

Garland Farm  
Landscape and Garden Update  
January to May  
2012

**January**

Pro Bono work from AC Parsons: cutting and laying brush on Terrace Garden Beds as well as Holding Garden Heathers, lavenders and transplanted Tall Bearded Iris.

Arborist work: Cabling and safety pruning of the sweet cherry behind the barn; removal of the Chamaecyparis in the Entrance Garden approved by Landscape and Garden Committee members Peggy Bowditch, Marti Harmon, Brenda Les, Carolyn Hollenbeck as well as BFS President Scott Koniecko, Landscape Architects Sam Coplon, and Patrick Chasse; removal of two dead sections of the Laburnum; brush pile chipping/removal

Discussion begins with Scott Koniecko on transition of Grounds Manager position to Staff so that purchased tools (IMLS) could be used (Chad Smith consulted for legal advice)

Insurance package investigated by Lyman Insurance and Dick Habermann

Insurance requirement notification to Kathy VanGorder

Soil tests mailed on problem areas in the Terrace Garden

**February:**

Meeting with Grounds Manager to set agenda for winter work

Topics included:

Clean up of field area; discussion with tenant on storage of motorcycle trailer and motorcycle; winter pruning of plow damaged forsythia; general grounds discussion of field mowing, pruning of shrub collection behind the barn, brush removal, pruning back rose embankment, field drainage issues

Meeting with Landscaping for replacement TG material, discussion of the pending (paid) plant material

**March:**

Grounds Manager position from Independent Contractor to Staff position approved by the Executive Committee

Kathy VanGorder acquired a liability insurance package (\$1 Million) ; her sub contractor Dennis O'Donnell also carries the same amount of liability insurance

Job Descriptions revised and finalized. Copies to Gardener and Grounds Manager.

Septic field mowed (trying the Longwood garden approach using one spring mowing per year to allow for winter habitat)

Site walk with Tom to discuss the Open Garden Day visitor flow; Grounds Manager work begins

Site evaluation of the heaved drainage pipe with Tom (empties water from behind the shed)

Brush removal from Terrace Garden, plant evaluation

Asked Tom to consult with Ryan Sprague (previously mowed at Garland Farm ) to provide “back up” mowing if problems arise with our equipment.

Examined old photographs from the Cousins, selected those showing the driveway, Entrance Garden, Wild Garden areas and behind the barn to aid in the restoration of those areas. Prepared 8 x 10 images for reference.

Tom serviced the lawn mower in preparation for seasonal use

#### **April:**

Allen Parsons removed the large pile of the winter brush/bows Pro Bono

On site meetings to discuss the repositioning of the heaved drain pipe (drains water from behind the shed into the culvert.) Proposal from Tom to reset the pipe (his time, 4 hours for Dan DeLong to assist @\$25/hour, use to Tom's equipment 4 hours @ \$20/hour) additional cost to BFS is \$180 (approved by the Executive Committee)

Removal of non historic Tiger lilies from HG; removal of other non historic plant material is in progress

Rosa spinosissima (Scotch Rose)relocated from Holding Garden to “Sorbaria” embankment (Landscape and Garden Committee decision)

Original trellis for study side of the TG was located, refurbished and installed in TG (photographic evidence from enlarged Cousins photographs)

Discussion with Sam Coplon about consultation fees (he has offered his consultation services Pro Bono)

Christopher Hollenbeck donated a Craftsman Reel Lawn Mower to BFS for small areas and emergency touch ups

Visit to Kings Masonry with Sam Coplon to look for stones for the statue base; selection made, proposal from Kings received based on Sam's sketch; photographs, sketch and proposal sent to Exec Committee and L/G Chair for approval (so approved)

Coastal Irrigation was contacted to start up the system and get Tom up to speed on how to use the programs

Tom will get "Closed for Lawn Maintenance" signage

Step stone into the WG was uncovered, the stone border (not present in old photographs from the Cousins Collection) were removed. Other photographs from the collection have been enlarged to 8 x 10 to assist with restoring the appearance of the driveway area, front of the addition, interior of the Wild

Garden and behind the barn. Interior images of the Wild Garden and the step stone edge was printed and given to Brenda Les to use as a reference.

Pruning begins on the shrub collection behind the barn

**May:**

On site meetings with Sam Coplton and Tom McIntyre to discuss regrading the driveway (water floods the entrance walkway during heavy rains, path is ice covered and hazardous during the winter months) Drainage in the field was also discussed; updated Sam on the heaved drain pipe that is to be reset.

Funding available for base for the statue, order placed by Sam Coplton with Kings Masonry. Time estimate is two weeks.

Tom installed a 6" layer of crushed stone under the statue. (Concrete blocks remain) The statue will temporarily set on the current wooden base.

Top dressing of Terrace Garden is in progress.

Judith Tankard located the missing Clematis viticella 'Kermesina' and will bring to MDI

Holding Garden fence posts will be straightened, netting secured

Low stump in WG path was addressed to prevent tripping

Visited Thuya and photographed the cistern.

Estimate requested from Eagle Arboriculture to safety prune and cable the locust, remove the two dead spruce in the tree line by the greenhouse, drain in the Stewartia. Asked Tom to have Bill Guess to also come on site and examine to Locust to determine if taking the tree down is a better option. (5/21/12)

Meeting with Brenda Les to discuss the edge position of the WG border as well as how to proceed with the Entrance Garden clean up. Wild Garden edge (right of step stone) was marked by Carolyn Hollenbeck using 8 x 10 enlargements of Cousin photographs as a guide line. Edging in progress.

Clean up of shrub by shed in progress. Pruning of shrubs behind barn is in progress.

Clean up of area surrounding the base of the Terrace Garden is in progress and will be maintained by mowing and weed whacking.

Carolyn Hollenbeck  
First Vice President, Landscape  
Beatrix Farrand Society

