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PRESIDENT’S MESSAGE—Jeanne Shelburne

It’s been a very busy summer for The Friends. We have had membership meetings beginning in June with programs ranging from Architectural experts to information on upcoming environmental questions on the November ballot. Our new web site is up and running – any questions you may have can be answered by sending an email to “information @harkness.org”. The website features a calendar of events, the ability to volunteer for any Committee and the ability to take out or renew a membership.

Here are a few of the activities that have involved your Board of Directors:

Discussion with the Director of State Parks on future planning for Harkness

Involvement in the Carriage House project, removal of our items to another storage area – mold removal currently on going at the park.

Our Buildings and Grounds Committee is up to 18 new picnic tables constructed for the park, as well as a few other smaller projects.

Our Horticulture Committee has done a wonderful job maintaining the gardens throughout the summer - they will be moving to the greenhouse shortly to start Heliotrope cuttings for spring planting.

Establishment of a Budget and Finance Committee to oversee our expenditures

Discussion of how to complete construction of the Greenhouse.

I hope you all had a wonderful summer despite the heat and humidity - and hope to see you at our Annual Meeting in November, we will be electing a new Treasurer and At-Large members who represent your concerns or ideas at the Board of Directors meetings.

Connecticut Architecture: Our Sense of Place

Christopher Wigren, an architectural historian and Deputy Director of the Connecticut Trust for Historic Preservation presented a lecture about the Eolia Mansion’s significance with respect to Connecticut’s historic architecture at the October 1, 2018 Membership Meeting. The audience was treated to a preview of Mr. Wigren’s new book, Connecticut Architecture: Stories of 100 Places.
On Monday, September 4, 2018, the Friends of Harkness of Harkness hosted a Constitutional Amendment Forum in anticipation of the referendum vote to appear on the November 6 ballot. The guest speaker was Eric Hammerling, Director of the CT Forest and Park Association and volunteer Treasurer for The Protect CT Public Lands Coalition, Inc.

Amending the Connecticut Constitution by voting “YES” on Question #2 on the November 6, 2019 ballot will...

→ Require public hearings before your state parks. Forests, and other valuable public lands could be sold, swapped, or given away.
→ Improve accountability and Transparency of public land transactions.
→ Make it harder for the Connecticut General Assembly to sell, swap, or give away your state parks, forests, and state-owned farmlands.

REMEMBER:

PUBLIC LAND BELONG TO YOU—JUST VOTE “YES” ON # 2

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VOTE YES ON QUESTION #2

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SLATE OF OFFICERS—2019

Jeanne Shelburne — President
30 Benham Avenue
Quaker Hill, CT 06375
(860)444-7417
jlshelburn@aol.com

John Steffian, Vice President
74 Shore Rd.
Waterford, CT 06385
(860)443-6917
j.steffian@gmail.com

Vonice Carr, Secretary
22 Shirley Lane
New London, CT 06320
(860)-444-1785
Vonicecarr@ATT.net

Treasurer—Vacant

Slate—Continued on Next Page
TRUSTEES

Carl Orsini, Trustee
5 Giovanni Drive
Waterford, CT 06385
860-442-4907
c.orsini@sbcglobal.net

Eileen Grant, Trustee
43 Neptune Avenue
Madison, CT 06443
203-245-4224
eileenecgrant@gmail.com

Mary Maynard, Trustee/ Docent Chair
212 West Rd.
Salem, CT 06420
860-859-3283
Marymaynard212@comcast.net

AT- LARGE MEMBERS

Mary Beth Baker, Programs
38 Chapel Drive
New London, CT 06320
860-439-1880
Memebaker481@gmail.com

Gail Brookover, Publicity/Public Relations/Media
11 Lloyd Rd.
Waterford, CT 06385
860-439-1097
gailbrookover@gmail.com

Cliff and Sherry Carter, Membership
260 Shore Rd
Waterford, CT 06385
860-443-2279
scarterwhs@aol.com
G.C.Carter@ieee.org

Joan Prentice, Membership Corresponding Secretary
32 Nichols Lane
Waterford, CT 06385
860-444-2352
Jowp32@hotmail.com

Chris Callahan
69 North Rd.
Waterford, CT 06385
860-444-1364
callahans@atlanticbb.net
callaha@gdeb.net

Laurette Saller
4 Gunshot Rd.
Waterford, CT 06385
860-614-4021
laureettesaller@gmail.com

COMMITTEE CHAIRS

John Suhr, Horticulture Committee Chair
159 Niantic River Rd.
Waterford, CT 06385
860-440-0641
jsuhr159@gmail.com

Deanna Bossdorf, Gift Shop Committee Chair
83 Mansfield Rd. Unit 321
New London, CT 06320
860-437-3153
matjge@gmail.com

John Steffian, Budget & Finance Committee Chair
74 Shore Rd.
Waterford, CT 06385
(860)443-6917
j.steffian@gmail.com

