

YADDO GARDEN ASSOCIATION
POTPOURRI

Fall 2019
Looking Back

Not only did the flowers grow at Yaddo this year, the number of active volunteers grew as well. Our first Volunteer Kick-off Luncheon was held on April 29th with the purpose of re-acquainting with old friends after the long winter and inviting new acquaintances who are interested in gardening and / or docenting to join. Forty people gathered for a luncheon and enjoyed displays highlighting historic pictures of Yaddo gardens, the process of restoring the gardens after many years of neglect, floral pictures of the current gardens, and the history of the YGA.

It was an event that we feel should be held annually to get volunteers together before the start of a new season and to encourage prospective volunteers to attend and learn how they can help maintain and improve these beautiful gardens.

In May we again had help from the BOCES students and senior students from the Saratoga Springs High School to ready the gardens for the growing season. Help from these young people is invaluable. Their enthusiasm and time spent is very much appreciated by all the YGA volunteers.

As the roses burst into abundant bloom in June, the resident deer were watching. Unfortunately, over the long 4th of July weekend, the deer feasted on the glorious blooms and left stripped stems standing. We do use several eco-friendly deterrents for the invasion of the deer, and our efforts were rewarded for the remainder of the season with new blooms.

Editor: Mary Curtis

Rain interrupted our work a few times this summer, but we did not have to suffer the extreme heat and humidity that we experienced last year. It was a more enjoyable gardening season.

All too soon it was time to complete the cycle and “close” the garden. Perennial beds are cut back, rose bushes are dead-headed and mounded, rugosa are cut back, gardening tools are cleaned and stored, and the gardening sheds are locked until next spring.

A Special Treat for Volunteers

For the past several years garden volunteers have enjoyed a tea party hosted by Vicki Schepps and Stacey Hetherington. Lace tablecloths, fresh flowers, and candelabras decorated the tables under the trees. Our hosts served scones, crumpets, ladyfingers with hot tea, and iced tea. Several past volunteers returned to enjoy the festivities, too.

Another Day at the Races

For a second year volunteers Pat Mangini, Joanne Killian, Judith Banks, and Mary Curtis represented YGA in a Community Day at the Saratoga Race Course. New York Racing Association provides a space to community organizations to interact with race patrons to promote their work in the community. July 18th was a warm, sunny day but being early in the season it was a somewhat small crowd. However, we feel that it is an opportunity to promote the gardens. Displays highlighting the gardens and information about the Ghost Tours were made available.

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A special thank you to Jill Gainor for donating five dozen long stem roses to be sold to raise funds for the gardens.

Bonus publicity:

The YGA volunteers who spent the day at the NYRA Community Booth (still wearing their green YGA tee shirts) attended ***Reveal*** which was an art exhibit at the City Center. Pat Mangini spoke to several artists in attendance about the mission of Yaddo as an artist retreat. Pat also told the story of the gardens being a gift from Spencer to Katrina after the tragic deaths of their four children. The artists were not aware of the availability of residency at Yaddo. Many were quite interested in the possibility of applying as well as the love story of Spencer and Katrina. All in all, it was a successful day in promoting Yaddo.

More Publicity:

Yaddo Gardens benefited from another good year of publicity. Discover Saratoga, an online blog by Gail M. Stein, featured great pictures of Yaddo and the Gardens. Check out "Frozen Moments In and Around Saratoga".

Amtrak Magazine's Summer edition, available on all trains traveling between New York and Canada, included Yaddo Gardens with pictures as an attraction in Saratoga Springs.

The Haunted History Trails again includes Yaddo Gardens and the Ghost Tours. We met with their author this summer. She loved the gardens and we are hoping for an article on the gardens next year.

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The Saratoga Today's article, "History of Saratoga" by Charlie Kuenzel, included information about both the Summer and Ghost tours.

The Chamber of Commerce remains a good partner and always has something to say about the Gardens on their web site. And our tours were regularly included in The Saratogian's events calendar section.

Garden tours:

Throughout the winter months, as well as the mild weather, Judith Banks is busy scheduling tours and power point presentations. The docents are very active during the summer months guiding the drop-in tours of the garden on Tuesdays, Saturdays, and Sundays. Ghost tours are very popular from mid-September and through October. Tours are also scheduled for groups from 8 people to as many as 40 people. Power point presentations are scheduled throughout the year as requested by various groups interested in gardening, historical information about Yaddo and groups simply interested in the esthetics of the beautiful gardens.

