The BFS Celebrates Its 10th Anniversary

The Beatrix Farrand Society was founded on June 16, 2003, for the purpose of purchasing Garland Farm, which had come on the market after the death of the last private owner in 2002. Thanks to the generosity of several donors and the Save Garland Farm fundraising campaign led by the Garden Conservancy, the BFS was able to purchase the site in January 2004. In ten short years Garland Farm has been transformed from a private family home with five acres of grounds into an important educational institution honoring the life and legacy of Beatrix Farrand. The property is now listed on the National Register of Historic Places.

Today the BFS boasts the nationally acclaimed restored Terrace Garden, a significant landscape reference library of 2,500 volumes, and a state-of-the-art education center located in the renovated barn. Thanks to scheduled tours and open days for the public, the BFS welcomes hundreds of visitors from all over the world who come to see this mecca devoted to one of the country’s most famous landscape architects.

The BFS was incorporated under the leadership of Emily and Jim Fuchs, with Patrick Chassé serving as the first president. Over the years the board has grown from seven directors to 18, while the advisory council now has 15 members. Membership has also grown by leaps and bounds. One of the key events in the Society’s mission was commissioning a comprehensive Cultural Landscape Report and Treatment Plan from Pressley Associates in 2006. This document provided the critical information and strategic planning necessary for a thoughtful, and historic, restoration of the gardens. Other landmarks were decisions to engage nationally prominent speakers for programs and to mount high-quality exhibitions related to Farrand’s work. Last year’s exhibition, “The Satterlee Garden at Great Head,” drew visitors from near and far. And last, but not least, funding from generous donors and grants allow us to undertake necessary repair and renovation work at Garland Farm.

To celebrate this important anniversary, the BFS is hosting an all-day seminar on July 27, 2013, to explore the restoration of some of Farrand’s important gardens. Another special event is an exhibition on Reef Point Gardens Herbarium, thanks to a digitization project by the University of California, Berkeley. Everyone is cordially invited to a gala 10th Anniversary Celebration at Garland Farm on Friday, July 5, from 3 to 5PM. Please see details for this and other special events in this issue.
Reef Point Gardens Herbarium Exhibition

Included in Beatrix Farrand’s gift to the University of California, Berkeley, in 1955 was her treasured Reef Point Gardens Herbarium, a collection of over 1,800 mounted specimens (or “vouchers”) of plants gathered at Reef Point. Sometime after their arrival in Berkeley, the Reef Point vouchers were integrated into the University & Jepson Herbaria and since then have been difficult to access as an integral collection. Thanks to a digitization project undertaken by Andrew Doran, curator of the collection, the vouchers can now be seen by a wider audience. By special arrangement with the university, the BFS will host an exhibition this summer of these digitized vouchers. The exhibition will rotate displays based on various plant groups.

At Reef Point, most of the collecting and processing was done by Marion Ida Spaulding, who served as recorder for the Reef Point Gardens Corporation. She wrote about her work in the August 1951 issue of the Reef Point Gardens Bulletin. Research has shown that a number of the later additions to the Herbarium were prepared by Kenneth Beckett, when he was employed at Reef Point in 1954.

Spaulding was somewhat overwhelmed by the enormity of her project, which involved collecting, drying, and mounting each specimen in a folder as well as noting its located with a red dot on a small map of the grounds. Each specimen was identified as to the exact species and genus, as well as any varietal or popular names, along with any pertinent information about its locale. The identifications were then verified by the Arnold Arboretum, the Bailey Hortorium at Cornell, the University of Maine, or the Royal Botanic Garden in Edinburgh.

In conjunction with this exhibition, which will be mounted in the barn education building, there are several programs of interest. Jill Weber will give a lecture on the flora of Mount Desert on August 12, Wanda Garland will present a program on native wildflowers on September 16, and a workshop on creating a garden herbarium will take place on August 26. Be sure to make plans to attend one of these programs as well as the exhibition opening on June 29. See Programs & Events for more details.

