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Terrace Garden Celebration

By Valencia Libby

On July 5, 2011, The Beatrix Farrand Society celebrated Farrand's birthday and the grand opening of the newly restored Terrace Garden. About 50 guests, including board members and staff, gathered on a warm, sunny afternoon to commemorate both events and enjoy refreshments that included a specially decorated birthday cake. Carolyn Hollenbeck, the project leader responsible for the garden restoration, performed the ribbon-cutting ceremony to officially mark the opening of the Terrace Garden. Carolyn and her team of Master Gardener Volunteers were awarded certificates of achievement by BFS President Jim Fuchs and BFS Events Chair Emily Fuchs as well as four-leaf clover coins, which Farrand often gave to friends. The MGV team receiving recognition included Anne Chappe, Lynn Cheney, Elisabeth Curran, Karen Johnson, Wendy Kearney, Grace Nagiecka, Susan Stahlberg, Kathy Suminsby, Kathryn Veilleux, and Doe Wright. In addition, staff members Caroline Felkel, Dan DeLong, and Kathy VanGorder were also recognized for their contributions.



Ribbon-cutting ceremony
Kathy Suminsby

Restoration of the Terrace Garden was supported by a grant from the Institute of Museum and Library Services. It was a monumental undertaking, consisting of over 1,000 hours of work by dedicated volunteers over four years. The project began in 2007 under the direction of Patrick Chassé, then president of the BFS, who understood the importance of a complete restoration and the value of using volunteers from the Hancock County Master Gardeners. Throughout the entire process, Carolyn Hollenbeck kept weekly notes and provided a photographic record, starting with the removal of existing plants to the replacement of 95 different types of appropriate plants. Guided by *The Cultural Landscape Report* and Mary Alice Roche's photographs, plan, and description of 1962, they were able to recreate the color-themed design with Farrand's favorite perennials. The search for old-fashioned cultivars and plant species was sometimes frustrating, but it put the team in touch with many horticultural experts across the country.

The architectural features of the Terrace Garden, such as the distinctive verge-board fence, also needed restoration. Coplon Associates of Bar Harbor oversaw the reconstruction of gravel pathways and slate-edged beds as well as the installation of an irrigation system. The crowning touch, however, was the recent gift by David Rockefeller of an Asian sculpture that once stood in the garden. The BFS is looking forward to welcoming visitors to Garland Farm to enjoy Beatrix Farrand's last garden.

Val Libby serves on the BFS Landscape and Garden Committee. She taught horticultural history at Temple University for many years prior to moving to Blue Hill, Maine.

Past Events

By Lois Berg Stack



Fran West Pruning Workshop
Lois Berg Stack

Dr. Francis Drummond, Professor of Entomology at the University of Maine, kicked off the 2011 program season with a beekeeping demonstration on May 9. Frank's research and teaching experience with bees, plus his enthusiasm as a backyard beekeeper made for a lively afternoon that combined the science of honeybees with a demonstration of the art of beekeeping. Thirteen future beekeepers learned about many species of bees in Maine, how honeybee colonies function, and how to manage hives in order to keep bees healthy, support pollination of wildflowers and crops, and produce a bumper crop of honey.

On June 18, professional landscape pruner Fran West returned to Garland Farm to present her popular pruning workshop. She began with a well-illustrated explanation of how woody plants respond to pruning and a discussion of equipment and techniques. She then led the group outdoors, where she put theory to practice by pruning a few shrubs. Twenty-one pruning apprentices asked questions, suggested pruning cuts, and watched as Fran's skillful use of tools and leverage transformed overgrown shrubs into focal points.

The BFS joined forces with the College of the Atlantic to host Dr. Douglas Tallamy, Professor of Entomology at the University of Delaware and author

of the popular book, *Bringing Nature Home*. Nearly 70 people attended his lecture on July 12 in which he made a strong case for using native plants to support insects, which pollinate crops as well as provide food for animals. As one of the attendees noted, Doug's presentation was "lucid, important, thought-provoking, and entertaining," while another said, this is "something that we can take action on."

Paula Deitz's lecture on August 6 about the Rockefeller Family Gardens drew a packed audience. A cultural critic and editor of *Hudson Review*, Paula spoke eloquently about the Rockefeller family's efforts to create beautiful spaces as well as their long collaboration with Beatrix Farrand. Her meticulous research and inspirational photographs were fully appreciated. As one member of the audience noted, "the lecturer and the garden designer are truly amazing women!"

