

By Judith B. Tankard

Beatrix Farrand Society

Officers:

President-

... James Fuchs

1st Vice President-

... Richard Crawford

2nd Vice President-

... Diane K. McGuire

Secretary

... Howard Monroe

Treasurer-

... Lee Patterson

Directors:

... Patrick Chassé

... Richard Crawford

... Emily Fuchs

... James Fuchs

... Robert Golden

... Arthur Keller

... Scott Koniecko

... Isabel Mancinelli

... Diane K. McGuire

... Howard Monroe

... Lee Patterson

... Bruce Riddell

... Judith Tankard

Advisors:

... Eleanor Ames

... Peggy Bowditch

... Gilbert Butler

... Marti Harmon

... Carol Plenty

... Elizabeth Moore

... Lois Berg Stack

... Beth Straus

Newsletter Editor:

Judith Tankard

Editor@BeatrixFarrand.org

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

Beatrix Farrand Society

P.O. Box 111

Mt. Desert, ME 04660

e-mail:

info@BeatrixFarrand.org

website:

www.BeatrixFarrand.org

Phone: (207) 288-0237

or (288-0BFS)

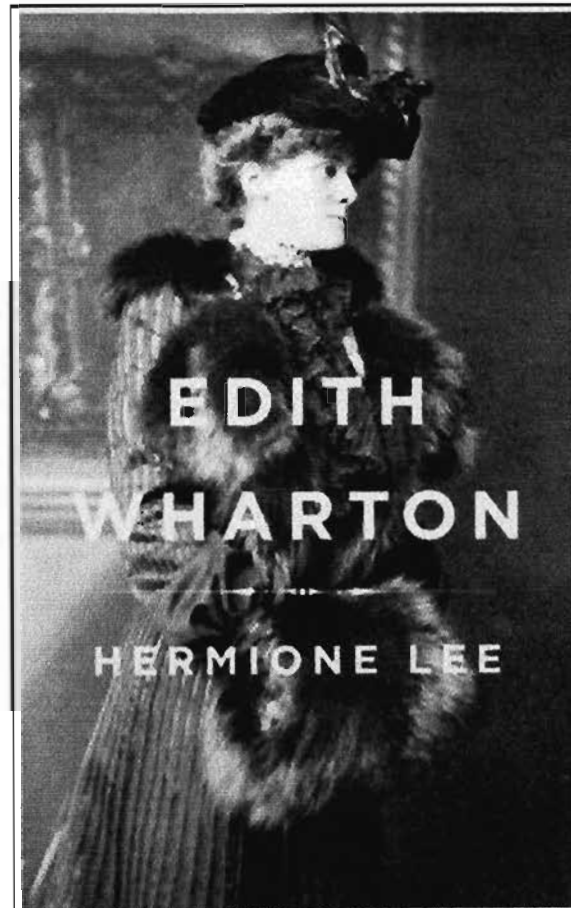
Winter Reading

Cold winter evenings are the perfect time to catch up with those piles of books that we all have been promising ourselves to read when we "have time." Here are a few suggestions for some new books that definitely deserve a place near the top of those piles. Jack Staub's new book, *75 Remarkable Fruits for Your Garden* (Gibbs Smith, 2008) is a follow-up to his previous book, *75 Exciting Vegetables for Your Garden*. Jack, a well-known gardener and speaker, gave an unforgettable lecture at Garland Farm in 2006 on the art of vegetable gardening, followed by a workshop on bamboo trellis design and construction. We hope to welcome Jack back for another lecture soon.

Bill Cullina, another popular BFS speaker, also has a new book, *Native Ferns, Moss, and Grasses: From Emerald Carpet to Amber Wave, Serene and Sensuous Plants for the Garden* (Houghton Mifflin, 2008). This book completes a set of stunning volumes on native plants for the garden, including *Wildflowers and Native Trees, Shrubs, and Vines*. Cullina's entertaining style and encyclopedic knowledge about plants and propagation is matchless.

BFS member Eleanor Dwight, who contributed an article to the Summer 2007 issue of *Beatrix Farrand Society News* recently wrote about one of Beatrix Farrand's Bar Harbor clients, Mrs. Potter Palmer. *Letters of Pauline Palmer 1908-1926: A Great Lady of Chicago's First Family* (MTT Scala, 2006) provides insight into the leisurely upper-class life of Chicago's elite and an intimate portrait of travel, society, and home life. As always with Ellie's books, there is a wonderful array of photographs that illustrate the book.

