

Landscape and Garden Committee Report, May 2012

Much has happened since the October 2011 board meeting. I've served as cheerleader from afar while committee members have been busy on the spot. Carolyn Hollenbeck appears to live on site as she spends so much time working with gardeners, our grounds manager, and independent contractors to see that the necessary work is planned and accomplished.

Working with our treasurer she has ensured that all who work here are properly insured. Closer to the ground she's been soil testing, checking plants, etc. Brenda Les has been busy with the wildflower garden where new and exciting finds keep popping up after she has cleared weeds. Plants respond to their new space and the added light where the tree canopy has been opened up as ailing trees and limbs have been removed. Do check out the amazing number of Trilliums there now.

Changes in the Entrance Garden await the completion of structural work on the house. The overgrown Chamaecyparis has been removed and its stump reduced while its last remains are disguised with moss and Twinflower.

Marti Harmon has written a garden description so that those coming on Open Garden Days this summer will learn about the garden on a self-guided tour. Last fall the Garden Committee voted to add two large Rosemary plants at the garden entrance, restoring a Farrand feature. Marti donated large pots, but the plants we ordered flourished over the winter at Surry Gardens, outgrew their pots, and now the Committee must choose larger appropriate containers. Enjoy our handsome plants now on the front porch.

We continue our battle with invasive bittersweet and giant hogweed. We hope that carefully timed spraying by professionals will enable us to control these undesirables. I can only applaud the efforts of the dedicated volunteers listed above who, along with the advice of Val Libby and Lois Stack and others do all the work on site. I appreciate the speedy answers of those who respond to my email requests for opinions or help throughout the long winter season.

Margaret Bowditch