Thank you to our docents Donna Bates, Teri Blasko, Lauri Cardinali, Michael Coleman, Jane Corrou, Julie Davis, Jean Dugan, Roberta Feiden, Gay Gamage, Joan Joyner, Barbara Kolapakka, Lesley Leduc, Pat Meaney, Sheila Nelson, Diane Palma, Leigh Stallings, Ralph Vincent, Shirley Voelker, Nancy Wilder, and Ray Zielinski for spending their time to spread the word about the Yaddo Gardens.

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Improvements to Yaddo Garden:

Paint and repair of the pergola

Hard as it is to believe it has been 11 years since the pergola was restored during 2008 and it was in need of repair and repainting. Peeling paint on the trellis needed to be scraped and repainted.



Repair of steps

The marble steps leading to the pergola needed repair as well. All staircases were re-pointed and cleaned. One set of steps was completely removed (see picture below) and put back in place by a crew of skilled craftsmen



Note:

Thank you to Peter Finley for the photos of the maintenance work in progress

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Volunteer Appreciation Party

What a difference a year makes. Last year's Volunteer Appreciation Party was held in the early evening during a torrential rainstorm that created a waterfall down the Yaddo Mansion dining room windows. (That was before the mansion's new windows were installed!). This year's event was held September 21st, a beautiful fall afternoon at Yaddo.

Almost 50 volunteers, past and present, enjoyed a buffet luncheon hosted by the YGA board members. Beautiful flower arrangements created by Verena Takekoshi and fall table décor were the background for socializing with new and old friends who share the love of gardening and history of the Yaddo Gardens.

Our group was honored to have our YGA founder, Jane Wait, join us for the gathering as well as several other founding member volunteers.

After our luncheon, awards were presented to our valued volunteers who reached special milestones. New garden volunteers who had previously received a 15-hour YGA tee shirt are Sheila Cabano, Suzanne Diesem, Mary Ephraim, Joanne McFadden, Elaine McGee, and Timothy Nolan. Bob Fusco received a 50 hour bucket for his hard work; for 100 hours of work in the gardens Kathy Crandall, Karen Klepper, and Johanna McKay received Yaddo note cards featuring beautiful photos of Yaddo roses; a Lifetime Membership

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Certificate was awarded to Jim Hart for 500 hours of garden work; Kathy Mattes received a 1000 hour sweatshirt and Verena Takekoshi received a 4000 hour sweatshirt. WOW!

Docent volunteer Teri Blasko received a 15 hour tote bag. Lauri Cardinali, Jean Dugan, and Sheila Nelson all reached their 100 hour milestone and received a framed sundial picture.

Congratulations and thank you to all the volunteers who reached these special milestones.

To conclude the festivities, Cheryl Martin led a tour of the mansion's main floor and exterior. Cheryl shared information on the recently completed renovations.

Thank you to BOCES students

For a total of 7 morning and afternoon sessions 16 BOCES students arrived at the gardens to help prepare for the upcoming winter weather. The students helped the gardeners with clearing ferns from the entrance garden, removing the numerous heavy urns filled with annuals, cutting ferns from the slopes in the rock garden, mounding the rose bushes, and installing temporary fencing around the rhododendrons protecting them from the deer during the winter. And, YES, they help accomplish one of the major fall tasks - cutting back the rugosa (thank you BOCES students!).

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YGA Gifts 5/1/2019- 9/30/2019

General
GE Fund Matching Gifts Program
Home of the Good Shepherd
Deirdre Leland
Tabitha McGill
Mary P. Meaney
Soroptimist International of Saratoga County
Woodlawn Apartments, Inc.

In Memory

Louie Aliperti
 Barbara Hefter
Susan Baker
 Nancy Wilder
Carol Clark Carney
 Jane McAdam
Florence Hinckly
 Nancy Wilder
James Petralia
 Jane and John Corrou
AJ Sarno
 Jane and John Corrou
Nancy Steven's Mother
 Verena Takekoshi
Zachery Solov
 Charles and Michael Ballew-Paque
Mike Witte
 Jane and John Corrou
Mary Lou Whitney
 Jane and John Corrou
 Jane A. Wait

In Honor

Debbie Brown's Birthday
 Charlotte Wojcik

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Karin Garver

Jane and John Corrou

Holly Grande

Connie Stone

Suzanne Padoba

Nancy Wilder

Debby and Bob Takahashi 50th Anniversary

Jane and John Corrou

Jane Adams Wait

Florence Andresen

George Vodapivc

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including annual reports from the YGA Board as well as the nomination and election of new Board members.

