

THE BEATRIX FARRAND SOCIETY

2017 NEWSLETTER



The porch at Reef Point

THE PLANTS OF GARLAND FARM: CONNECTIONS TO REEF POINT by Dr. Lois Berg Stack

WELCOME TO OUR NEWEST DIRECTOR

RESTORATION OF THE ENTRANCE GARDEN by Brenda Les

photograph courtesy of the Strout Family Archive

GUIDE TO BEATRIX FARRAND SOCIETY 2017 PROGRAMS

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HOW TO SEE GARLAND FARM BLOOMS ONLINE THIS SPRING

THE PLANTS OF GARLAND FARM: CONNECTIONS TO REEF POINT

by Dr. Lois Berg Stack

Beatrix Farrand Society Council of Advisors; Professor Emerita of Sustainable Agriculture, University of Maine

Beatrix Farrand (1872-1959) lived at Reef Point, her home in Bar Harbor ME, for part of most years from her early life until she moved to nearby Garland Farm in October 1955. When Reef Point was dismantled, hundreds of azaleas and rhododendrons were moved to Asticou Azalea Garden, and many other plants were moved to both Asticou Azalea Garden and Thuya Garden. But, Farrand took some of her favorite plants with her, to plant her last garden at Garland Farm. She also took with her a very broad and deep understanding of garden design, which she developed from her childhood explorations of Reef Point, early study at the Arnold Arboretum, extensive travel in the US and Europe, experimental plantings at Reef Point, and long career as a landscape and garden designer.

Garland Farm was an established family farm when Farrand moved there. Without diminishing the beauty or importance of the vernacular landscape, she skillfully personalized it by adding the entry gardens, the Terrace Garden, and other plantings near the house. She developed a garden for yearround enjoyment, with both formal and informal elements. She used favorite plants and hardscape items from Reef Point to create personally meaningful spaces, and completed the plantings with other plants that she knew well from her lifelong work.



from the collection of the University Herbarium at U.C. Berkeley Reef Point Gardens Herbarium voucher for Delphinium cheilanthum

Among the more than 900 vouchered specimens in the Reef Point Gardens Herbarium are more than 70 plant taxa that Farrand later planted at Garland Farm. You can read more about the herbarium in the Spring 2013, Spring 2014, and Summer 2016 BFS Newsletters, available at: www.beatrixfarrandsociety.org/newsletters

Some plant specimens are believed to have been moved from Reef Point to Garland Farm, although documentation is limited. But whether or not she moved plants from one site to the other, it is clear that she did use some taxa of plants at Reef Point, beginning early in her career, and again at Garland Farm, at the end of her life, making these plants worthy of review.



photograph by Lois Berg Stack

Bumble bee on Enkianthus. Bumble bees (shown here) and honey bees are attracted to redvein enkianthus flowers in early June.

Visitors to Garland Farm encounter the first such plant, redvein enkianthus (Enkianthus campanulatus), while passing under a pair of mature specimens that provide the transition from the parking area to the house. Another redvein enkianthus, located between the two doors of the garage opposite the barn at Garland Farm, is pruned into a small tree, demonstrating a form that is useful in a small garden. This hardy Japanese shrub performs well in Maine's acid soils. It also provides a distinctly Japanese aspect to gardens, with its clusters of urn-shaped, pink-veined white flowers that hang downward from horizontal branches that bear upward-turned twigs with shiny leaves. The curiously shaped small fruits add texture to the winter landscape. In full light or partial shade, this problem-free plant provides year-round beauty. At Reef Point, redvein enkianthus was sited at the far end of the extensive beds of heaths and heathers, and would have been viewed along one of the main vistas that started at the house and led toward Frenchman Bay. This made perfect sense both ecologically, as these Ericaceous plants all perform well in full sun and acid soil, and from a design perspective, with the shinyleaved upright redvein enkianthus providing contrast with the low evergreen groundcovers. Chassé (2003) wrote that Farrand brought redvein enkianthus from Reef Point to Garland Farm.



