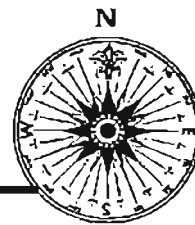


Fall 2007

# The Beatrix Farrand Society NEWS



## Beatrix Farrand Society

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... Richard Crawford

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... Bruce Riddell

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... Peggy Bowditch

... Gilbert Butler

... Marti Harmon

... Carole Plenty

... Elizabeth Moore

... Lois Berg Stack

... Beth Straus



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## Treasures at the Bar Harbor Historical Society

By Deborah Dyer

As curator of the Bar Harbor Historical Society, I am happy to share some information about the artifacts we have that belonged to Beatrix Farrand, one of the largest collections of Farrand memorabilia in the country. My interest in Farrand is long-standing. I live on the same street where Reef Point Gardens was located and can remember as a child the many cars that would drive by on one of the open garden days. I never met Mrs. Farrand, but living near the Shore Path that bordered her property and seeing an occasional wisteria in bloom hanging over the fence gives me a sense of her presence. I also enjoyed interviewing Amy Garland several years before she died. Amy and her husband, Lew Garland, owned Garland Farm where Beatrix Farrand spent her last years. They were employed by Beatrix for many years at Reef Point and became family to her.

The Bar Harbor Historical Society is fortunate to have a large collection of items that once belonged to Beatrix, such as a number of photographs of her and her husband, Max Farrand, as well as her personal Kodak camera with the film still intact. Other items of interest include a pair of gardening shears, a silver monogrammed desk clip, lavender sachets made by Beatrix and one belonging to her mother, 2 hair picks, and her famous black grosgrain ribbon that she can be seen wearing in many of her late portraits. There are also two leather portfolios with her initials and a piece of personalized stationery used by Beatrix. Other items include some of her clothing, including a long black dress, a beaded pocketbook, gloves, and scarves. The collection also has several glass bud vases that appeared on the cover of the June 1953 issue of the *Reef Point Gardens Bulletin*.

In addition the BHHS has information on many of the Bar Harbor summer cottages and gardens of the era, including portraits of some of Farrand's clients. Of particular interest are five framed photographic enlargements prepared by Farrand for the Bar Harbor Village Green Improvement Society showing her hand-painted additions of trellises and window boxes for the facades, all done in the 1920s. There are files of newspaper clippings and other items relating to Bar Harbor history.

Since 1997, the BHHS has been located at 33 Ledge lawn Avenue (formerly the St. Edwards Convent). The BHHS is open Monday to Saturday 1-4PM from June to October or by appointment. For further information, visit [www.barharborhistorical.org](http://www.barharborhistorical.org) or telephone 207-288-0000 or 207-288-3807.



## BFS Library Gift: Wildflowers of the United States



A complete set of *Wildflowers of the United States*, edited by Harold William Rickett, has been donated to the BFS Library at Garland Farm by Mr. T. A. Cox. Consisting of six volumes in 14 parts, it is the only comprehensive botanical work to cover the entire United States. Mrs. Peggy Rockefeller, a client and friend of Beatrix Farrand, was the Committee Chairman of the National Committee for the Wildflowers of the United States, the steering group for the massive work—published by the New York Botanical Garden from 1966-73. This gift underscores the efforts to carry out Mrs. Farrand's interests in native plants, in the resources and programs at Garland Farm.

## Who's on Board??

The Beatrix Farrand Society grew in size and stature this year, with the addition of the following new Directors at the August 3 Board Meeting:

**Bob Golden** is an information technology advisor. He formerly served as executive assistant to the Director of the Museum of Glass and Ceramics in Portland, Maine, and as an analyst for a Boston mutual fund company. He lives in Brownfield, Maine.

**Arthur Keller** is a retired apparel marketing executive. After years of living in apartments in San Francisco, New York, and Paris, Arthur now relishes having a new moss and woodland garden in Seal Harbor. During the winter he lives in Palm Springs, California.

**Scott Koniecko** is an architect specializing in residential properties and art galleries. He grew up in Philadelphia and Bar Harbor and received degrees from the Art Institute of Chicago and the University of California at Berkeley. Before opening his own firm in 1987, he worked for I.M. Pei and Partners. He lives in New York City.

