

rock garden as a result of leaks in the walls of the pools. Actions are already being pursued to address these issues as you will read further in this newsletter.

Jean also thanked fellow Board members for their time and effort behind the scenes as well as members of the Yaddo Corporation: Lynn Farenell, Dana McClure, Shane Cassidy, Sue Gersin, Lesley Leduc and Anne-Marie Pratt for their support of YGA. Nominations for the Board of Directors were unanimously accepted.

FACT: There are approximately 250 rose bushes in each of the 4 beds



In her report, Treasurer, Kathy Mattes stated that inflows for the year were down slightly while outflows were up significantly. This was mostly due to non-recurring expenses including the Christalan restoration, Pergola repair, and replacement of the Jardinières.

Donna Bates of the Docent Committee reported that the number of docents since the previous year had increased by two for a total of 17 docents. Although the number of tours was down, income was up due to a \$5.00 fee increase. The fee is now \$10.00 per person.

Katie Hart, Tours Co-coordinator, stated bookings for tours continue to be for varied

populations from Senior Centers to Garden Clubs to state and local resident homes, requiring our skillful docents to adjust their presentations accordingly.

The Volunteers report submitted by Jill Gainor, Vera Weiss, Kathy Sweet, and Lyn Madden said that the 2756 hours recorded by volunteers was down slightly from last year. There were 12 new volunteers throughout the season, five of whom were recognized at the annual Recognition Party, as were many other members who earned 50-2000 hour gifts.

The Yaddo Christmas Tree for the Festival of Trees was on display. Florence Campion thanked the following YGA members who along with her worked on the design and execution: Deb Brown, Faith Palma, Jane Wait, Veronica Frazier, and Lyn Madden.

The evening closed with a power point presentation and talk by Terri Blasko, librarian at the Saratoga Springs Public Library, on the earliest floral fetes in Saratoga Springs.

FACT: The hedges surrounding the rose gardens are barberry hedges





THE TORCH PASSES: YGA BOARD AT WORK

The Board of Directors of the Yaddo Garden Association and their responsibilities for 2015 is now as follows.

PRESIDENT: VERENA TAKEKOSHI (ROCK GARDEN)

**VICE-PRESIDENT (DOCENT CO-CHAIR)
DONNA BATES**

RECORDING SECRETARY: DEBRA BROWN

TEASURER: KATHY MATTES

**CORRESPONDING SECRETARY:
(HORTICULTURE) BARBARA HEFTER**

**LYNN FARENELL: YADDO CORPORATION
DESIGNATED DIRECTOR (MEMBERSHIP)**

JILL GAINOR (VOLUNTEER CO-CHAIR)

KATIE HART (TOURS COORDINATOR)

PAT MANGINI (PUBLICITY)

FAITH PALMA (VOLUNTEER CO-CHAIR)

KATHLEEN SWEET (VOLUNTEER CO-CHAIR)

RALPH VINCENT (DOCENT CO-CHAIR)

JANE WAIT (LIFE BOARD MEMBER, ROSE GARDEN)

BOARD LIASONS

CHARLIE DISANTO (SHEDS, EQUIPMENT, PERGOLA)

MARGARET JACOBSON (POTPOURRI)

LYN MADDEN (VOLUNTEER HOURS RECORDS)

JEAN DUGAN (MEMBERSHIP, POTPOURRI)

Transitioning has gone smoothly over the winter as new Board members are adjusting to their positions and continuing YGA Board members are taking up their responsibilities where they left off last year. Likewise, the transition from garden tending in the fall is giving way to tasks being undertaken by garden volunteers to prepare gardens for the growing season ahead.

Board meetings started up in January with a February break and resumed on the second Monday of the month in March. They will continue until October and culminate in our Annual Meeting in November. That meeting will be held once again at the Saratoga Springs United Methodist Church on Thursday November 12, 2015, from 7 to 9:00 P.M. The featured program this year will be the Ghost Tour power point presentation offered to area groups by the YGA docents. More news about that will be coming in the fall newsletter.