photograph by Lois Berg Stack

Korean stewartia produces camellia-like flowers each July. As the flowers fall, they cover the ground below like giant snowflakes.

of gray, silver and orange-brown. Both Chassé (2003) and Tankard (2009) state that this tree was moved from Reef Point. A Korean

A mature Korean stewartia (Stewartia

koreana) by the gardeners shed attracts the eye of every visitor in July with its beautiful five-petaled white flowers, each 3-4" across with prominent yellow stamens. Showy midsummer flowers are unusual among landscape trees, making this plant unique and desirable. During the flowering season, it is common to see one of these flowers floating in the birdbath near the house's entryway. Even when the

stewartia is not flowering, it displays unique

saw-puzzle pieces to produce a mottled pattern

stewartia at Reef Point was documented with an herbarium voucher in 1950 by Marion Spaulding, who developed most of the herbarium. The voucher displays not only stems and leaves, but also a flower and some flower buds, and a map shows the specimen was in a prominent place near the house at Reef Point. Spaulding's notes on the voucher summarize this tree's beauty: "Very handsome small tree with broad sprdg. branches; Ht. 20'-25'; Shady protected location; Foliage medium green – lighter beneath; Flowers white – buds silky soft; very lovely &

thin bark, which exfoliates in irregular jig-

gardenia-like."



Korean stweartia by the unrestored gardener's shed at Garland Farm, autumn 2016.

Garland Farm, autumn 2016. Between Garland Farm's house and barn, a large golden chain tree (*Laburnum x watereri*) provides a reminder that Farrand visited and studied many English gardens, where this plant has long been planted. Golden chain tree is named for its 12"-15"-long pendulous clusters of bright golden-yellow pea-like flowers, which are displayed abundantly in June. The 20' tall by 12' wide plants provide a bold focal point when in flower, and are most useful in a landscape where they can blend into the background after flowering, allowing other plants to dominate the scene. At Reef Point, the golden chain tree that is documented in the herbarium was planted near the end of one long path, where its June flower display could draw the eye through the garden and toward the ocean, before blending into the background by midsummer. This plant so



photograph by Lois Berg Stack

The stunning mottled bark of Korean stewartia is an interesting year-round feature.



photograph by Lois Berg Stack

This laburnum plant at Reef Point is viewed from the ocean, looking toward the platform of the garden club house.



The climbing hydrangea at Garland Farm forms a green wall above an entrance to the restored barn.

impressed Marion Spaulding,

who assembled both existing herbarium vouchers of this plant, that she planted one at her family farm in New Hampshire, after leaving Reef Point. At Garland Farm, the golden chain tree is stunning in June, and later serves as a backdrop for summer-flowering plants like weigela. Mitchell and Chassé (2005) and Pressley Associates (2007) report that golden chain tree was moved from Reef Point to Garland Farm.

The back wall of Garland Farm's barn supports an impressive climbing hydrangea (*Hydrangea anomala petiolaris*). This plant requires a large vertical space adjacent to a strong support, as it can climb to 50' in height, and become thick and heavy enough to require periodic pruning to reduce its weight and to keep it within the vertical space limit. At Reef Point, Farrand's climbing hydrangea, along with some other vigorous vines, covered the side of the house. Again, Spaulding's notes on the herbarium voucher provide excellent insight into how this plant might be sited and managed in a landscape: "Shrub – climbing to 50'; Clings firmly by rootlets; Flowers white & conspicuous; Foliage luxuriant – dark green; Grows well on east wall of house & on west chimney." Pressley Associates (2007) and Dietz (2011) state that this plant was moved from Reef Point to Garland Farm.