The barn was filled to capacity for Patrick Cullina's presentation on August 24. Cullina, Vice President of Horticulture and Operations for New York City's High Line, discussed its history and development, from an elevated freight rail line abandoned in 1980 to its current use. As he explained, it's more than pedestrian space and more than a garden. It's a communal space—transformed from an old urban use to a new one, adopted and supported by its neighborhood residents, created by a talented team of designers and engineers—that now inspires similar projects in other cities.

Marco Polo Stufano spoke to a sold-out audience on September 7 about "Random Ramblings of a Gardener." In this lecture, co-sponsored by the Somes Pond Center, Stufano presented a selection of gardens around the world, including Great Dixter in England and the Generalife Gardens in Spain. He showed the audience how to appreciate gardens through his own interpretations



Doug Tallamy signing books
Lois Berg Stack

as well as see the ideas behind them. He spoke of nature, context, garden design, and horticulture, while providing insight into his own garden development process, which he applied for many years at Wave Hill.

Lois Berg Stack is Chair of the BFS Program Committee. She is Extension Specialist, Ornamental Horticulture at the University of Maine.

Memories of Beatrix Farrand

Please join us on Friday, October 7, from 2 to 4PM, for informal talks on Beatrix Farrand's archival legacy in Bar Harbor. Debbie Dyer of the Bar Harbor Historical Society and Diane Cousins, BFS advisory board member, will give short presentations about their collections and there will be a small display of memorabilia in the library. The event is sponsored by the Collections Committee and there is no fee. Please RSVP at programs@beatrixfarrandsociety.org to reserve a place.

BFS Annual Meeting

The 8th Annual Meeting of the BFS took place at Garland Farm on August 6, 2011. New board members Shirley Beccue and Brenda Les, both former advisory board members, were welcomed and two departing board members were recognized for their commitment to the BFS. Those who depart are Howard Monroe, who served for many years in roles as Secretary and Treasurer, and Marti Harmon, who will continue to serve as BFS Archivist and Librarian. A new slate of officers was unanimously elected. They include Scott Koniecko as President, Carolyn Hollenbeck as 1st Vice President, Judith B. Tankard as 2nd Vice President, Margot A. Woolley as Secretary, and Richard Habermann as Treasurer.

In his report, outgoing BFS President Jim Fuchs thanked members and donors alike for their much-needed financial support for BFS projects, such as the recent renovation of the barn education center. He also acknowledged the many volunteer hours that helped the BFS grow in the eight years since its founding. He cited the terrace garden, library and collections, newsletter, website, educational programs, and docent tours as well as staff that have helped to transform the fledgling group into a vibrant nationally recognized organization. "I have been honored to help lead these efforts for the past four years and remain incredibly in debt to the officers, board, council, staff, members, and volunteers—and especially my wife, Emily, whose drive and dedication are a constant source of inspiration. Together we will continue to honor our mentor and guide, Beatrix Farrand."

To commemorate the event, Scott Koniecko unveiled a library table that was once at Reef Point and given to the BFS by an anonymous donor. Designed by Robert Patterson, the handsome table will be the centerpiece in the BFS library at Garland Farm.



Jim Fuchs, Scott Koniecko, and Emily Fuchs
Arthur Keller

In the News



Portland Flower Show, 2011

Patrick Chassé, first president of the BFS, recently won the National Garden Club's Award of Excellence, the highest award presented to a non-member. At the ceremony, Patrick was credited for his work at Garland Farm as well as his wide-ranging design practice, "from Mount Desert Island to Istanbul, Turkey." Congratulations! *Sam Coplon*, BFS landscape architect, announced that his Bar Harbor firm had received a merit award from the Boston Society of Landscape Architects for their design for new student housing at the College of the Atlantic. The design was cited as "aesthetically pleasing, but quite functional." For more information, visit www.coplonassociates.com.

On March 9, BFS board members Marti Harmon, Jim Ross, and Val Libby were on hand at the *Portland Flower Show* for the presentation of the annual Beatrix Farrand Design Award. This year's winner was an innovative display, "To Bee or Not To Bee," by Landmarcs of Gorham, Maine, in collaboration with O'Donal's Nursery of Portland.

