

YADDO GARDEN ASSOCIATION

POTPOURRI

FALL 2018

Editor: Mary Curtis

LOOKING BACK...

One of the biggest improvements at the garden this year was the installation of a new watering system (details to follow). We had the best rose season in years with minimal damage by the deer. The extremely hot and humid weather this summer made for some shorter hours worked in the garden.

For their hard work, volunteers were once again treated to an English tea party in the garden on one of those hot, humid days. Donned in aprons Vicki Schepps and Stacey Hetherington carried trays of cool ice popsicles to volunteers. On the table adorned with candelabras and silver tea service were scones and fresh fruit for all to enjoy a tea party in the rose garden.

VOLUNTEER APPRECIATION PARTY

Our Volunteer Appreciation Party was hosted by the Yaddo Board of Directors on a rainy September evening in the dining room of the partially renovated mansion. Numerous awards included 50-hour buckets to Kathy Crandall, Bob Cuthbertson, Stacey Hetherington, Karen Klepper, Johanna MacKay and Toni Wille; Yaddo notecards for 100 volunteer hours to Jacqueline Aronson Falk, Joanne Killian and Nancy Stevens; a Yaddo hat to Mary Curtis for 250 volunteer hours; a lifetime membership to Kathy Sweet for 500 volunteer hours; and a 1,000 hour sweatshirt to Donna Bates.

Due to rainy weather all day and a torrential downpour during the social hour, the tour of the new studio constructed this past year had to be canceled.

GHOST TOURS

For the first time the Ghost Tours were 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 seemed to be a great opportunity to attract first time visitors to the Yaddo Garden.

The ghost tours are very popular again this fall as well. The tours received publicity in the Schenectady Gazette in September. It was included in an article about several other ghost inspired activities in the area. Our very own Lesley Leduc was pictured in the article standing in front of the center fountain.

Tours are conducted on Fridays and Sundays at 5pm and focus on tales of spirits residing within the Yaddo estate grounds and Yaddo Garden. Funds raised 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.

NEW THIS YEAR

YGA participated in a Community Day at the Saratoga Race Course on Thursday, August 2nd. It was a good opportunity to make the public aware that Yaddo Garden is there for their enjoyment.

Volunteers set up a display in front of the Jockey Silks Room including pictures of the

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Yaddo Garden and the continuous loop of the Power Point presentation. Brochures for the garden tours and ghost tours were available. Long stemmed roses were sold to track patrons as a mini fund raiser.

NEWS FROM THE GARDEN

New watering system

In late May a new watering system was installed in one of the rose beds as a test to see if the system would be beneficial.

Shallow trenches were dug in the grassy area in front of the rose bushes and irrigation hoses were buried. The water is 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 new system proved to be quite successful and irrigation was installed in the remaining three rose beds and the pergola. Timers were installed to automatically water the rose bushes, and the water can also be controlled manually while volunteers are working in the garden.

Good News!

The unsightly orange snow fence surrounding the rill is gone! The Yaddo grounds crew constructed a more esthetically pleasing split rail fence on either side of the rill. The improved fence not only looks better, it allows our volunteer gardeners access to maintain the plants along the rill which we were unable to do last year.

Visitors in the Garden

We have many visitors walking through the garden while we are working, but an unusual little visitor showed up in the Rock Garden – a newborn fawn. Apparently the fawn's mother felt comfortable leaving her baby in the tall grass near the pergola while she did her morning chores. The adorable fawn seemed quite comfortable, too, and showed no fear when spotted by those who were working nearby.

And then...on a very warm August morning 26 dogs visited the garden with their 2 dog walkers. Yes, that's right...26 dogs and 2 humans. There were big dogs, little dogs and every size in between and all were very well-behaved. At one point all 26 dogs were patiently posing on the center steps for a photo.



Sending a big "THANK YOU"

BOCES students arrived at the garden on a rainy May morning to lend a helping hand. The students planted flowers in urns, clipped hedges surrounding the rose beds, picked up tree branches that fell during the winter and, of course, weeded. Several seniors received 15-hour Yaddo tee shirts for their hard work.

