

YADDO GARDEN ASSOCIATION POTPOURRI

FALL 2015

Margaret Jacobson: Editor

“Let us be grateful to the people who make us happy .They are the gardeners who make our spirits blossom” - Marcel Proust



Those of you who have visited the Yaddo gardens on the volunteer work days this year, as in the past, may have noticed the cheerful people who work among the flowers there. These are the dedicated members of our community who bring us the joy that helps us face each new day with renewed appreciation. In this bulletin of news of the Yaddo Gardens we will fill you in on the growing season here this year that has renewed this blossoming both of the flowers and those who work among them.

PROTECTING THE GARDENS



Observant callers to the gardens may have noticed two new visitors lately. Two decoy coyote statues have been discreetly placed in areas where they are not conspicuous in a creative attempt to

add to our deer deterrent program in the garden. They may not be as effective as we hope them to be but they do make the volunteers who work so hard to maintain the gardens feel that their flowering charges are being protected. You can't say we are not trying!

From this note you may have realized that, although it has improved, the deer problem is continuing in spite of our best efforts. The Horticulture Committee will be hanging the bag type deterrents soon and continuing use of them during the winter. Additional options are being considered and will be noted in the spring issue of the Potpourri.

On a more encouraging note, a representative from the Bobbex Company met with the YGA in July to help assess the use of their product. Bobbex is one of the products being used to repel deer. Mr. Ecsidy was impressed with what is being done with Bobbex here and as a result donated \$864.00 worth of Bobbex products for use in the gardens as a deer repellent. The generous donation was gratefully acknowledged by the Association with a thank you letter accompanied with several items from Yaddo donated by Lynn Farenell, our YGA Board member from Yaddo. The letter from YGA was later posted on the Bobbex Company Website.

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HORTICULTURE NOTES



I am pleased to report that, in spite of the deer, the rose garden was particularly beautiful this year, especially the roses on the Pergola. Bed two has recovered from its loss of bloom of a year ago and is back to where the volunteer gardeners there would like it to be and all beds were looking good as the season advanced.

Two jardinières of flowering annuals were placed by the ST KT Gate to replace the dying Juniper there. The flowers will reflect the changing season and are presently planted with colorful chrysanthemums. Next year the junipers will be replaced by Sky Rocket Junipers to replicate those which are traditionally planted there.

The problem of water leakage draining the rocky rill and pools in the Rock Garden has been addressed by the digging of a private well in a wooded area of the garden which is now being used to eliminate the problem of usage of the city water system to keep the rill and pools filled and water flowing.

On another note relevant to the gardens, efflorescence on a small portion of one of the Pergola columns has been an area of some concern. This is a small yellow stain which at present is masked by the roses growing there. In response to a note from Jean Dugan, a Boston Valley

Representative forwarded materials explaining that the usual cause of efflorescence is moisture getting into the pillar and reacting with the material to cause a stain. The usual procedure to brush the stain with a brush and clear water has been done. If this does not work, the use of a remover recommended by Boston Valley may be tried. The top of the column will be inspected to insure that there is not a source for continued moisture to get in.

The Yaddo Garden Association would like to thank Holly Grande who, in her final step in aiding the Christalan Restoration project, donated and planted all new Hostas around the base of the statue this year. Christalan has long been her chosen area in which to promote the work of the YGA.



The YGA continues to be grateful to groups and organizations from the Saratoga community who come into the gardens and join our volunteers in their garden tasks. This year a group of Girl Scouts volunteered in the gardens as a means of earning their gardening badge. The girls were supervised by YGA garden volunteers; those 16 years and older did not require supervision. In return for their volunteering they

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received a shortened tour of the gardens and their history as related to the Trasks.

Several adult students from foreign countries who are sponsored by Saratoga's Literacy New York Group for English as a Second Language received a docent led tour this summer as part of their program of receiving community time to hear the spoken English language. The tour was a rewarding experience for the tour guides as an opportunity to share the history of the gardens with a group who experienced a fresh look at how American citizens work together to improve the beauty of our world.

Eighteen BOCES students from the Horticulture Program at the F. Donald Myers Education Center in Saratoga Springs came to work in the gardens on October 6, 13 and 20 from 12:00 to 2:00 P.M. to help in the annual fall cleanup. This work-based learning experience is part of their program, which exposes them to the operation of specific job duties related to future careers. We are always grateful for their spring and fall work visits to the gardens over the years and the knowledge that our organization is aiding in their education. The cooperation between the school and the YGA is a highlight of our history as an organization.