On Sunday, July 17th, over 250 people visited *Garland Farm* as part of a garden tour organized by the Bar Harbor Garden Club. Emily Fuchs recruited BFS docents Martina Haines and Mike Kennedy (whose grandfather, Edgar Scott was an early Farrand client) as well as Arthur Keller, while Dick and Betty Crawford organized outside docents to help control the flow of visitors. Howard Monroe served as parking marshal and Carolyn Hollenbeck answered questions about the garden. And speaking of *Garland Farm*, the renovated barn is included among examples of pro-bono architectural projects for the *Berkeley Prize Committee*. This year's topic for student contestants all over the world is Architecture for the Public Good, and we know it's a good example.

A sister organization, the *Dumbarton Oaks Park Conservancy*, was recently launched for the purpose of creating, in partnership with the National Park Service, a comprehensive long-range plan for restoring the long-neglected Dumbarton Oaks Park, in Washington, D.C. This splendid naturalistic garden, which was once part of the Dumbarton Oaks estate, was designed by Beatrix Farrand for the Blisses. The conservancy's inaugural event was held on April 12, the 70th anniversary of the opening of the park to the public after the property was donated to the NPS. More fundraising and educational events are planned. For more information, visit www.dopark.org.

And last, but not least, we learned from Valerie Brideau, an authority on dog breeds, that Beatrix Farrand's beloved lapdog, *Cubby*, is a Petit Brabancon, or a smooth Brussels Griffon as they are known in the US. She contacted us because she was intrigued by the photograph of Beatrix holding *Cubby* and noted that she probably acquired him on a visit to Edith Wharton at Sainte-Claire in 1927.

Rockefeller Reception and Statue Dedication

By Emily Fuchs

On Monday, July 11, 2011, the BFS celebrated David Rockefeller's generous donation of a Bodhisattva garden statue to the BFS. Formerly at Garland Farm, the statue was later sold by Amy Garland to Peggy Rockefeller after Farrand's death (see "Terrace Garden Gift," *Beatrix Farrand Society NEWS*, Spring 2011). During the dedication ceremony, which was attended by 50 people, including board members and guests, Mr. Rockefeller recounted that the gift from his wife was a happy surprise and that they had enjoyed it for many years. He shared memories of his association with Beatrix Farrand, including the time he was playing on the grounds of his mother's future garden while she conferred with Mrs. Farrand on its design and construction. He also remembered visiting Beatrix Farrand at Garland Farm and enjoyed passing through the front door once again. He expressed appreciation for the recently restored Terrace Garden and cordially invited everyone to visit his own garden.

At the ceremony, BFS President Jim Fuchs thanked Mr. Rockefeller for his generous gift and for sharing his memories. Returning the statue to the garden now makes it possible for visitors to Garland Farm to learn about Chinese sculpture. Jim suggested that the contemplative nature of the pensive Buddha was in keeping with Beatrix Farrand's ongoing search for knowledge. An inscription at Garland Farm, INTELLECTUM DA MIHI ET VIVAM ("Give me understanding and I shall live"), is now the official BFS motto. Jim also thanked the Master Gardener Volunteers under the direction of board member Carolyn Hollenbeck for their expertise in restoring the garden as well as Emily Fuchs for organizing the reception and dedication.

Emily Fuchs is a BFS board member and chair of the Docents Committee.



David Rockefeller and Jim Fuchs, July 2011
Val Libby

Robert W. Patterson Exhibition and Symposium



Thorndike House, Bar Harbor
Todd Caverly

On July 6, 2011, the BFS officially opened a photographic exhibition on buildings designed by MDI architect, Robert W. Patterson, and constructed between 1947 and 1989. The exhibition consists of 120 photographs especially taken by Todd Caverly of Union, Maine, representing eleven houses and two clubhouses. All are located on coastal Maine, with the majority from Mount Desert Island. In addition to Reef Point and Garland Farm, where Patterson was a consulting architect, there are a number of summer residences, including a Bar Harbor house built for Mr. and Mrs. R. Amory Thorndike and now the home of Mr. and Mrs. William Thorndike, one of the organizers of the exhibition. The exhibition was on view until late September. Many thanks are extended to Will Thorndike, Scott Koniecko, and Margot Woolley for mounting this fine exhibition.