A SPECIAL TOUR DAY

The Yaddo Gardens are once again honored to be featured in the Annual Secret Gardens Tour to be held this year on Sunday, July 12, 2015, sponsored by Soroptimist International of Saratoga County from 11 A.M. to 5 P.M. This is their 21st annual tour and in addition to visiting unique and beautiful private gardens visitors are invited to join in the Centennial Celebration of Saratoga Springs by touring remarkable public spaces designed and maintained by the city.

Tickets are \$20 in advance and \$25 the day of the the tour and all pre-ordered tickets will be available for pickup at the Saratoga Springs Visitor Center on July 12 from 10:30 A.M. to 1 P.M. For more information or to order tickets online go to www.soroptimistsaratoga.org.



FACT: the roses bordering the sundial are "Rugosa" roses

DOCENTS

The Docent Committee headed by Donna Bates and Ralph Vincent asked for a decision to be made on the distance to be traveled by docents to give power point presentations to groups inquiring about them. At present they stated that docents would travel up to 25 miles for this but the Board decided to leave it up to the

volunteer presenters themselves to state how far they are willing to go, keeping in mind that the mileage is doubled for each trip and is not reimbursable.

Docent preparation for those who are doing garden tours has been streamlined. Packets are to be kept in the possession of active docents rather than picking them up in another location as has been done in the past. The drop in tours will begin on June 20 and end on Sept 6. They are held Saturdays and Sundays and Tuesday Dark Days during the racing season. Tours begin at 11:00 A.M. at the big pool at the entrance and last about 45 minutes at a cost of \$10.00 per participant. There are no tours scheduled on August 29 as that is Travers day. The Ghost Tours will run on Fridays and Sundays from September 18 through October 30 at 5:30 P.M. and will start at the parking lot.

Requested tours by groups are applied for through Katie Hart, Tours Coordinator. The golf cart is available for handicapped tour participants. The cart holds three persons in addition to the driver/tour leader. Gift certificates for tours are available for purchase. Local area non-profits may request the donation of a gift certificate from the YGA. These can be used for up to four participants and must be used on a regularly scheduled tour.

FACT: Weddings are held in various places in the garden such as either staircase, by the poet's bench, or at the Pergola area.

Contact the Yaddo Corporation for more information or to book a wedding

A YADDO GARDENS WINTER ADVENTURE



On February 3rd, deep in the winter, Board member Barbara Hefter and YGA garden volunteer Peter Finley set off on snowshoes to change the deer deterrent Shake-Away bags hanging in the four rose beds and the garden pergola. Barbara said that Yaddo grounds were a beautiful sight with all the white snow and bright blue skies. They had quite a workout, as a recent snowstorm had deposited fourteen inches of additional powdery snow. They noted that the wind must really whip through the gardens as the snow was noticeably deeper on the East end of beds#2 and #3 then at the other ends. They were above their knees in those areas. After changing the bags in all the rose beds they headed up to the Pergola which was the tricky part, as they had to go up the sloped lawn rather than the stairs. They changed bags throughout the pergola and since they had several bags left over they hung them on the pergola rebar.

Barb said that “they were very happy to see the roses were well nestled snugly in their winter covered beds”. They did not see any

deer tracks but realized they might have been covered by the newly fallen snow. In spite of several spills because of the deep snow cover, Barb said that it was a fun afternoon. She and Peter both had a few laughs as they enjoyed hiking around the gardens on their snow shoes.

SOME BACKGROUND ON DEER DETERRENTS BEING USED



As you may remember, there was an article in the last issue of the Potpourri on deer damage in the gardens. Barb has provided some additional information on just what is being used to repel deer. The various products they tried last year consisted of natural ingredients containing mostly garlic, rotten eggs, and water. The Liquid Fence, Deer Defeat, and RepelsAll were sprayed on the hedges and sometimes directly on the rose bushes. Milorganite, which is a form of dried sludge and is a natural fertilizer, was applied directly to the soil where it will also aid in plant growth. Each product seemed to work for a time and then the deer would return to nip the buds and eat the rose bushes. It was very discouraging.

