

Beatrix Farrand Society Board Meeting Agenda for Saturday 10 October 2015

Present: Scott Koniecko, Dick Habermann, Betty Massie, Vicki Goldstein, Isabel Mancinelli, Michaeleen Ward, Stephanie Burnett, Gerd Grace, Mary Roper, Wendy Knickerbocker, Lois Stack and guest Patrick Cullina.

Present via phone: Genie Thorndike

Absent Neil Houghton, Julia Leisenring

I. 10:00 A.M. Call to Order

Scott showed the book *Rescuing Eden* with its impressive photos and text about Garland Farm

II. Review of Minutes of 1 August 2015

Minutes approved with Betty Massie and Gerd Grace abstaining.

III. Committee Reports

Scott introduced Patrick Cullina and explained the need to have him as an ongoing consultant to help BFS move forward and improve as BFS looks beyond the Cultural Landscape Report that it has been relying on to date for guidance. Traditional and Non-traditional landscape garden ideas were described by Patrick, as well as ways to capture peoples' interests in design, pollinators, gardening, historic wetlands, and Maine flora. Scott articulated the vision of Reef Point as an educational center and the need for Garland Farm to follow that path.

A. Nominating

Two new board members: Gerd Grace was unanimously approved as a Board Member, and Maureen Ackerman (When Maureen's CV arrives, the Executive Board will vote on her nomination.) Gerd will become Chair of Nominating Committee

B. Development

Neil needs someone to take a lead on next summer's seminar/tour anyone interested should contact Scott.

Further Development ideas were covered in Patrick Cullina's presentation.

C. Collections

Collections Committee Report

I have begun the weeding project, with the able assistance of Tom Hayward. The Special Collections will not be weeded, unless there are cases of multiple copies or books in poor condition. Special Collections are: The Morning Room books; the Farrand Collection, formerly called the Bookplate Collection; and Special books formerly called Rare Books. Weeding the general collection is necessary because the shelves are full and there is very little room for any new books. There is no room for new archival materials either, since the "office" shelves are stuffed with periodicals. We need to make space. The practical reality gives way to the philosophical: the general idea of the Garland Farm library is to replicate and update Beatrix Farrand's library. Therefore, with our limited shelf space in mind, we are guided in weeding by the premise that each book should be both directly connected to and appropriate for research on Beatrix Farrand's life, work and influence.

To move from weeding to acquisitions, in August we received some papers of Marion Spaulding from her nephew. Marion Spaulding worked on the Reef Point herbarium from 1949-1954. The papers we

received include book notes for a Reef Point garden guide, plant lists; two plans of the grounds, some photographs of Spaulding at Reef Point; and manuscripts of two lectures she gave about Reef Point. While the collection is small, it is still rather wonderful, providing not only a contemporary view of Reef Point but also, perhaps more importantly, context for our herbarium collection and exhibits. I have cataloged the Spaulding Papers in Past Perfect. The cataloging project as a whole is going well. So far I've cataloged about 200 books, including the Special Collections. The cataloging does involve reclassification, from the unique McGuire/Shedd system used by Marti Harmon to the Library of Congress system used by most academic and many research libraries. This will mean that the books will be re-shelved as they are cataloged, but with care the library needn't look messy in the process. Both systems will be in place for a while, but I'm confident that we will still be able to find any needed items. I propose that BFS purchase the online version of Past Perfect next spring. Even though less than 20% of the library's materials will be cataloged by then, the online catalog would still be of great use to anyone interested in the Society's library holdings. Not only will the outside world be able to see what BFS owns (starting with the Special Collections and some archival materials), the online catalog will also be available within the farmhouse as well, on anyone's Smartphone or laptop. That capability means there wouldn't have to be a BFS computer made available just for the library catalog. Furthermore, in the future, when BFS gets to the point of having digital images of its archival materials, photographs and even garden ornaments and house furnishings, those images can be cataloged along with books and documents.

For an example of an online catalog via Past Perfect, see the website of the Mount Desert Island Historical Society. (<http://mdihistory.org>) Choose "Collections" from the upper menu and then "Catalog" or "Catalog" from the lower menu. (<http://mdihistory.pastperfectonline.com>)

The cost of mounting the online catalog would be @\$1150: @\$700 for the web-access software and another required module, plus \$450 for Past Perfect to host the database on their server of up to 10,000 records. The \$450 hosting fee would be an annual charge thereafter. I honestly believe that it would be a worthwhile expense, justifiable if BFS wants to have its library and archives available to students, researchers and scholars everywhere.

Wendy Knickerbocker, Collection Chairman

Wendy's report describes the Spaulding papers, which came to BFS by means of an article in the Islander. Books culled from the collection will be donated to Jesup for their second hand bookstore and their book sale. Reclassification will allow for duplicates to be identified and the better text retained.

The Board voted unanimously to purchase the Past Perfect software

D. Programs

BFS "Programs" Report, Oct. 10, 2015

The majority of the 2015 programs took place in August and September.

On August 1, the Annual speakers were Sofia Blanchard and Louis Bauer, who spoke on ***Greenwood Gardens: Rebirth of a Private Estate as a Public Space***. The lecture was held at Gates Auditorium, College of the Atlantic. Forty-nine people had registered for the event, but there were more than fifty in attendance.

On August 3, Ken Druse introduced his new book, *The New Shade Garden: Creating a Lush Oasis in the Age of Climate Change*. A book signing was held with three of his popular books. Fifty-five people registered and/or attended. This was the first of programs planned for 4:00 – 5:30 p.m., to better accommodate the work schedule of area gardeners. This timing seems to be well-received.

