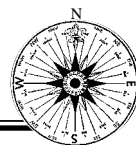


Summer 2009

# The Beatrix Farrand Society NEWS



## Beatrix Farrand Society Officers:

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## Advisors:

Eleanor Ames

Judith Burger-Gossart

Gilbert Butler

Patrick Chassé

Carolyn Hollenbeck

Carole Plenty

Beth Straus

## To Visit Garland Farm:

Contact the docent  
coordinator  
(207-276-5034) or log on to  
[www.beatrixfarrandsociety.org](http://www.beatrixfarrandsociety.org)  
and click on the Visit link  
to request a tour.

## Master Gardeners Return to Garland Farm

By Carolyn Hollenbeck

Hancock County Master Gardener Volunteers Anne Chappe, Lynn Cheney, and Carolyn Hollenbeck have returned to Garland Farm to complete the relocation of plants from the Terrace Garden to the holding bed. They are currently in the process of moving plant material from the edge beds next to the Farrand and Walter suites as well as along the fence. Plants relocated from the interior beds last season (listed as Beds 1–4 and 7–9 in the *Cultural Landscape Report*, 2006) are flourishing and blooming profusely. Their goal is to relocate the remaining plants by the end of June 2009. They continue to care for the lavender, calluna, erica, and clematis collections that will remain in the Terrace Garden and are also maintaining the relocated material.



The Terrace Garden team: Lynn Cheney (left), Carolyn Hollenbeck (center), and Anne Chappe (right).

Jan McIntyre



Holding bed with historic *Cerastium tomentosum* in foreground. Carolyn Hollenbeck

restoration (photographs, sketches, plant lists, and task notes) will be available in the library at Garland Farm by this fall. Also included in the documentation are photographs of specific plants in bloom each month. Watch for a selection of these to be posted on the BFS web site shortly.

Please plan on visiting Garland Farm this season to witness the progress on the restoration of Beatrix Farrand's gardens.



Holding bed with iris and *Euphorbia cyparissias*. Carolyn Hollenbeck

## 2009 BFS Lectures and Events

- **Wednesday, July 8: Beatrix Farrand's Birthday Celebration 3 PM to 5 PM**

Be sure to attend this special day at Garland Farm in honor of Beatrix Farrand's birthday. There is no charge of the event, but donations and gifts are welcome.

- **Saturday, July 18: Flower Arranging for Special Occasions 10 AM to 12 noon**

Mount Desert's leading professional flower arranger, Betsy Rawley, will show how to make several special arrangements for the home. Raffle tickets for these arrangements will be available for purchase. Fees \$10 BFS members, \$15 non-members

- **Saturday, August 1: BFS Annual Meeting and Lecture 10 AM to 12:30 PM**

Join us for the Annual Meeting, followed by a slide lecture by Theresa Mattor, coauthor of *Designing the Maine Landscape*, showing some of Maine's historic landscapes. There will be a reception and book-signing following the lecture. There is no charge for this event

- **Wednesday, August 5: Fix-it Day at Garland Farm 9 AM to 1 PM**

- **Saturday, August 15: Lecture on Perennials 10 AM to 12 noon**

Bill Cullina, garden curator of the Coastal Maine Botanical Gardens, returns to Garland Farm for a lecture on his new book, *Understanding Perennials: A New Look at an Old Favorite*. There will be a book-signing following the lecture. Fees \$10 BFS members, \$15 non-members

*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.*

## In the News

Garland Farm was prominently featured in *The Ellsworth American* and the *Mount Desert Islander* on April 30, 2009. The article, "Beatrix Farrand Society Restores American Designer's Last Home and Garden," details the restoration of the Terrace Garden, including the role of the Hancock County Master Gardeners who are following the recommendations set forth in the *Cultural Landscape Report*. BFS president Jim Fuchs was quoted: "I believe it's a precedent-setting report. No other gardens on Mount Desert Island have had one done." The color photographs alone should entice new visitors to Garland Farm this summer.

A number of tours have been booked for the 2009 season. Special visitors have already included the Hancock County Master Gardeners and a group from Japan. When the Japanese visitors looked at a picture in the *Cultural Landscape Report* of the Buddhist statue in the Terrace Garden, they commented that it was not Kuan Yin, but Miroku Bosatsu, the Goddess of the Future. We are grateful for this new information.

The new BFS web site has generated several interesting responses, including one from Kelly Reed, a student in landscape architecture at the University of Virginia and a resident on MDI, who wrote an article about Reef Point for Wikipedia, the Internet encyclopedia. To read it, click on [http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Reef\\_Point\\_Estate](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Reef_Point_Estate).