The most promising of the products proved to be the Shake Away, a granular form of coyote urine. The coyote is a natural predator of deer. Shake Away was first used in September and was sprinkled throughout the rose beds and the pergola weekly that

month and every two weeks in October and November. Occasional deer tracks were noticed around the gardens although not as many as in the summer.

Another form of Shake Away was recommended to be used during the winter months. The product comes in a small plastic bag and is to be hung from a height of about three feet above the ground. On December 2nd 66 bags were hung throughout the gardens. On February 3rd the original bags were removed and replaced by new bags, which in turn were replaced on April 1.

The current bags will remain in place until sometime in May when the application of three deer deterrents are scheduled to start being applied to continue throughout the summer months every 10-14 days on a rotating basis. The areas to be included in these applications include the entrance garden, the rose garden, the rock garden, and the Pergola. Products to be used are: Bobbex (a strong smelling commercial spray); a homemade remedy of natural ingredients which includes eggs, garlic, hot sauce, and water; and Shake Away granules. Seven sprayers have been purchased to apply the deer deterrent sprays.

Flowering Scaevola, which deer do not like, will also be planted in the jardinières which are currently located throughout the gardens to help repel these unwelcome four-footed visitors.



FACT: The flowers in the containers also include geraniums, vinca and purple fountain grass



FACT: The Yaddo Estate currently consists of approximately 400 acres of land

OUR VOLUNTEERS AT WORK



Volunteers had already been at work in the gardens after the official closing of the gardens during the fall and winter months but returning volunteers were officially welcomed back on Saturday, April 25th when spring cleanup began with eighteen people hard at work. There were nine workers in the gardens on Tuesday, the 28th. New volunteers joined them on Saturday May 2nd. They are all now to be found hard at work every Tuesday, Thursday, and Saturday from 9:00 to Noon.

BOCES students will be joining them on May 5, 19 and 26 in the afternoon to help with various tasks.

Not to be forgotten are the 10:30 to 11:00 A.M. snack breaks, which all workers look forward to as a time to relax and renew old acquaintances and make new friends. An inventory of items used in the snack shed shows a plethora of items used for serving and volunteers are being encouraged to take home supplies they bring in as space is limited for storage.



FACT: The pine trees surrounding the gardens are “White Pine”

A BUSY CALENDAR



A glance at the calendar up to this date shows how some of the work by YGA is behind the scenes but necessary to the timely application of garden tasks. As an example: In early March the BOCES Schedule was confirmed, the annual meeting program and site in November was decided on and booked, and the tour letter mailings went out to area organizations. By April volunteer postcards were mailed and compost and fertilizer were ordered. Deer

repellents have been ordered, the statues and sundial uncovered, and the water for the gardens turned on.

Tick spraying and weed preventative was applied this month by work order. Pat Mangini, Publicity Chair has distributed flyers to local businesses for display on their bulletin boards and initiated other Public Relation activities.

By May the compost and Rosetone fertilizer were delivered. The preparation and planting of annuals in jardinières will take place later in the month. The coating was applied to the rock garden fountain area and the rock garden will be opened.

Leaf disease spraying was placed on the work order for the 18th of May and the planting and fertilizing of roses is to be on the 21st. Fertilizer will be applied again in July. By the end of May the fish will return to the center fountain pool which has been repaired by the Building and Grounds crew.



FACT: The fish in the pond are Koi

A SUMMER TREAT



Be sure to save a place on your calendar for Sunday, August 16, when YGA will again be partnering with Creative Place International (CPI) in their theater presentation. This year the play will be presented at the Riggi Theater at the National Museum of Dance in Saratoga Springs and will begin at 2:00 P.M.

In the play, **OTHER PEOPLES MONEY**, a Wall Street takeover artist has his eyes on a company called New England Wire& Cable. If the stockholders back his takeover, they'll make a bundle but what will happen to the 1200 employees and the community when he liquidates the assets? Opposing the financier are the genial man who runs the company, his loyal assistant, the chief operations officer and the lawyer they bring in to help save the company.

The YGA shares in the proceeds from the performance and will have refreshments available for sale. Tickets for the performance are \$35.00 and will be available by phone at 518-584-7780 or online at www.brownpapertickets.com.



