

Programs Report, August 1, 2015

The 2015 programs are going well. The first program, a workshop on growing heather, was held on June 29, with the speakers coming from St. Andrews, New Brunswick. It was not possible to find any growers of heather in the state of Maine, but there is at least one grower not far across the Canadian border. This program planning was made even more interesting, as the heather grower, John Allen, does not have a license to sell in the US, and had to engage a friend who does have the necessary license. The friend, Harvey Wrightman, has a well-known alpine plant nursery, so the program included how to grow both types of plants. Both men brought beautiful hearty plants to sell, and many of those who attended truly enjoyed purchasing these plants. More than 33 people attended the workshop.

A set of art programs was offered in July. An art lecture, “The Art of the Garden,” was presented by Judy Taylor, a well-known artist on Mt. Desert Island, on July 6. Attendance was about 25.

On July 7 and 8, an art class for a limited number of students was held on painting ala John Singer Sargent, who featured women in gardens. The first class was held at Garland Farm, painting from a Sargent masterpiece. The second class was held at a board member's home in his beautiful Mainescape garden on the ocean with a model in the garden, again ala Sargent. Six very appreciative people took this class, some flying in from NYC and Philadelphia for this class.



The Annual Lecture taking place today at Gates Auditorium, COA, has an excellent registration so far, with more coming in before the event. The lecture is “Greenwood Gardens: Rebirth of a Private Estate as a Public Place”, presented by Sofia Blanchard and Louis Bauer.

Ken Druse will present a program at Garland Farm on Aug. 3, speaking about his new book “The New Shade Garden: Creating a Lush Oasis in the Age of Climate Change”.

BFS is inaugurating the Lifetime Achievement Award and Lecture on August 15, at Maine Sea Coast Mission. Laurie Olin is the recipient; his lecture is "A Designer's Designer: The Craft and Art of Beatrix Farrand".

Partick Cullina's lecture on August 24 is "Shopping for Eden: Gathering Perspective on the Pursuit of Plants and Gardens".

Dr. Lois Stack will present "Welcome Bees to Your Garden" on Sept. 9.

The BFS is co-sponsoring with Reel Pizza the film "Jens Jensen: The Living Green" which is part of the theater's annual film festival. The Festival takes place Sept. 18 – 21.

This year, it was decided to have most of the programs at 4 – 5:30 PM, to allow local gardeners the opportunity to attend.

Michaeleen Ward
Programs Chair