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Save the Date:
August 2, 2008
 for the BFS
Annual Meeting

Beatrix Farrand Society

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Beatrix Farrand Society

Beatrix on Beatrix

[Written by Beatrix Farrand in 1956 and published posthumously in the last Reef Point Gardens Bulletin in 1959.]

Beatrix Cadwalader Jones was born in New York on June 19, 1872, and her forbears came of Cornish, Dutch, English and Welsh stock. She became conscious of plants from her early childhood, as her grandmother took her into her rose garden at Newport, Rhode Island, and taught the child how to cut off dead flowers; and the four or five year old little girl trotted after her grandmother and learned many of the names of the lovely old roses of that day. Often in later years her friends heard her speak of Baroness Rothschild, Marie Van Houtte, and Bon Silène with retrospective enjoyment. When she was eight years old her parents came to Bar Harbor, and she well remembered the building of Reef Point in 1883, the designing of the road curves and the cutting of vistas and first sketchy plantations. As she grew up into girlhood she naturally became more and more interested in plants, since she came of five generations of garden lovers.

A fortunate meeting with Mrs. Charles Sprague Sargent, the gifted artist who made the drawings for her husband's collection of American woods in the American Museum of Natural History, changed the course of the young woman's life. Mrs. Sargent invited her to Holm Lea in Brookline where



Beatrix Farrand, photographed at the Gledhills Studio in Santa Barbara, California, in 1943
BFS Archives

she met Professor Sargent, the first director of the Arnold Arboretum. Professor Sargent became interested in Beatrix Jones's love for plants and suggested that she study landscape gardening. He offered to throw the facilities of the Arboretum open to her, and for months she became the grateful guest of Mrs. Sargent and the hard working pupil of Professor Sargent at the Arboretum. One day he astounded his pupil by telling her he had a professional job for her. When she protested she was not ready, he smilingly answered that she must learn while working for clients. Accordingly she set out for her first professional work to do some tree thinning and remodel a little planting on a garden slope. Other work followed and as years passed she tried to heed Professor Sargent's advice to make the plan fit the ground and not twist the ground to fit a plan, and furthermore to study the tastes of the owner. He told her to look at great landscape paintings, to observe and analyze natural beauty, to travel widely in Europe and see all the gardens she could, and learn from all the great arts as all art is akin. Years of preparation were spent in accumulating such information as seemed

likely to be of use, since there were no schools of landscape art in those bygone years. Italy, France, Germany, Holland, England and Scotland were visited and gardens studied.

When she returned home more work came to her and another chance meeting, with Mrs. Moses Taylor Pyne, eventually took her to Princeton in 1912 and the next year introduced her to University work which was to become a large part of her professional effort.

Quite early in her career the American Society of Landscape Architects was founded and although she repeatedly said in later years that she did not deserve the honour, she was made one of the charter members of the Association. As the years passed and her roll of clients grew, she darted from Washington to Princeton, Yale, Bar Harbor, and Chicago wherever her work lay.

Another fortunate meeting led to a happy marriage with Max Farrand, who was at that time head of the history department at Yale. They were neither of them young and each had attained some distinction in their work, consequently they agreed to go ahead with their professional careers and the years of marriage enriched both their lives. When her husband was appointed Director of the Henry E. Huntington Library and Art Gallery, Mrs. Farrand migrated to California, with many excursions to her eastern work and even to Devonshire. The summer holidays were spent at Reef Point, **continued p. 2**

Beatrix on Beatrix, cont.

where the two Farrands worked over the garden, planned for the future, and eventually founded Reef Point Gardens, an independent self-perpetuating, educational and philanthropic corporation.

After Max Farrand's death in 1945, his widow dedicated her life toward carrying out the plans they had often discussed, and in his memory established the Max Farrand Memorial Fund to help in carrying out the work of Reef Point Gardens. With the unflagging and unfailing interest and help of those who surrounded her, the house was completely remodeled, structural changes made, and the furnishing changed in some respects. The reference and old book libraries were installed and catalogued and the grounds altered for their hoped for use. In her old age Beatrix Farrand saw more and more clearly that changes which affected the whole world had bearing on the enterprise she and her husband had started. Careful study and consultation brought her to the difficult decision to transfer the Reef Point project to another setting. The library was manifestly the keystone of the plan and its use problematical in a place distant from other educational surroundings of like calibre. Therefore she felt her duty led her to make the material a part of a teaching institution where it would be used and cared for in a manner fitting its educational value. The library and related collections were given to the University of California at Berkeley for the Department of Landscape Architecture, where they were welcomed and at once made a valued addition to the curriculum.