Al Capozza, Budget & Finance
35 Cottage Lane
Niantic, CT 06357
860-739-6246
ajcapozzajr@aol.com

Bob Dutton, Budget & Finance
64 Niantic River Road
Waterford, CT 06385
860-701-0255
School4123@gmail.com

Paul Goulekas, Budget & Finance
860-691-2288
Psgniantic1@gmail.com

Pamela Aey Adams, Eolian
27 Harbor Road
Colchester, CT 06415
860-537-3060
Pamela_aey_adams@sbcglobal.net

Mary Cooper, Docent committee Co-chair
PO Box 133
N. Stonington, CT 06359
860-535-0528
Harkness Presents:

On August 6, Architect and Historian Patrick Pinell from Yale University presented an exciting program on James Gamble Rogers, the architect who transformed the original mansion at "Eolia".

Mr Pinell was introduction by long-time friend and Harkness VP, John Steffian. The following is John Steffian’s introduction:

Patrick L. Pinell, is an architect, planner, author and educator. He has a BA in English Literature from Yale College, and a Masters of Architecture from Yale University's School of Architecture.

I have known Mr. Pinell for nearly my entire career in architecture, mostly through his association with my father John Steffian, and his academic career at the University of Miami and University of Maryland.

Mr. Pinell has been an inspiration to me for his scholarship and intellect, and inspired several of my own pursuits which are not relevant here.

Mr. Pinell has been in practice as an architect and urban planner for 40 years. He was principal of The Firm of Cass & Pinell Architects, based in Washington, D.C. for 12 years before moving to Connecticut in 1989. During that time the firm produced many award winning buildings among which were houses for members of the United States Senate, and a church for a minority congregation in Northeast Washington, DC. Mr. Pinell's other works include projects located in Maryland, Virginia, New York, Massachusetts, Michigan, Florida, California, Connecticut, and Amsterdam, The Netherlands.

From 1981 until 1998 Mr. Pinell headed Yale University's graduate research program in Environmental Design, and taught design studio and architectural theory classes at the School of Architecture. He has since taught and lectured at many American architectural schools and organizations as well as in Europe and Japan.

Mr. Pinell's recent activities and achievements have included:

- Participating in the planning of Hartford's downtown and greater urban region,
- Co-leading the urban design team for the “Save Fenway Park” effort in Boston, Massachusetts,
- Co-drafting a form-based code for Transit-Oriented Developments on Long Island,
- Participating in the Master Plan for Thomas Jefferson’s Monticello, and
- Planning and designing 17 actor housing cottages for the Goodspeed Opera in the historic village of East Haddam, Conn.

Mr. Pinell is a member of the American Institute of Architects and founding member of the Congress for the New Urbanism. He is the author of The Campus Guide: Yale University, a definitive work on campus buildings and planning, published in 1999, with an expanded edition in 2012.

His other publications include:

- Articles on the new towns of Seaside, Florida, and Kentlands, Maryland,
- The early work of Frank Lloyd Wright, and
- Various issues in the theory of architecture and urbanism.

He periodically writes commentary on development issues for The Hartford Courant.

Mr. Pinell lives in the 1799 Levi and Mehitable Ward house in the Connecticut River town of Higganum with his wife, architectural historian Kathleen Curran.
PATRICK PINELL

Yale Club—NYC

Both Photos:
James Gamble Rogers on left &
Frank Lloyd Write on right

Eolian
Film Shoot at Harkness:
A New PBS Documentary about Harkness Landscape Architect Beatrix Farrand is in the Works

By: Eileen C. Grant
LIGHTS, CAMERA, DRONE!

On August 23rd, park visitors may have been forgiven for thinking that they had somehow stumbled onto a movie set. A hive of purposeful technicians led by Director Steve Ives of Insignia Films had positioned crew, sound equipment and cameras on the lawn footing the West Garden’s Pergola. With the vividly colored Italian Garden as backdrop, a bench had been positioned for a filmed interview about Beatrix Farrand between Lynden Miller and Judith Tankard two women very prominent in the landscape architecture universe. Long Island Sound sparkled beyond on the sunny clear day while squadrons of monarchs and dragonflies (Harkness extras) flitted picturesquely before lenses.

Anne Symmes, Horticulturalist for the Beatrix Farrand Garden Association at the historic site of Bellefield in Hyde Park New York has been overseeing the creation of a new documentary on Beatrix Farrand. This film will be utilized in a number of ways - as an educational program on PBS, as a means to better showcase Bellefield and other Farrand sites before a regional and national audience, and as a fundraising tool to support Bellefield. It will premiere next March at a gala at the New York Botanical Garden and be distributed thereafter.