*Hancock County Master Gardeners visit Garland Farm, May 27, 2009. Sue Baez*

One of Beatrix's choice commissions, the Santa Barbara Botanic Garden in California, sustained significant damage when the Jesusita Fire rampaged down Mission Canyon "like a blow torch" on May 6, 2009. The core of the garden was saved (including the Blaksley Library), but some of the living collections, exhibitions, and buildings were lost. After a brief closure, the garden has now reopened. For details, visit [www.sbbg.org](http://www.sbbg.org).

## Past Events: Fran West Spring Pruning Workshop



*Spring Pruning Workshop, May 20, 2009.  
Emily Fuchs*

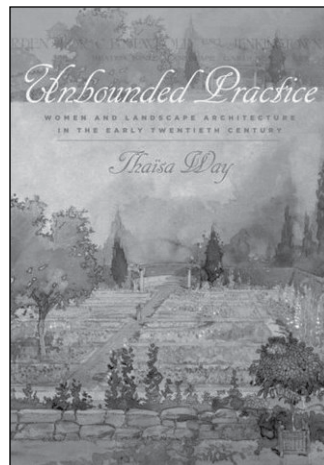
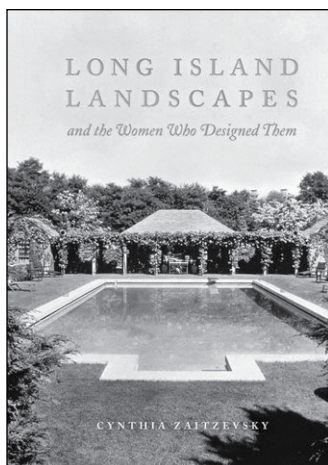
Fran West opened the 2009 BFS programs on May 20<sup>th</sup> with her popular pruning workshop. She began her presentation with an indoor session on the art of naturalistic pruning by showing examples of how to bring plants back to their proper scale as well as how to make them look more attractive. In the outdoor portion of the workshop, she demonstrated her pruning tools (nothing electric) and encouraged everyone to prune some of the overgrown azaleas. After the workshop, Fran tackled the venerable *Rhododendron wilsonii*, named after Ernest Wilson, who discovered it in 1900 in the Hubei (Hupei) province in China. This rhododendron had outgrown its space on the right side of the entrance garden and it will be pruned more over the next few years to return it to its proper size.



## Summer Reading

Although summer is not the best time to read serious books about landscape history, there are two new publications that are worth setting aside for a rainy day. *Unbounded Practice: Women and Landscape Architecture in the Early Twentieth Century* by Thaisa Way (University of Virginia Press) provides a thoughtful discussion of the emergence of women in the profession of landscape architecture. Farrand played a major role, but it is enlightening to learn about other important designers and how they compared with Farrand. The author provides an excellent synopsis of Farrand's training, design style, and working methods by highlighting several well-known commissions. A more detailed look at Farrand's work and that of other women is the focus of *Long Island Landscapes and the Women Who Designed Them* by Cynthia Zaitzevsky (W. W. Norton). From 1900 until the 1940s, Long Island was a hotbed of estate building, and Farrand was one of the major landscape designers. Some of key clients were Otto Kahn, Dorothy Straight, Edward Whitney, Percy Chubb, and others. This lavishly illustrated volume focuses on six key players, including Marian Coffin, Ellen Shipman, and Beatrix Farrand, and a number of other lesser-known figures.

Two major books on Beatrix Farrand are scheduled for publication this fall. *The Collected Writings of Beatrix Farrand: American Landscape Gardener (1872–1959)* by Carmen Pearson (University Press of New England) is a most welcome collection of Farrand's oft-quoted writings, including the text of her unpublished garden notebook of 1893–95. Also included are articles about campus work, garden design, landscape design as a profession, and favorite plants. BFS Board Member Judith Tankard's *Beatrix Farrand: Private Gardens, Public Landscapes* (Monacelli Press) re-evaluates Farrand's career and highlights some of her recently restored gardens, including Garland Farm. A reception and book-launch is scheduled for October 9 at Garland Farm.



## Plant Profile: *Prunus sargentii*

By Carolyn Hollenbeck

Visitors to Garland Farm in early May are enchanted by the sight of the Sargent Cherry (*Prunus sargentii*) in full bloom. Located in the Entrance Garden and towering over the Farrand addition, this magnificent tree is listed in the 2005–06 *Maine Register of Big Trees*. Named for Charles Sprague Sargent (1841–1927) and native to Japan, *Prunus sargentii* is considered to be the hardiest cherry tree.