Farrand planted a dawn redwood (Metasequoia glyptostroboides) in the backyard of the house at Garland Farm, near the Terrace Garden. This specimen is believed to have been transplanted from Reef Point (Pressley Associates, 2007; Tankard, 2009). Dawn redwood is an unusual conifer because it is deciduous; its soft light green needles turn coppery brown before dropping in late autumn. It can reach 50'-60' in height when grown in full sun and in well-drained soil perched over a water table that can provide constant moisture. When Farrand planted dawn redwood at Reef Point, it was in few if any other private gardens in New England. It was thought to be extinct until it was found in the wild in central China in the early 1940s. Seeds were brought to Boston's Arnold Arboretum in 1948, and either seeds or seedlings were hand-delivered to Reef Point in May 1950. Spaulding noted on the herbarium voucher that "Reef Point pltd. 1 out side fall 1950 - two others in pots - came from Arnold Arboretum." It must have been very exciting to help determine if this plant could be grown in northern New England, and the tree at Garland Farm is a reminder of the important interactions between the Arnold Arboretum and Reef Point.

Garland Farm is home to a collection of mature rhododendrons and azaleas (*Rhododendron* species), planted in a bed adjacent to the garage. Additional specimens are planted in the front garden of the house. A large number of rhododendrons and azaleas were moved from Reef Point to Asticou Azalea Garden in 1956-57, but Farrand took some with her to Garland Farm, according to Chassé (2003; mention of azaleas) and Pressley Associates (2007; mention of azaleas and rhododendrons). Farrand's love of these shrubs is matched by that of many MDI homeowners; a drive around the island reveals that they are widely planted, and yet remain interest-



The Dawn redwood, *Metasequoia glyptostroboides* at Garland Farm this winter.

ing. They are magnificent in flower; rhododendrons' evergreen leaves lend welcome color to the winter landscape; and the color and fragrance of both groups' flowers are impressive. At Garland Farm, the early summer flowers are magical.

At the back of the house, the center beds of Garland Farm's Terrace Garden contain a beautiful collection of heaths and heathers (*Erica* and *Calluna* species, respectively), some of them likely moved from Reef Point (Pressley Associates, 2007). Farrand valued these plants greatly enough that she devoted much of the twelfth Reef Point Gardens Bulletin to this group of Ericaceous plants. Their evergreen foliage and low spreading growth habit allow them to be used in place of turfgrass, to provide open space in the landscape. Their succession of flowers and fruits are showy for months each year. As they spread, they knit into a mosaic of texture and color. And, because they thrive in thin acid soil, they were planted extensively at Reef Point in lieu of an expansive lawn. At Garland Farm, old plants died back significantly in the winter of 2003-04, but few of them were lost and most rebounded with time. New cultivars of both groups were planted to fill in the beds, with cultivar selection based on historical planting plans. The plants are now the focal point of the garden when in flower, and on a small scale they perform the same task they did at Reef Point: they provide a beautiful open space that allows the viewer to appreciate the long view.

This presentation of plants is written as a walking tour of Garland Farm, with references to their connection to Reef Point and the Reef Point Gardens Herbarium. These plants could just as easily be presented as a season-by-season tour, focusing on how they work together to provide year-round interest in the Garland Farm landscape. And, these plants could be presented as examples of how Farrand used her knowledge, skill and experience to almost intuitively create her final garden as an intimate place populated with some of her old friends, placed carefully according to solid landscape design principles. We hope you'll visit the gardens often in 2017, to enjoy the plants and the landscape of which they are part.

SOURCES:

Chassé, Patrick. "The Last Garden of Beatrix Farrand." Maine Olmsted Alliance Journal (Spring 2003).

Deitz, Paula. *Of gardens*. Philadelphia: University of Pennsylvania Press, 2011.

Mitchell, Christi I. and Patrick Chassé. National Register Nomination Form for Garland Farm. (Designated October 19, 2005.)

Pressley Associates. *Beatrix Farrand at Garland Farm, Cultural Landscape Report.* Cambridge MA: Pressley Associates, Landscape Architects, 2007.

Tankard, Judith. *Beatrix Farrand: private gardens, public landscapes.* New York: Monacelli Press, 2009.

WELCOME TO OUR NEWEST DIRECTOR

Michael Boland joins The Beatrix Farrand Society Board

Michael Boland grew up in Philadelphia. His undergraduate studies began at Augustana College in Illinois. He graduated from College of the Atlantic in 1993.