In concert with the exhibition, the BFS hosted a symposium on the life and work of Patterson on August 13, 2011. The panelists included Scott Koniecko, Jack Russell, Earle G. Shettleworth, Jr., Will Thorndike, and

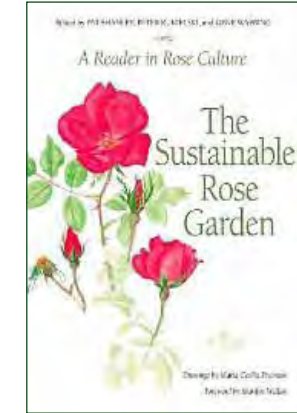
Bill Townsend. Robert W. Patterson (1905–1988) was an architect, landscape architect, and conservationist who moved to MDI in 1934 and initially worked for the Civilian Conservation Corps on projects in Acadia National Park. The design and positioning of his buildings, their materials, and details all reflect Patterson's background in landscape architecture and his appreciation of the natural beauty of the surroundings. He had a long professional relationship with Beatrix Farrand and collaborated with her at Dumbarton Oaks. A longtime board member of the Reef Point Gardens Corporation, Patterson oversaw Farrand's transition from Reef Point to Garland Farm. In 1955 he designed the Farrand wing using architectural elements, such as doors, lighting fixtures, and paneling from Reef Point. Patterson was the founder and first president of the Maine Natural Resources Council and the founding father of the Maine Historic Preservation Commission. The symposium was attended by over 40 people who enjoyed the morning presentations and the panel discussion afterwards. For more on Robert Patterson, see Earle Shettleworth's profile in the Spring 2011 issue of the *Beatrix Farrand Society NEWS*.



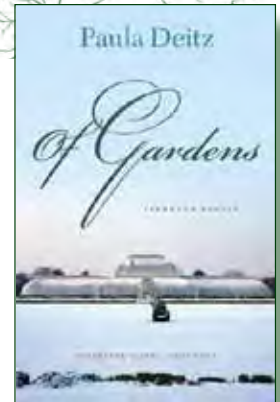
Clubhouse at the Bar Harbor Yacht Club
Todd Caverly

Fall Reading

By Judith B. Tankard

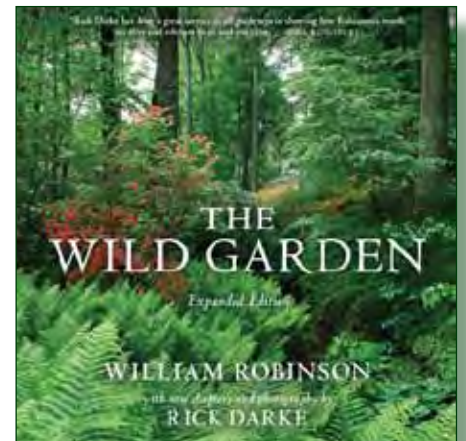


Paula Deitz, who was this year's speaker at the BFS Annual Meeting, is a well-known author and critic on art, architecture, and landscape design. Her new book, *On Gardens: Selected Essays* (University of Pennsylvania Press, 2010), is a selection of the best of her articles in *Gardens Illustrated*, *House & Garden*, *The Architectural Review*, and other publications. Frederick Law Olmsted, André Le Nôtre, and Beatrix Farrand are among the seminal figures who helped shape Deitz's sensibilities about landscapes. Summers she spent on the Maine coast sparked her early interest in Farrand, about whom she has written extensively. This collection includes essays on two Farrand commissions, the Peggy Rockefeller Rose Garden at the New York Botanical Garden and the Abby Aldrich Rockefeller Garden in Seal Harbor. Deitz's omnivorous search for the meaning and pleasures of gardens has led her beyond the shores of America to Great Britain, France, and Japan, which form the four basic categories she explores in her book. No matter what the subject is that catches Deitz's fancy, she always manages to draw her reader in without pomposity and jargon. (A longer version of this review appeared in *Landscape Architecture Magazine*, March 2011.)



Peter Kukielski, Peggy Rockefeller Rose Garden Curator at the New York Botanical Garden, is one of three editors of *The Sustainable Rose Garden: A Reader in Rose Culture* (Casemate Books, 2011). Often described as the Queen of Flowers, roses have been the subject of fascination for many centuries and were at the heart of Beatrix Farrand's love of plants. This new book is one of the first about roses to emphasize environmentally conscious horticulture. *The Sustainable Rose Garden* consists of 38 illustrated articles and descriptions by various authorities of the best new and old rose varieties designed for a sustainable garden, with selections made from breeders in the US and abroad who have created a new generation of disease-resistant and low-maintenance varieties. If you love roses and want to create your own rose garden, this is the book for you.

