday, August 2, 11-11:30AM

## Beatrix Farrand Society Annual Meeting

Saturday, August 2, 11:30AM – 12:30PM

## Charterhouse School Herbarium

Andrew Doran, Director of Collections at the University & Jepson Herbaria, University of California, Berkeley, will speak about the Herbaria's recently acquired Charterhouse School Herbarium, with specimens dating back as far as the 1780's. The Herbaria houses collections of historical gardens, including Beatrix Farrand's Reef Point Herbarium. **Advance registration is required.**



Wednesday, August 13, 1-3PM

## Beatrix Farrand as Mentor

Lynden B. Miller will speak about her career as a public garden designer in New York City and how it was influenced by Beatrix Farrand. She will also discuss the New York Botanical Garden's current exhibition "Groundbreakers: Great American Gardens and the Women Who Designed Them," which includes the Beatrix Farrand designed Abby Aldrich Rockefeller Garden in Seal Harbor, Maine. **Advance registration is required.**



Monday, August 18, 1-3PM

## Another Independent Woman named Beatrix

Marta McDowell, who teaches landscape history and horticulture at the New York Botanical Garden, will discuss her new book, "Beatrix Potter's Gardening Life". She will examine the plants and places that inspired the classic children's tales, as well as give insight into the intriguing character of Beatrix Potter. Marta's new book will be available for purchase and signing. **Advance registration is required.**



Monday, September 8, 1-3PM

## Mosses for Your Garden

Dr. Alison C. Dibble, a plant scientist at the University of Maine who has taught courses in moss identification and biology, will discuss the various mosses and lichens of Maine. She will share tips for enjoying mosses in the garden and other places where they grow, and tell of her experience in establishing a lawn of mosses at her home. **Advance registration is required.**



Monday, September 15, 4PM

## Women in the Dirt: Landscape Architects Shaping Our World

Join Abby Parker (COA 2012), horticulturalist at the Abby Aldrich Rockefeller Garden, and enjoy a screening of a film about the work of seven contemporary women landscape architects, including Mia Lerher, Andrea Cochran, and Isabelle Greene. The film references Beatrix Farrand as the trailblazer for women in the profession, and also touches on issues such as sustainability and the value of enduring designs. The film is 73 minutes in length (with a 10 minute intermission). **There is no fee for this event, but advance registration is required**



# News and Events From Further Afield

In case you are in need of a burst of color and Keukenhof, between Amsterdam and The Hague, in the Netherlands, is out of the question, consider visiting **Coastal Maine Botanical Gardens** for their Tulip Tour with Dick Zeig. The tour is scheduled for



May 9th from 10:00 am to 12:00 pm. One of Dick's current specialties is planning the Garden's selection and plantings of spring bulbs each year.

He has a degree in ornamental horticulture and floriculture from the University of Maryland. Please visit the Coastal Maine Botanical Garden's web site for more information and to purchase tickets.

If you are in the New York area later this spring or summer, stop by the **New York Botanical Garden** to see their exhibition entitled *Groundbreakers: Great American Gardens and the Women Who Designed Them*. Opening on May 17 and continuing through September 7th, the exhibit is planned to be "a stunning evocation of the Abby Aldrich Rockefeller Garden in Maine, and exhibits highlighting the rich and artful history of some of the gardening world's most significant contributors, we celebrate the women who pioneered landscape and garden design, writing, and photography during the early 20th century". Please visit the Botanical Garden's web site for ticket information.

The 8th Annual **Bellefield Design Lecture** will be held this year on June 1st in Hyde Park. Presented by the Beatrix Farrand Garden Association, this year's lecture is with John Danzer of Munder-Skiles and is entitled *Sitting Pretty: An Illustrated History of the Garden Seat*. It will feature a number of Mrs. Farrand's original garden furniture

designs. Please visit the Beatrix Farrand Garden Association's web site to purchase tickets.

The Garden Conservancy, whose mission it is to preserve exceptional American Gardens for the education and enjoyment of the public, will be holding it's single **Maine Open Day** this year in Cape Neddick and York on June 22nd from 10:00 am-4:00 pm. Four gardens will be open to the public. Please visit The Garden Conservancy website for descriptions of the gardens and to order tickets.

Kate Kerin, Landscape Curator at Innisfree Garden and advisor of the Beatrix Farrand Garden Association will be leading a walking tour of **Innisfree Garden** at 11:00 am on July 5th. Located in Millbrook, New York, Innisfree Garden is said to combine Modernist ideas with traditional Chinese and

Japanese garden design principles. Please visit the Innisfree website more information about the garden and how to acquire tickets for the event.



Beatrix Farrand will be inducted into the **Connecticut Women's Hall of Fame** on Wednesday October 29th.

This will be the 21st Annual Induction Ceremony and Celebration entitled *Shaping Our World: Women in Design and Innovation*. The event is scheduled for 6:00-9:00 pm in Hartford, CT. Please see the Hall of Fame's website to order tickets, learn more about previous inductees and the Hall of Fame itself.

