

**Beatrix Farrand Society**  
**First Vice-President's Report**  
**October 6, 2012**

Site visits on a weekly or bi-weekly basis continue to review the progress made on the grounds and in the Terrace Garden and Holding Gardens. Tom has been asked to prepare a list of supplies that will be needed to maintain the grounds and gardens as this year ends and for the 2013 season. Kathy will prepare a list of Terrace Garden plants which have not survived or have struggled and need to be replaced. We still have \$120.00 credit at Landscaping from IMLS grant money to help with replacement expenses. Annual plants on the original plan as well as filler plants from the Farrand plan will have to be purchased in 2013. Carolyn will grow some of the annuals from seed. Approximately \$150.00 of plant material and soil testing costs has been donated as In Kind donation. Slug and brown snail damage was the biggest challenge this season. Kathy has requested that she be allowed to bring her ducks into the Terrace Garden. The Board is asked to weigh in on this. The ducks are efficient snail removers but they do not conform to the "leave no traces" policy.

Bill Guess was requested to submit a proposal to take down the large spruce by the greenhouse as it is not part of the original planting. Although approved by the Landscape and Garden Committee, the project (proposal is \$1,350) is on hold until spring in the event winter damage to other trees becomes a priority. Bill has been contacted and his return requested to do the final spraying of invasive Bittersweet in the Wild Garden area. This should bring the population under control.

Thanks go to Lois Stack for coming to our aid and confirming the identification of the grasses that were overgrowing the back of the Holding Garden. As the grasses were all annual, control can be achieved by removing the seed heads instead of more costly and difficult measures had they been perennial grass. The grasses became problematic from overhead watering of the back of the garden. Although it remains unclear as to whether or not this was Board approved in the past, overhead sprinklers had been installed to water the volunteer vegetable garden at the rear of the garden. It has always been unclear if/when permission was granted for Tom McIntyre to have a vegetable garden there or why sprinklers were installed to water that area. This year the area remained unplanted and unkept. The Board should reach a decision as to whether or not Tom and/or Kathy can plant vegetables there (as volunteers) and whether or not a condition of the use of that space is donations to local food banks. That donation was sporadic in the past. The overhead sprinklers have been temporarily disabled to avoid overhead watering of the Holding Garden when the irrigation system was operational. The Board needs to reach a decision and give permission to Tom/ Kathy to grow vegetables for personal use in that area.

The Holding Garden remains a maintenance issue. As BFS was unable to provide additional volunteers to help weed the garden this year, Kathy and/or Dennis spent a time trying to keep up the "street-side" presentation for Open Days. This diverted them

from the original plan to complete the removal of non-historic plant material. As the season winds down and the Terrace Garden will require less attention until the final clean-up, Kathy and Dennis will devote most of their time to removing non-historical plants and condensing the historic Terrace Gardens into smaller areas. The Board should make the note of the importance of a volunteer team to replace the Master Gardeners with help for this area with simple weeding and plant care tasks. As Kathy subcontracted Dennis for most weeks, and Dennis worked primarily in the Holding Garden, we spent 50% of our garden budget having Dennis pull weeds. I remain hopeful that a team of volunteers will be in place early next year to help ease the burden on our paid gardener(s) and understand from the Landscape and Garden Committee that this will be addressed. Thanks go to the Committee for taking on this responsibility. The only other option which could reduce the strain on our gardener budget is to clean out unnecessary rows and plant a covering of cover crop to hold down weeds until the rows are needed.

Tom has been addressing removal/control of the *Equisetum arvense* on the embankment (Clementine's side). Through research and consultation it was determined that hand-pulling and allowing the *Rosa spinosissima* offspring to mature would be the best approach for this year. This is in progress.

A team of two was discovered on site early last month and it was learned that they were sent from ACParsons at the request of the Garden Club of Mount Desert. The GCMD donated the *Cornus florida* (hybrid?) to replace the original *C. florida*. Inquiry determined that when the GCMD plants a tree, they also donate money to have their arborist/landscapers care for the trees. Dianna Emory, Chair of the Tree Committee for the GCMD has been contacted and informed that ACParsons neglected to inform anyone from BFS that they would be coming. The tree was groomed, mulched and sprayed. Tom will be contacting Parson's to investigate what/why the tree was sprayed and what product was used.

Kudos to Scott for bringing in Dennis Bracale to help with moving the cistern and to Ben Dean for moving the piece. Ben is a stone mason who works for Dennis. He did a flawless job getting the cistern back into it's original place. Thank you's will be sent to both men.

Culvert work will proceed as planned as well as work on the driveway.

Budget figures were discussed at a meeting with Landscape and Garden Co-Chairs. The Agenda from that meeting is posted on the BFS website. Data on calculating the previous fiscal year budget was shared as well as other Landscape and Garden updates.

Carolyn Hollenbeck  
BFS First Vice President