FACT: Up to 35 artists can be invited to stay at Yaddo during the summer months



YGA MEMBERSHIPS

Once again we would like to acknowledge those who have renewed or joined our list of paid memberships this year. Paid membership activity has been light over the intervening months but it is to be hoped that it will pick up as membership solicitation letters go out later this spring. As you know, the YGA depends on the monetary support of our friends as well as the volunteer support in the gardens to keep the Yaddo Gardens growing. If you have not already done so, please consider supporting the gardens in this worthy manner by sending in your membership donation to the address listed on the last page of this newsletter.

MEMBERSHIPS FROM OCTOBER 8, 2014 THROUGH MAY 19, 2015:

Benefactors

Jill and Jonathan Gainor

Sponsors

Jean Dugan and Ben Ford

Patrons

Stacy Elizabeth Milligi
Claire M. Olds

Contributors

Corinna S. Bishop
Susan Brynteson
Ellen Downing
Holly and Bill Grande
Stephen and Dorothy Harran
Stuart and Barbara Hefter
Sally and Jim Higgins
Deirdre Leland and Frank Rhyner
R. Paul and Kathleen A. McCarty
Mary Pat Meaney and Joseph W. Zarzynski
John and Lee Nelson
Don and Sheila Nelson
Elena Porter
Yolanda Shannon
Shirley Voelker
David and Nancy Wilder

Individuals

Florence Campion
Ward A. Cavanaugh
Jean-Marie W. Crocker
Lynn M. Farenell
Patricia Gallagher
Nancy O’Leary
Marie Oppenheim
Kathleen Sweet
Martha Van Patten

Family

Judith Banks
Nancy Downing
David and Helen Porter
Nancy H. Stevens
Ralph Vincent
Joe and Joyce Zanchelli

Seniors/Students

Anonymous
Minnie C. Bolster
Elaine Bourassa
Eleanor Boyle
Margaret Bradley
Debra Brown
Ellen Brown
Gloria Ciejka
Jane R. Costello
Gay K. Gamage
Patricia A. Hoyt
Elizabeth Ireland
Barbara J. Kolapakka
Linda Legg
Faith Palma
Barbara Parrish
Christine Root

VOLUNTEER LIFE MEMBERS OF YGA

In addition to our paid memberships for the year as listed above I would like to acknowledge some of our most important members who we wish to honor once again as we did after they initially received their Volunteer life memberships for having worked over 500 hours. Many of them are still active in volunteering for the YGA, whether it is in the gardens or behind the scenes. Some names may also be found on the paid membership list. The list of Volunteer Life Members is impressive as their dedication to the Association throughout the years. They are as follows:

Donna Bates	Eleanor Boyle
Florence Campion	Mildred Cocoma
Judy D’Andrea	Dominic DeLorio

Marilyn DeLorio Pat DeSio
 Bob DeSio Charlie DiSanto
 Nancy Downing Jean Dugan
 Peter Finley Katie Hart
 Barbara Hefter Margaret Jacobson
 Dorothy Kelliher Lyn Madden
 Pat Mangini Kathy Mattes
 Pat Meaney Nancy O'Leary
 Faith Palma Tohru Takekoshi
 Verena Takekoshi John Thomas
 Jane Wait Vera Weis
 John Yurcik



The YGA also gratefully acknowledges the following people who have given gifts to the organization since the last issue of the Potpourri for the maintenance of the gardens in honor or in memory of dear friends or relatives. Their remembrances are deeply appreciated and thank you notes have been sent by our Corresponding Secretary to both donors and recipients of the gifts.