He has lived on Mount Desert Island, mostly in Bar Harbor, since 1989, spending most winters in Latin America, either traveling, studying or just living in one place. He focused on biology, and in particular tropical biology, at COA, completing his senior project on a distribution study of the pink river dolphins (*Inia geoffrensis*) of the Amazon River basin.

Michael's appreciation and interest in botany and gardens was piqued late. It's only recently been a major interest—after relocating to Barberry Lane in Bar Harbor and inheriting the beautiful gardens that Ellie Dwight, her mother Eleanor Mc-Cormick Collier and Patrick Chassé developed over many years.

He has been involved in various aspects of the hospitality, food and beverage industry, including Havana Restaurant, Choco-Latte Café, and the recently founded Acadia Coffee Company. Most recently, Michael has partnered with a summer resident to purchase and re-open the Islesford Dock Restaurant & Gallery.

Michael's wife, Deirdre Swords, owns, with her partner Cody van Heerden, Artemis Gallery in Northeast Harbor. Dierdre and Michael have two daughters in the Bar Harbor school: Zoe (10) and Juno (7). The family tries to spend as much time in the mountains of San Cristobal, Chiapas, Mexico, as school will allow—but it's getting harder!

VISIT GARLAND FARM ON AN OPEN DAY

Thursdays, 1:00 pm to 5 pm June 29th through September 28th & by appointment directions and more: www.beatrixfarrandsociety.org general inquiries: generalcoordinator@beatrixfarrandsociety.org Garland Farm office telephone: 207-288-0237



Spring heath, Erica carnea in the terrace garden at Garland Farm this April.

photograph by Nikolai Fox

HOW TO SEE GARLAND FARM BLOOMS ONLINE THIS SPRING

@beatrix_farrand_society on Instagram

This April we began sharing photographs of what is in bloom at Garland Farm through Instagram. Instagram is a free, simple and popular interactive photography application or "app" that is designed especially for smart phones. We hope you will join us on Instagram for the simple purpose of enjoying photographs of Garland Farm blooms throughout the season accompanied by their common and latin names.

Instagram is designed especially for smart phones but you can look at instagram on a computer or tablet too. Go to www.instagram.com to sign up. To use Instagram on a smart phone, go to the app store and download the Instagram app. Once installed, open Instagram and follow the prompts to establish your account. Then press the "find" icon (magnifiying glass at the bottom) and search for "beatrix_farrand_society". Be sure to use lowercase letters and include the underscores between the words.



The Sargent's cherry, *Prunus sargentii* in bloom this May at Garland Farm

CLIMATE CHANGE IN MAINE FORESTS' DR. IVAN J. FERNANDEZ Wednesday, June 7th at 4:00 pm In the Restored Barn at Garland Farm

The Jesup Memorial Library presents: **The Life & Gardens of BEATRIX FARRAND a documentary film by** KARYL EVANS

will screen on Tuesday, June 27th at 7:00 pm at the Jesup Memorial Library in Bar Harbor

'CLIMATE DYNAMICS: SURPRISING CLUES ABOUT THE FUTURE OF PLANTS IN MAINE' DR. GEORGE JACOBSON Thursday, July 27th at 4:00 pm In the Restored Barn at Garland Farm

BEATRIX FARRAND SOCIETY SPECIAL ANNUAL LECTURE NO ADMISSION FEE 'FAITH IN A SEED, THE STORY OF THE POLLY HILL ARBORETUM ON MARTHA'S VINEYARD' TIM BOLAND Saturday. August 5th at 4:00 pm

Saturday, August 5th at 4:00 pm In the Restored Barn at Garland Farm

'THE ASTICOU COLLECTION' MARY ROPER

Tuesday, August 15th at 4:00 pm In the Restored Barn at Garland Farm

BEATRIX FARRAND SOCIETY ADMISSION: \$20 FOR NON-MEMBERS / \$10 FOF

Garland Farm's address is 1029 Route 3 in Bar Harbor. For visitor parking Drive then turn left into our grass parking lot. The address for visitor parkin For handicapped access, please use our driveway at the 1029 mail box of www.beatrixfarrandsoc program inquires: 207 581 2937 pro-

Dr. Ivan Fernandez is a Distinguished Maine Professor at Climate Change Institute & School of Forest Resources at the University of Maine. He will speak at Garland Farm on the impacts of various environmental factors on climate change in forests. He has been working in this area at long-term research sites throughout Maine such as the Bear Brook Watershed, which was established in the 1980s.