Past Events

On Friday, October 5, 2012, the Collections Committee held its annual event in the library. Marti Harmon gave a short talk on the history of botanical illustration and assembled an inspiring display of over 40 books from the BFS collection. One of the highlights was Jane Loudon’s rare multi-volume Ladies Flower Garden, a gift from Patrick Chassé. In addition there were several framed prints by Johann Weinmann from the Phytanthoza Iconographia (1737). To request a copy of the handout, “A Short History of Botanical Illustration,” contact library@beatrixfarrandsociety.org Save the date for this year’s event on August 26, which focuses on plant-collecting and creating a personal herbarium.
**Garland Farm in the News**

The Beatrix Farrand Society received welcome news that the Belvedere Fund for Historic Preservation of the Maine Community Foundation had awarded us $7,500 for restoration work at Garland Farm. This grant was recently matched by Dick and Carol Habermann as well as by additional funding from the Maine Community Foundation. Thanks to these funds, work will begin shortly on essential exterior repairs. A big thank you is extended to Betsy Hewlett and Margot Woolley who prepared the successful grant proposal. Betsy and Margot are also working on setting up a new software program that will maintain up-to-date membership records and expedite BFS mailings.

Last summer, the Cultural Landscape Foundation, a national preservation organization based in Washington D.C., commissioned photographs of Garland Farm for Landslide 2012: Landscape and Patronage (http://tclf.org/annual-spotlight/landslide-2012).

Sue Anne Hodges, a photographer based in Massachusetts and Seal Harbor, took a wonderful series of pictures capturing Garland Farm both inside and out. To see her work, visit www.sueannehodges.com/garland-farm and be sure to contact her directly should you wish to purchase any of her photographs. A selection of her photographs of Garland Farm will appear in the April 2013 issue of Garden Design (the final issue of this magazine).

Last year’s acclaimed exhibition, “The Satterlee Garden at Great Head,” has been extended through September 14, 2013, so that new visitors this summer will have an opportunity to learn about this important garden on Mount Desert.

**Thank You!**

As many of you know, the cistern originally in the Terrace Garden was returned last fall just as our newsletter was going to press. That was the good news, but moving the multi-ton lead cistern required a bit of engineering for its journey from Thuya Garden to Garland Farm. Thanks are extended to Dennis Bracale for providing the expertise and manpower to make this happen! Thanks are also extended to Gerry Vasisko who helped with the installation of the Satterlee Garden exhibition at Garland Farm last summer. Thank you also to Shirley Beccue, Carol Habermann, Betsy Hewlett, Carole Plenty, and Lois Berg Stack for their considerable help in organizing and promoting the BFS Seminar on July 27.

---

Visit our website to sign up for E-NEWS and be the first to know all the news.

**www.beatrixfarrandsociety.org**
All programs take place at Garland Farm unless otherwise noted and advance registration is required. To register, contact programs@beatrixfarrandsociety.org or call 207-288-0237 stating the name and date of the program, the number of people attending, and contact information in case of a program change. Check www.beatrixfarrandsociety.org for updates.

Thursday, April 18, 7-9PM
Beatrix Farrand: Private Gardens, Public Landscapes
Judith B Tankard will give the annual Olmsted Lecture for the Maine Historical Society in Portland. This event is co-sponsored by the Beatrix Farrand Society. Copies of her book will be available for purchase and signing. Registration is not required and there is no fee for the event. For more information visit www.mainehistory.org

Monday, June 3, 1-3PM
Workshop on Growing Clematis
Join Cindy and Brian Tibbetts, specialists in clematis and owners of Hummingbird Farm, for a workshop on these special flowering vines. Attendees will learn the basics of growing clematis successfully in home gardens. Plants will be available for sale and a raffle will be held for select plants grown by Hummingbird Farm. Fees: $10 BFS members, $20 non-members. Registration is required: programs@beatrixfarrandsociety.org

Saturday, June 29, 2-5PM
Exhibition Opening
Please join us for the opening of this year’s exhibition on the Reef Point Gardens Herbarium. All are welcome.

Thursday, July 4, through Saturday, September 14, 1-5PM
Open Days at Garland Farm on Thursday and Saturday afternoons

Friday, July 5, 3-5PM
Beatrix Farrand Society’s 10th Anniversary Celebration
Everyone is invited to celebrate the 10th anniversary of the BFS. Refreshments will be served. There is no fee for the event, but registration is required: visit@beatrixfarrandsociety.org

Monday, July 8, 5-7PM
Rosemary Verey: The Life and Lessons of a Legendary Gardener
During a sabbatical year from a law firm, Barbara Paul Robinson worked as a gardener for Rosemary Verey in England. Verey, whose clients ranged from Elton John and H.R.H. Prince Charles, was renowned for her signature English style. Barbara’s new book will be available for purchase and signing. Please note that this event takes place at Neighborhood House in Northeast Harbor. Fees: $10 BFS members, $20 non-members. Registration is required: programs@beatrixfarrandsociety.org