We were once again pleased to welcome volunteers from The Living Resources Organization to work in the gardens. The organization provides growth opportunities in a safe and secure

environment to help individuals with disabilities to meet and exceed their personal goals. Their volunteering here is in the area of community activity, one of a variety of services provided to them to fulfill the Living Resource's mission. Their chosen task was the sweeping and general maintenance of garden paths.

VOLUNTEER APPRECIATION DAY



Volunteer Appreciation Day was held at the Yaddo Mansion on Thursday, September 24. This is a yearly event which is always looked forward to by volunteer members who have achieved at least 15 hours of volunteering during the year. Also invited were Life Members, representatives from area businesses, and other individuals such as Ned and Bonnie Chapman of Sunnyside Gardens and Wally Allerdice from Allerdice Building Supply who have supported the gardens. The invitations included a staff member and several clients from The Living Resources Organization. The special guests were later presented with a Certificate of Thanks.

A delicious assortment of refreshments were served in the Mansion dining room, including wine and punch provided by the YGA Board of Directors

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and enjoyed by all in attendance. The table was enhanced by the floral center piece made by Ralph Vincent. The group then retired to the Music Room where awards were presented to those who reached landmark hours of volunteering.

Ralph Vincent, Docent Co-Chair, gave out the docent awards. Docents who received a YGA blue tote bag for their first 15 hours of leading garden tours included **Lesley Leduc**, **Lydia Pleasants**, and **Barbara Kolapakka**. Receiving acknowledgement of 25 hours as a new docent tour guide was **Jean Dugan**. Long time docent tour guide **Gay Gamage** received a colored photograph suitable for framing of the garden sundial in the pergola area for having acquired 200 hours as a docent volunteer. It was announced that as of this date, docent tours so far this year number thirteen drop in tours, four group tours and one PowerPoint presentation.

Faith Palma, Volunteer Committee Co-Chair, presented the following garden volunteers with their awards: YGA logo bucket for 50 hours, **Roberta Eaton**; Photo YGA garden note cards created by Yvonne Bastian Urkevich for 100 hours, **Jill Gainor** and **Don Nelson**. A green baseball cap with the YGA logo and the imprint of the 250 hours he has volunteered went to **Jim Hart**. A framed life membership certificate was **Kathy Mattes'** award for her 500 hours. Lastly, a green long sleeve YGA sweat shirt was presented to

Jean Dugan for having reached a garden volunteer 1,000 hour milestone.

Incidentally, although not announced at this occasion, YGA Volunteer hours from September 2014 to September 2015 now number 2,830 hours including hours contributed from BOCES students, Saratoga Springs High School Senior Give Back Day, and Living Resources.

The meeting was followed by a brief tour of the Yaddo Mansion which was led by Yaddo's Communications and Event Manager Tristan Kirvin.

YADDO'S STAINED GLASS WINDOW RESTORATION



Those who attended the Volunteer Recognition Party admired the recent restoration of the beautiful window which is a prime feature overlooking the indoor fountain in the foyer of the mansion. The window is based on Katrina Trask's story of a Native American legend that has some association with the Yaddo property. After some research, which did not provide credible information, she decided to combine stories that she thought were historically accurate with tales of her own. The result is the depiction of Winnapoca and Minneo shown in art and verse with other Indians who are part of the story.

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The 1893 window underwent conservation in the 1980's but a recent assessment determined that it was in critical shape. Thanks to three \$25,000 gifts by the local Charles R. Wood Foundation, American Express Foundation, and a Yaddo board member, in October 2014 it was removed by Venturella Studios in New York City where its 1250-1300 pieces were cleaned, repaired, and reassembled in a period pattern.

A celebration of the window's restoration was held on August 30 from 4-6:00 P.M. and was attended by U.S. Congressman Paul Tonko, and NY State Senator Kathy Marchione as well as members of the Yaddo Garden Association Board and other dignitaries.



Congratulations are in order to YGA's founder and life Board Member Jane Wait who was presented with the prestigious Metamorphosis Award by the Wilton Wildlife Preserve and Park at a celebratory event held on October 18th at the Saratoga National Golf Club. The award has been given since 2012 to a person who is creating dramatic positive change in the community. All of us at Yaddo Garden Association as well as many members and groups from the Saratoga Community who have benefited from Jane's many activities on their behalf can echo this proclamation.

The Wilton Wildlife Preserve and Park is a non-profit organization that conserves ecological systems and natural settings while providing opportunities for environmental education and recreation. This area of diverse ecological communities is home to the federally endangered Karner Blue Butterfly. While working to ensure its future along with other imperiled species, the Preserve invites people of all ages to enjoy the protected lands, to appreciate the area's beauty, and value nature's importance, a statement that certainly also echoes our view of our own gardens at Yaddo.