Karyl Evans is a six time Emmy Award winning documentary filmmaker and a Yale Fellow. Her film is the first documentary ever produced about the life and gardens of Beatrix Farrand. In the film Karyl Evans interviews Beatrix Farrand scholars and uses never-before-seen archival materials and recent photographs of over 60 Beatrix Farrand related sites as well as narration to tell the compelling story of Beatrix Farrand's impressive 50 year career as a landscape architect. View the trailer at www.beatrixfarranddocumentary.com

> Professor Emeritus, Dr. George Jacobsen, is with the School of Biology and Ecology and the Climate Change Institute at the University of Maine. He served as the State Climatologist for several years. We look forward to hearing about how plants in Maine may help to predict climate change based on George's research with the Climate Change Institute.

Join Arboretum Executive Director, Tim Boland, as he shares the inspirational story of Polly Hill and her arboretum. Tim will share the origins of Polly's interest in plants and how her dedication to growing trees from seed led to the establishment of the arboretum in 1998. He will also share the challenges and opportunities of growing plants on Martha's Vineyard and how Polly's legacy is thriving today with programs centered on education, horticulture, plant exploration, and conservation.

Rhododendrons and Azaleas from Beatrix Farrand's Reef Point estate provide the primary character of Asticou Azalea Garden, along with many unique and well-loved trees. The story of Asticou's creation and the many historic plants it contains, including the high elevation forms of azaleas and other surprising Farrand selections, will offer an afternoon of photos and discussion. With efforts

underway to link the Farrand Herbaria with existing plants, ties to Reef Point grow ever stronger. Propagation efforts reveal unexpected characteristics in old cultivars and offer new forms and color as plants are grown from seed. Join us to explore the many adventures of Asticou!

Y PROGAMS & EVENTS IN 2017 OR MEMBERS / STUDENTS ATTEND FOR FREE

king please turn off of Route 3 (just south of our mail box) onto Bay View rking in this grass lot is 475 Bay View Drive in Bar Harbor. Parking is free. ox on Route 3. More complete directions and information are available at dsociety.org/directions/

programs@beatrixfarrandsociety.org



Star magnolia, Magnolia stellata at Garland Farm this May

'CHANTICLEER: A PLEASURE GARDEN' ERIC HSU Friday, August 18th at 4:00 pm In the Restored Barn at Garland Farm

'CULTIVATING THE RAINBOW' KELLY NORRIS

Thursday, August 24th at 4:00 pm In the Restored Barn at Garland Farm LECTURE & BOOK SIGNING Mr. Norris will be signing copies of his book, *A Guide to Bearded Irises*. Copies will be available at the lecture.

BEATRIX FARRAND SOCIETY ANNUAL AWARD LECTURE ELIZABETH BARLOW ROGERS Thursday, August 31st at 4:00 pm at the **Seacoast Mission** in Bar Harbor Chanticleer Gardens, in Wayne, Pennsylvania, is an historic garden that was originally owned by the Rosengartens. Eric Hsu, the Plant Information Coordinator in the Plant Records with Chanticleer Garden will join us to share his perspectives on the gardens. The property contains a teacup garden, shade gardens, and a serpentine with cut flowers and vegetables that are used on site.

Kelly Norris, the Director of Horticulture at the Des Moines Botanical Garden, has been growing and working with bearded irises since he was a teenager. He owns Rainbow Iris Fam in Iowa, which is a large mail order nursery specializing in irises, and he recently wrote 'A Guide to Bearded Irises'. Please join us to learn more from Kelly about these fascinating and colorful plants.

