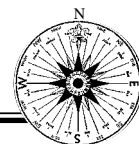


Fall 2009

The Beatrix Farrand Society NEWS



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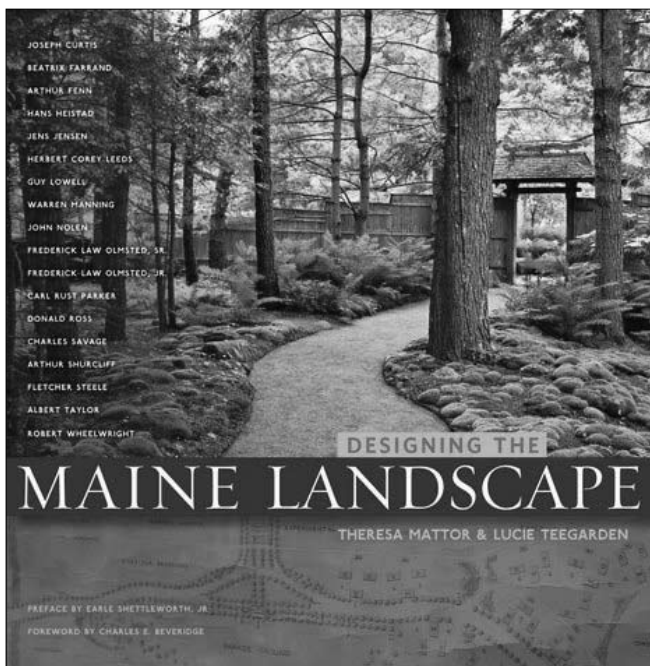
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To Visit Garland Farm:

Contact the docent coordinator
(207-276-5034) or log on to
www.beatrixfarrandsociety.org
and click on the Visit link
to request a tour.

Designing the Maine Landscape

By Judith B. Tankard



Maine attracted an impressive roster of landscape architects, from Frederick Law Olmsted, Warren Manning, and Fletcher Steele to Beatrix Farrand and Charles Savage. Following the BFS annual meeting on August 1, landscape historian Theresa Mattor gave an excellent lecture on some of the historic landscapes and designers on Mount Desert Island. Her powerpoint presentation, with visuals from her new book, *Designing the Maine Landscape*, focused on “local” landscapes, such as the Kebo Valley Golf Club, Asticou Terraces, Asticou Azalea Garden, Thuya Gardens, and Skylands, Jens

Jensen’s masterpiece for the Edsel Ford House in Seal Harbor. Jensen’s naturalistic landscape was composed of native trees and shrubs, such as hemlocks, blueberry, winterberry, and viburnum, but Theresa pointed out that the Fords had not originally installed all of Jensen’s recommendations such as one of his hallmark council rings. It wasn’t until recently when Patrick Chassé worked with the present owner to refresh the landscape that the stone council ring was finally constructed.

Theresa also discussed in some detail the Maine work of Beatrix Farrand, including Reef Point Gardens and her important commission working with John D. Rockefeller (Junior) on Acadia’s scenic carriage roads. Farrand’s designs for numerous scenic vistas and the roadside plantings make Acadia National Park so special today. The lecture concluded with a discussion of Garland Farm, with many vintage images and new photographs of the features that we all know so well.

The lecture gave us all a flavor for the diversity of historic landscapes in Maine, from state parks and communal open spaces to private estates. It was the inaugural lecture event in the new education facility at Garland Farm (detailed in the Summer 2009 issue of *The Beatrix Farrand Society NEWS*). The new lighting and projection equipment all functioned perfectly. Following her presentation, Theresa and coauthor Lucie Teegarden were on hand to answer many questions and comments from the audience. Both authors signed copies of their book, kindly made available by Sherman’s Books of Bar Harbor. If you were not able to attend the lecture, copies of the book are still available from www.shermans.com

2009 BFS Lectures and Events

Thursday, September 10, 7PM to 9PM. "Lunaform: A Slide Tour of a Maine Manufacturer," by Dan Farrenkopf, co-founder of Lunaform. Please note this program will be held at Woodlawn Museum (The Black House) in Ellsworth. Suggested donation is \$10. To reserve a place, call 207-667-8671 or email events@woodlawnmuseum.org

Friday, October 9, 3:30PM to 5PM. All are cordially invited to a reception and book-signing for Judith Tankard's new book, *Beatrix Farrand: Private Gardens, Public Landscapes*. There is no charge for this event. To reserve a place, call 207-667-8344 or email library@beatrixfarrandsociety.org

Reminder Members are invited to update their email addresses with the membership secretary so that they can be contacted about BFS events and other news. Please contact members@beatrixfarrandsociety.org

In the News

The BFS received several grants this year for ongoing work at Garland Farm. The Barksdale Dabney Henry Fund of the Baltimore Community Foundation awarded a grant for \$32,000 for replacement of the drapes in the Library. The Maine New Century Community Historical Facilities Grant Program awarded \$4,000 for providing invisible filters on the window panes to cut down on damaging ultraviolet light. This has now been applied in both the Farrand and Walter suites. And last, but not least, the BFS was awarded a federal grant of \$64,204 from the Institute of Museum and Library Services for restoration of the Terrace Garden.

