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Beatrix Farrand's Lost Garden

By Judith B. Tankard

The Beatrix Farrand Society recently received a donation of a framed oil painting of a garden that Beatrix Farrand designed for Louisa Morgan Satterlee in 1921. This magnificent garden, located on Great Head, was partially destroyed in the fire that swept Mount Desert Island in 1947. The painting depicts the flower garden in midsummer and was probably done in the 1930s, when the garden was at its height.

The painting was donated to the BFS by Mrs. V. Leona Salisbury, widow of Charles Frederick Salisbury, superintendent of the Satterlee estate.



Painting of the Satterlee Garden
Jeff Dobbs



(L to R) W. Dayton Salisbury, Mrs. V. Leona Salisbury, Paul Edward Salisbury, Scott Koniecko, Carolyn Hollenbeck, Margot Woolley, 2012

Jeff Dobbs

The painting was a gift to Mr. Salisbury from Mrs. Satterlee's daughter, Mabel Satterlee Ingalls. Mrs. Salisbury, who is 103 years old, and her two sons, W. Dayton Salisbury and Paul Edward Salisbury, attended the ceremony on New Year's Day. Scott Koniecko, Carolyn Hollenbeck, and Margot Woolley were on hand to represent the BFS.

Louisa Satterlee was the eldest daughter of financier, J.P. Morgan, whose yacht, *The Corsair*, was often docked in Bar Harbor. In addition to the Satterlee garden, Beatrix Farrand designed gardens for the Morgan townhouse in New York and later the Morgan Library. She also designed gardens for many of J. P. Morgan's business associates as well as for another daughter, Juliet Morgan Hamilton.

Dayton Salisbury recently recalled that according to the will of Mabel Ingalls' sister, Eleanor Satterlee, the Salisbury family was given a house on Great Head, but most of the grounds were donated to the National Park Service. The NPS tore down the house and tea house and altered some of the features remaining in the garden. He also recalled that his father, who had started working on the estate in the late 1930s, was responsible for the greenhouses and gardens and was known for his prizewinning gladioli. After World War II, he became superintendent of the estate and was responsible for the Farrand garden, cutting garden, and vegetable gardens, while supervising two men.

The Satterlee garden was one of Beatrix Farrand's most important commissions in Maine and in its heyday the grounds at Great Head boasted at least six gardeners and workmen. The painting will be on view at Garland Farm this summer in an exhibition about the Satterlee garden.

Meet the Executive Board

Scott Koniecko, President of the BFS, is a graduate of the Art Institute of Chicago and received a Master's Degree in Architecture from the University of California, Berkeley, where he now serves on the Berkeley Prize Committee. He worked for I. M. Pei and Partners for ten years before establishing his own firm, Scott Koniecko Architects, in 1987. His firm specializes in residential work as well as art galleries throughout the US and Europe. Scott has been coming to Bar Harbor since he was three months old, but it was his interest in Robert Patterson that drew him to the BFS.



First Vice-President **Carolyn Hollenbeck** is a graduate of Michigan State University and is an ASCP board-certified Medical Technologist. She spent 30 years in clinical laboratories specializing in hematology, immunology, microbiology, and virology. After retirement, she became a New Jersey Master Gardener Volunteer and after moving to Mount Desert Island she became a certified University of Maine Master Gardener Volunteer. Carolyn first came to Garland Farm in 2007 and later assumed the leadership role in the rehabilitation of the Terrace Garden.



Judith B. Tankard, Second Vice-President, received a Master's Degree in Art History from the Institute of Fine Arts, New York University. After a career in art book publishing, Judith became interested in landscape history in the 1980s when she joined tour of Scottish gardens organized by BFS board member, Diane Kostial McGuire. Since then she has written eight books on British and American landscape history as well as numerous articles and book reviews. She became involved with the BFS in 2003 when she made a donation to the Save Garland Farm initiative.



Margot Woolley, Secretary, is an architect who recently retired from the New York City Department of Design and Construction, where she served as Assistant Commissioner for Design and Engineering. She received a Master's Degree in Preservation and Planning from Columbia University. For many years Margot served as a volunteer to help set the standards for professional examinations and developed portions of the national architectural registration examination. She retired to Somesville, where she and her husband, Gerry Vasisko, designed and built their own house in 2001.