With the renewed interest in native plants and wild gardens, there is no better book on the subject than William Robinson's *The Wild Garden*, originally published in 1870. Gertrude Jekyll and countless Americans, including Beatrix Farrand, considered it a guidebook and Farrand had a copy in her library at Reef Point. A great admirer of Robinson, Farrand paid several visits to his home in England. A newly expanded edition this classic book, *The Wild Garden: Expanded Edition* (Timber Press, 2009) introduces Robinson to new generations of ecologically minded gardeners. Master photographer and garden writer Rick Darke spent the better part of a year photographing the grounds at Gravetye Manor (now a hotel) and other notable gardens, both British and American, which illustrate Robinson's timeless message. In the introduction, Darke writes: "For all of us seeking creative, practical approaches to today's challenges and opportunities—balancing culture and environment, native and exotic, consumption and sustainability—William Robinson's inspired responses to the same issues more than a century ago offer historical perspective and suggest current strategies." It should be mandatory reading for anyone interested in native plants and their appropriate settings.



The Quotable Gardener
 "Every spring, like it or not, we are all beginners, all over again,"
 Dominique Browning, *New York Times Book Review*



Who Was Roger Milliken?

By Patrick Chassé, ASLA



Roger Milliken
The State

South Carolina textile magnate, Roger Milliken (1915–2010), had the unique distinction of being Beatrix Farrand’s godson. His parents, Gerrish H. Milliken and Agnes Gayley Milliken, were Farrand’s clients as well as friends, and Beatrix was an important aesthetic and cultural consultant for the entire family. Agnes shared Farrand’s philosophy and goals and served on the board of directors at Reef Point from 1947 until 1956. Beatrix played a decisive role in shaping the way Roger saw the world and along with her mother, Mary Cadwalader Jones, undertook Roger’s cultural education. Roger fondly recounted his introduction to opera at their hands, including the assignment of learning all the major musical themes before attending his first performance with them. The opera was Wagner’s “Ring” cycle, a rather daunting introduction to young ears.

Beatrix is also credited for Roger’s early exposure to gardens and the landscape, which seeded a lifelong interest in plants and the environment. In his adult life of corporate management in Milliken & Company, he retained a strong interest in landscape, particularly in trees. I first worked with Roger in 1991 as a design consultant on the family property in Northeast Harbor. Not only did the house have a fabulous view of the ocean and the islands, but it had a Beatrix Farrand garden, originally designed for Vance McCormick. In addition to restoring Farrand’s original vistas and rejuvenating her borders, Roger became interested in overlaying an arboretum-style collection of trees on the property. His passion for trees dominated both his corporate and private landscapes. He created a 600-acre arboretum at the company headquarters in Spartanburg, South Carolina, and was active in environmental

projects and research. In 1999 he established the Noble Tree Foundation to encourage the planting of trees in Spartanburg. In 2000, he received an award from the Garden Club of America and a rare honorary membership in the ASLA in 2006.

Following in his mother’s footsteps, Roger joined the board of Reef Point Gardens in 1952 and served until 1956, when Reef Point was dissolved. He remembered the difficult decisions that Farrand faced during that critical period and recalled visiting Farrand after she had moved to Garland Farm. At that time he was aware that Garland Farm was one of *three* gardens created from the former plant collections at Reef Point, the other two being Thuya Garden and the Asticou Azalea Garden.

In 2003, when I approached him with the urgent “Save Garland Farm” campaign, he rapidly embraced the project. He vividly remembered Mrs. Farrand’s passion for the educational mission of Reef Point and thought that Garland Farm would honor these lost dreams. He promised that when the BFS was fully recognized as a non-profit organization, he would make a significant gift to help purchase Garland Farm in order to start a new educational initiative. His promise came with the proviso that his brother and sister also support the project. Thanks to the three Milliken gifts, the BFS was able to purchase the estate in early 2004. Roger Milliken had the historical overview, the vision, and the means to make a real difference at Garland Farm as well as honor his godmother and horticultural mentor, Beatrix Farrand. We cherish the legacy he helped preserve.

Patrick Chassé was the first president of the BFS. He has designed gardens worldwide and frequently writes and lectures on Beatrix Farrand.

Plant Profile: *Bearded Iris*

By Carolyn Hollenbeck

A vintage black-and-white photograph taken at Reef Point shows Bearded Iris clustered around a tall birdbath. During the Terrace Garden restoration, dense clumps of iris were discovered in some of the beds and alongside the walls of the study, all struggling for survival. After a season in the holding garden, these irises bloomed once again to reveal nine different cultivars. Samples from four different cultivars found at Garland Farm have been sent to the Historical Iris Preservation Society for identification in the hope that they may be progeny from Reef Point.