We are pleased to announce that Elizabeth Barlow Rogers will be awarded the 2017 Beatrix Farrand Society Achievement Award. Ms. Barlow is a co-founder of the Central Park Conservancy where she played a lead role until 1996. The Conservancy successfully revitalized Central Park in New York City to be one of the most important parks in the world. Ms. Rogers and her husband co-own the C.L. Browning Ranch, an educational site, which is located in Johnson City, Texas. As an author, Ms. Barlow has

contributed significantly to the development and enrichment of her field. Rogers is author of ten published books including, 'Frederick Law Olmstead's New York', 'Rebuilding Central Park: A Management and Restoration Plan', and 'Green Metropolis: The Extraordinary Landscape of New York City as Nature, History, and Landscape Design'. Ms. Barlow has received many honors including the LaGasse Medal from the American Society of Landscape Architects, the Gold Medal from the New York Botanical Garden, and the Jane Jacobs Medal for lifetime achievement from the Rockefeller Foundation.

'THE NATURAL PITCH PINE GARDENS OF ACADIA' MICHAEL DAY

Thursday, September 14th at 4:00 pm In the restored barn at Garland Farm

Pitch Pines are a keystone species that determine the composition and structure of unique coastal rocky ledge plant communities at many sites on Mt. Desert Island. Dr. Mike Day, Associate Research Pro-

fessor of Tree Physiology and Physiolgical Ecology with the School of Forest Resources at the University of Maine has been studying these trees for many years. He will share his thoughts and perspectives regarding this fascinating plant and the plant communities it supports.



Pitch pine, Pinus rigida in Acadia National Park this May.

THE FARRAND AZALEAS

by Mary Roper

Beatrix Farrand Society Board of Directors; Garden Manager, Asticou Azalea Garden



Azaleas, heath and heathers, flanking the central path, Reef Point Gardens

Rhododendron luteum

photograph courtesy of the Strout Family Archive

In 1956 Charles Savage determined to create something of lasting value for Asticou, the community just north of Northeast Harbor, Maine. To this end, he envisioned Asticou Azalea Garden, engaged local crews and transplanted an exquisite collection of plants from Farrand's Reef Point Gardens, in Bar Harbor, Maine. The heart of this ambitious creation is the azalea and rhododendron collection, comprising 25 species and many fine old botanical and garden selections, and demanding a shovel and hearty crew for each of the 433 azaleas and rhodies transplanted. Essentially, each plant was already semi- or fully mature at Reef Point, with vaseyi and schlippenbachii azaleas arriving at Asticou as 6' to 8' shrubs, dwarfing the wild dug pitch pines he transplanted from Hall Quarry and successfully creating the dramatic cloud of pink he envisioned as an arresting scene for motorists passing by.

From 1949 to 1951, plants at the Reef Point Gardens Herbarium were captured in their prime and pressed to become permanent points of reference by Marion Ida Spaulding, later to be donated to University of California, Berkeley as the Reef Point Herbarium. High-resolution photos of this collection, currently under production by the Beatrix Farrand Society, provide a unique opportunity to compare the known species at Reef Point to the plants still extant at Asticou Azalea Garden, Thuya Garden, Garland Farm, and other Farrand-influenced landscapes. Vouchers of Farrand's plants offer a historic link of confirmation and an opportunity for true horticultural delight, as Reef Point comes into focus again, reflected in the waters of Asticou. The number of plants that were transplanted to Asticou, based on garden location and relative maturity, give a terrific glimpse into the focus and development of Farrand's collection at Reef Point.

Species from Asia, predominantly Japan and Korea:

Rhododendron schlippenbachii	30	
Rhododendron japonicum	15	(R. molle ssp. japonicum)
Rhododendron kaempferi	12	(Listed as R. obtusum var. kaempferi)
Rhododendron mucronatum	9	(Listed as R. mucronatum var. ripense)
Rhododendron metternichii	6	(R. degronianum ssp. heptemerum)
Rhododendron yedoense var. poukhanense	6	
Rhododendron mucronulatum	5	(R. mucronulatum var. mucronulatum)
Rhododendron brachycarpum	2	(R.brachycarpum ssp. brachycarpum)
Species from Europe:		
Rhododendron smirnowii	15	

