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## Terrace Garden Gift

The Beatrix Farrand Society recently received news from David Rockefeller about his gift to Garland Farm of a long-missing Asian statue. Thanks to Mr. Rockefeller's generosity, this statue will return to its original place in the Terrace Garden.

Long before restoration work began on the Terrace Garden, several ornamental objects from the garden had already disappeared. During Beatrix Farrand's residence at Garland Farm in the late 1950s, the Terrace Garden included a metal cistern, a large ceramic bowl, and two birdbaths in addition to a large statue that was placed against the carved wooden fence on the south side of the garden.

Enquiries were made among people associated with Garland Farm, but other than the cistern, which found a home at Thuya Gardens in Northeast Harbor, none of the other objects were ever located. It is unknown whether they were sold, given away, or stolen. Patrick Chassé, who undertook some research on the Asian statue based on photographs, thought it was a 7<sup>th</sup>-

century Kuan Yin (or Quan Yin), a popular deity in Asia. Two years ago visiting scholars from Japan commented that they thought the missing statue was of Miroku, Buddha of the future, because of its body pose. Miroku's pose is thoughtful, with the right leg crossed over a pendent left leg and the right hand near the face, while Kuan Yin is usually more relaxed and in an open seated position.

Last summer, Bertha Saunders, Mr. Rockefeller's curator in New York, visited Garland Farm and when the statue was mentioned in passing, she said she would look through the Rockefeller archives to see if she could find any information of it. Subsequently she found a letter written by Amy Garland in 1964 to the Rockefeller family enquiring whether they wished to buy the statue. She also found Peggy Rockefeller's reply that they were indeed interested in acquiring it.

On hearing the news, board members Howard Monroe and Scott Koniecko contacted the Rockefeller staff about the possibility of locating the statue on one of family's estates in the hope that the statue could be copied for the Terrace Garden. The statue was eventually found on the Rockefeller property in Seal Harbor, at which point Mr. Rockefeller offered to return it to its Garland Farm home.

We are most grateful to Mr. Rockefeller's donation and to everyone who helped solve the mystery of the missing statue. We look forward to its installation this summer and hope that further enquiries may turn up some of the other missing components of the Terrace Garden.



Statue in the Terrace Garden, 1960s

*Diane Cousins Collection*

# Who Was Bob Patterson?

By Earle G. Shettleworth, Jr.



Robert W. Patterson  
Courtesy Friends of Acadia

Forty years ago this fall, I met Robert W. Patterson for the first time when we were both appointed to the board of the newly created Maine Historic Preservation Commission by Governor Kenneth M. Curtis. I was a 23-year-old graduate student at Boston University at the time and Bob at 66 had achieved a distinguished career in landscape architecture, architecture, and conservation. The Commission chose Patterson as its first chair, and the experience and respect which he brought to that position gave us the leadership and credibility we needed in its formative years.

A native of Wayland, Massachusetts, Robert Whiteley Patterson was born on January 30, 1905. He graduated from Harvard University in 1927 and studied architecture and landscape architecture at Harvard's Graduate School of Design from 1929 to 1932. Bob's marriage to Barbara Brown in 1931 established their lifelong connection to Mount Desert, where her relatives had summered in Southwest Harbor. Patterson began work for the

National Park Service in December 1933 designing and directing the construction of projects in Acadia National Park, an assignment that lasted until April 1937. From that point until his death in 1988, he conducted an independent practice on Mount Desert, with the exception of his work for the Federal Housing Administration during World War II.

In May 1945, Beatrix Farrand proposed Patterson for membership in the American Society of Landscape Architects (ASLA), of which she was a charter member. This nomination reflected her close relationship with Patterson as a trusted colleague and friend. In 1947, Farrand asked Bob to design the gardener's cottage at Reef Point in Bar Harbor. Seven years later he worked closely with her on dismantling her house and gardens at Reef Point. Patterson, who then became the owner of the Reef Point property, oversaw its redevelopment. As a board member and vice-president of the Reef Point Gardens Corporation, he supported Charles K. Savage's idea for moving Reef Point's significant plantings to new gardens in Northeast Harbor. Patterson then designed an addition between the farmhouse and barn at Garland Farm, which was Farrand's home from 1955 until her death in 1959. His tribute to Farrand, "Beatrix Farrand, 1872-1959: An Appreciation of a Great Landscape Gardener," was published in *Landscape Architecture Quarterly* in July 1959.