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On a beautiful October afternoon, another group of BOCES students returned to help prepare the garden for winter. After rain delays for 2 weeks, the weather finally cooperated and the students spent the afternoon helping with fall chores. One of the main tasks they were assigned was cutting back the rugosa on the sloping bank between the pergola and the rose beds. Others helped place fencing around the rhododendron in the rock garden to protect it from the deer.

We also want to thank the seniors from the Saratoga Springs High School who volunteered in the garden on May 25th. This year approximately 20 students arrived bright and early to help spruce up the garden after the long winter.

Preparing for the winter...

It is common sense that there is a lot of hard work involved in getting the garden ready for the warm weather. It is just as important to get the garden ready for the cold winter months. These are some of the chores volunteers complete before the cold winds blow:

Leaves and many pine cones are raked throughout the garden.

The rugosa on the banks is cut back.

The rose bushes are cut back, tied and soil mounded around the base to protect from frost damage.

The numerous (very heavy) urns filled with annual flowers throughout the garden must be emptied and moved to storage.

Temporary fencing is installed around the rhododendron in the rock garden to prevent the deer from dining on the tender buds formed for next spring's flowers.

Perennial flowers and plants in the entrance garden and rock garden are cut back to promote better conditions for new growth next spring.

The Yaddo grounds crew installs the covers over the Four Season and Christalan statues to help protect them from tree damage.

Gardening carts are dismantled and stored in the sheds.

Lawn tractors and mowers are serviced and stored.

The koi, goldfish and aquatic plants from the center fountain are moved to a warmer indoor environment.

On the very last volunteer work day, all the gardening tools are washed, oiled and stored for the winter.

The gardening sheds are closed.



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 have contributed to the Association since the spring issue.

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YGA Memberships 5/1/2018 – 9/30/2018

Individual

Janice L. Conners
Faith S. Palma
Hannah Thomas

Senior /Student Rate

Charles Ballew
Gay K. Gamage
Barbara Parrish
Nick Ripley
Barbara W. Sutherland
Susan M. Zampier

Family

Suzanne W. Brunelle
Vera Weiss
Joseph Zanchelli

Contributor

Jean Marie Crocker
Nancy Downing
Holly K. Grande
M. James Higgins
Carmen Milligi
Elena Porter

Benefactor

John J. Thomas

YGA Gifts 5/1/2018 - 9/30/2018

General

Anonymous
Charles Ballew
Mary P. Meaney

In Memory

James Boyle
Verena and TohruTakekoshi

Jay Downing
Anonymous

Leona Dupell
Jane and John Corrou

Dr. Brian Izzo
Jane and John Corrou

Kyle Nelson
Nancy Downing

Larry Owen
Jane and John Corrou

John Quick
Nancy Downing

Grant Van Patten
Martha Van Patten
Jane Adams Wait

In Honor

Bill Racey
Jane and John Corrou

Jane A. Wait
Elizabeth Ireland

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ANNUAL MEETING 2018

The 2018 Annual Meeting of the Yaddo Garden Association members will be held on Tuesday, November 13th, at 6:30 pm at the United Methodist Church on Henning Road in Saratoga Springs. The meeting will begin with refreshments followed by a brief business meeting, including annual reports from the YGA Board as well as the nomination and election of new and returning Board members.

The nominating committee with Kathy Mattes as chair, and Mary Curtis, Lesley Leduc, and Linda Hoyt as members, will nominate the following to be elected to the 2019 Yaddo Garden Association Board of Directors:

We are welcoming new and returning members to the Board: Lauri Cardinali, Verena Takekoshi, and Nan Wilder.

Lauri was born and raised in rural Northwest Connecticut and graduated from West Virginia Wesleyan College. She and her husband raised four children in Scotia NY and Pittsburgh, loving both places in equal measure. After retirement from teaching, Ballston Lake became home. Lauri enjoys gardening, reading, genealogy, sings with the St. Peter's choir, and plays violin with the Orchestra on the Common in Clifton Park. A special joy in returning to upstate NY has been the sharing of the history and beauty of Yaddo with visitors from all over the country.