At the BFS Annual Meeting held on Saturday, August 1, several new appointments were made to the Board of Directors. Neil Houghton was named Treasurer, replacing Lee Patterson, who has retired, and Carolyn Hollenbeck was appointed a Director of the BFS. Shirley Beccue, Constance Clark, Lawrie Harris, Thomas Hayward, and Annie Schwartz were appointed Advisors.

Garland Farm had a number of distinguished visitors this summer, including Professor David Streatfield, an expert on California gardens and recently retired from the Department of Landscape Architecture at the University of Washington in Seattle. The well-known garden writer Gordon Hayward paid a visit and

donated copies of some of his books (see From the Library Shelves).

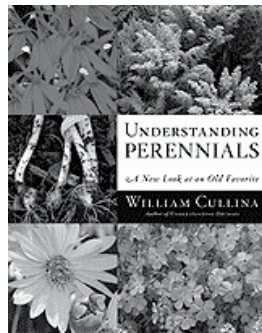
Many of Carolyn Hollenbeck's spectacular photographs of plants at Garland Farm are now available in a new feature on the website, *What's In Bloom*, where they are arranged monthly from April to September. Carolyn has also prepared two large posters with multiple pictures showing progress in the garden restoration. These are now on display in the Library.

Past Events



One of the highlights of this summer's programs was the annual birthday celebration for Beatrix Farrand, held on June 30. For the occasion, Janice Strout of Hulls Cove baked a cake decorated with some of Beatrix's favorite flowers. It was enjoyed by all.

On July 18, renowned flower arranger Betsy Rawley demonstrated how to make special arrangements for a birthday party, a summer luncheon, and a dinner party. Raffle tickets for the arrangements were sold and several happy people were able to bring these arrangements home with them.



On August 15, Bill Cullina, garden curator of the Coastal Maine Botanical Gardens, returned to Garland Farm to share his insights on perennials and discuss his new book, *Understanding Perennials: A New Look at an Old Favorite* (Houghton Mifflin Harcourt). In this book, Bill offers what he describes as the psychology of perennials—their needs, wants, and potentials. Starting at the roots, moving up through the stems, the leaves, and finally the flowers, Bill has produced a ground-breaking book that will surely become the definitive word on horticulture in everyone's garden.

We regret to announce the death of Margaret Henry Penick Nuttle on July 27, 2009. Mrs. Nuttle, who established the Barksdale Dabney Henry Fund of the Baltimore Community Foundation, was a generous benefactor of the BFS, underwriting the cost of the Cultural Landscape Report and various improvements at Garland Farm. She was also a benefactor to Princeton University, the University of Virginia, and the Virginia Museum of History in Richmond. In addition she established colonial history programs at Washington College and Johns Hopkins University. Mrs. Nuttle died at the age of 96 in Easton, Maryland. Sympathy is extended to Emily and Jim Fuchs.

Plant Profile: *Enkianthus campanulatus*

By Carolyn Hollenbeck



Bell-shaped flowers.

Carolyn Hollenbeck



Enkianthus campanulatus arch.

Carolyn Hollenbeck

When visitors cross the north field parking area leading to the entrance to Garland Farm, they immediately notice an arch formed by two stately *Enkianthus campanulatus* flanking the stone path through the wild garden to the Lunaform birdbath. On a spring day, masses of tiny bell-shaped flowers can be seen hanging from the tips of twigs. The shiny green foliage provides shade on a warm summer day and turns a dazzling shade of red in the fall. Layered branching, visible in the winter, makes this slow-growing shrub a lovely sight any time of the year.

Enkianthus campanulatus is a member of the Ericaceae (heath) family, along with *Rhododendron*, *Pieris*, heather, blueberry, and cranberry. Often referred to as Redvein Enkianthus, the Japanese native is an upright and deciduous shrub named for its pendulous clusters of bell-shaped flowers. *Enkianthus* takes its name from two Greek words meaning “swollen,” while *campanulatus* is Latin for “bell shaped.” Redvein describes the appearance of the cream-colored flowers with little red lines.

Redvein Enkianthus can be used in the landscape as a single specimen, in groups, or trained as a small tree. Reaching a height of 6 to 12 feet and a width of 4 to 6 feet, this shrub has an oval form at maturity, with a layered branching habit. Bark on new shoots has a reddish coloration. The foliage, resembling that of *Rhododendron* leaves, may also appear layered, and leaf clusters are attached to twig tips by red petioles. Leaves are alternate, 1” to 3” long and up to 1” wide, and are elliptical in shape, with bristly teeth along the margins. Bristles may be found on the leaf surface also. Summer color ranges from medium green to bluish green, turning to spectacular shades of red, orange, or yellow in the fall. Although flowers of *Enkianthus campanulatus* bloom as early as May in some areas, at Garland Farm they open in early June. This year the shrubs were covered with pendulous clusters of these delicate, creamy bells. Tiny yellow stamens are tucked inside of the red-veined corolla with red tips. Fruits are small brown capsules that add no ornamental value to the shrub.