As the permanent value of the Reef Point Gardens scheme lay in the library, the actual plantations became of less importance without the background of books and other assembled material. Consequently the gardens were discontinued and Reef Point as a plantation for teaching came to an end, and Mrs. Farrand disposed of the acreage and her old home.

During her lifetime Mrs. Farrand received various honours, which she greatly prized. The honorary degree of Master of Arts and rank of professor was given her when she was appointed consulting landscape gardener to Yale University. Smith College gave her an Honorary Doctorate of Letters, the American Institute of Architects made her an honorary member, and the Garden Club of America gave their Medal of Achievement. Later still The New York Botanical Garden gave their Distinguished Service Award and the Massachusetts Horticultural Society their Large Gold Medal.

She felt her life had been a happy one, she was grateful for what it had given her. She was ever thankful for the affection and help of her friends and associates during her long life, and attributed much to having had the privilege of their guidance.

Lux perpetua luceat est

FINIS



From the Library Shelves...

The BFS Library has received a major gift from BFS member, Darwina Neal FASLA. She has kindly donated a run of two important periodicals, *Landscape Architecture Magazine* (1963 to present) and *Garden Design Magazine* (1984 to present).

Darwina has a long-time affiliation with the American Society of Landscape Architects (ASLA), an organization to which Beatrix Farrand was elected a charter member in 1899. Their publication, *Landscape Architecture Magazine* (in earlier years known as *Landscape Architecture Quarterly*), has served the profession for many decades and is an importance resource for landscape architects, historians, and gardeners. It will be a welcome addition to the library. Darwina has a long-standing interest in women in the profession. She served as chairman of the 1972 Task Force on Women in Landscape Architecture, one of the first attempts to gain women more visibility in the profession. Darwina also was the first woman elected president of the ASLA, in 1979, and has served on boards of IFLA and ICOMOS. For many years she was involved with the preservation and management of Dumbarton Oaks Park in Washington, D.C., once an integral part of the Blissess' Dumbarton Oaks estate designed by Beatrix Farrand, and now a National Park Service property.



THE QUOTABLE GARDENER.....

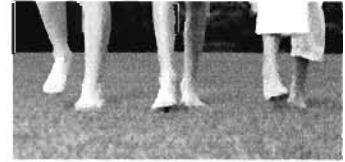
“No life is well-rounded without the subtle inspiration of beauty,” Beatrix Farrand, 1926

Summer 2008 BFS Lecture Series

Saturday, May 10 at 10 AM Rose Pruning Workshop with rosarian Karl Holmes, to be held in the Farrand garden at the College of the Atlantic. Event co-sponsored by the BFS and COA.



Saturday, June 21 at 10 AM. "Safe Lawns: Why and How To Garden Without Toxic Chemicals," lecture by Paul Tukey, editor of *People Places Plants* and founder of Safe Lawns, Inc. Copies of Tukey's new book, *The Organic Lawn Care Manual*, will be available for signing.



Saturday, July 19 at 10 AM "75 Remarkable Fruits for Your Garden," lecture by Jack Staub. *75 Remarkable Fruits* is the second book in Jack's garden series. The first, *75 Exciting Vegetable for Your Garden*, was the subject of his lecture at Garland Farm in 2006. *75 Exceptional Herbs for Your Garden* (the third book in the series) is scheduled for publication in 2009. Copies of his book will be available for signing.



Saturday, August 2 at 11:30AM (to follow BFS Annual Meeting at 10 AM). "Norah Lindsay, the Life and Art of a Garden Designer,"

a lecture by Allyson Hayward based on her new book. Hayward will provide a sketch of the life and work of this little-known English garden designer who was a contemporary of Beatrix Farrand's. A reception and book-signing will follow.

Saturday, August 16 at 10 AM. "Paper Gardens: The Art of Botanical Illustration,"

a lecture by Linda Funk. Maine artist Linda Funk will illuminate the history of botanical illustration, including some of her recent work. She teaches botanical illustration at the New York Botanical Garden and is internationally recognized for her work. Examples of her illustrations will be on display at the Moss Gallery in Northeast Harbor. Copies of some of the books Linda has illustrated will be available following the lecture.



