

Beatrix Farrand Society
Landscape and Garden Committee Report
October 11, 2014 Board Meeting

The Committee met in August to walk the property, observe progress in gardens and grounds then determine areas needing improvement. A follow up meeting was held this month to review new accomplishments and prioritize existing concerns.

Due to shady growing conditions at the front walk way and inability to once again over winter the large potted Rosemary plants, the Committee concluded it was best to place them in good homes. Without frequent care over the winter and sunnier conditions in the summer, they would not have survived.

Pruning has continued on the Rhododendron, Pieris and Kalmia in the Entrance Garden beds, as well as the shrub collection by the shed. Reducing the height of the plants, removing dead wood and thinning them is a first step to bringing the plants back to a smaller scale. Pruning has created space between the shrubs and the building, improving the air circulation. Further pruning and shaping will be done in spring after the plants finish blooming. In addition, the Sorbaria outside of the handicap bathroom window was pruned away from the building.

Labels were obtained for plants in the Wild Garden. Brenda Les continued tending this area over the summer observing that populations of Trillium, Canada Lily and Green Fringed Orchid are increasing. A gift of Reef Point Mayapple stock was donated and is doing well.

Black landscape fabric was laid down on the Holding garden paths. Chipped material from the two large cedars trees removed early this season has been used to mulch the front three paths. Chipped material from other areas of the property will serve as mulch for the remaining paths. Weeding of the garden is underway as the season winds down.

Dave and Dick Mace took measurements of the greenhouse glass panes for future replacement with polycarbonate in 2015. This will avoid broken glass issues in the future.

One of the embankment cherry trees (donated by the Fuchs) has died and specimens were sent to the University of Maine for analysis. Carolyn has had discussions with Bruce Watt who will provide a final diagnostic report.

The Committee concluded that mowing the back field twice a year (later in spring followed by late summer) would help control the invasive Equisetum and heavily seeding non native plant species. The second mowing is still pending.

More of the Terrace Garden plants are in need of division in spring 2015. Excess material in the Holding Garden will be divided and donated to local libraries for their fundraising plant sales creating space for the new Terrace Garden divisions.

Quotes will be obtained in the spring to prune the Hydrangea growing on the barn exterior walls. The Committee sees the need to remove the Viburnum dentatum behind the barn that is seriously infected with Viburnum Leaf beetle every year.

Improving the appearance of the drainage culvert has been under discussion. One suggestion is to remove the Alders and other trees while leaving other native herbaceous material. Adding additional pollinator attracting plants has been suggested.

The Committee discussed at length Scott's proposal to provide space in the Holding Garden (or in the area where the hogweed was growing) for Pitch Pines that may be rescued from the alongside the road, across from the Jackson Laboratory. These trees could be a source of material for Acadia National Park to use when restoring the park vistas. This could be a coordinated effort involving the Garden and Land Preserve, BFS and the ANP.

Although the Committee feels that coordinated effort between island groups can be beneficial, it was concluded that there will not be sufficient space for the Pitch Pines in the Holding Garden, in addition to current replacement plant material now growing there, future divisions of Terrace Garden plants, Entrance Garden plants, the propagated rhododendron coming from Garden and Land Preserve or other plants like Boxwood from the Garland Farm collection. At present the number of trees that might be rescued, who would provide labor to relocate and care for the trees, the length of time BFS would be nurturing the trees and knowledge that Acadia National Park would actually have need for rescued trees are questions still needing to be investigated.

Carolyn Hollenbeck
BFS Landscape and Garden Chair
October 10, 2014