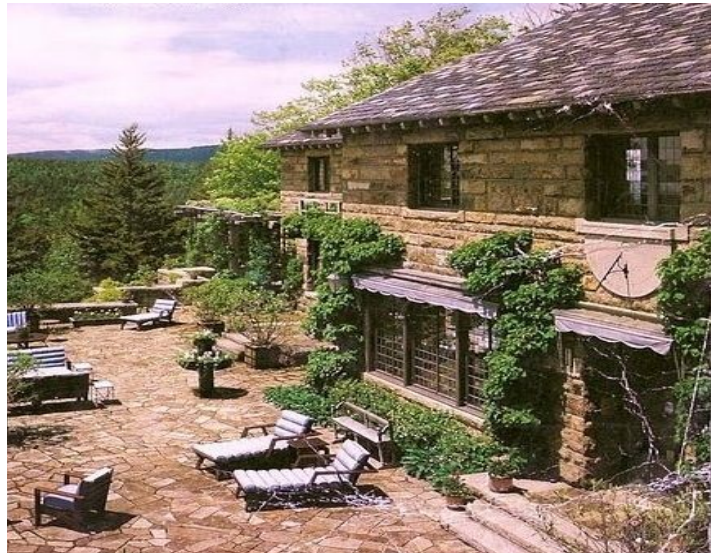


BERKSHIRE BOTANICAL GARDEN

THE UNIQUE GARDENS OF BAR HARBOR AND MT. DESERT ISLAND

September 6 – 9, 2018

Arranged by Classical Excursions



Skylands, Seal Harbor. Architect: Duncan Candler. Gardens: Jen Jensen, Patrick Chassé, Martha Stewart.

Mt. Desert Island is considered one of Maine's most revered summer resort islands where such towns as Bar Harbor, Seal Harbor and Northeast Harbor dot the area. The island has been a destination for inspiration, relaxation and outdoor activities since the 1840s. At first, Hudson Valley School painters, most notably Thomas Cole and Frederic Church, travelled to Mount Desert Island and in particular to Bar Harbor to paint images of the area's spectacular seascapes and landscapes.

After the Civil War, great hotels were built for vacationers or "rusticators," but ultimately the "cottages," rambling shingle-style mansions, and middleclass summer residences took over the landscape. Today, with a social history that rivals Newport, the Berkshires and Tuxedo Park and great scenic beauty all its own, Mt. Desert remains a major summer destination.

A major aspect of Mt. Desert Island is nature and the cultivation of beautiful gardens. Not only is its beauty unique, but according to the **Wild Gardens of Acadia** organization at the Acadia National Park, "the glacial accidents which left it with flora from both the cold north and the warmer south."

One person stands out for her highly talented contribution, the legendary landscape designer Beatrix Farrand, who summered at Bar Harbor for over half a century, creating over 60 gardens

on the island. As she wrote so knowledgeably in 1915, “Gardening at Bar Harbor has a character all its own. The geographical situation is favorable for a long growing season for plants, yet the growing year as a whole is a short one at both ends. Consequently, there is an active growth and overlapping of successions that produce a continuous cycle of bloom. Then the moisture from the mountain-locked bays gives an atmospheric condition [similar to] that of England. In consequence, flowers of spring and midsummer are overlapping and equally those of midsummer and early fall. Sweet peas, roses, carnations, larkspur, poppies, pansies – everything we want most in our gardens – will be found blooming simultaneously, or practically so, in Bar Harbor.”

One of Farrand’s greatest projects was the **Abby Aldrich Rockefeller Garden** at Seal Harbor designed collaboratively with Mr. & Mrs. John D. Rockefeller, Jr. Last year the garden came under the ownership of the Mt. Desert Land & Garden Preserve, “Set within acres of moss-carpeted woods, [there is an] unique atmosphere...derived from a combination of Eastern statuary with a border garden in which perennials build the foundation of the flower beds and annuals provide an explosion of color.” A private tour is scheduled for Thursday, September 6, at 1:00 pm, the last available time before the garden closes for the year.



Left: Abby Aldrich Rockefeller Garden, Seal Harbor. Right: Thuya Garden, Northeast Harbor.

Collections of plants from Farrand’s Reef Point home that no longer exists can now be seen at the **Asticou Azalea Garden**, a Japanese-style flowering garden, and at the **Thuya Garden**, both at Northeast Harbor. The latter offers a variety of annuals and perennials that line two long sides of the garden. A pavilion sits at the top of a slight incline overlooking the main garden that cascades down to a reflecting pool. Another Farrand garden can be found at her last home, **Garland Farm**, Salisbury Cove, now maintained by the Beatrix Farrand Society and where a lecture will be given on her life and work.

Then, there is **Skylands** at Seal Harbor, the extraordinary summer home and gardens of Martha Stewart, America’s doyenne of gracious living. The main residence and outbuildings were designed by Duncan Candler in 1926 for Edsel and Eleanor Ford; the stone house is encompassed by naturalistic landscaping originally created by Jen Jensen and enhanced by

landscape architect Patrick Chassé and Martha herself. “I look at myself as the caretaker of an American treasure,” she says.

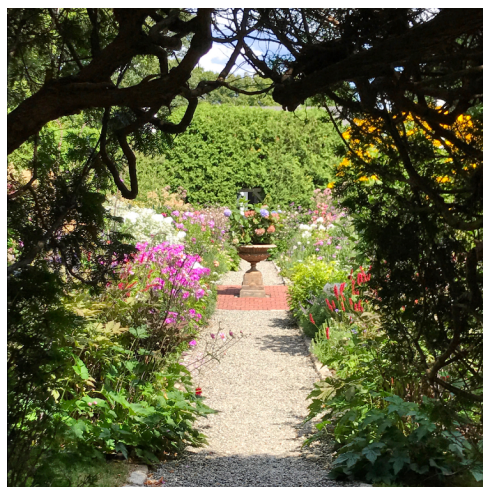
The Berkshire Botanical Garden invites you to join an exclusive tour to discover these gardens and more, including a collection of other private gardens scattered throughout the island, one still maintained as designed by Farrand where we will have lunch and an Italianate garden.



Garland Farm, Salisbury Cove. Beatrix Farrand. Photos: Beatrix Farrand Society.

The tour will also include a private lunches and dinners. Four-star accommodations for three nights have been arranged at the Holiday Inn Bar Harbor Regency Hotel with waterfront views of beautiful Frenchman’s Bay.

For further information and to receive a registration form, contact Lani Summerville (lanis@classicalexcursions.com, 413-446-8728) or Thomas Hayes (tom@classicalexcursions.com 413-243-4155) of Classical Excursions.



Farrand garden at The Farm.