Dick Habermann, Treasurer, is a graduate of Yale University and received an MBA from Harvard Business School. He was a commissioned officer in the U.S. Navy prior to his forty-year career with Fidelity Investments, spent primarily in Boston, but also in London. Before retirement, Dick's financial career included investments and executive positions. He remains a Chartered Financial Analyst and member of the Boston Security Analysts Society. Dick, and his wife, Carol, and their four children have summered on Mount Desert Island for over thirty years.



The Beatrix Farrand Society is now on Facebook. Log on to www.beatrixfarrandsociety.org and click the Facebook icon to share information and pictures and keep up to date on late-breaking news and events.

Past Events

On October 7, 2011, the Collections Committee hosted their popular annual event with informal talks on Beatrix Farrand's archival legacy in Bar Harbor. Debbie Dyer, director of the Bar Harbor Historical Society, brought in a number of items from their collections and BFS Advisory Council member Diane Cousins discussed her aunt, Amy Garland, and personal aspects of Beatrix Farrand's life at Garland Farm.

Caroline Felkel organized Fall Clean-Up Day at Garland Farm on November 2, 2011. Many hale and hearty volunteers showed up to tackle such tasks as mulching, leaf-blowing, and much-needed electrical work. In addition to board members and volunteers, participants also included crews from Savage Forest Enterprises, Eagle Arboriculture, Islandspring, E. B. Painting, Silver Service, and A. C. Parsons Landscaping and Garden Center. Dan DeLong, who served as caretaker of the grounds, was honored. Caroline prepared a delicious lunch that was enjoyed by all.



Retiring Grounds Manager Dan DeLong with his new Japanese pruning saw
Carolyn Hollenbeck

Garland Farm in the News



Garland Farm was included in a feature article on ten inspiring gardens open to the public in the January 2012 issue of *Horticulture* magazine. The article, which includes one of Carolyn Hollenbeck's photographs of the Terrace Garden, can be downloaded on www.beatrixfarrandsociety.org or viewed in the library.

Thanks to the publicity generated by this article, the BFS is happy to announce that there will be Open Days this summer at Garland Farm in addition to docent-led tours that can still be scheduled through our website, phone, or email. The Open Days are Thursday afternoons 1-5PM from June 21 until September 13. Please contact Volunteer Coordinator Brenda Les (volunteers@beatrixfarrandsociety.org) if you would like to volunteer.

Garland Farm is cited in Elizabeth Barlow Rogers's new book, *Writing the Garden: A Literary Conversation Across Two Centuries* (David R. Godine, 2011). In her discussion of Jane Loudon (1807-1858), the famous English gardener and botanist, Barlow notes that she saw a rare five-volume set of Mrs. Loudon's magnum opus, *The Ladies' Flower-Garden*, in the library at Garland Farm. Patrick Chassé donated these volumes to the BFS.

Visitors from nineteen states, plus England, Scotland, and Canada visited Garland Farm this past year. Among the distinguished visitors were Peter Hatch, director of gardens and grounds at Monticello; Anne Symmes of the Beatrix Farrand Garden Association; and Betsy Igleheart of the National Park Service in Boston. We quite agree with some of the comments: "A unique and dazzling spot!" "One of the best tours ever."

Peter Hatch
Arthur Keller

Programs & Events 2012

All programs take place at Garland Farm unless otherwise noted and advance registration is required. Please contact programs@beatricefarrandsociety.org or call 207-288-0257, stating the name and date of the program, the number of people attending, and contact information in case of a program change. A detailed program brochure will be available in April.

Tuesday, May 8, 1-5PM

Raspberries and Blackberries in Maine

Join Dr. David Handley, the University of Maine Cooperative Extension's Vegetable and Small Fruit Specialist, to learn how to select varieties, plant correctly, prune, and manage pests and other challenges. Fees: \$10 BFS members, \$20 non-members. Registration is required.