The newly-inaugurated Lifetime Achievement Award and reception was held on August 15 at the Maine Sea Coast Mission. The recipient/speaker was Laurie Olin, whose lecture was *A Designer's Designer: the Craft and Art of Beatrix Farrand*. One hundred and six people registered and/or attended.

On August 24, Patrick Cullina spoke on *Shopping for Eden: Gathering Perspective on the Pursuit of Plants and Gardens*. Thirty-four people registered and/or attended.

On September 9, Dr. Lois Berg Stack presented a lecture on bees, her most recent research project at the University of Maine, Orono. *Welcome Bees* was attended by more than 30 people.

The Beatrix Farrand Society co-sponsored a documentary film, *Jens Jensen: The Living Green* at the Maine International Film Festival By-The-Sea held at Reel Pizza Cinerama. The filmmaker, Carey Lundin, spoke at the two showings of the film, September 18 and 19. Both showings were well attended. Ms. Lundin donated a copy of the DVD to the Beatrix Farrand Society.

Michaelleen Ward, Programs Chairman

E. Docents and Tours

The Fuchs continue to give private tours, most recently to 25 people from Australia.

F. Publications

Carriage road monograph is proceeding: 2/3's has been completed to date and the rest will be completed by January. A \$5000 matching donation has been offered in addition to the \$5000 offered by David Rockefeller. Board Members were urged to help find matching contributions.

G. Membership

H. Landscape and Garden

The Landscape committee met and reviewed work done by A.C. Parsons; they're happy with the work and will improve the system used for labeling plants. The hydrangea has been pruned so that it no longer enters the barn. Birdbaths will be stored at Lunaform for the winter. Brenda Les has tended the wild garden and has taken over responsibility of the pot rack outside the front door. Mowing of the field behind the Terrace Garden will be timed to coincide with important pollinator dates. Hogweed still exists behind compost bins and needs to be eradicated. A cradle for the Kwan Yin is being discussed with the Rockefeller garden; either the original will be gifted or a reproduction will be made.

Propagation project: Mary noticed two azaleas in the entrance garden that didn't exist at Thuya or Asticou: myrtifolia and obtusa nana. She described the work that has gone on to propagate them and to have them come back to Garland Farm.

I. Facilities

Scott showed a mock up of the mahogany entrance garden fence that includes mortised balustrades and sleeved mitered/splined posts that are then mounted on pressure treated posts in the ground. How much disruption the new fence will cause with the entrance garden restoration remains to be a question.

J. Exhibitions

Reef Point and University of California Herbarium voucher overlapping numbering systems are confusing. To resolve this Lois may visit Berkeley this winter to gain more information about

the actual number of vouchers. Additionally Lois is thinking of Marion Spaulding's work as a theme for the herbarium for 2016. Lois will continue to search for connections between Farrand's collection and the University of Maine.

K. Intern & Scholarship

Funds have been applied to having an intern to catalog Patrick Chasse's collection.

L. Special Events and Hospitality

IV. Treasurer's Report

The board voted to allocate line item for the library in the budget. There is \$60,902.69 in cash in the bank, with roughly \$20,000 dedicated to Entrance Garden Fund. Having December as the end of fiscal year end works well. Finance committee consists of Arthur Keller and Neil Houghton and Dick Habermann and needs more members.

V. President's Report

The report was generally covered throughout meeting.

- A. Newsletter: BFS has had two per year: one that summarized programs in the fall and a spring publication that listed upcoming events. It has been decided that the spring publication is the more important one and will be published when the program dates and details for the 2016 season have been finalized. Lois will have an article for the newsletter after her trip to CA, Mary will write an article about the propagation project, and Shirley Beccue will contribute the photos she took at last summer's lectures.

VI. Old Business

A. Pollinator Project

Lois highlighted items in the pollinator report. Scott noted that the project is not to be placed on the historic campus and is to be in the field below the terrace garden which includes the leaching field. First priority is to assess the need for such a garden. Lois offered an overview. Species of bees at Garland Farm represent about 10% of number of species in Maine. The board voted to begin the proposal at a basic level of mowing the path and placing signs near plants that attract pollinators. Lois reminds the board that she is cycling off the board after the May meeting; she will help but needs someone to eventually lead the project.

VII. New Business

A. Patrick Cullina Presentation and Review

BFS could fold maintenance into programs, for example, it might work to have a person who is good at pruning teach people how to do it; it might be possible to have wild flower expert assist in identification of plants that exist in the meadow. Sharing and demonstrating gardening experience could go beyond the traditional roles needed to maintain a garden. Flowers of native flora ought to be utilized, including trees. He described Polly Hill's Arboretum on Martha's Vineyard as an example of a site that has utilized much more than traditional areas of interest. It's possible to layer programmatic work with addition new efforts such as hosting events in or near a pollinator meadow. An opportunity exists if a full assessment were done to more fully interpret the landscape enriching a visitors experience. He suggested that it may be wise to lay out the path for the pollinator path now so it's possible to see it. It is possible to, in effect, make an addendum to cultural report – a census of things that may be unique in their form, in this latitude, or in provenance and by

doing so find value in things that exist as well as those that have been highlighted previously. Possibilities for Garland Farm oriented programs may include an expert in bark, plants in bloom in fall or spring, or someone who has unique historical expertise to name a few.

Respectfully submitted,

Paula Moody