

Beatrix Farrand Society
First Vice President's Report
Landscape
June 30, 2012

Concerns were raised at the last Board meeting about the health of the historic Black Locust. Arborist Bill Guess (Eagle Arboriculture) came and examined the tree. Board input on his recommendation to cable the tree was requested via email. Of the ten members who responded, all were in favor of cabling the tree instead of removing it.

The work has been completed along with installing the drain in our *Stewartia koreana* to prevent rot, taking down the two dead spruce in the tree line by the greenhouse and removing the limbs of the roadside Mulberry that were on the Communication lines. This completes the task list for this year compiled by the Landscape and Garden Committee in October 2011.

Jennifer Lund from the University of Maine has been contacted to do a follow up sampling for European Fire Ants. She only found native species during her September 2011 visit but recommended another sampling when ants are more active.

King Masonry delivered the newly cut stones for statue. Tom reset on a bed of crushed stone according to the drawing Sam Coplon's provided. Statue has been replaced. The stone is weathered Hall Quarry granite was a great find.

Carpenter Terry Good completed and delivered the reproduction bench and chairs (Spanish Cedar) now placed in front of the Black Locust. Placement has been determined from late 1950's photographs from the Diane Cousins Collection.

Fine stress cracks have appeared in the bowls few both of the birdbaths. Phil Lawless from Lunaform is coming next week to examine and repair with matching caulk. If needed the birdbaths will be taken back to their shop and bowls will be replaced.

Brenda Les donated 3 cedar post to remount the birdhouses on posts found in the attic. Tom McIntyre has reproduced one birdhouse and will remount all 3 on the new posts. Birdhouses will be placed using old photographs from the Cousins Collection. If historic areas are overgrown the Landscape and Garden Committee will select suitable sites for placement.

Our tenant has relocated his motorcycle trailer into a location prepared by edge of the parking field. Currently the motorcycle, objectionable to some Board members, remains covered when not in use.

Grounds:

Tom continues to make progress pruning the ornamental shrubs behind the barn to open the space up. Work on the rose embankment along the Terrace garden continues, keeping the canes pruned back from the path. *Sorbria sp.* continues to be removed from the back embankment. Mowing continues around the embankment, the *Cornus florida* (species to be confirmed) and field edge. Front lawn is improving using the hand reel mower. The tall grass along street side of the property has been cut thus improving our "curb side appeal". Drainage ditch has not dried sufficiently to reset the heaved pipe but remains on the list of projects for 2012. There are plans to cover and seed the sandy area in the parking field to improve the appraise there. Driveway regrading and field drainage work are still goals for 2012 if the budget permits. The early Spring mowing of the field over the septic system has greatly improved the appearance of that area. We continue to discuss limbing up some of the plantation spruce in that area to make it more visually appealing. Tom McIntyre and Brenda Les observed that the Bittersweet in the Wild Garden area appears to be under control. To date additional spraying does not appear to be needed. We are still investigating the return of the Department of Agriculture to complete the Hogweed study and should have more information on that by the August meeting.

Terrace Garden:

Older heathers that bloom in March have been pruned back allowing for the addition of other summer blooming specimens from the 'Reef Point Collection'. Replacements are being acquired for other plants in the garden that winter killed. (*Dianthus plumarius*, *Arabis caucasica*, *Artemisia schmidtiana*) Kathy VanGorder was provided with a list of garden filler plant material compiled from notes in the margins of the Farrand plan. Filler plants have been selected and planted for additional summer color in the Terrace Garden. Please visit the garden.

Tom and Kathy have requested adding vegetables to the space behind the HG and will do this work as volunteers. Produce will be available for BFS Board Members. The garden is temporary and can be removed if there are objections from the BFS Board.