“The Japanese say, if the flower is to be beautiful, it must be cultivated” - Lester Cole

NURTURING AND THE YADDO GARDEN ASSOCIATION

Cultivating our gardens does not only occur during the growing season of the Yaddo gardens we so carefully tend, but is ongoing throughout the year as you will find reflected in this issue of the Potpourri. Here you may read about some of the continuing work that goes on behind the scenes as the seasons pass. This begins with a look back at the season past and continues on with what is being done throughout the spring months. The fall issue of The Potpourri will bring us up to date on what occurred in the gardens during the rest of the growing season. And so the year recycles anew as do the beautiful flowers.

The Volunteer Committee has put together some interesting facts about the gardens for the volunteers. These facts are interspersed throughout the rest of this newsletter. Be sure to look for the bold italics which highlight them.

SUMMARIZING THE 2014 GARDENING SEASON

The November 2014 membership meeting, as announced in the fall Potpourri, marked the culmination of the gardening year for the Yaddo Garden Association. Approximately 40 YGA members heard a summary of reports of the previous season from the Board of Directors who attended the November 6th meeting. A brief summary follows.

President Jean Dugan welcomed the members present and thanked them all for their past support of both time and finances to help carry on the mission of the association. She summarized both the challenges and highlights of 2014. The majority of the challenges related to the deer and woodchucks feasting throughout the gardens and the lack of water in the
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 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 2\textsuperscript{nd} 66 bags were hung throughout the gardens. On February 3\textsuperscript{rd} 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 25\textsuperscript{th} when spring cleanup began with eighteen people hard at work. There were nine workers in the gardens on Tuesday, the 28\textsuperscript{th}. New volunteers joined them on Saturday May 2\textsuperscript{nd}. 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 Dallon
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
Lynnlie 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 Conners
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 Pookish’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
Glennie 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)