The profit from the plant sale, along with the sale of heliotrope to the Hillstead Museum and Eileen Grant totaled approx. $9000. This is roughly an increase of $2000 over the 2017 Plant Sale. Congratulations to all!!

Many thanks go to Camp Harkness who donated hundreds of herbs, vegetables, annuals that they grew in their hothouse.

New this year were rock painting and seed planting activities run by Renee Vogt and Annemarie Sheehan to entertain numerous children attending the plant sale with their parents. Parents were delighted to be able to browse the plant aisles without children tugging at their arms.

Gail Broookover was responsible for the advertising for the plant sale. Gail also sold her ‘air plants’ at the plant sale and shared 50% of her profits with FOH.

Susan MacDonald provided the large tent, which provided much needed weather protection for all attendees. The tent also sheltered the buyers who were grateful not to be standing out in the rain.

Pat and Rich Erickson provided food and coffee for all volunteers.

Numerous FOH garden volunteers donated their valuable time, starting weeks before the sale helping to dig up and pot plant divisions from B. Farrand gardens. They also graciously donated their time to assisted during the Plant Sale.

David Nieminen, Harkness State Park horticulturist, and his summer assistants provided support to the Garden Volunteers throughout pre-sale set-up and activities related to the sale.

Sales at the Gift Shop were also brisk garnering $239.00 on the day of the Plant Sale.

Thank you all for another very successful Harkness Plant Sale.

John Suhr
THE COLORS OF SPRING
FRIENDS OF HARKNESS
MEMBERSHIP PICNIC
July 18, 2018

The Friend of Harkness are happy to announce that the Annual Membership Picnic

Will be held on Monday, July 18, 2018 beginning at 5:30PM at the Eolia Mansion Terrace

No early arrivals, please!

FOH Board of Directors will supply the Beverages, Burgers, Dogs, Buns  Cheese and Condiments

Our Grillin’ Team will cook dinner to perfection.

What You Should Bring : (according to the 1st initial of your last name):

A-H  Appetizer
I-N  Side or Salad
O-Z  Dessert

Suggestion: Bring bug spray—lawn areas sometimes are buggy this time of the year.

Parking is only allowed in the general lot. A shuttle will be provided to and from the mansion

KITCHEN VOLUNTEERS NEEDED: Those who would like to help in the effort are asked to please contact: summer-picnic@harkness.org.

****Cost: $5 pp to cover picnic expenses****
A New Look, A Fresh Start

An elegantly re-designed FOH website re-engages membership and introduces Harkness Memorial State Park and our Friends group to Park visitors and scholars in consummate fashion.

If you haven’t checked out harkness.org recently, you are in for quite a surprise. Our brand new website makes both a great leap forward to contemporary standards in online function and takes an evocative step backward to the world of Edward and Mary Harkness, the Park’s generous benefactors.

A treasure trove of beautiful historic and modern images complements extensive informative text. Visitors to the site will learn much about our organization’s beginnings, our future plans for Park improvements, and our ambitious event schedule for the coming year. For lovers of history, we provide a window to Eolia’s past, an affectionate tribute to Mr. and Mrs. Harkness, and an appreciation of the great artists and architects who enhanced our stunning natural landscape with their creations. Numerous links are liberally scattered throughout the site to deepen the knowledge of those who would like to “Learn More.” It’s also now just a click away to the dynamic Facebook page edited by BOD member Gail Brookover. Individuals may, for the first time, join FOH or renew membership online and all are invited to make selected Gift Shop purchases. It’s one stop shopping at harkness.org!

Harkness is such a wonder on so many levels, that it can be a challenge to do it justice in a constricted format. The Friends of Harkness were so fortunate to have the guidance of a gifted and sensitive web designer, Janet Colandrea. Spot on instincts, a discerning eye, and a command of the latest technology were hallmarks of Janet’s work. A four person Board of Directors committee (Eileen Grant, Toni Pederson, Laurette Saller and Joan Prentice) collaborated, rather seamlessly, with Janet to produce the best product possible to serve our and the public’s needs. It was a joyful collaboration that felt right every step of the way!

Janet founded her company, Colandrea Design, in 2001. Holding a bachelor’s degree in graphic design (and silversmithing!), Janet built her first website for a local country club. It garnered much attention and precipitated many more sites that offered marketing solutions for local businesses, holistic practitioners, and numerous non-profit organizations.

Janet has become the “go to” consultant for Friends organizations and has designed the Friends of CT State Parks (friendsctstateparks.org) and Friends of Hammonasset Beach State Parks (hammonaset.org) websites as well as our own. Each site is very distinct and perfectly reflects the individual character of its Friends group.

