

## Beatrix Farrand Society Vice President's Report

May 24, 2014

Revised position descriptions for the Caretaker, Gardener and Grounds Manager for 2014 (Grounds Manager and Gardner in collaboration with Landscape Committee Co-Chairs, Carolyn and Isabel). Developed new position description for the Housekeeper. Each has a copy of his/her description and the descriptions of those they work closely with.

Met with Caretaker, Grounds Manager and Gardener to discuss near term expectations. Meetings will continue regularly through the season and throughout the year with the Caretaker.

Collaborating with Friends of Island History and History IT to develop a prototype digital resource that will enable anyone with an internet connection to search for and access historic materials. Met with History IT CEO and Founder Kristen Gwinn-Becker to review BFS collections and provide examples for inclusion in the prototype.

Met with Billy Guess of Eagle Arboriculture, Carolyn and Isabel, to discuss the health and care of the primary trees at Garland Farm. We agreed with Billy on a plan and he has been requested to schedule the work to include:

1. Prune deadwood and a portion of one large limb from the Sargent Cherry and replace a support cable.  
Note that this will help reduce stress on the remaining branch and provide additional light in the entrance garden.
2. Remove cedar trees that are growing next to Korean Stewartia and shed.  
Note that these two cedars are not historic and are inhibiting the growth of the Stewartia and ornamental shrub collection by the shed and enabling moss to grow on the roof of the shed.
3. Prune Hawthorn lightly for shape.  
Note: Tom has done a good job of pruning the Hawthorn to date. What remains is not reachable by Tom from the ground. Billy's crew will have a bucket truck and can perform the needed work safely.
4. Reduce size of the Sweet Cherry with drop crotch pruning to reduce canopy size.  
Note: Reducing the size of the tree will reduce stress on the tree during windy conditions and reduce the amount of foliage the tree must support. We are expecting this will enable us to retain the tree in the landscape for many more years.
5. Prune Dawn Redwood of dead and clear the cape.  
Note: This is minimal work to benefit the tree and the exterior of the building.
6. Inspect the cables in the Black Locust tree.  
Note: Billy's advice is that the tree looks very healthy and the cables should be inspected (on all our trees where present) each year to confirm no failures have occurred and/or additional cabling is required.

Edited and contributed to the BFS Spring Newsletter. This being my inaugural newsletter, I anticipate making some changes next spring to facilitate an earlier mailing:

- I will likely leave the programs and events communication to the BFS web site and bookmark. Adding the bookmark to the Jim's annual letter mailing enabled direct distribution of program and events information to our members in a very attractive package.
- If we have an event like this year's *Landscape Design Seminar and Tour of Private Properties*, I'll include a teaser asking readers to anticipate a special mailing and/or to check the web site for up to date information.

The Newsletter was mailed Thursday from Downeast Graphics and Printing in Ellsworth. My assessment: They performed very well overall.

Note: Additional suggestions for improvement and suggestions for articles for upcoming newsletters will be cheerfully accepted.