

YADDO GARDEN ASSOCIATION POTPOURRI

SPRING 2018

Editor: Mary Curtis

LOOKING BACK...

2017 proved to be a good year in the Yaddo Garden. Donations were up and the Ghost Tour attendance increased. However, the increased income was balanced out by increased costs of deer deterrent and adding new rose bushes.

Due to damage in the bottom of the rill in the Rock Garden, fencing was posted around the rill to prevent possibility of further damage. Evaluation of the damage will need to be assessed and investment for the repairs will undoubtedly be extensive and expensive.

A positive feature at the garden this past year is the extra TLC of the entry gardens. New plantings and continued grooming of the area have greatly improved the visitors' first impression of the gardens.

Other bright spots include the handsome new wooden gates crafted by the Yaddo team and added to the rose bed entrances, the blooming roses vibrant and abundant throughout the summer and early fall, and even the lotus in the center fountain in bloom.

The tractor shed was dedicated and named *Charlie's Shed* in honor of Charlie DiSanto, a dedicated Yaddo Garden volunteer who passed in November 2016.

On June 25th a commissioned granite bench at the south end of the pergola was dedicated in honor of our founder, Jane Wait.

In mid-October several volunteers joined Florence Champion to decorate two small Christmas trees which are donated to the Festival of the Trees, a fundraiser for Catholic charities.

A traditional green tree was decorated with small woodland animals, berries and bows and the second was a stunning white tree decorated with cardinals and accents of red

and green. Both were purchased and the funds were donated to Catholic charities.



During the warmer months several koi and goldfish swim happily in the rose garden's center fountain. However, in the colder months the fish need a warmer environment to survive. Rather than moving the fish off site as in years past, the Yaddo grounds crew constructed a new pool where the fish can swim happily during the winter months, too, until returning to the outdoors in May.

ANNUAL MEETING 2017

The 2017 Yaddo Garden Association Annual Meeting was held November 14th. Refreshments of apple crisp and cider, favorite fall treats prepared by our volunteers, were served before the start of the meeting.

The minutes of this meeting are on the Yaddo website under the Yaddo Garden tab. YGA board members presented their reports for the year.

Following the business portion of the meeting, Charles Kuenzel and David Patterson, a duo of experts on local history, presented a slide show accompanied by narration and interesting historical anecdotes of ten people who were instrumental in the founding and growth of Saratoga Springs. Spencer and Katrina Trask were included in this influential group due to their philanthropic work in the early history of Saratoga Springs.

Save the date

The 2018 Annual Meeting is scheduled for November 13th at 6:30.

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VOLUNTEER APPRECIATION PARTY



Our Volunteer Appreciation Party was hosted by the Yaddo Board of Directors in September at the beautiful West House while the mansion is undergoing major repairs and renovation. Numerous awards included Yaddo notecards, 50- hour buckets, framed historic photographs, YGA hats, and sweatshirts were presented to volunteers for their hours of service.

It was a beautiful fall evening to enjoy refreshments and the company of the other volunteers in a relaxed setting. Volunteers were offered a special treat - tours of two of the newly constructed artist studios and the second floor of the West House which is usually off-limits to non-artists.



GHOST TOURS

The well-attended ghost tours are conducted during September and October in the late afternoon and focus on tales of spirits residing within the Yaddo estate grounds and Yaddo Garden. Funds raised by the tours were almost double the 2016 proceeds and are used for maintenance and improvements in the garden.

The docents leading the tours are enthusiastic in sharing their knowledge not only of ghosts in the garden, but lots of history related to the Trask family.

More volunteer docents are welcome to join the fun and host tours.

COMING IN AUGUST

For the first time the Ghost Tours will be offered on Tuesday evenings during the weeks of the Saratoga track season. Due to the influx of persons visiting our city during the racing season, it should be a great opportunity to attract first time visitors who will want to return in the future to the Yaddo Garden.

ALSO NEW THIS YEAR...

YGA will participate in a Community Day at the Saratoga Race Course on Thursday, August 2nd. Volunteers will set up a display area in front of the Jockey Silks Room to offer a "rosy" picture of the Yaddo Garden to encourage interest in volunteering in the gardens. Any financial contributions would certainly be appreciated as well.

Jane Wait has donated 10 framed botanical arrangements for sale on that day. Verena and Tohru Takekoshi collected various plants from the Yaddo Garden and dried the foliage and flowers to compose the arrangements. The framed arrangements will be offered for sale during YGA's day at the track to raise funds for the Yaddo Garden Association.



NEWS FROM THE GARDEN

It is obvious that the garden volunteers are busy tending the garden during the warmer months, but the planning for the upcoming season and deer deterrent maintenance is a year-round job as reported by Barbara Hefter in the following update.

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As this article is being written, it is April 14, windy and 35 degrees outside. Mother Nature just doesn't want to let winter go. The roses and numerous plants at the Yaddo gardens have enjoyed lots of snow this past winter and hopefully survived the cold weather well. While most of us spend a lot of time shoveling out from under the fluffy white stuff, the gardens were snug, sheltered, and protected under the frequent snowfalls. Ideally, the snow protected the garden from extreme cold and, hopefully, the deer deterrent products kept hungry deer at bay.

