

Welcome to Garland Farm

Beatrix Farrand (then Beatrix Jones) first came to Mt. Desert Island as a child in the 1880's when her parents built a summer home, known as Reef Point, in fashionable Bar Harbor. Impressed by the native flora and beautiful naturalistic landscape of the island, Farrand adopted Reef Point as her lifelong "spiritual base". Her work as a designer of private estates and a landscape consultant for prestigious universities in the United States is well documented, but little has been known until recently about her last years. Although she endeavored to transform Reef Point into a botanical garden, as well as a design and horticultural education center, she was forced to abandon the project in 1955. At that time she dismantled the house and garden and gave her archives to the University of California at Berkeley. Robert W. Patterson, an architect and board member of the Reef Point Gardens Corporation, was able to recycle many of the architectural elements from Reef Point in Farrand's new home at Garland Farm, where she joined her caretakers, Lewis and Amy Garland, in retirement. Many of Farrand's original plants from Reef Point were relocated in Northeast Harbor in two gardens designed by Charles K. Savage. Today Asticou Azalea Garden and Thuya Garden are under the stewardship of the Land and Garden Preserve. Additional plants were brought to Garland Farm, where Farrand created a new garden for herself.

Beatrix Farrand lived at Garland Farm until her death in February 1959. After the death of the Garlands, Garland Farm had two private owners. In 2002, a group led by landscape architect Patrick Chasse was formed to acquire Garland Farm as an historic site. Emily and James Fuchs led the drive to form The Beatrix Farrand Society as a Maine non-profit corporation with support from the Garden Conservancy, the Garden Club of Mt. Desert, the Bar Harbor Garden Club, and other organizations, as well as private donors. In January 2004, sufficient funds had been raised to purchase Garland Farm. Ongoing fundraising has enabled the restoration of the gardens, the creation of a horticultural library and archive, and the development of educational programs once envisioned by Beatrix Farrand. Restoration of the terrace garden began in 2004 with commissioning of the *Garland Farm Cultural Landscape Report* by Pressley Associates Landscape Architects. The physical restoration began in 2007 and was completed in 2007.

Garland Farm is open to visitors on Open Days or by appointment. **In 2015, the opening times are Thursday afternoons from 1-5PM from July 2 to September 10.** Check our website www.beatrixfarrandsociety.org for updates. Please consider becoming a member of The Beatrix Farrand Society. You can join online and download a mail-in form or pay via credit card. To schedule a special tour, contact visit@beatrixfarrandsociety.org or telephone 207 288-2037. Additional information, including suggested readings, plant lists is available at Garland Farm.

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