Lynden Miller is the "on air" hostess for the documentary conducting interviews and guiding viewers through Farrand’s gardens. Lynden is a well-known public garden designer in New York City whose commissions touch all of the City’s five boroughs. In 1982, she directed a spectacular restoration and redesign of the Conservatory Garden in Central Park at 5th Avenue and 105th Street. She was instrumental in the revival of Bryant Park, created the very lovely perennial garden rooms at the entrance to the NY Botanical Garden Conservatory building and designed spaces in Wagner Park, Hudson River Park, Fort Tryon Park and the Museum of Modern Art. At present, she is working on the gardens at the Frick Museum in midtown. Like Beatrix Farrand, she has designed campus improvements at Princeton and also Columbia, and Stony Brook. She is the author of Parks, Plants and People: Beautifying the Urban Landscape that received the 2010 National Book Award from the American Horticultural Society. Quite a resume!

Lynden’s guest interviewee at Harkness, Judith Tankard, also has an impressive Cirriculum Vitae. Judith taught at the Landscape Institute of Harvard University for over 20 years and is the author or co-author of ten illustrated books on landscape history. In 2010, her landmark book, Beatrix Farrand: Private Gardens, Public Landscapes received the Historic New England Book Prize: her earlier book, The Gardens of Ellen Biddle Shipman, also garnered book awards and brought welcome attention to another pioneer female landscape designer of the last century. At the time of her Farrand book’s publication, Judith was a guest speaker at an FOH gathering: she had devoted a portion of Farrand’s biopic to Eolia's landscape. Thus, Judith she was well familiar with Harkness’s gardens prior to her film interview.

So too were the other documentary participants. Four years ago, Lynden Miller in the company of Anne Symmes and Gail Griffin, Director of Gardens at Dumbarton Oaks, Farrand’s masterwork outside Washington D.C., paid a memorable visit to Harkness. Based on their highly favorable impressions of our gardens in 2014, Anne and Lynden chose Harkness as the sole Connecticut Farrand garden site to be included in their planned documentary. Quite an honor and also a great responsibility as it necessitated much prep work by staff and volunteers- sharp edges, trimmed hedges, new mulch, raked paths and weed eradication in the punishing August heat. A formal public garden, especially one of historic importance, demands a level of care that would daunt most home gardeners. Careful correct restoration and vigilant maintenance are the missions and mandates of all those fortunate enough to hold landscape architecture treasures in their direct trust. Visits from distant scholars like our documentarians serve to remind us that Harkness does not simply hold “pretty” flower gardens, but a landscape that is very special and vital to preserve.

Harkness was the last location filmed on an ambitious multi-state schedule. Before the crew’s arrival in Waterford, footage had already been shot in Maine, New York, New Jersey, Long Island and Washington, DC. Now the documentary makers are on to the arduous process of editing. Watching the erudite “stars” and able crew in action, we can be pretty certain they will emerge next year with a terrific documentary which will happily spread the good word about Beatrix Farrand and her gardens to a wide audience.

Photos: Next Page
Friends of Harkness Holiday Extravaganza!

Party Date-Monday, December 3
Party Start Time-5:30 PM-NO EARLY BIRDS !!!!!
Cost-$5.00 Per Person

What to Bring

Last Name Starts with:
A to H... Please bring an Appetizer to Share
I to N.... Please bring a Salad or Side Dish to Share
O to Z... Please bring a Dessert to Share

**DECK THE HALLS**

Pre-Party Decorating Date & Time—Saturday, December 1, 9 AM Harkness Mansion
Decorators and Volunteers are asked to each please bring a bag of greens for the fireplace mantles (Holly, Spruce, Boxwood, Juniper, Cedar, Fir, etc.)

Post-Party UNDecorating Date & Time—Saturday, December 8, 9 AM Harkness Mansion
Servers and Kitchen Helpers Needed,

Contact Edwina Presley at: cpm0145@aol.com
2018 Friends of Harkness

Membership Meetings*

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

WELCOME NEW MEMBERS

Steve Wilson—AVON, CT
Terese Beauchamp—TOWSON, MD
Cindy Forget - WATERFORD, CT
Kim Curtin- WATERFORD, CT
Geneva Renegar - WATERFORD, CT
Jen Russell - MYSTIC, CT
James Tyropolis - NEW LONDON, CT
Nathan Drake - WATERFORD, CT
Kathleen Forando - NORWICH, CT
Mike Guarraia - STONINGTON ,CT
Diane Donatello - WATERFORD, CT
Kathleen DeAngelis - NAPLES, FL / WATERFORD, CT
Elaine Adams - NEW LONDON, CT
Tom & Jean Bloom - OLD LYME, CT
Hans Neisser - MIDDLETOWN, CT
M/M Paul Headrick - WATERFORD, CT

2018 Friends of Harkness
Board of Director’s Meetings

Waterford Public Library

September 24, 2018 - Waterford Library - Room TBD
October 22, 2018 - Waterford Library - Room TBD
November 26, 2018 - Waterford Library - Room TBD
December - No Meeting

2018 Dates to Remember

November 5, 2018 - Annual Meeting
December 1, 2018 - Decorate Mansion 9:00 AM
December 3, 2018 - Annual Holiday Party - 5:30 PM
December 8, 2018 - Un-decorate Mansion 9:00AM
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.