Hermione Lee's exhaustive biography, *Edith Wharton* (Knopf, 2007), is essential reading not only for Wharton fans, but for dedicated Farrand aficionados who love to comb indexes and notes for new bits of information. Lee, whose other books include a major biography of Virginia Woolf, is a professor of English literature at Oxford University and a respected scholar. Although Lee's book does not replace the earlier R. W. B Lewis and Shari Benstock biographies, it augments the life of this remarkable woman.



In a lighter vein, the English garden historian Toby Musgrave's *The Head Gardeners* (Aurum, 2007) looks into the fascinating subject of the great head gardeners of British country houses in the early twentieth century. These were men of character who educated themselves in botany, plant breeding, surveying and the like to manage large estates. In addition to the cultivation of flowers and vegetables, land management, and greenhouse culture, they also were responsible for exhibiting prize-winning plants at horticultural shows.

For a truly sumptuous read, I can highly recommend Allyson Hayward's new book on *Norah Lindsay: The Life and Art of a Garden Designer* (Frances Lincoln, 2007). An almost exact contemporary of Beatrix Farrand, Norah turned to garden design in mid-life when her marriage collapsed. Her legendary gardens for her own intimate social circle, which included the leading aristocrats of Britain, were based on her extraordinary flower borders that rivaled Jekyll's. Allyson pieced together the elusive story of Norah's life and career through reams of personal letters. The book is illustrated with vintage images of Norah, her friends, and her


continued on p.2

Winter Reading, cont.

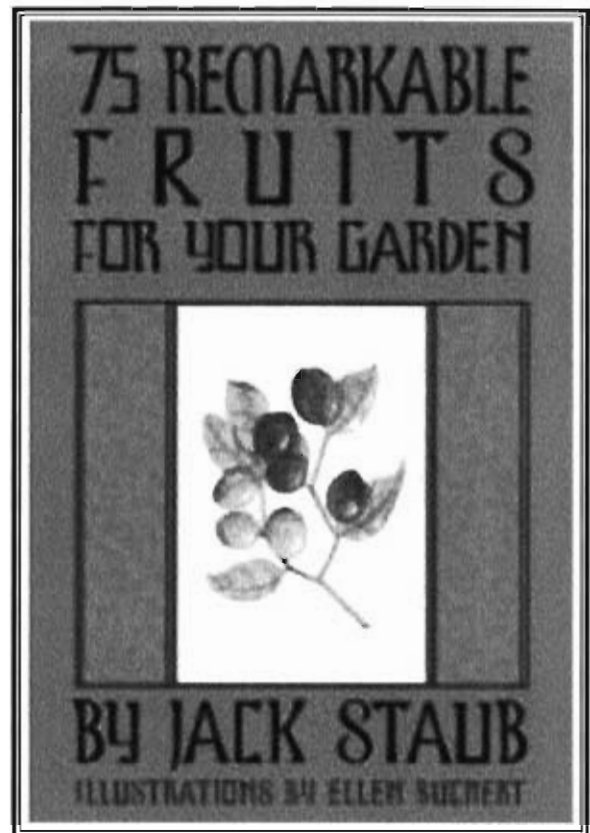
gardens as well as contemporary pictures of surviving gardens (mostly owned by The National Trust) that are open to the public.

Norah's daughter Nancy Lindsay, who made her name as a plant explorer rather than a garden designer, played a role in one of the most famous gardens in England, Lawrence Johnston's Hidcote, a jewel in the crown of The National Trust. To celebrate the 100th anniversary of this garden, there are two new books: Graham Pearson's *Hidcote: The Garden and Lawrence Johnston* (The National Trust, 2007) and Fred Whitsey's *The Garden at Hidcote* (Frances Lincoln, 2007). It is possible that Farrand may have seen this garden in its early stages on one of her annual trips to England with her mother. Known for its hedged enclosures and color-themed borders, Hidcote drew its inspiration from Italian, French, and English sources, just as Farrand did in her own work. If you are inspired to visit Hidcote and other English gardens after reading these books, consider joining a garden tour to England in late May 2008 led by Judith Tankard. Log on to www.jeffsainsburytours.com/Arts+Crafts2008.html for details.