Columbine,
watercolor by Linda Funk

Saturday, September 20 at 10 AM "Managing Invasive Plants in Maine." With Ann Gibbs, state horticulturist, Maine Department of Agriculture. This is the final lecture of the season.

Tickets : \$10 for BFS members, \$15 for non-members.

To confirm program times and locations, please call 207-288-0237 within the week preceding each program.



Member Updates and Renewal

Please send notice of new contact info
to Bob Golden: bgolden@fairpoint.net

"Mastering" the Historic Gardens at Garland Farm

Ever since the Beatrix Farrand Society acquired Garland Farm, in 2004, a host of gardeners has been eager to begin restoring Beatrix Farrand's last garden. There were many other pressing tasks, such as rewiring, insulating, repairs, painting, and a new septic system, and there was time needed to study the history and significance of the garden before decisions about how to restore it were made. A Cultural Landscape Report by Pressley Associates was commissioned to find the history and intent of this garden, and to recommend how to adapt Garland Farm for its new educational museum role. Weeds were battled and shrubs were pruned, to keep the landscape under control, but it wasn't time yet to "dig in" and re-create Beatrix's garden.

Last summer, in a delicate start to gathering important plant and horticultural information in the terrace garden, the Hancock County Master Gardener Program chose Garland Farm as a community project. The Master Gardener Program is part of the University of Maine Cooperative Extension, and has branches in all sixteen counties of Maine. The goal is continuing education in horticulture, and the basic certificate requires 40 hours of in depth training. Many Master Gardeners are professional horticulturists and have degrees in horticulture and years of experience. This Garland Farm team brought years of collective experience and considerable energy to the tasks of identifying, photographing, mapping, and conserving the existing plants in the garden. With administrative oversight by Extension Educator Marjorie Peronto, the 2007 team was coordinated by Elizabeth Curran and included Carolyn Hollenbeck, and Susan Stahlberg. A number of day volunteers also participated in the project.



Carolyn & Susan heave to...

This year, the excitement has grown exponentially, with the anticipated "Treatment Plan" due in May that will prescribe when and how to restore and renew the landscape. Before reconstruction and replanting can begin, the full plant inventory must be finished, and the garden must be "deconstructed" by moving plants to a holding nursery--out of harm's way. This work has begun in earnest under team leader Carolyn Hollenbeck, with the most scientific and professional recording of spring bulbs, soil profiles, and nursery layout by the Master Gardener '08 team--Carolyn, Anne Chappe, Lynn Cheney, Susan Stahlberg, and Doe Wright. The terrace garden has become a "secure area" for work by the team, and the beds are overlaid with string grids so that plant locations can be accurately recorded.

Spring flowering bulbs, once identified, will be replanted in the holding nursery--by species--where they will wait until they can be replanted in the restored garden. Soil tests and soil profiles will help determine how the beds were differently constructed to accommodate Mrs. Farrand's plants. Comparison of this spring's photographs with those taken since 2004 will help record the most vigorous stands of different bulbs



True Grid 2008

and perennials. All together, this is the final documentation of the unrestored remains of Mrs. Farrand's garden. In addition to shifting seedling plants and movable perennials to the holding nursery, propagation has begun for some of Mrs. Farrand's favorite and characteristic woody plants, such as the heaths and heathers, and the lavender. These heirloom plants will continue to thrive in new generations from this work.

By the end of the season only a few of the deepest rooted and most fragile plants will remain--to be worked around in their places--and work can begin restoring the fences, reconstructing the planting beds--complete with their original black slate raised edges--installing a discrete irrigation system, and replanting the original planting plan. This final phase is scheduled for the 2009 season, providing that adequate funding is found to support it. The search has begun for missing varieties of plants to realize the Farrand-period garden design, and special tours will be available to watch the restoration in progress.



Garland Farm in the News

Garland Farm is included in *1001 Gardens You Must See Before You Die* by Rae Spencer-Jones, published in 2007.

The inclusion of Garland Farm in this popular book brings great notice and credibility to the importance of these gardens. The book commends Garland Farm for its collection of rare plants and the opportunity it affords visitors to see some of the plants and garden elements, such as fencing and ornament, which Farrand used to build her last garden. "The garden is an intimate look at some of Farrand's favorite plants grown specifically for her own enjoyment." Come see for yourself.