Saturday, June 9, 5-7PM

Unraveling and Re-raveling the Web of Life

William Cullina, Executive Director of the Coastal Maine Botanical Gardens, will share his thoughts about our evolving flora from his perspectives as author of books on North American native plants and former nursery manager of the New England Wildflower Society. Fees: \$10 BFS members, \$20 non-members. Registration is required.

Tuesday, June 19, 10AM-2PM

Docent Orientation

Docents are invited to enjoy a slide presentation on Garland Farm and view Beatrix Farrand memorabilia. A picnic lunch will be provided. There is no fee for this event, but registration is required.

Thursday, June 21- September 13, 1-5PM

Open Days at Garland Farm

Garland Farm will be open on Thursday afternoons from June 21 until September 13. Please join us for informal tours of the house and garden. No reservations necessary.

Monday, July 2, 1-5PM

Stone in the Garden

Garden designer and author, Gordon Hayward, will discuss how to use stone in the garden to provide structure, a sense of permanence, and the perfect foil to plants. Copies of his recent book, *Stone in the Garden*, will be available for purchase and signing. Fees: \$10 BFS members, \$20 non-members. Registration is required.

Thursday, July 5, 3-5PM

Beatrix Farrand's Birthday Celebration

Please join us for this special day celebrating Beatrix Farrand's birthday and the opening of this year's exhibition on the Satterlee garden, followed by a traditional afternoon tea. There is no fee for this event, but registration is required.

Thursday, July 26, 5-7PM

Gardens of the Jazz Age

Jenny Rose Carey, Director of Temple University's Ambler Arboretum, will show how the heyday of American garden design developed within American culture of the 1920s and 1930s, a period when international travel and inexpensive labor fueled many ideas. Fees: \$10 BFS members, \$20 non-members. Registration is required.

Saturday, August 4, 11-11:50AM

Beatrix Farrand Society Annual Meeting

Saturday, August 4, 11:50AM-12:50PM

Gertrude Jekyll and the Country House Garden

Judith B Tankard will discuss one of the most important garden designers of the twentieth century who was one of Beatrix Farrand's mentors. Copies of her new book, *Gertrude Jekyll and the Country House Garden*, will be available for purchase and signing. This lecture follows the BFS Annual Meeting and there is no fee for the event.

Wednesday, August 8, 9AM-1PM

Fix-It Day at Garland Farm

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

Wednesday, August 15, 1-5PM

Natives with Bling

Native plants are sustainable, good for wildlife and the environment, and some have even become superstars in the perennial plant industry. Join popular lecturer Stephanie Cohen for a discussion about incorporating these plants in your garden to add sparkle and bling. Fees: \$10 BFS members, \$20 non-members. Registration is required.

Friday, October 5, 2-4PM

Art in the Library

Join us for an informal program about Beatrix Farrand's interest in botanical art. There will be a small display of books and artwork in the library. There is no fee for this event, but registration is required.

Other Events & News

On Saturday, June 2, from 2 to 4PM, **The Beatrix Farrand Garden Association**, celebrates the 100th anniversary of the gardens at Bellefield with a gala dinner and benefit auction. The gardens were originally designed by Beatrix Jones for her cousin, Thomas Newbold, in 1912, and have since been restored by a dedicated group of volunteers. For more information, visit www.beatrixfarrandgarden.org

The Dumbarton Oaks Park Conservancy in Washington, D.C., is hosting a birthday celebration on April 19 from 6:00 to 8:00PM. The featured speaker is Elizabeth Barlow Rogers, founder of the Central Park Conservancy. For more information, contact Ann Aldrich at aaldrich@dopark.org or visit www.dopark.org

The Environmental Design Library at the University of California, Berkeley, is hosting an exhibition, "Plants, Books, and Drawings: The Work of Beatrix Farrand." from March 12 through June 8. The exhibition includes a selection of plans, drawings, herbarium specimens, and other material from their collections related to Reef Point. For more information, visit www.lib.berkeley.edu/ENVI/ or call 501-642-4818.