Monday, July 22, 11AM-3PM
The Art of Close-Up Photography in the Garden
Acclaimed photographer Lynn Karlin will lead a photography workshop for beginners and experts alike. Lynn is co-author of Garden Maine Style and her work has appeared in Garden Design, Country Gardens, and Design New England. The four-hour workshop will include a lunch break (an optional box lunch is available for $10). Fees: $65 BFS members, $75 non-members. Registration is required: programs@beatrixfarrandsociety.org

Saturday, July 27, 8:30AM-4PM
Preserving Beatrix Farrand’s Gardens
Join experts for a day-long seminar devoted to the preservation of gardens and landscapes designed by Beatrix Farrand, including Bellefield, Hill-Stead, the Farm House, Abby Aldrich Rockefeller Garden, and Dumbarton Oaks. This event takes place at College of the Atlantic and is co-sponsored by the Garden Conservancy. Advance registration is required (no walk-ins). For program and registration information, visit www.beatrixfarrandsociety.org/seminar.html

Sunday, July 28, 10AM-2PM
Garden Conservancy Bar Harbor Open Day
Kenarden, the Farm House, and Garland Farm are open.

Saturday, August 3, 11-11:50AM
Beatrix Farrand Society Annual Meeting

Saturday, August 3, 11:50AM-12:50PM
Edith Wharton and the Villas of Rome
When CeCe Haydock was a Visiting Scholar at the American Academy in Rome in 2007, she researched the influence of Roman villas on Edith Wharton’s own houses and villas. She lectures widely on historic Italian, French, and American gardens and is principal of Constance T. Haydock, Landscape Architect, P.C., Locust Valley, New York. This lecture follows the BFS Annual Meeting and there is no fee for the event. All are welcome.

Monday, August 12, 1-3PM
Flora of Mount Desert Island: Then and Now
Join Jill Weber, co-author of The Plants of Acadia National Park, for a lecture on the flora of Mount Desert. She will discuss the Champlain Society and early botanical explorations as well as the changes in our flora since then. Copies of her book will be available for purchase and signing. Jill Weber is a biologist and ecologist who has worked in Maine for over twenty years. Fees: $10 BFS members, $20 non-members. Registration is required: programs@beatrixfarrandsociety.org

Monday, August 26, 1-3PM
Creating a Garden Herbarium
This workshop, held in conjunction with the exhibition, will explain the importance of plant-collecting and demonstrate how to make your personal herbarium. There is no fee for this event, but registration is required: library@beatrixfarrandsociety.org

Monday, September 16, 1-3PM
Native Wildflowers of Summer and Fall
Wanda Garland will present a program on traditional uses of wildflowers for medicinal purposes as well as for making and dyeing fabrics. She will also cover ecosystem relationships and specific habitats for finding different species, from rare orchids to common flowers. Fees: $10 BFS members, $20 non-members. Registration is required: programs@beatrixfarrandsociety.org
**Other News & Events**

Donald Edward Smith (1928-2012) died on October 26, 2012, in Bangor, Maine. He was best known for his longtime association with Dumbarton Oaks in Washington, D.C. After receiving a B.S. in horticulture from the University of Maine, Orono, he began his career at Reef Point before heading to Dumbarton Oaks, where he was a gardener and later superintendent of grounds. After his retirement in 1992, he returned to Bar Harbor and lived on Hancock Street, within the shadow of Reef Point, where he had once weeded and done other manual chores under the watchful eye of Beatrix Farrand.