*Sargent Cherry at Garland Farm.*  
Carolyn Hollenbeck

Useful in both urban and home landscapes, it thrives as a street tree, in buffer strips surrounding parking lots, and in highway medians. Beautiful structure, bark, spring flowers, and fall color provide four-season interest

for any garden located in zones 5 through 8A. The only requirements are full sun and an acid, well-drained soil. The dense canopy makes this a perfect shade tree.

*Prunus sargentii* belongs to Class *Magnoliopsida* (Dicots) and the Family *Rosaceae* (Rose) and Subfamily *Prunoideae*. Growing to a height of 20 to 40 feet, the tree has a symmetrical canopy that can spread as wide as the tree is tall. The bark is an attractive polished cinnamon color, with prominent, horizontal lenticels (small pores or lines on stems providing the interchange of gases). The showy, pink flowers on short pedicels (small stalks) bloom in spring before the new red-tinged leaves appear.

The flowers give way to inconspicuous dark purple fruit that provides a summertime treat for birds. Shiny dark leaves, 2 to 5 inches long, are alternate, simple, and oval with serrate margins. Fall coloration ranges from yellow to orange and red.



*Some of the showy pink flowers.*  
Carolyn Hollenbeck

Propagation of the Sargent Cherry is possible from seed after two or three months of cold stratification or by softwood cuttings in spring or by half-ripe wood with a heel in summer (a sliver of older wood adhering to the cutting). Pests of the Sargent Cherry include aphids, borers, scale, and tent caterpillars. The tree is also susceptible to Verticillium Wilt and will not tolerate smog. The longevity of the Champion tree at Garland Farm demonstrates its ability to withstand most of the issues that might affect this species.

### *The Quotable Gardener*

*"It is a never-failing source of wonderment . . . that countless plants from such widely different parts of the world flourish in our gardens as though in their natural haunts." Eleanour Sinclair Robde, 1934*

# From the Library Shelves

By Marti Harmon

Beatrix Farrand's library was extensive and varied, from French and Italian classics to contemporary authors of scholarly books on garden design and nature. Her favorite books were kept in the morning room at Reef Point where she could easily refer to them. The library at Garland Farm is fortunate to have her original Reef Point book lists which are useful for our goals of trying to replicate her collection.

We recently received from Judith Tankard a wonderful book that was in Farrand's Morning Room Collection, *Gardens of Delight* by Eleanour Sinclair Rohde (Medici Society, 1934). It contains month-by-month chapters about Rohde's garden in Surrey, England, as well as musings on various aspects of nature: "June, the festal month of roses, is also the month of the loveliest blue flowers—the towering spires of delphinium, ranging from azure blue to mauve, deep violet and petunia, the lowlier belladonna hybrids (still amongst the most beautiful of blue flowers), the powder-blue bells of *Campanula persicifolia* Telham Beauty, swaying on tall slender stems, and the blue Himalayan poppies, nodding their silken cups in the half light of a cool glade." She lists fourteen varieties of meconopsis, describing the best locale and conditions for growth of these semi-wild, yet delicate plants, and adds a

little history about their discovery.

For those interested in blue flowers, *A Book of Blue Flowers* by Robert Geneve (Timber Press, 2006) might stir your fancy. Geneve lists four meconopsis that are appropriate for our North American climate: *M. betonicifolia*, *M. grandis*, *M. horridula*, and *M. x sheldonii*. The book contains a glossary, photographs, and lists of specific planting sites for over 150 blue flowers. Thanks to Deborah Cravey for this donation.

*Flowers by Color*, edited by Mary Moody (Mallard Press, 1990), is a good reference for all colors. Arranged alphabetically by flower (including a good photograph of each one), the book also has indexes, zone maps, a glossary, and lists of synonyms, botanical names, and common names. This book was a gift from Howard Monroe.

Eleanour Rohde had specific ideas about her garden in July. She wrote, "I have come to the conclusion that the most effective way of growing [annuals] is to plant them posy-fashion, so that when in flower the bed looks like an old-fashioned posy of mixed flowers, and all different colours." She also preferred annuals with interesting seed pods, such as *Nigella hispanica* and larkspur. The chapter for August includes some scholarly observations about garden plants used in the Middle Ages that thrive in rural cottage gardens, such as mandrake, germander, sweet cicely, dittany, elecampne (*Inula belenium*), and woad. Her book is certainly a delight.