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Species from Eastern North America:

Rhododendron vaseyi	66	Quantity transplanted to Asticou, Individual Plants
Rhododendron canadense	44	
Rhododendron calendulaceum	42	
Rhododendron maximum	34	
Rhododendron arborescens	30	
Rhododendron prinophyllum	19	(Listed as R. roseum)
Rhododendron viscosum	11	
Rhododendron bakeri	6	(R. cumberlandense)
Rhododendron carolinianum	6	(R. minus var. minus)
Rhododendron catawbiense	6	
Rhododendron minus	3	
Rhododendron periclymenoides	3	(Listed as R. nudiflorum)
Rhododendron canescens	1	

Rhododendrons not at Asticou, also transplanted from Reef Point:

Rhododendron fortunei Rhododendron myrtifolium 1 (Present at Thuya Garden, until 2013)

1 (Present at Garland Farm as 'Myrtifolium')



The Asticou Azalea Garden

photograph by Mary Roper

Of these species, all are confirmed by the Reef Point herbarium specimens except Rhododendron bakeri (R. cumberlandense), likely missed during collection or lost from the herbarium, and Rhododendron metternichii, a species possibly added by Charles Savage, if not also simply missing from an otherwise complete herbaria. Incredibly, this means that of the species assumed to have originated at Reef Point, 23 out of 25 species are confirmed by the herbarium.

Stories shared with us in 1996, via Arthur "Mike" Coombs, the original Head Gardener at Asticou, concerning the arrival of two additional Asian species, Rhododendron kiusianum and "a hot pink azalea," namely Rhododendron 'Hinodegiri,' intrigued us for many years.

These two types, he pointedly told us, did not come from Reef Point, but rather from a nursery outside Boston (likely Weston Nurseries.) The young Kyushu azaleas (R. kiusianum), had just been planted along the stream, when the following day heavy rains produced a terrific flood, causing these unestablished youngsters to float helplessly out into the pond. Mike went out in a canoe, gathered them into the boat, and set

about replanting them. The trials of a gardener! How splendid to watch the Reef Point herbarium confirm the absence of these two types in the Reef Point collection, allowing local history to be a fine adjunct to the more scientific, botanical enterprises. The list of plants coming to Asticou gains these two entries, this time pointing to Savage's intentional creation of an Asian atmosphere, as both are from Japan:

Rhododendron kiusianum 31 Rhododendron 'Hinodegiri'

7 (Several strains of R. x obtusum present)

Finally, Savage's addition of perhaps the most well known azalea in the world, Rhododendron 'PJM', certainly acquired from Weston Nurseries soon after its creation as an East/West hybrid, joining North Carolina with Northern China to produce the most adaptable azalea ever hybridized. The prominent location of our PJM, fully visible across the pond in early spring, and its very mature size, tell us that yes, there is a place for PJM in a naturalized landscape, where its color echoes and extends the lavender hues of our native rhodora, Rhododendron canadense, across the water while the sun is still low in the sky. The ubiquitous plantings of PJM around gas stations, shopping malls, and red brick buildings the world over cannot sway us, as Mr. Savage has offered a fine prospect at Asticou for an otherwise difficult and jarring color, here looking perfectly placed.

Other selections in the Asticou collection may prove even more interesting, as the most beautiful Snow Azalea, *Rhododendron mucronatum*, may be identified in time as *Rhododendron mucronatum* 'Mattapan', a seedling born at Holm Lea, Charles Sargent's home during his tenure as Director of the Arnold Arboretum. We know that the mucronatums were especially loved by Mrs. Farrand, so it is no wonder that four forms exist at Asticou and that the loveliest of these seems to fit the description provided by Alfred Rehder and Ernest Henry Wilson of the exceptional 'Mattapan' strain created by Charles Sargent, fondly referred to as "America."