While most of Patterson's work was focused on Mount Desert, he was a longtime consultant to Dumbarton Oaks, one of Farrand's masterworks, and served on the board of the National Wildlife Foundation. From an historic preservation standpoint, I recall his efforts to create a National Register Historic District to protect the village of Somesville as well as his advocacy for the adaptive reuse of The Turrets at the College of the Atlantic.

Each time that I look at Robert Patterson's photograph at the Jordan Pond House, I am reminded of his intelligence, refinement, dignity, and grace as well as his deeply held passion for both the natural and manmade environment and the delicate interface of the two. As he wrote of Beatrix Farrand, so it could be said of him, that he "refused to compromise with the second-rate."

*Earle G. Shettleworth, Jr., is Maine State Historian and a speaker in the Patterson symposium on August 13, 2011.*

# Programs & Events 2011

All programs take place at Garland Farm unless otherwise noted. To confirm program times, fees, and locations, visit [www.beatrixfarrandsociety.org](http://www.beatrixfarrandsociety.org) or call 207-288-0257 one week prior to the scheduled event for recorded information. A detailed program brochure will be available in April.

## **Monday, May 9, 1PM to 3PM** **Beekeeping Demonstration**

Dr. Francis Drummond, Professor of Entomology at the University of Maine, will demonstrate the basics of backyard beekeeping. Fees: \$10 BFS members, \$15 non-members.

## **Saturday, June 18, 10AM to 12 noon** **Spring Pruning Workshop**

Fran West returns to Garland Farm for her popular pruning workshop. Bring your own pruning shears. Fees: \$10 BFS members, \$15 non-members.

## **Tuesday, June 28, 10AM to 1PM** **Docent Orientation**

Docents are invited to see the newly completed Terrace Garden, enjoy a slide presentation, and view Beatrix Farrand memorabilia. A picnic lunch will be provided.

## **Tuesday, July 5, 3PM to 5PM** **Beatrix Farrand's Birthday Celebration and Tea**

Join us for this special day celebrating Beatrix Farrand's birthday and the opening ceremony for the Terrace Garden, followed by tea. There is no fee for this event.

## **Tuesday, July 12, 7PM to 9PM** **Bringing Nature Home**

Dr. Douglas Tallamy will lecture on ecological roles of the native plants in our landscapes. Copies of his book, *Bringing Nature Home*, will be available for purchase and signing. This event is co-sponsored by the College of the Atlantic and takes place at the Thomas S. Gates, Jr. Community Center at COA. There is no fee for this event.

## **Saturday, August 6, 10AM to 11AM** **Beatrix Farrand Society Annual Meeting**

## **Saturday, August 6, 11:30AM to 12:30PM** **The Rockefeller Family Gardens**

Paula Deitz will enlighten us about the diverse gardens of the Rockefeller family. Copies of her book, *Of Gardens: Selected Essays*, will be available for purchase and signing. This lecture follows the BFS Annual Meeting and there is no fee for the event.

## **Wednesday, August 10, 9AM to 1 PM** **Fix-It Day at Garland Farm**

Please volunteer to help out with odd jobs around Garland Farm. Refreshments will be provided for all participants.

## **Saturday, August 13, 10AM to 12:30PM** **Robert W. Patterson Symposium**

Scott Koniecko, Jack Russell, Earle Shettleworth, William Thorndike, and William Townsend will discuss Patterson's career and legacy in Maine. Fees: \$10 BFS members, \$15 non-members.

## **Saturday, August 24, 2PM to 4PM** **Dynamic Landscapes: From New York's High Line and Beyond**

Patrick Cullina, Vice President of Horticulture, Friends of the High Line, will present the story of New York's newest park. Fees: \$10 BFS members, \$15 non-members.

## **Wednesday, September 7, 2PM to 4PM** **Random Ramblings of a Gardener**

The renowned horticulturist Marco Polo Stufano will talk about some of his favorite gardens and landscapes. This event is co-sponsored by the Somes Pond Center. Fees: \$10 BFS members, \$15 non-members.

## **Friday, October 7, 2PM to 4PM** **Memories of Beatrix Farrand**

Join us for informal talks by local historians Debbie Dyer and Diane Cousins on Beatrix Farrand's archival legacy in Bar Harbor. There will be a small display of memorabilia in the library. There is no fee for this event.