Verena joined the YGA in 1993 and has volunteered over 4400 hours as the Master Gardener of the Rock Garden, as a past YGA Board Member and as a past President of the YGA Board. Verena was born in Switzerland and relocated to NY in 1963 as a professional textile designer. She married Tohru, another committed YGA

volunteer, in 1966 and has two sons. In the mid 80's Verena worked with the horticulturist Pamela Rowling on international seed exchange, plant propagation and maintenance at the George Landis Arboretum in Esperance NY. She has a Bachelors of Art from the State University at Albany.

Nan grew up in Saratoga Springs and returned to Saratoga in 1973 after graduating from college. Nan retired in 2006 after 33 years of teaching in the Saratoga Springs School District. She enjoys reading, walking, biking, golf, traveling the world with her husband, David, and participating in various volunteer activities. She is happy and honored to be returning to the Yaddo Garden Association Board. Yaddo has always been a very special place for Nan and she has loved sharing the Yaddo story and beauty in her capacity as a decent for over twenty years.

Mary Curtis and Barbara Hefter have agreed to renew their Board Membership. Donna Bates is leaving the Board due to term limits. Joyce Zancelli will not be renewing her membership and Marty Precheur will be resigning from the Board. We want to acknowledge Donna's, Joyce's, and Marty's many contributions during their Board tenures.

The proposed officers of the Board will include the current officers with the addition of Nancy Wilder as Corresponding Secretary and Lauri Cardinali as Recording Secretary.

Following the business meeting, the program, "Grand Canyon Hiking Adventure" will be presented by Marty Precheur, Barbara Hefter and their Saratoga Styders friends.

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Following is a lovely note from a former Yaddo Garden Volunteer, Gretchen Herrick. I met Gretchen briefly in the garden on a Tuesday morning when she was visiting during the break with her grandmother. I hope you enjoy her story.

I grew up in the Yaddo Gardens. After my grandmother, Barbara Sutherland, moved to Saratoga from Concord, NH, I began joining her in the rock garden every Tuesday morning. I was only eleven years old when I started, helping Verena transplant geraniums and rake up pinecones. One glorious morning I was even permitted to drive a riding mower. After graduating from high school in 2012, I wasn't able to make it back to the garden so often. This brief article is to update my Yaddo family on what I have been up to since then, and to say thank you for modeling joyful service and always welcoming me.

I took a gap year after high school and worked as a nanny for a lovely family of four kids in Versailles, France. The kids were merciless when correcting my French, but maybe it was worth it because now I'm fluent in juvenile slang. My best moment was teaching the kids to make an igloo. They don't usually get much snow, so as a true Upstate New Yorker I couldn't let a few good inches go to waste.

I then went to Dartmouth College where I studied economics and human geography. My focus was on international development, and I was able to spend much of my academic and vacation time abroad — studying, volunteering, and doing internships.

After graduating in June of 2017, I moved to Nairobi, Kenya to work with

the Young African Leaders Initiative (YALI). YALI runs a practical and interactive four week program for young professionals from 14 countries in East and Central Africa teaching them leadership skills. I worked primarily with the alumni department, helping to support the 2000+ alumni of the program who are doing great work in everything from promoting girls hygiene in rural schools to developing solar powered laptops.

Next up I am heading into the Peace Corps in Benin, West Africa to work in agriculture and economic development. I'm coming full circle, back to working in gardens!

If you'd like to keep up with my exploits, feel free to check my blog:
<http://www.whereisskye.blogspot.com>

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

Name

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City State Zip

Phone

Email

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

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Please notify the following of my gift:

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**Please mail the amount of the Gift
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form to the address above or donate online
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**I wish to support the YGA by becoming a
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I wish to become an annual YGA member

Individual \$35.00 to \$49.00 _____

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Contributor \$100.00 to \$249.00 _____

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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