On March 8, Dumbarton Oaks held an all-day colloquium, “Working with Farrand/Farrand at Work.” Speakers included Dennis Bracale on the Rockefeller Garden, Patrick Chassé on Chiltern, Judith Tankard on Reef Point, Michael Van Valkenburgh on his firm’s work at Princeton University, among other experts. For information, visit www.doaks.org

On April 27, the Dumbarton Oaks Park Conservancy is holding its Celebration of the Park, a day-long event to celebrate the many ways the Park enriches our lives. On May 11, the Park will be included in the Georgetown Garden Club Garden Tour. For further details, visit www.dopark.org

On June 2, the Beatrix Farrand Garden Association is sponsoring a lecture by Rick Darke on “The Wild Garden.” A renowned author, photographer, and landscape consultant, Darke will present his recently expanded edition of William Robinson’s influential book, *The Wild Garden*, first published in 1870. This book brings Robinson’s groundbreaking text to a new generation of gardeners with new color photographs that show Robinson’s early ideas for sustainable landscape practices. The lecture will be held at 2PM at the Wallace Visitor Center in Hyde Park, New York. For more information, www.beatrixfarrandgarden.org

The Bar Harbor Garden Club hosts its Island Gardens Tour on Sunday, July 14, 10AM-4PM. For further details, www.barharborgardenclub.com

On Wednesday, July 17, Patrick Chassé, who played a major role in the restoration of Asticou Azalea Garden, Thuya Garden, and the Abby Aldrich Rockefeller Garden, will give a lecture on Mount Desert’s heritage gardens. The lecture is at 6PM at the Northeast Harbor Library and is sponsored by the Land & Garden Preserve. For details, visit www.gardenpreserve.org

The Mount Desert Island Historical Society www.mdihistory.org is hosting a new exhibition this summer, “Shifting Gears: How the Automobile Transformed Mount Desert Island.” The exhibition can be viewed from June 21 until October 4. Save the Date: Strawberry Festival on July 9.

---

**Open Days at Garland Farm**

Garland Farm will be open between 1PM and 5PM on Thursday and Saturday afternoons beginning July 4 until September 14. Please join us for informal tours of the house, library, and grounds. No reservations are necessary.

To volunteer, please contact volunteers@beatrixfarrandsociety.org
Plant Profile: Saxifraga x macnabiana

By Carolyn Hollenbeck

Not only did Beatrix Farrand plant tiny Saxifraga x macnabiana in both the Terrace Garden and the Entrance Garden at Garland Farm, a voucher specimen in the Reef Point Gardens Herbarium collection confirms that it was at Reef Point also. Saxifraga x macnabiana, a small Alpine plant, belongs to the family Saxifragaceae. The name Saxifraga, derived from the Latin saxum (rock) and frango (to break), refers to the ancient use of the plant to treat kidney stones. Saxifraga x macnabiana (MacNab's Saxifrage) was an accidental cross discovered in the garden of horticulturist and botanist, James MacNab (1810-1878).

The 2" rosette foliage of Saxifraga x macnabiana is evergreen, with thick tongue-shaped leaves. Edges are frosted with silvery marks of calcium carbonate filling the pores of the leaf margins. These leaf secretions are responsible for the name “encrusted” or “silver” Saxifraga. Highly perfumed, ½’ flowers have flat petals spotted with red flecks, rising 15" above the basal foliage.

Saxifraga x macnabiana is difficult to locate or propagate. Even under good growing conditions, erratic seed germination may take up to 60 days and then may not come true. Propagation from offsets or division is another option. Specimens should be planted in sandy loam mixed with peat and grit. Borders, rock gardens, or containers are suitable site locations. Soil must be moist at all times, but avoid overwatering. Bright light is needed, yet hours of direct sunlight should be limited. Pests of Saxifraga x macnabiana include spider mites, whitefly, and mealy bugs.

Although challenging to grow, Saxifraga x macnabiana is a beautiful little plant to discover in a garden. Farrand planted it next to the path in the Entrance Garden and outside the door of her suite in the Terrace Garden, where she could easily see it. At Reef Point, however, the small plant was located next to the Gardener's Cottage, allowing others the opportunity to enjoy Mac Nab's Saxifrage.

The Quotable Gardener

“The beautiful details of structure and marking in such plants as the silvery Saxifragas can be [best] seen in a wall”

Gertrude Jekyll, Wall and Water Gardens, 1901

The Beatrix Farrand Society
Annual Membership Dues

- New Membership $35
- Renewal $35
- Individual Membership $35
- Family/Household Membership $50
- Organization $100
- Sponsor $250
- Patron $500
- Benefactor $1,000
- Plus this tax-deductible gift for the Society $______

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: members@beatrixfarrandsociety.org  Thank You!
Preserving Beatrix Farrand’s Gardens

The Beatrix Farrand Society is hosting a one-day seminar on Saturday, July 27, 2013, devoted to the preservation of historic gardens designed by Beatrix Farrand. The seminar takes place at Gates Auditorium, College of the Atlantic, 105 Eden Street, Bar Harbor, from 8:30AM to 4PM, followed by a reception at Garland Farm from 4:30-6PM.