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*The Beatrix Farrand Society is now on Facebook. Log on to [www.beatrixfarrandsociety.org](http://www.beatrixfarrandsociety.org) and click the Facebook icon to share information and pictures and keep up to date on late-breaking news and events.*



## Save the Date

On Sunday, July 17, the Bar Harbor Garden Club is hosting a tour of six island gardens, including Garland Farm. Proceeds go to a number of charitable organizations, including the Beatrix Farrand Society, the Mount Desert Land and Garden Preserve, and various scholarships and other worthwhile endeavors. For information about times and tickets, log on to [www.barharborgardenclub.com](http://www.barharborgardenclub.com).

## Past Events

On a cool fall day following our October board meeting, the room was magically transformed into an exhibition, "Treasures from the BFS Library." Librarian Marti Harmon and newsletter editor Judith Tankard arranged a selection of books from the library to give visitors a glimpse into a part of Beatrix Farrand's life that was as important to her as her design and horticultural interests.

From the beginning of the acquisition of Garland Farm by the BFS, the library was to be a central core of the enterprise. Today its physical relationship to the Terrace Garden, just outside the doors, and its accessibility to members and students is encouraging both to researchers and general readers.

We saw dozens of fascinating books related to Farrand's family, including a copy of *Lantern Slides* written by her mother, Mary Cadwalader Jones, as well as better-known books by her aunt, Edith Wharton, and friends, such as Henry James. Also on display were books about Maine, especially Mount Desert Island, including *Mr. Rockefeller's Roads*, in which Farrand's use of native plants is clearly presented. Other displays included books related to Farrand's travels and her interests in horticulture.

In addition to books, Farrand also collected engravings of many of the European gardens she visited. A major portion of these engravings were *vue d'optiques* (perspective views), which were meant to be seen through the Zogrscope, an optical diagonal viewing machine that projects the picture in a forced perspective. As part of the exhibition, the Zogrscope was seen in action and it will become a permanent part of the library.

The exhibition concluded with refreshments of apple cider, wine, and cookies provided by Emily Fuchs and a beautiful arrangement of flowers by Peggy Bowditch that brought the colors from outside into the room. This year's library event is scheduled for October 7, 2011.



*Jim Fuchs*

– Diane Kostial McGuire

## In the News

At the October 2010 BFS board meeting, five new directors were appointed, including **Valencia Libby** and **James Owen Ross**, both former members of the advisory board. In addition, we welcome **Dick Habermann**, who recently retired from Fidelity Investments; **Julia Leisenring**, who has served on the boards of the Mount Desert Land and Garden Preserve and the Garden Club of Mount Desert; and **Margot Woolley**, an architect from New York City and now a resident of Somesville. **Brenda Les**, who has an extensive local garden notable for its use of native plants, was appointed to the advisory board. Last, but not least, BFS founder **Patrick Chassé ASLA** was recently invited to become an honorary member of the Garden Club of America. Congratulations to all.

## Plant Profile: *Metasequoia glyptostroboides*

By Carolyn Hollenbeck



*Metasequoia glyptostroboides*  
Carolyn Hollenbeck

Commonly known as the Dawn Redwood, *Metasequoia glyptostroboides* was described in 1941 as a fossil from the Mesozoic era, but in 1948 live trees, described by Hug and Cheng as “living fossils,” were discovered in China. After seeds were collected by the Arnold Arboretum, seedlings were distributed worldwide for trials. Today a magnificent specimen stands near the east side of the Terrace Garden for the enjoyment of visitors to Garland Farm. Another specimen, also formerly at Reef Point, now resides at Thuya Garden in Northeast Harbor.

*Metasequoia glyptostroboides* is one of a few deciduous conifers. It is fast growing, pyramidal in shape, and requires little pruning. Hardy in zones 5 to 8 and requiring full sun and a moist, acidic, well-

drained soil, the Dawn Redwood can reach heights of 75 to 100 feet. Trees have a distinctive buttressed trunk with shaggy, reddish bark. Its bright green leaves are one-half inch long, linear, flat, and opposite and held on deciduous stems. The opposite leaf arrangement distinguishes this tree from the Baldcypress (*Taxodium distichum*). In the fall, the color is reddish bronze.

The flowers are monoecious, with both male and female flowers appearing on the same plant. Female flowers are solitary and ovoid, becoming light-brown fruit, while male flowers are clustered and become dark-brown, round fruits. Propagation is accomplished from hard and softwood cuttings as well as by seeds that have been stratified. *Metasequoia glyptostroboides* may be susceptible to early frosts, and Japanese beetles and spider mites may be problematic. But other than these, the tree does not have many disease issues.