This four-season shrub looks well with other members of the Ericaceae family. Hardy in zones 5A to 7B, it grows best in cool, well-drained soil that is moist, acidic (pH range of 4.5 to 6.0), and rich in organic matter. It requires full sun to partial shade, but hot, dry sites should be avoided. Pruning is usually unnecessary as offset branches add to the winter interest. Plants do well if mulched to keep the roots cool and feeding after the bloom cycle is recommended. Propagation can easily be done from seed, softwood cuttings, or tissue culture, although plants grown from seed may not have red fall color. To maximize enjoyment of this plant, it should be sited with the flowers, foliage, and branching easily seen throughout the year.

Beatrix’s Comments on the Maine Landscape

“To the Editor of *Garden and Forest*:

Sir, Every lover of nature must have noticed how beautiful the edge of a wood is in early summer, when the dark branch of an evergreen throws out the paler green of some deciduous neighbor. In the clearing and planting which are necessary on some places every year, should we not try to get like effects? In driving along the wooded roads in the district where the grounds lie which are to be developed, one who notes which are the handsomest of the native trees can bet an idea as to which ones to plant and how these should be grouped; but the appropriate massing of foliage, so as to secure the best effect from soft harmonies or bold contrasts of color requires much study and critical knowledge. After the varieties have been decided upon comes the serious question of grouping for contrasting color, and the arrangement of those colors for different seasons of the year and varying lights demands close observation and study. . . .

To give an effect of distance on a small place, why could we not plant a line of dark, thick-foliaged trees on distant points, then to leave a space, planting a second grove of smaller light-foliaged trees? The space will give distance and depth to the background, while the darker trees, if placed on the most distant height, are valuable at sunset, as they always seem to keep the last light. If there is to be a large lawn, it is well to keep in mind that the creeping shadows made by trees planted on the western edge will be very beautiful in the long summer afternoons.

It will be noticed that only such trees as grown on the coast of Maine are mentioned, as I am most familiar with that part of the country.

Beatrix Jones, Bar Harbor, Me.”

This is an excerpt from Carmen Pearson’s new book, The Collected Writings of Beatrix Farrand (University Press of New England, 2009). The letter was published in Garden and Forest on September 6, 1895, when Beatrix was studying with Professor Sargent (editor of the publication) before embarking on her career three years later.

The Quotable Gardener

“It is upon the right relation of the garden to the house that its value and the enjoyment that is to be derived from it will largely depend.” Gertrude Jekyll, 1912

From the Library Shelves

By Marti Harmon

For many of us who try to keep year-round gardens in New England, this has been a challenging year. The winter was harsh and long, an extended spring consisted of four months of rain, and summer so far has been weeks of humidity and heat. If this is to be our new weather pattern, now is the time to consider adding a conservatory or greenhouse, or trying to cultivate some interesting indoor plants.

The Library recently received a generous donation of books from Jack Hagstrom and among the various subjects and titles were a dozen books about indoor gardening, from exotic orchids to avocado pits. Among the collection, those that interested me the most were *Bromeliads in Cultivation* by Robert Gardner Wilson, *The Bromeliads: Jewels of the Tropics*, and *Bromeliads* by the Bromeliad Society. The latter has an excellent glossary and is filled with technical information about various species. If you reside within a 50° F to 85° F climate and can remember to spritz the plant daily, you will be rewarded with wonderful colors and a wide variety of flowers virtually all year-round.

Elsewhere in this section of the Library, I came across *Winter Flowers in Greenhouse and Sun-Heated Pit* by Kathryn Taylor, with a fascinating chapter on the origins of the greenhouse. Apparently, the Emperor Tiberius was able to have cucumbers every month of the year by forcing them in a basket of dung covered with talc. Orangeries

were often the first glasshouses on the estates of Englishmen. John Evelyn writes in 1658 about visiting Beddington, "a scrambling house famous for the first orange garden in England." A few years later, Evelyn described a pineapple King Charles II shared with him, but its cultivation proved to be a disappointment due to a lack of ripening sun. The king then ordered several "pineries" to be built. In 1699, a table showing "the Sun's heat upon a Plane for each degree of Sun's elevation upon it" was published. By 1705, even the English could have cucumbers at Christmastime.

If our outdoor plants have a bad year, we should at least be able to appreciate the structural "bones" of our gardens. The garden author Gordon Hayward donated five of his books to the Library this summer, including a copy of *Garden Paths* inscribed with thanks to Patrick Chassé. In this book, Hayward describes and illustrates many of Patrick's innovative ideas about the functions and aesthetics of paths, including the use of pine needles for a natural woodland path and softening the look of paving stones with "green joint." Good photographs, detailed information about materials, and a delightful problem-solving attitude make this a terrific book.

If you would like to donate books or periodicals to the BFS, please contact library@beatrixfarrandsociety.org for more information. If any members have copies of books with bookplates for Reef Point Gardens, Beatrix Jones, or Beatrix Farrand, please consider donating them to the BFS Library, and if you spot one in a bookshop, do let us know.

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