While on the subject of congratulations, I would like to mention that YGA celebrated the landmark birthdays of two of our long time volunteers this summer. At the garden volunteer "break" at 10:30 A.M. on July 18th, volunteers at work in the gardens were joined by other present and former volunteers to celebrate the 90th birthday of Eleanor Boyle, who over the years has contributed many hours of volunteering both in the gardens and as a Board member. A beautiful cake was part of the congratulatory celebration and was enjoyed by all present.

Also, congratulations were in order for Charlie DiSanto in the form of a special celebratory 92nd birthday cake created on the occasion of the showing of "Other People's Money" at the Riggi Theater. Incidentally, the play was sold out again this year filling the 50 seats in the theater and raising \$1132.00 for the

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Yaddo Garden Association. Our thanks go out to all those from YGA involved in allowing this successful event to take place.

YGA ANNUAL MEMBERSHIP MEETING



A welcome has been extended to all YGA members to attend the annual meeting on Thursday, November 12th, from 6:30 to 9:00 P.M. at the United Methodist Church on Henning Road in Saratoga Springs. Refreshments will be available and will be followed by a brief business meeting and election of new Board members and officers.

The Program for the evening, which will conclude the evening's events, will be the new Power Point Program offered on the Ghost Tour created and presented by Donna Bates. Donna notes that Yaddo Gardens is listed on the New York State Haunted History Trail website.

Linda Hoyt, Chair of the Nominating Committee consisting of Donna Bates, Katie Hart and Kathy Mattes, has submitted the following names for election to the YGA Board of Directors for 2016 :

President: Jean Dugan

Vice-President: Jill Gainor

Docent Co-Chair: Lesley Leduc

**Volunteer Committee Co-Chair:
Marty Precheur**

**Charlotte Eaton to be assigned as a
YGA Board "Floater"**

Judith Banks: Tour Coordinator

In addition **Donna Bates**, who is currently serving as Vice-President and Docent Co-Chair, will shadow Kathy Mattes who is currently serving as Treasurer in her last year on the Board.

GETTING TO KNOW OUR NOMINEES

Jean Dugan really needs no introduction as she has served 2 two year terms as President of YGA proceeded by a term as Board Treasurer. In accord with the terms of the By-Laws, she has been off the Board for a year and we look forward to her continuing the sterling job she has filled in such an admirable way in the past. As you may note in this newsletter, she received awards this year for her work both as a docent and garden volunteer.

Jill Gainor, whose first two year term on the YGA Board expires this year, has agreed to continue serving as Volunteer Co-Chair in addition to becoming Vice-President during her second two year term.

Lesley Leduc recently retired after nearly 20 years as Yaddo's Public Affairs Coordinator. In that position she has worked closely with the Yaddo Garden Association in the mansion house tours,

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in leading our tour at the annual Volunteer Recognition Party, and in always being available for pertinent information about the Trasks and the Yaddo Program.

A native of Oregon she previously worked as a reporter/photographer for newspapers in Oregon, Hawaii, Virginia, and Guam, and as the Public Affairs Officer for the U.S. Navy Fleet Supply Center in Guam. She has held volunteer positions with the Navy Relief Society, March of Dimes, American Cancer Society, The American Heart Association, and Saratoga Arts Fest. Lesley and her husband Jim live in Ballston Spa.

Marty Precheur has called Saratoga home for all her life although she followed her husband, John, to six places in thirty years in his Air Force career. They have two children and three granddaughters. She loves hiking, playing bridge, and volunteering at Saratoga Hospital's Treasures Shop. She says that she now loves "playing in the dirt" among the roses in the Yaddo Gardens.

Judith Banks tells me that she had a camp at Saratoga Lake and was there every summer. As a little girl her grandmother brought her to the Yaddo Gardens. Ever since then she has felt they were a beautiful and relaxing place to be. Judy enjoys many different activities such as walking, dancing, spending time with family and friends in addition to volunteering in the Garden.

Although she retired last year as a medical biller, **Charlotte Eaton** finds she is still working for the company all day Wednesdays and will be going in for a half day on another week day in the future. She still finds time to work out at a gym three days a week, quilt, read, and spend time with family and friends. Gardening has always been a favorite pastime of this Glenville resident and she finds that working in the Rose Garden has been very educational and fulfilling.