## The Quotable Gardener

*"The only limit to your garden is at the boundaries of your imagination"*  
- Thomas D. Church: *Gardens Are for People*, 1955

# Plant Profile: Rhododendron or Azalea?

By Carolyn Hollenbeck



*Rhododendron mucronatum*

Two Greek words, rhodon (rose) and dendron (tree) aptly describe the beautiful rhododendron. While more than 1,000 species exist, the hardiest types are found in North America, China and Japan. Belonging to the genus Rhododendron, as well as the heather family Ericaceae, some small leaf varieties are easily confused with azalea, a subgroup of the same genus. Although all azalea are rhododendron, not all rhododendron are azalea.

Rhododendron or azalea? Leaves offer the first clue. Rhododendron leaves tend to be larger and leathery whereas leaves of azalea are thin and softer. Magnification of the leaf underside reveals scales on rhododendron but never on azalea. Examination of the flowers provides a second clue. While rhododendron flowers have 10 stamens or more, azalea only have 5 or 6.

Hardy in zones 4 - 9, rhododendron are happiest in well drained, acid soil (pH 4.5 - 6.0), filtered or morning sunlight and protected from south and west winds. Full shade conditions should be avoided. Fertilization (if needed) is best done in spring; transplanting in either early fall or spring. A fall application of mulch like decomposed leaves or pine needles will help keep the shallow root system moist. To discourage winter injury, soil should be moist prior to the onset of cold weather.

Rhododendron flower on the previous year's growth, thus any pruning should be done after flowering. Prune large leaf rhododendron just above the growth joints. Maintain the shape of azaleas by pinching out soft, new growth. Large, overgrown plants can be cut back severely. Reduce the size of overgrown azalea by removing a few of the tallest branches each year over a three year period.



*Rhododendron smirnowii*

## The Beatrix Farrand Society Annual Membership Dues



☐ New Membership    ☐ Renewal

<input type="checkbox"/> Individual Membership .....	\$ 35
<input type="checkbox"/> Family/Household Membership .....	\$ 50
<input type="checkbox"/> Organization .....	\$ 100
<input type="checkbox"/> Sponsor .....	\$ 250
<input type="checkbox"/> Patron .....	\$ 500
<input type="checkbox"/> Benefactor .....	\$ 1,000
<input type="checkbox"/> Plus this tax-deductible gift for the Society .....	\$ _____

☐ Enclosed is my check for: \$ \_\_\_\_\_

☐ Charge my Visa or MasterCard for \$ \_\_\_\_\_ Credit Card #: \_\_\_\_\_ Exp. Date \_\_\_\_ / \_\_\_\_ / \_\_\_\_  
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Please make checks payable to The Beatrix Farrand Society, P.O. Box 111, Mount Desert, ME 04660  
The Beatrix Farrand Society is a 501(c)3 organization. Email: members@beatrixfarrandsociety.org Thank You!



# Spring Arrives at Garland Farm

Courtesy Carolyn Hollenbeck



Terrace garden *Erica* sp.



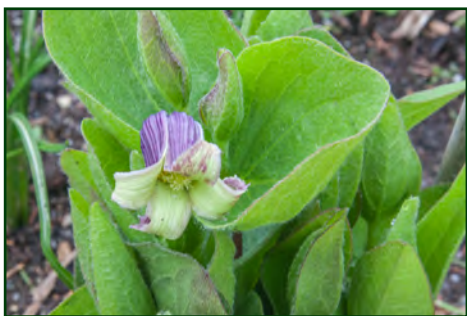
*Iris pumila*



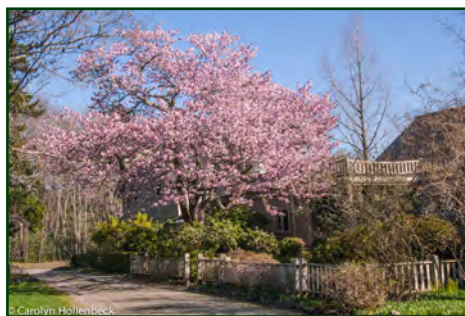
*Primula veris*



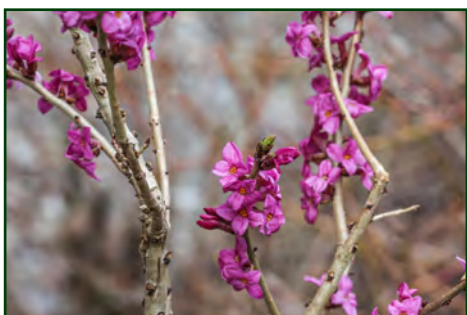
*Iberis sempervirens*



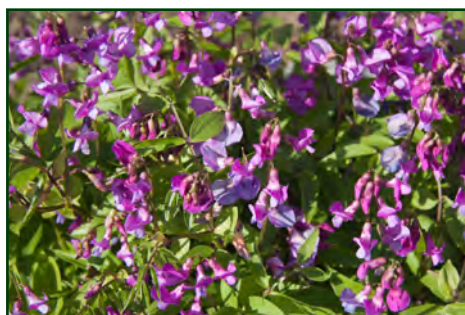
*Clematis fremontii*



*Prunus sargentii*



*Daphne mezereum*



*Lathyrus vernus*



*Forsythia x intermedia*



*Trillium grandiflorum*



# *Rhododendron at Garland Farm*

*Courtesy Carolyn Hollenbeck*



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