A number of events and publications are scheduled this year in celebration of the 150th anniversary of Edith Wharton's birth on January 24, 1862. **The New York Society Library** has mounted a small exhibition, "Edith Wharton's New York City: A Backward Glance," that includes a photograph of Wharton's sister-in-law, Mary Cadwalader Jones, courtesy of the BFS. Beatrix Farrand, her husband, mother, and her grandfather were all shareholders of the Library, the oldest subscription library in the United States. The exhibition is on display from March 14 through December 31 and is accompanied by an illustrated catalog. For more information, visit www.nysoclib.org or call 212-288-6900.

Be sure to look for a new book, *My Dear Governess: The Letters of Edith Wharton to Anna Bahlmann* (Yale University Press), scheduled for publication on May 29, 2012. The book, edited by Wharton scholar Irene Goldman-Price, draws on a cache of letters recently acquired by Yale University's Beinecke Rare Book and Manuscript Library. Anna Bahlmann was Edith Wharton's governess and later her literary secretary and confidant. There are numerous references to Beatrix Jones in the letters that shed new light on her early years. In 1916, Beatrix designed Anna Bahlmann's headstone for her grave in Warrenburg, Missouri.



Carolyn Hollenbeck

Open Days at Garland Farm

Garland Farm will be open between 1 and 5PM on Thursday afternoons beginning June 21 until September 13.

Please join us for informal tours of the house, library, and grounds.

No reservations are necessary.

To volunteer, please contact

Brenda Les at

volunteers@beatrixfarrandsociety.org

Plant Profile: *Calluna*, *Erica*, and *Daboecia*

By Carolyn Hollenbeck

Two articles in the *Reef Point Gardens Bulletins*, as well as two large beds of heather in the center of the Terrace Garden, illustrate the importance of this plant to Beatrix Farrand. Gazing out at the garden from the Farrand wing, the Walter wing, or the study provides wonderful views of these lovely plants.

Originating in Europe, heather was used during the Iron Age by the Picts to make mead. Plants were also used for medicinal purposes as well as for fuel and for making brooms, thatch, and rope. White heather was traditionally considered good luck. After years of being overlooked in ornamental gardens, heather came back into fashion through the efforts of William Robinson, who popularized “wild” plants in the second half of the nineteenth century in his book, *The Wild Garden*.

Belonging to the family *Ericaceae*, three genera comprise what are often referred to as “heather”: *Calluna* (true heather), with small scale-like leaves; *Erica* (heath), with needle-like leaves and delicate root systems; and *Daboecia* (St. Dabeoc’s heath), less hardy with slightly broader, alternate needle-like leaves. All are evergreen shrubs that may be upright or form mats. These plants do best in sunny, well-drained open areas, with acidic soils (pH 5.0-5.5) enriched with organic matter. Suitable for raised beds or containers, they are best grown in drifts.

Propagate heathers from seed, midsummer cuttings, or by layering or dropping. For best flowering, prune *Calluna* in the spring in colder areas and *Erica* after the blooms have faded. Cultivars with colorful spring tips should be pruned before new growth begins. Transplanting is not recommended for older plants and as hardiness varies, winter protection should be provided in colder areas. Fungal diseases may be problematic, but as heathers offer year-round color and interest, they are well worth considering for the home landscape.



Calluna vulgaris
Carolyn Hollenbeck



Erica sp.
Carolyn Hollenbeck

The Quotable Gardener

“When Erica carnea and its varieties open in early spring, the little branches with their gay pendant flowers brighten a room on a cold dreary spring day.”

- Beatrix Farrand, Reef Point Gardens Bulletin, 1954

Karma in the Terrace Garden

By Carolyn Hollenbeck

Two identical birdbaths once stood in the Terrace Garden, but in a letter to Peggy Rockefeller, Amy Garland revealed that only one remained prior to the sale of Garland Farm after Beatrix Farrand's death. The other one had been destroyed by raccoons. The remaining birdbath has long been missing and efforts to locate it for the Terrace Garden restoration proved unsuccessful. Fortunately for the BFS, Phid Lawless of Lunaform, in Sullivan, Maine, was able to reproduce the birdbaths by enlarging several black-and-white photographs from the 1950s.

The height of the existing carved verge-board fence was used to determine how tall the original birdbaths were. The bowl diameter was determined proportionately. Although the base of the original piece was obscured in the old photographs, a similar column, located in an original Soderholtz catalog, served as a model.