GIFTS IN MEMORY:

Mr. Baldwin

Jane Adams Wait

Lisa Bonesteel

Donna and Larry Bonesteel

Barbara Cook

Margaret Jacobson
 Maureen Costello-Estberg
 Jane Costello

Alison Dore

Dorothy and Stephen Harran

Delaphine Haynes Farenell

Barb and Stu Hefter
 Margaret Jacobson
 Nancy and David Wilder

Chris Hoyt

Anonymous
 Judith C. Albin
 Richard and Donna Bates
 Corrie Bishop
 Eleanor Boyle
 Debra Brown
 Florence Campion
 Bruce and Marlene Chimento
 Chris and Nancy Christiansen
 Jane and John Corrou
 Mr. and Mrs. Joseph Dallan
 Kathy and Charlie DiSanto
 Bob and Nancy Drennen
 Jean Dugan and Ben Ford
 Emily Edelstein
 Lynn M. Farenell
 Peter and Marjorie Fisher
 Phyllis M. Frederick
 Gay and Alvin Gamage
 John and Linda Hampshire
 Dorothy and Stephen Harran
 Margaret Jacobson
 Ilene Karpf and Michael Hassett
 Dorothy Kelliher
 Michael and Jeanne Lynch
 Lynn and Wils Mathias
 Kathy Mattes
 Dana and James McClure
 Mary Pat Meaney
 T. Darrah and Linda Moore
 Nancy and Edward O'Leary
 Bert and Anita Parker
 Katharine Parris
 Regata View, Inc. Homeowners
 Association
 Patricia Sturges
 Barbara Sutherland

Bernadette Verdile
Jane Adams Wait
Dalla Webb
Vera and Marvin Weiss
Milton Gray
June Foote Gray
Marie Chesbrough Grimes
Susan DePaula
Brenda Hendrick
Anonymous
Jane and John Corrou
Jean Dugan and Ben Ford
Barb and Stu Hefter
Kathy Mattes
Vera and Marvin Weiss
Nancy and David Wilder
Russell Hendrick
Jean Dugan and Ben Ford
Linda Hoyt
Dana and James McClure
Dick Jacobson
Robert and Patricia Foulke
Robert O. Jans
Elena Porter
Janet Kiser
Barb and Stu Hefter
Peggy Ann Mathiesen
Nancy Downing
Peter McCabe
Jane and John Corrou
Richard McCormick
Patricia Hoyt
Evelyn F. Meindl
Nancy Downing
Stacy Elizabeth Milligi
Carmen Milligi
Audrey Pratt
Janice Connors
Jane and John Corrou
Holly K. Grande
Joann Long
Mary Pat Meaney
Claire M. Olds
Teresa and Paul Ostwald

Elizabeth Pratt
Charles and Katie Richman
Salvatore and Mary Suttile
Sally and Jim Higgins
Jane Adams Wait
Salvatore and Mary Suttile
Jim and Sally Higgins
Barbara Thomas
John J. Thomas
June Wright
Eleanor Boyle

GIFTS IN HONOR:

Garden Volunteers
Anonymous
Corinna S. Bishop
Barbara Baker
Elizabeth Ireland
Florence Campion
Elizabeth Ireland
Jim Hart
Elizabeth Ireland
Katie Hart
Elizabeth Ireland
Lesley Leduc
Jane and John Corrou
Clarita Mango
Judith Banks
Pat Meaney
Elizabeth Ireland
Faith Palma
Elizabeth Ireland
Marion Poukish's Birthday
Jane Adams Wait
Barbara Sutherland
Mellicent and William Hawke
Verena Takekoshi
Ralph Vincent
Jane Wait
Anonymous (In honor of her
birthday)
Elizabeth Ireland
Beth and George Vodapivc

Marylou Whitney and John
Hendrickson

Gifts

GE Foundation
Glenville Hills Garden Club
Phoenix Life Insurance Company (for
volunteer hours - Judith Banks)
Victoria Schepps
Jane A. Wait

Gifts for Sundial Restoration

John and Lee Nelson



**Fact: The rose garden was given to
Katrina Trask in 1899 as a gift for
her name day from her husband,
Spencer Trask**

*“Those who contemplate the beauty of the
earth find reserves of strength that will endure
as long as life lasts. There is a symbolic as well
as actual beauty in...the unfolded bud ready
for the spring. There is something of infinite
healing in the repeated refrain of nature—the
assurance that dawn comes after the night
and spring after winter. The lasting pleasures
of contact with the natural world...are
available to anyone who will place himself
under the influence of earth, sky and their
amazing life” –Rachel Carson (1907-1964)*

**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.