Iris belongs to the *Iridaceae* family and for centuries their flowers were used for medicinal purposes as well as for flavoring wine and spirits. Iris was the rainbow goddess in Greek mythology who, as a messenger between the heavens and earth, left a trail of glittering color behind her. The earliest known depiction of an iris appears in a wall fresco in the Minoan palace of Knossos, on the Greek island of Crete (2100 BC).



Iris at Reef Point, 1930s
Diane Cousins Collection



Unidentified blue Iris, June 2010
Carolyn Hollenbeck

Bearded Iris, classified by the height of the flower stalk, ranges from miniature (8" or less) to tall (27" or more). All have an underground stem or rhizome from which anchoring roots, flower stalks, and spear-shaped leaves arise. The flowers consist of 6 petals: 3 drooping outer petals (falls) and 3 inner petals (standards). Bristly hairs or beards act as a nectar guide for pollinating insects. A pollen-bearing anther is located under a style arm and under each arm is a stigmatic surface on which pollens collect before fertilization. An ovary is located at the base of the flower and surrounded by a green sheath.

Irises prefer a sunny location with well-drained soil (pH 6-7) and the rhizomes should be planted at

ground level because baking in the sun promotes flowering. In the spring, apply bone meal or a low-nitrogen fertilizer (5-10-10). Rhizomes should be divided every three or four years after flowering when they are dormant. Although hardy and relatively easy to grow, iris borer, bacterial and fungal leaf-spot, and fungal rot of the rhizome may be problematic. Fungal and bacterial issues are most prevalent in wet weather or when suffering from overwatering.

Terrace Garden Booklet

In May 2011, the BFS launched a publication on the restoration of the Terrace Garden at Garland Farm. The booklet was compiled by Master Gardener Volunteer and Team Leader, Carolyn Hollenbeck, and is illustrated throughout with Carolyn's photographs. It consists of a history of the restoration process and includes full-page planting plans for each of the 14 beds as well as a comprehensive plant list. Copies of *Restoring the Terrace Garden at Garland Farm 2007-2011* are available at Garland Farm for a donation of \$10.

*Restoring the Terrace Garden
at Garland Farm 2007-2011*



The Beatrix Farrand Society

From the Library Shelves

By Marti Harmon



The library continues to attract admirers and receive significant contributions. The noted garden historian Alan Emmet recently donated over 100 books and pamphlets, including eight volumes that are on the Morning Room List (*see link on website to view this list*). Emmet's collection focuses primarily on American gardens and includes a copy of Tamara Thornton's book, *Cultivating Gentlemen: The Meaning of Country Life among the Boston Elite, 1785–1860*. She also donated several scarce issues of *The Horticulturist: Journal of Rural Art and Rural Taste, 1849–1852*, which contains articles such as "On the Drapery of Cottages and Gardens" (all about vines) and "Flowers and the French Revolution" (renaming the aristocratic names of roses). Also included in her donation are books about roses, country landscapes, the renewal of old gardens, and garden plans, such as Louis Le Moyne's *Country Residences in Europe and America* (1908), and the first editions of Mabel Osgood Wright's *The Garden of a Commuter's Wife* (1901) and *The Garden You and I* (1906). We thank Mrs. Emmet for her generous donation.

Speaking of roses, Judith Tankard has donated a copy of *The Sustainable Rose Garden*, edited by Peter Kukielski (Peggy Rockefeller Rose Garden Curator) and others (*see review in this issue*). Sturgis Haskins donated a wonderful picture of his grandmother visiting Reef Point in 1946 with her three grandchildren, including young Sturgis. They are all beautifully dressed in hats and coats and standing in front of the French doors with clematis and other vines covering the walls and roses just beginning to bloom. Also added to our collection are some vintage slides of Reef Point donated by Tom Hayward. We thank our new board member, Julia Bissell Leisenring, who has given us a delightful 1930 garden club publication, *Some Gardens and Mansions of Maryland*, as well as a large collection of news clippings. Earle Shettleworth, Jr., donated five books with Beatrix Farrand bookplates or inscriptions by Farrand or her mother, Mary Cadwalader Jones. We also received a donation of three books listed in the Morning Room Collection from Jane Johnston, including a copy of Louise Beebe Wilder's *Pleasures and Problems of a Rock Garden* (1937).

And last, but not least, we know that Beatrix Farrand collected landscape prints as well as *vue d'optiques* (18th century views of both real and imagined gardens). Diane McGuire, Collections Committee Chair, gave us two of these prints in addition to a Zograscop, an instrument to "vue" them. Please visit the library to see these "vues."

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