Fans of Italian gardens will enjoy Helena Artlee's *Italian Gardens: A Cultural History* (Frances Lincoln, 2006), illustrated with glorious color plates of paintings and contemporary photographs by Alex Ramsey. From Petrarch to Russell Page, this book is a wonderful introduction to Italian gardens based on considerable scholarship. A number of the gardens that Farrand visited in 1895, such as the Villa Aldobrandini, Boboli Garden, Isola Madre, Villa Lante, Villa Gamberaia, and others, are included.

And, finally, on this side of the pond, there's an excellent book that should be required reading for visitors to Maine. *Maine Cottages: Fred L. Savage and the Architecture of Mount Desert* (Princeton Architectural Press, 2005) by John M. Bryan and photographer Richard Cheek explores the work of the inventive architect, and friend of Beatrix Farrand, who left his imprint primarily on Northeast Harbor, notably the Asticou Inn and numerous private summer cottages. 

All of these books are available from your local bookseller, or from Amazon.com.



Recent Garland Farm Visitors

Elizabeth Barlow Rogers, founder of the Central Park Conservancy and the Foundation for Landscape Studies, paid a visit to Garland Farm last summer with Jack Lenor Larsen. "Preserving Garland Farm is the next best thing to having Reef Point intact," she said. She expressed her hope that the BFS could resurrect the garden and open the house to the public. "It is a part of the great legacy Farrand left in Bar Harbor." In her book, *Landscape Design: A Cultural and Architectural History* (Abrams, 2001), Rogers explained that long sojourns at Reef Point had nourished Farrand's love of gardens and fostered her desire to become a landscape gardener.

BFS Library News...

On January 18, 2008, the Library and Archives Committee met to discuss the classification system for the shelving of the BFS's 2,000 books so that they will be easily accessible to future library users. Diane McGuire, Chair of the Collections Committee, was assisted by Marti Harmon, Chair of the Library, Patrick Chassé, Chair of the Archives; and Judith Tankard. Other committee members who were unable to attend are Isabel Mancinelli and Bob Golden. Bob Golden has been instrumental in computer data entry for the volumes which are largely gifts from BFS members and others. Bob has also been involved in a separate library project, listing the 800 book titles that constituted Farrand's working library at Reef Point. The BFS is presently trying to reconstruct this collection of books for Garland Farm, since the originals were part of Farrand's donation to the University of California at Berkeley in the 1950s. Donations to the library are always welcome.

For further information, please contact info@BeatrixFarrand.org



From the Library Shelves

Beatrix Farrand's Morning Room at Reef Point was filled with hundreds of useful books on landscape design, horticulture, gardens, and garden design history. Many were classics from the British Isles, including copies of all of William Robinson's and Gertrude Jekyll's popular books. Farrand's working library also had numerous large illustrated volumes that were excellent design resources, such as books by Thomas Mawson, Avray Tipping, and H. Inigo Triggs. One of the most important was Gertrude Jekyll's *Garden Ornament*, published by Country Life in 1918. It is a compendium of large photographs of details, such as trellage, pergolas, gates, loggias, urns, steps, paving, and other features drawn mostly from British gardens. Brief captions by Jekyll address the merits or failings of some of these ornaments. Never a fan of ivy, Jekyll writes: "The ivy on the wall is here permissible, but should not be allowed to encroach further." The volume was reissued in 1927 in an expanded edition with coauthor Christopher Hussey, but the first edition, which was in Farrand's library, better reflects Jekyll's wise design critiques.

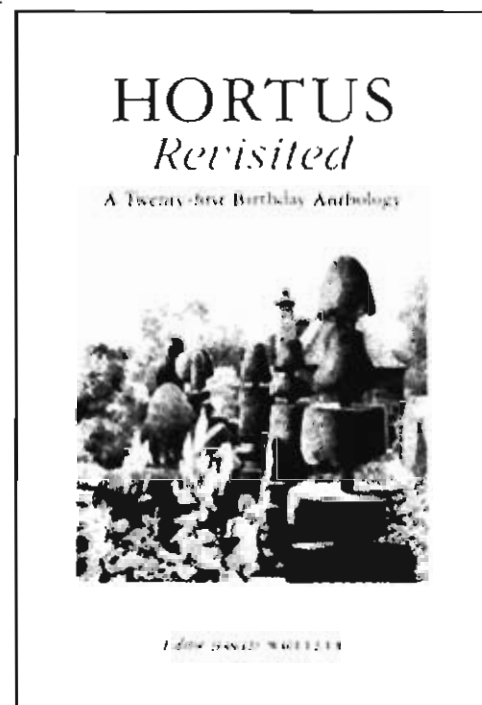


In the News...