Chris Koster, Friends of Hammonasset President, said in praise of Janet, “As many non-profits do, we created our first website without seeking professional help. That first site was stale and dated and did not engage our desired audience. Since hiring Colandrea Design, our site is colorful, informative and our traffic has increased immensely. Janet is responsive, very creative, knowledgeable in social media and a pleasure to work with.”
Steve Fish, FCSP Board of Directors’ Website Chair was equally laudatory. “From the very beginning of discussions with Janet on design concepts and content, she provided excellent recommendations that met the needs of our organization’s online presence. It was obvious that Janet had a very good grasp of the FCSP; she had done her homework! She quickly understood how to apply online tools and design techniques that would make our website not only attractive, but also easy to navigate and very functional, allowing our visitors to interact with us if needed and to obtain a wide range of information in a very intuitive manner. I cannot say enough how much of a pleasure it was, and continues to be, to work with Janet. She goes out of her way to understand her client’s needs and spends time understanding her client’s “line of business” which translates into excellent design concepts and a successful final product. Janet told me personally that she ‘likes to work with non-profits.’ Well I can tell you, we like working with her too!”

FOH will continue to consult with Janet, (www.colandreadesign.com), have her teach us how to input to the site ourselves, and together keep harkness.org an ever evolving communication nexus that will help our organization grow, attract donors for our capital initiatives, encourage increased Park visitation, and support research and scholarship.

We invite you in future to contribute materials to “your” reinvigorated website and freely participate in the FOH events and educational programs highlighted online.

We’re proud of our design team, both professional and volunteer. Thanks very much to all!

Eileen Grant

PRESIDENT’S MESSAGE

Hello Friends,

For those of you who missed our first membership meeting in June, here is a recap of the Board of Directors activities since January.

- Under the capable leadership of Eileen Grant and her ad-hoc committee, we now have a new web site (same address harkness.org) designed by Janet Colandrea of Colandrea Designs.

- Gail Brookover, our Publicity chair, has designed and implemented a new Face Book page (The Friends of Harkness Memorial Park) which has been linked to the new web site.

Both the web site and the Face Book page will have up to date information on all of our activities.

- Plans are underway to make a proposal to the State DEEP for a Visitor Center at the park – to house up to date rest room facilities, an orientation/meeting room and our gift shop. It is proposed for an area close to the parking lot.

- We also now have credit card capability on our web site for memberships/renewals and a small number of items from the gift shop.

- The gift shop will also be taking credit cards – hopefully by July 1 – we’re just waiting for the equipment to arrive.

- We have Membership meetings with speakers planned in August and October, our Membership Picnic has been moved to July 18 (please see the web site for details).

Please try to “go Green” by sending your email address in to the membership committee (you can do it on the website), by doing this you won’t miss any information that I may send out via email. Thanks!

See you at the park,

Jeanne
June 11 at 7:30PM Glenn Dreyer of the Connecticut Arboretum will be presenting a program on "Notable Trees of Connecticut." Refreshments will be served after the presentation.

June 24 Historic Garden Day 12:00-4:00, Rain or Shine

JULY 18 at 5:30PM Friends of Harkness Annual Picnic - $5.00 charge to help defray the cost of hot dogs / hamburgers. Please bring an item to share as designated on the web site.

August 6 at 7:00PM Architect and Historian Patrick Pinell from Yale University will present an exciting program on James Gamble Rogers, the architect who transformed the original mansion at "Eolia".

October 1 at 7:00PM Christopher Wigren, Deputy Director and author from the Connecticut Trust for Historic Preservation will present an interesting program on his latest book, discussing historic homes and landscapes of Connecticut.

November 5, 2018

December 3, 2018

* Additional Membership Meeting dates and Programs will be announced in the future via email or Eolian
Volunteers Needed

We are happy to see “old” volunteers, and welcome new ones to join our ranks. Staff levels are very low, so we need volunteers more than ever—for spring and summer garden work. Also to give tours at Eolia, to write or edit for the *Eolian*, to help out at our tea and other events. Think you are unskilled to be a decent docent or a green gardener? No worries. We train. Call 860-437-1523 if you are interested. Thank you.

Membership Renewal: For all members, a renewal notice was sent to your address of record in January by first class mail; the mailing label will indicate when you last paid your dues. For those receiving a paper copy of this Eolian newsletter, the mailing label on your Eolian indicates the date that we deposited your most recent dues. Membership fees are due in the Spring. In the Fall we send out with an annual fund raiser for donations. Membership fees and donations are accepted any time but tracked separately, so to avoid bookkeeping confusion, we ask that membership fees be paid in the spring. Dues should be sent to FOH, PO BOX 10, WATERFORD, CT 06385-0010 in response to a renewal notice.