Clementine Walter and unidentified man in Terrace Garden, 1959
Diane Cousins collection



(L-R) Dan Farrenkopf, Carolyn Hollenbeck, Phid Lawless, Sam Coplton
Kathy Summinsby

A sketch was produced and hand-crafted tools were made to create the scalloped-edge bowl. In addition, a jig was made to press indentations into the soft concrete and a loop-cutter was made to hand-cut the flute grooves. After curing overnight, the bowl was hand-sanded to remove any small imperfections. Once the ten-day curing process was completed, a week-long multistage coloring process commenced to complete the pieces.

There was good "karma in the garden" when the new birdbaths arrived and were placed where the originals once stood. Now that the garden beds are restored, the birdbaths reproduced thanks to an IMLS Grant, and the original statue generously donated back to the garden by David Rockefeller, the last remaining task is the reproduce the missing lead cistern. Donations are most welcome to assist with this challenge.

Annual Dues

- Individual Membership.....\$ 35
- Family/Household Membership.....\$ 50
- Organization.....\$ 100
- Sponsor.....\$ 250
- Patron.....\$ 500
- Plus this tax-deductible gift for the Society.....\$_____

Enclosed is my check for: \$_____

Charge my Visa or MasterCard for \$_____ Credit Card #: _____ Exp. Date ____/____/____ yr.

Name _____ Signature _____

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Please make checks payable to **The Beatrix Farrand Society**, P.O. Box 111, Mount Desert, ME 04660
The Beatrix Farrand Society is a 501(c)3 organization. Email: info@beatrixfarrandsociety.org Thank You!



From the Library Shelves

By Marti Harmon



The BFS has received several generous donations in the past six months. Peggy Bowditch, Corinne Mann, Judith Tankard, and Patrick Chassé have added over 100 books to the collection, including three titles that are on Farrand's Morning Room List. One of these, Ernest H. Wilson's *Aristocrats of the Garden*, describes many of the plants that he brought back to the Arnold Arboretum from his explorations in Korea and Japan. Even though it was written in 1917, the modern reader will be amazed by Wilson's foresight concerning plants that are commonplace today, yet were then considered exotic. He rhapsodizes about Japanese cherries and crabapples, rhododendrons, and lilies and concludes by quoting Bacon's famous line that gardening is "the purest of human pleasures." We also have a copy of Wilson's companion book, *More Aristocrats of the Garden* which includes more specific details about where to plant his recommended selections.

For those who are interested in Wilson's life, there's no better book than Daniel Foley's *The Flowering World of "Chinese" Wilson*. Foley, who was a longtime editor of *Horticulture* magazine, mentions two of Wilson's Asian imports that Beatrix Farrand trial-tested in her gardens at Reef Point. "The noted landscape architect Beatrix Farrand [who] grew [*Clematis montana rubens*] in her garden at Bar Harbor, Maine, wrote: 'The south window frame on which *C. Montana rubens* grows looks like the frontispiece to an old gardening book.'" The other plant was the mysterious *Tripterigium regeli*, a member of the bittersweet family. Come into the library to read Farrand's comments on page 314.

For those thinking about garden ornaments this spring, the library has over thirty books on the subject, including *The House of Boughs*, *The Well-Furnished Garden*, *Garden Accents*, and *Garden Ornament*, a comprehensive catalog from Kenneth Lynch. From practical details to whimsical and elegant designs, we have several books that explain how to build your own birdhouse. If you have grander aspirations, be sure to consult *Tree Houses: An Illustrated Essay on the Aesthetic and Practical Aspects of Arboreal Architecture*.

Tom Hayward has provided photocopies for our files of all the articles about Beatrix Farrand that are cited by Pressley Associates in the *Garland Farm Cultural Landscape Report*. Diane Cousins recently donated over 70 documents and clippings about Beatrix Farrand, Max Farrand, Mary Cadwalader Jones, and the Garlands. The items include wills and codicils as well as information about items that were sold. Judith Tankard donated two large-format color photos of the Abby Aldrich Rockefeller Gardens that were taken in 1983 by Alan Ward.

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