**Isabel Mancinelli** is a landscape architect and has been teaching at the College of the Atlantic since 1992. She received a degree in architecture from Catholic University of America and a MLA from Harvard University. She worked for the National Park Service as a park planner for ten years. Isabel is also a board member of the Mount Desert Center for the History of Landscape Architecture and lives in Mount Desert.

**Bruce Riddell** is a landscape architect and principal of his own firm in Bar Harbor. A native of Ellesworth, Maine, he received degrees from the University of Maine and the University of Pennsylvania. For eight years he was affiliated with Oehme van Sweden, an internationally recognized firm based in Washington, D.C. He has recently been involved in the newly created Coastal Maine Botanical Gardens in Boothbay. He lives in Bar Harbor

In addition, we welcome new Advisory Council members **Peggy Bowditch, Carole Plenty, and Lois Berg Stack.**

**Prof. Charles Sprague Sargent**, Director of the Arnold Arboretum, believed that *Rosa spinosissima*, or Scotch Rose, was an excellent "wild" stock to use in developing new strains of roses. This specimen was at the Arboretum when Beatrix Jones studied there in the early 1890's, and became one of her favorite shrub roses. Scotch roses from Reef Point flourish today at Garland Farm, and offspring from these specimens are being saved and propagated for restoration plantings and future trials.



## Summer Program Highlights

This summer was packed with a busy schedule of BFS events, thanks to Events and Program Chair Emily Fuchs, and plans are now underway for next year.

Some of the highlights include a lecture and fern propagation workshop by **Bill Cullina** on July 28. Bill returned to Garland Farm for a second year to a capacity crowd. According to Peggy Bowditch, who was in the audience, his knowledge was encyclopedic and his enthusiasm was contagious. He offered many good suggestions, such as using waxed paper to collect spores and preparing the soil in a microwave oven. Each participant went home with a fern to try their own luck.

On August 25, **Scott J. Tilden** gave an inspiring talk about his book, *The Glory of Gardens*, published by Abrams in 2006. Scott explored the glory of Western, Islamic, and Asian garden traditions, citing examples from Biltmore to the Alhambra. He shared stories of the lives of designers, from André Le Nôtre, Frederick Law Olmsted, Peter Walker, and Fernando Caruncho. His talk was peppered with brief quotations from some of the writers he included in his book.

The final lecture of the season was given by author **Susan Tamulevich** on September 8, who spoke about her book *Dumbarton Oaks: Garden into Art*. In her lecture, Susan revealed many unknown details of the working relationship between Beatrix Farrand and her client, Mildred Bliss. As Susan explained, Dumbarton Oaks, Farrand's world-famous gardens in Washington DC, provides an excellent example of the link between enlightened patronage and the creation of works of art.



**Down+Dirty...**  
BFS Volunteer **Bonnie Briscoe**, along with dozens of others, lays on hands for the annual Garland Farm Fix-It Day, on August 15th.



## Letter From the President:

When I assumed the presidency of the Beatrix Farrand Society this summer, I couldn't help but reminisce over the early days of 2002 when Patrick Chassé originated the idea of saving Garland Farm, Beatrix Farrand's last home and garden in Eden, Maine. This opportunity became a reality when Garland Farm was to be offered for sale and the Eveland family sought a buyer who would appreciate and preserve the history of the buildings and gardens. The Garden Conservancy served as an initial depository for gifts to these efforts, but it was soon obvious we needed our own not-for-profit entity in order to continue the fund raising to the level needed for purchase of the Farm.

Serendipity intervened as my wife, Emily, and I were walking down Main Street in Bar Harbor in June of 2003 and she suggested we visit William Fenton to see what would be involved in setting up a tax exempt organization. Mr. Fenton was familiar with Garland Farm as he had advised one of the former residents, the Jerome Goff family. He also had earlier experience with his former partner, Edwin Smith, who was involved in the creation of the Reef Point Gardens Corporation. Within an hour, the application for the Beatrix Farrand Society was complete and Patrick who was in Turkey agreed via email to be our President and leaderp

Patrick's Presidency was marked by huge leaps of progress. Thanks to the very generous gifts of our initial donors, the Beatrix Farrand Society had the funds to purchase Garland Farm by January of 2004. The first year's thrust was the required updating of older real estate – wiring, plumbing, insulation, repairing fences, and basic rescue painting. In the midst of these construction activities, the BFS commitment to education became clearly apparent with the summertime presence of Alison Hirsh, our first landscape design student intern, and with Patrick's Fall Lecture on the History of Landscape Design in China.