Speakers include Paula Deitz, whose appreciation of America’s historic gardens was sparked by the 1980 Dumbarton Oaks Colloquium on Beatrix Farrand. Gail Griffin, Director of Gardens at Dumbarton Oaks, will share new techniques to preserve, restore, and rebuild a nationally prominent garden that is almost 100 years old. Ann Aldrich and Rebecca Trafton will present the challenges of restoring Farrand’s best-known naturalistic garden through the work of the newly formed Dumbarton Oaks Park Conservancy. Carole Plenty, Executive Director, Land & Garden Preserve, will discuss how three generations of the Rockefeller family have successfully balanced cultural preservation and garden evolution at the Abby Aldrich Rockefeller Garden. Other speakers include Katherine H. Kerin on Bellefield, Elizabeth Mills on her Bar Harbor garden, and Melanie Anderson Bourbeau on the sunken garden at Hill-Stead. Joining us will be Bill Noble, Director of Preservation Projects for the Garden Conservancy, who share some of the lessons learned about the transition from private to public gardens and their inevitable changes. He will also lead a roundtable discussion at the end of the day.

The day includes a buffet lunch and refreshment breaks as well as an afternoon reception at Garland Farm to enjoy the grounds, library, and exhibitions. Carolyn Hollenbeck will be on hand to show visitors the newly restored Terrace Garden. This seminar is co-sponsored by the Garden Conservancy with additional support from the Beatrix Farrand Garden Association, Dumbarton Oaks Park Conservancy, Hill-Stead Museum, and the Land & Garden Preserve.

The Garden Conservancy is hosting a Bar Harbor Open Day on Sunday, July 28, 10AM-2PM, with an opportunity to visit Garland Farm, Kenarden, and the Farm House. For more information, www.gardenconservancy.org.

Advance registration is required for this seminar and walk-ins cannot be accommodated. To register, please mail in the attached form or register online www.beatrixfarrandsociety.org/seminar.html. Additional information about the program, lodging, directions, area attractions, and accessibility is also available on the website.
“There are rewards as great even as landing on the moon, I assure you,” Frederick G. Meyer, Curator of the Herbarium at the National Arboretum, wrote in 1976. Dr. Meyer was referring to how scientists risk life and limb to discover new plants and ingeniously preserve and return the specimens to their laboratories and museums in Wardian Cases. If you are wondering what a Wardian Case is, visit the library and consult Philip Short’s book, *The Pursuit of Plants: Experiences of Nineteenth and Early Twentieth Century Plant Collectors* (pages 329-34).

Beatrix Farrand’s personal reference library (known as the Morning Room List) reflects a significant interest in botanical research and taxonomy. She collected the works of several botanists, including Liberty Hyde Bailey who wrote *How Plants Get Their Names, Hortus, The Cultivated Evergreens, The Cultivated Conifers*, and the three-volume *Standard Cyclopedia of Horticulture*. She also had eight titles by Charles Sprague Sargent, copies of Edgar Wherry’s *Guide to Eastern Ferns and Wild Flowers of Mount Desert*, plus Asa Gray’s *Manual of Botany*, which is considered the standard text.

Farrand also collected works of the great plant explorers, such as E. H. Wilson. The Library has copies of *The Cherries of Japan, A Monograph on Azaleas, The Lilies of Eastern Asia, and America’s Greatest Garden: The Arnold Arboretum*. She owned copies of F. Kingdon-Ward’s *Assam Adventure, A Plant Hunter in Tibet, From China to Ohkamti Long*, and *The Romance of Plant Hunting*. She collected numerous volumes on the flora of the world and had historical references, such as Agnes Arber’s *Herbals, Their Origin and Evolution: A History of Botany from 1470 to 1670* and the three-volume classic by Richard Duppa, *Classes and Orders of Linnaean System of Botany*. One of her treasures was an early edition of John Gerard’s *Herball* (1636), but above all was her Reef Point Gardens Herbarium (now at the University of California, Berkeley), which reflects her understanding of botanical science—systematics, taxonomy, phylogeny and morphology.

To learn more about plant collecting and how to make your own personal herbarium, plan to attend our workshop on August 26.