At the beginning of November, 2017, Shake-A-Way pouches containing granular coyote urine were hung around the gardens. Approximately 60 pouches were hung in the four rose beds and the pergola. In addition, numerous pouches were placed in the entrance garden, around the Christalan statue and throughout the rock garden.

On February 1st the 60 pouches were replaced with fresh ones and the used pouches were further distributed around the gardens. This was the "winter plan".

After garden work begins in May and new growth appears on plants, the "summer plan" will be implemented and a deer repellent spraying program will be started.

Products to be used include Plantskydd, Bobbex, and Shake-A-Way. Plantskydd and Bobbex are liquids consisting of all natural ingredients (garlic, eggs, vegetable oils, pepper, etc.) These products have a very unpleasant smell the deer do not like. Shake-A-Way is a granular coyote urine that will be sprinkled around plants. The coyote is a predator of the deer so deer do not frequent areas that smell of coyote. Repellent products will be applied on a rotating basis to keep different scents in the garden beginning in May and continuing through the summer into the fall season. A similar plan was used in the 2017 season with very good results. While we all like to see deer and are amazed at their beauty, this gardening season we

hope to co-exist with the Yaddo deer and again enjoy beautiful gardens as well.

Planning for the new season...

Other winter chores include ordering new rose bushes for their timely arrival for planting when the milder weather finally arrives; removal of the protective covers from the four season statues is scheduled, top soil is ordered and delivery scheduled; and inventory is taken of all gardening tools and supplies so that they can be replaced and replenished as needed.



New watering system

As a test, one of the rose beds will have a new watering system installed. If the system works during the upcoming season, the watering system could be installed in additional beds.

A professional has been consulted to design the best workable system for the roses. It has been decided that shallow trenches will be dug in the grassy area in front of the rose bushes where irrigation hoses will be buried. The water will be controlled manually while volunteers are working in the garden. The water will be directed toward the base of the bushes so as not to spray water on the buds and blooms which could be detrimental to the flowers.

The watering system will be more convenient and efficient than the current buried soaker hoses that have deteriorated badly and are frequently damaged by the gardeners when hoeing.

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Using soaker hoses on top of the ground was unsightly and they had to be moved often to provide sufficient watering to each area of the rose beds.

Hopefully the new system will be an improvement and, if so, the new system could be installed in the remaining beds.

Preparing for returning volunteers...

The gardening sheds are scheduled to be opened and cleaned including the tool sheds, snack shed, and tractor shed. Planning for the volunteers' return starts in mid-April including making sure snacks and drinks are will be available for the 10:30 break each day the workers are in the garden.

Plans are being made to welcome new volunteers as well. Each new volunteer will be met at the garden sheds and given a brief tour of the different areas of the garden and introduced to the volunteers working that day. We want to be sure they have an enjoyable, friendly experience so that they look forward to coming back to work in the garden.

Senior "Give Back" Day

As many as 20 Saratoga Springs High School National Honor Society seniors will be volunteering in the garden on Friday, May 25th to give back to their community. The seniors will help plant the annuals, clip the hedges, and pull weeds. These enthusiastic students will be there rain or shine and always with smiles on their faces.

Thanks to our Donors!

The YGA news of the garden would not be complete without our heartfelt thanks to the following people whose monetary support made the work noted throughout this season possible. Following are the people who contributed to the Association since the fall issue.

YGA Gifts 10/1/2017- 4/30/2018

General Gifts

GE Fund Matching Gifts Program
Glenville Hills Garden Club
Anne Kusnierz (Candy Cane Farm)
Sandra Robinson
Jane Adams Wait
Toni Wille

YGA Memberships 10/1/2017 - 4/30/2018

Individual

Lynn Farenell
Barbara Kolapakka
Nancy O'Leary
Marie Oppenheim
Kathleen Sweet
Tommy Tinner
Martha Van Patten

Senior/Student

Anonymous
Eleanor Boyle
Margaret Bradley
Ellen Brown
Florence Champion
Gloria Ciejka
Ellen M. deLalla
Patricia Gallagher
Angela Green
Elizabeth Ireland
Margaret Jacobson
Christine Root
Robert Vessels

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Family

Richard and Donna Bates
Marilyn and Dominick DeLorio
Deirdre Leland
Domenique and Dmitriy Yermolayev

Scott Leombruno
Nancy Downing
Doris Moss
Maggie Moss-Tucker

Contributor

Judith Banks in memory of Clarita Mango
Bill Blando
Susan Brynteson
Ellen Downing
Barbara Hefter
Dorothy Kelliher
Charles Malley
R. Paul and Kathleen McCarty
Helen Porter
Katie and Charles Richman
Shirley and Robert Voelker
Nancy and David Wilder

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Gifts In Memory

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Donna Palmer

Gifts In Honor

Robert and Betty Ann Garver's 50th
Anniversary
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Mary Quirk
Jane Adams Wait

Margaret Jacobson
Barbara Sutherland
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Larry Farenell
Nancy Downing

Jane Adams Wait
Florence Andresen
George Vodapivc

Diane Brownlow Harding
Jane Corrou

Stuart Hefter
Barbara Hefter

Hazel Horner
Jane Corrou

John Johnson
Dorothy Harran

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Editor: Mary Curtis

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or in honor of _____ (check one)**

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I wish to become an annual YGA member

Individual \$35.00 to \$49.00 _____

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the Yaddo Gardens**

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form to the address above or donate online at
Yaddo.org.**