The next two seasons saw the initial conversion of the Barn into a site for the annual Program Lectures, which received enthusiastic acceptance and participation by the public. At the same time the Farrand Wing and Garland Farmhouse underwent a remarkable transformation with restoration of the original taupe paint color selected by Mrs. Farrand in 1955. Mrs. Farrand's living quarters became a Library and Clementine Walter's suite, a depository for Archives. On October 19, 2005, Garland Farm was listed on the National Register of Historic Places. Over the past year, Pressley and Associates created a Cultural Landscape Report (CLR) which thoroughly summarized the past history, carefully documented the present status, and evaluated the overall significance of Garland Farm and Beatrix Farrand to Mt. Desert Island and to the world of landscape design.

The final important phase of the CLR is a proposed future plan of Rehabilitation of the property and gardens. This plan sets our goals for the coming years as we convert from a residential to a museum status. Such a conversion necessitates cooperative work with the Bar Harbor Town Planners as we change the Barn to a safe site for public education, the Farrand Wing to an accessible Library and Archive, and replant the gardens to a state of design and beauty that meet Mrs. Farrand's standards. When we reach our endowment goals and can hire a Director, these changes will be brought about more quickly and efficiently.

In the meantime, impressive changes will continue to occur at Garland Farm thanks to the tireless energy and devotion of volunteers and Master Gardeners who work along with our caretaker, Caroline Felkel, Garden Coordinator, Janet McIntyre, and Master Gardener, Dan DeLong. The many gifts of the BFS Members and Friends have made a start of the Rehabilitation and replanting possible. We continue to be grateful for the ongoing generosity of our supporters as we work to make Garland Farm a site worthy to be called Eden.

Jim Fuchs

## THE QUOTABLE GARDENER.....

**“Put a picture in the attic and its value will only increase over time, but ignore a garden for more than a week and it will revert to wilderness.”**

Derek Fell, garden photographer

## Report on BFS Annual Business Meeting and Lecture August 4, 2007

In addition to the appointment of five new Board Members, it was announced at the Annual Meeting that Patrick Chassé was stepping down as President and founding Board Member Jim Fuchs would be assuming the presidency. It was also announced that Emily Fuchs was stepping down as Vice President, but would continue as a Board Member. In her place, Richard Crawford was elected First Vice President and Diane McGuire Second Vice President. Howard Monroe continues as Secretary and Lee Patterson was elected Treasurer. Patrick was presented with a desk clock on behalf of the board for all his work, and Patrick then presented Emily with a framed photograph of the famous portrait of Beatrix Farrand taken in Santa Barbara in 1943.

The meeting adjourned and was followed by a public presentation by Lauren Meier of Pressley Associates on the Garland Farm Cultural Landscape Report. In a stunning powerpoint presentation, Lauren explained their research on the history of Garland Farm and some of the important extant plant collections, including champion trees. She outlined the process from information gathering to decision making about restoration possibilities for Garland Farm. Everyone agreed that the firm had done an outstanding job in compiling information about Garland Farm and its value in bringing the project to the next step.

JT

### Linkage...

Connect with the world of Beatrix Farrand: check out some of these Farrand-related web sites for an armchair tour.

[www.beatrixfarrandgarden.org](http://www.beatrixfarrandgarden.org)

[www.doaks.org](http://www.doaks.org)

[www.edithwharton.org](http://www.edithwharton.org)

[www.harkness.org](http://www.harkness.org)

[www.hillstead.org](http://www.hillstead.org)

[www.promisek.org](http://www.promisek.org)

[www.princeton.edu/~gradcol/perm/farrand.htm](http://www.princeton.edu/~gradcol/perm/farrand.htm)

Please pass along any new sites you discover in your web travels, so they can be shared on the BFS website and in the Newsletter, to:

[Editor@BeatrixFarrand.org](mailto:Editor@BeatrixFarrand.org)



**Musical Selections from Gilbert and Sullivan** were performed for the delight and enjoyment of BFS Board and Supporters at a Garland Farm luncheon on October 5th. Our own Lee Patterson, far left, was joined by fellow singers Irv Hodgkin, center, and Jamie Hagedorn, far right.

### Address Change? New e-mail?

Please send notice of any new contact info to Bob Golden: [bgolden@fairpoint.net](mailto:bgolden@fairpoint.net)  
We want to keep in touch...