The nominating committee with Donna Bates as chair and Barbara Hefter, Pat Meaney, Florence Campion, Linda Watters as members, will nominate the following to be elected to the 2019 Yaddo Garden Association Board of Directors:

YGA Memberships 5/1/2019 - 9/30/2019

Senior/Student

Gay K. Gamage

Barbara Parrish

Barbara W. Sutherland

Current Board Members adding a new term:

Michael Coleman

Judith Banks

Charlotte Eaton

Lesley Leduc

Kathy Mattes

Contributor

Judith Banks

Gary DiSanto-Rose

Nancy Downing

Holly K. Grande

Dorothy Harran

Shirley Voelker

In addition we nominate the following individuals for positions on the board of directors: Gay Gamage, Linda Hoyt, Cosette Lotz, Joanne McFadden, and Donna Bates. Here's a quick intro to our new nominees:

Sponsor

Kathy Mattes and Andy Marsh

Donna says:

I just retired as an English teacher from Glens Falls High School after 27 years. I have five daughters and twelve grandkids, who keep me busy cooking and playing. I have been volunteering at Yaddo for more than 15 years. This will be my third time on the board and I am looking forward to being Vice-President. I am passionate about the wonderful energy at Yaddo and the goodness and the generosity of the Trasks. My favorite thing is gardening and digging in

ANNUAL MEETING 2019

The 2019 Annual Meeting of the Yaddo Garden Association members will be held on Tuesday November 12th 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

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the warm soil. I am thankful for Lyn Madden's rose expertise and instruction. I use tough love with the roses in Bed 4. I am an aggressive deadheader, and I expect the roses to perform brilliantly for the visitors, or they need cutting back, replacement, or transplanting to the nursery at the back side of the bed, away from the public. Their jobs are to dazzle and shine.

I hate hungry deer.

Gay says:

When Jane Wait gathered members of local garden clubs and the Craft Group to organize restoration of the Yaddo Garden, I was there, and have been involved ever since. Over the years I've helped with the rose quilt, the cookbook, statue cleaning, rose planting and care, Mansion tours, garden parties, sweeping the steps and garden tours. It's a wonderful place to volunteer, and I look forward to helping with the docents.

Linda – aka “The Pot Lady” has been creating and nurturing our beautiful jardinières of annual blooms for the past 20 years. The Dwarf Alberta Spruces are also among Linda's charges.

Cosette and her fellow gardening volunteer Roxanne Day joined our YGA volunteer team in 2016. Cosette and Roxanne rapidly assumed responsibility for the Entrance Garden becoming co-captains in the Spring of 2017.

Editor: Mary Curtis

Joanne grew up in California listening to her mother's stories of finding sanctuary at Yaddo when she was a girl. Joanne graduated from Goucher College with a bachelor's degree in Russian and International Relations. After working for the U.S. government, she married and raised two daughters. She has been a freelance journalist for 28 years and also works as a substitute teacher and dance instructor. Joanne has a master's degree in Consciousness Studies and serves as the minister of the educational ministry, New Thought New York Center for Spiritual Living, teaching classes and workshops in spiritual growth. In her “spare” time, Joanne enjoys reading, papercrafting, baking and sewing. She lives in Charlton with her husband, Scott, and cat, Boo. She volunteers at Yaddo to honor her mother, Beverly, who has loved Yaddo throughout her 90 years.

We nominate the following individuals as officers of the board of directors:

Mary Curtis – President

Donna Bates – Vice President

Kathy Mattes - Treasurer

Term expiring and leaving the board:

Jean Dugan

Jill Gainor

Pat Mangini

Roxanne Day is leaving the board at this time because of other commitments.

We would like to thank Jean, Jill, Pat, and Roxanne for their service and hard work for the YGA and hope they will serve on the board again one day.

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312 Union Avenue

Saratoga Springs, New York 12866

Name

Address

City State Zip

Phone

Email

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 _____

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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

Please recognize my Gift [not membership] in memory of_____ 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 www.yaddo.org.

Please note that our address has changed from a PO Box to the street address 312 Union Avenue.