This “living fossil,” with its fascinating history and three-season interest, makes a lovely addition to any landscape with room enough to display it.



Leaf detail  
Carolyn Hollenbeck

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## In Memoriam

It is with sadness that we report the deaths of three important people with strong ties to Beatrix Farrand and her legacy. **Eleanor Dwight**, a long-time summer resident of Bar Harbor and an authority on Edith Wharton, died on November 16, 2010. She was the author of numerous articles and books, including *Edith Wharton: An Extraordinary Life*. She also was a well-known lecturer and served on the boards of The Mount and the Garden Club of Mount Desert. **Beth Straus**, who helped revamp the Peggy Rockefeller Rose Garden at the New York Botanical Garden (originally designed by Beatrix Farrand in 1915), died on December 6. A long-time resident of Somesville, Beth was an expert gardener and horticulturist, whose beautiful garden was often open for garden club tours. She served on the advisory board of the BFS since its founding. And last, but not least, **Roger Milliken** died on December 30. Milliken was a founding donor of the BFS during the Save Garland Farm campaign. He was the son of Gerrish and Agnes Milliken, who were among Beatrix Farrand’s most important clients and friends, and he was also Beatrix’s godson. Recently dubbed “a conservative tycoon,” Milliken owned one of the largest and most profitable textile firms in America.

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### *The Quotable Gardener*

*“At the heart of gardening there is a belief in the miraculous,”*  
*Mirabel Osler, A Gentle Plea for Chaos*

# From the Library Shelves

By Marti Harmon



We now have a microfilm reader and, thanks to Judith Tankard's donation, a complete microfilm and user guide for Gertrude Jekyll's archives at the University of California, Berkeley. The microfilm includes Jekyll's plans for over 200 projects as well as six photograph albums, all of which were originally at Reef Point and donated by Beatrix Farrand in 1955. No longer

will Jekyll researchers need to travel to Berkeley.

We received several important donations, including seventy-five books from J. E. Sendrowski, a local artist and gardener known for her aesthetic appreciation of flowers. Her gift included a photographic study of snowdrops. Diane Cousins donated an additional twenty-six photographs of Beatrix Farrand, Max Farrand, Amy Garland, and Clementine Walter as well as views of Reef Point, Garland Farm, and California.

Jim Ross, Jean Snyder, Judith Tankard, and Marti Harmon contributed books purchased from Lippincott Books in Bangor, a source for many titles in Farrand's non-gardening collection. We also acquired Farrand's list of books that were in Robert Patterson's library in 1955 before they were sold sometime after his death in 1988 to Lippincott Books. Many of these books contain Mary Cadwalader Jones's or Beatrix Farrand's bookplates or signatures. Among the books contributed to the BFS is

a pristine copy of Edith Wharton's seminal book, *Italian Villas and Their Gardens* (1904). One of the most intriguing books is F. Marion Crawford's *Love in Idleness: A Tale of Bar Harbour*, published in 1894. It is the story of a headstrong and remarkably capable young woman who can sail, climb, and ride better than any of her suitors, and she doesn't mind embarrassing her guests, either, which was slightly scandalous behavior at the time. It is, in fact, a thinly veiled novel about Beatrix Jones, and this is not surprising since Crawford was a close friend of Minnie Jones.

Nicolas Barker's *Treasures from the Libraries of National Trust Country Houses* (donated by Cynthia Zaitzevsky) provides an understanding of the quality and scope of Beatrix Farrand's rare book collection. At least six of her books were the same edition as those listed in this book, and at least ten others were published in the seventeenth century. The oldest volume in her collection was a copy of Francesco Colonna's *Hypnerotomachia Poliphili*, first published in Venice in 1499. A copy sold at Christie's in July 2010 for \$473,321. Farrand's Morning Room List of almost 800 titles, which includes a number of exceedingly rare volumes, points out the breadth and scope of her collection. Robert Furber's *The Flower Garden Display'd* (1732), for instance, was recently listed by Graham Arader for \$14,000. It is thought that most of Farrand's rare volumes went to private collections and libraries, rather than to Berkeley.

When you visit Garland Farm this summer, be sure to see a selection of duplicate books that are available for a small donation to the library fund.

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