Having lived in the Glenville area for over 40 years, her past experience includes being a residence hall director at Cobleskill and serving as president of a local women's club. She says that joining the YGA Board of Directors just seems like the right step in being a volunteer. She has always enjoyed working with groups and hopes she can contribute her knowledge and organizational skills to the organization.



MORE NEWS ABOUT THE GHOST TOURS

Here is a bit of news to brighten the ending of the Yaddo Ghost Tours this year. On Friday, October 23rd, at noon, a group of students from Linda Clark's 10th grade English Honors Class at Schuylerville High School gathered beneath the marble steps leading to the

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YGA Garden Pergola for a special program.

Since the class is currently studying Edgar Allan Poe, four of the students and their teacher Linda Clark dressed in 18th Century Victorian costumes at the top of the steps to recite Poe's famous poem "The Raven," part of which it is said was written by him on the Yaddo Grounds.

The reading was followed by a docent led Ghost Tour for the entire class. It was a wonderful combination of art and education which the YGA is proud to be a part of.

The actual Ghost Tours of the Yaddo Gardens end on October 30 this year. This tours meet at 5:00 p.m. in the parking lot and last about one hour at a cost of \$10.00 per participant. The ghost tours this year have been very successful attracting a very large amount of interested attendees.

GARDEN GIFTS AND MEMBERSHIPS



We would like to thank the following for their gifts and memberships since the spring Potpourri. Their support of the YGA mission to the Yaddo Gardens is deeply appreciated and gratefully acknowledged:

YGA Memberships 5/20/2015 – 10/16/2015

Individuals

Burton Zwick
Margaret Jacobson

Seniors

Barbara W. Sutherland
Gay K. Gamage
Charles A. Ballew
Bill Blando
Ellen M. deLalla

Family

Maryalice O'Brien-Smith
Byron and Peggy Evans
Richard and Donna Bates
Hannah Thomas
John Cetner

Contributors

Dorothy and Stephen Harran
Charlie and Kathy DiSanto
Robert and Lois Vessels
Shirley and Robert Voelker

Patron

Anonymous

Sponsor

Kathy Mattes and Andy Marsh

Gifts In Memory

Josiane Birbiglia
Peg and Jerry Bradley
John Childs
Michael Childs
Linda Liess Churchman
Ashley E. Churchman
Jim Garland
Jane Adams Wait
Willard E. "Bill" Grande
Mary Pat Meaney
Jane Adams Wait
Milton Gray
June Foote Gray

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Stuart Hefter
 Anonymous
 Donna and Richard Bates
 Jean Dugan and Ben Ford
 Lynn M. Farenell
 Margaret Jacobson
 Kathy Mattes and Andy Marsh
 Barbara W. Sutherland
 Verena Takekoshi
 Jane Adams Wait
 Nancy and David Wilder

Richard Jacobson
 Maryalice O'Brien-Smith

Theda Meyers
 Anthony and Susan DePaula

Carole Moreau
 SueAnn Dubois

Alice Nolan
 Stella Harding
 Blaine Ryan-Lynch

Leona Rawda
 Maureen Jones

Frank Rhyner
 Verena Takekoshi

Barbara Thomas
 Hannah Thomas
 John J. Thomas

Rosy Zinn
 Jane Adams Wait

Gifts In Honor

Artists who are inspired at Yaddo
 Bill Blando

Jane and John Corrou
 William R. Racey

Charlie DiSanto
 Jane Adams Wait

Shwamie-Roerig Family
 Michelle Plouffe

Jane Adams Wait
 Florence Andresen

*“A flower cannot blossom without
 sunshine nor a garden flourish without
 love”*

YADDO GARDEN ASSOCIATION
P.O. Box 395
SARATOGA SPRINGS New York 12866

 Your Name

 Address

 City State Zip

 PHONE E-MAIL

**I wish to support the YGA by becoming a
 garden volunteer _____**

I wish to become an annual YGA member
Individual \$35.00 to \$49.00 _____
Senior/student rate \$25.00 _____
Family \$50.00 to \$99.00 _____
Contributor \$100.00 to \$249.00 _____
Patron \$250.00 to \$499.00 _____
Sponsor \$500.00 to \$999.00 _____
Benefactor \$1,000.00 and above _____

**I would like to give a donation of \$ _____ to
 support the maintenance of the Yaddo Gardens**

TOTAL AMOUNT ENCLOSED _____

**Please recognize my gift in memory _____ or
 in honor _____ of (check one)**

Name _____

Please notify the following of my gift:

Name _____

Address _____

 City State Zip

**Please mail the amount of the Gift /
 Membership together with the completed form
 to the address above or donate online at Yaddo.
 org.**