Former BFS president Patrick Chassé recently won the prestigious Landscape Design Award from the New England Wildflower Society, in recognition of his longtime use of native plants in his distinctive landscape compositions. Patrick's dual background in landscape architecture and botany allows him to understand plant communities in any region and to create works that are sympathetic both aesthetically and ecologically. *Down East Magazine* dubbed him "Garden Guru" for the award, noting also that he is considered the Sherlock Holmes of the garden world because of his penchant for combing musty records and the like to recreate gardens from the past.

An article on Garland Farm by Beatrix Farrand Society NEWS editor, Judith Tankard, appears in the Winter 2008 number of *Hortus*, a gardening journal from the UK. Log on to www.hortus.co.uk to read excerpts from the article or borrow a copy from a friendly subscriber. Judith, who is a frequent contributor to *Hortus*, is included in *Hortus Revisited: A Twenty-first Birthday Anthology* recently published by Frances Lincoln.



THE QUOTABLE GARDENER.....

"We all know that education is by no means a mere matter of books,"

Beatrix Farrand, 1926



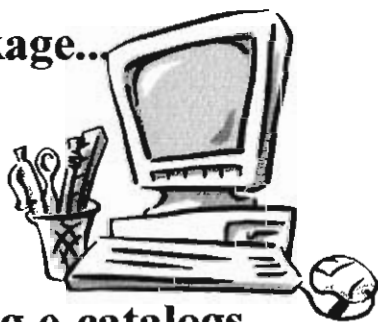
2007 Annual Appeal Success by James Fuchs, President BFS

I extend special thanks to the more than 70 Members and Friends of the Beatrix Farrand Society who contributed to our 2007 Year End Solicitation. The goal of this drive was to raise funds to pay a BFS Director, based at Garland Farm. A significant portion of the money raised this year was given with a request to establish a Director for 2008. The remainder will be added to the special Endowment Fund for the long-term support of a Full Time Director. The activities of the society are reaching a state of complexity that requires the presence of an on-site Director.

The Collections Committee (Diane McGuire, Chair) is presently classifying the over 2,000 volumes in our library, which is expected to be open weekly at regular hours this summer. The Facilities Committee (Scott Koniacko, Chair) is overseeing the conversion of the Barn to a handicapped accessible, modern educational facility. The Landscape and Garden Committee (Patrick Chassé, Chair) will start the rehabilitation of the Farrand Gardens according to the schedule and plan created with Pressley Associates. The overlapping of indoor and outdoor activities offers exciting changes for the BFS Members and the public to enjoy in the coming season.

The presence of an on-site Director will enhance the efficiency of these activities and increase the opportunity to appreciate the importance of Beatrix Farrand and the beauty of her last design achievements at Garland Farm. Only with such generous gifts from BFS donors and supporters is the Board able to begin the search for a Director. We are grateful and thank you all!

Linkage...



Using e-catalogs saves

paper and postage. Try web-browsing for new plants this year.

www.charleysgreenhouse.com

Greenhouses & gardening

www.johnnyseeds.com

Maine select & organic seeds

www.johnscheepers.com

Bulbs of all kinds

www.kitchengardenseeds.com

Vegetable, herb, & flower seeds

www.norganics.com

Natural garden & land supplies

www.oakesdaylilies.com

4000+ daylily varieties

www.rareseeds.com

Non-treated, non-hybrid, non-patented...

www.tomatogrowers.com

Amazing tomato varieties

www.waysidegardens.com

A classic: something for everyone...

Send us your favorites:
Editor@BeatrixFarrand.org

Deepest Thanks for local Business Support for Fix-it Day '07: goes to these friends.....

Gott & Sons for donating materials and expertise for the installation of a gate and lifting the cupola up onto the barn at Garland Farm

Al Jensen for reinstalling the cupola on the barn

Salisbury Hardware for donating ProMix, and providing labor and materials to reglaze the workshop windows.

Gray's Lawn Service

Michael and Fayelle Anderson of August Moon Caterers

for donating refreshments and muffins for our lecture programs and annual meeting

Town Hill Market for donating muffins for Fix-It Day

JRS Builders for donating labor for fixing the bathroom

Savage Tree Service for removing dead larch and stump

And special thanks to **Caroline Felkel** for donating her time, cooking expertise, and the food for Fix-It Day '07.

Member Updates and Renewal

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