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The subtleties of the Asticou collection have required more than a decade of observation to fully emerge, so it is no wonder they are also missing from Spaulding's herbarium. Four unique



Farrand's study at Reef Point.

hotograph courtesy of the Strout family archive

high-elevation strains of azaleas are present, likely to be *R. viscosum var. serrulatum*, *R. arborescens var. richardsonii (or v. georgiana)*, the high-elevation form of *R. calendulaceum* and a second high elevation type of *R. viscosum*. These plants distinguish themselves by blooming significantly later than the other species, by being persistently more dwarf in stature, and by other unique traits such as shiny leaves. In the last few years, *Rhododendron viscosum var. oblongifolium* has also made its presence known, helped along by adjacent removals during a path renovation project. Farrand's ties with alpine hiking clubs surely dovetail here, as we would not expect these rare plants to be easily acquired.

The plant collection might suggest a USDA zone 7a climate rating at Asticou with minimum temperatures dropping only to 0 degrees for an average winter low, yet the true historic minimum is a chilly zone 5a rating, demanding survival to -20 degrees most winters. The skilled acquisition of plants from the northern end of their native range surely offers genetic strength to the Farrand collection along with the fact that few, if any, began life in a commercial nursery. Farrand established plants from seed and cuttings routinely, setting a gold

standard of horticulture at Reef Point and achieving success where others have failed. This brilliant work permits *R. mucronatum*, *R. canescens*, *R. fortunei* and *R. luteum* to be perfectly adapted to the coast of Maine, even surviving some years of neglect in the early 1970s where lawns were mowed, the sand garden was raked and the rest abandoned, in the midst of extreme cold weather. Ties to the Arnold Arboretum surely offer worthy provenance to this collection, but Mrs. Farrand herself found the hidden strength in these species, substantially extending their northern range and offering the truly professional plant palette to gardeners of the coast of Maine that we enjoy today.

SOURCES:

American Rhododendron Society. Plant Database. www.rhododendron.org

Galle, Fred C. Azaleas. Rev. and enl. ed. Portland, OR: Timber Press, 1987.

Wilson, Ernest Henry, and Alfred Rehder. A Monograph of Azaleas: Rhododendron Subgenus Anthodendron. Cambridge, Eng.: The University Press, 1921.



Rhododendron arborescens, Asticou Azalea Garden

RESTORATION OF THE ENTRANCE GARDEN

by Brenda Les

Beatrix Farrand Society Council of Advisors; Botanist, extensive work with native plants

This is the beginning of the Entrance Garden Restoration under the direction of Brenda Les that will focus on the design and replacement of Farrand's historic plants according to her Entrance Garden Plan. Continuing progress will be noted in future Newsletters.



photograph by Nikolai Fox The resetting of the stones in the paths followed.

ing the fence.



original design.

photograph by Nikolai Fox

The Boxwood hedge was returned to its

"This might read strangely to modern eyes, used to sterile, air-conditioned libraries, with strict humidity controls and rules about whispering. But in Republican Rome, libraries were ordinary buildings, rarely specialized or purpose-built. A bibliotheca may simply have been plain stone and wood rooms, in one wing of a building, stacked with papyrus rolls or even wax tablets. And in the middle of these buildings, surrounded by their colonnades: a roofless square, often with Greek sculptures and temples. This was where the hortus, the garden, was planted and enjoyed. Common Romans, the plebeians, might only have had a small courtyard, or paved square with pots. Many grew basic foods, as a thin bulwark against starvation. The rich enjoyed much larger, more fertile and refined gardens, often closer to parks than yards. They were stacked with bees, fish, game birds and statuary." - 'The Drum' by Damon Young

The Beatrix Farrand Society P.O. Box 111 Mount Desert, ME 04660

THE BEATRIX FARRAND SOCIETY

The Beatrix Farrand Society (founded 2003) is located at Garland Farm, on Mount Desert Island in Maine. Garland Farm was the landscape architect and gardener Beatrix Farrand's final home and garden. It is the mission of the society to foster the art and science of horticulture and landscape design, with emphasis on the life and work of Beatrix Farrand. Garland Farm is open to the public June through September on Thursdays from 1pm to 5pm and by appointment.

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