



Gardenline

FALL

2015



The History of Honey Bees at Green Spring Farm

Did you know that honey bees (*Apis mellifera*) are not native to the Americas? Records show that colonies of honey bees were shipped from England and landed in Virginia in 1622. By the 1800s honey bees could be found from the Atlantic Ocean to the Mississippi River. Honey bees were brought to North America for honey production and pollination of orchards.

For many years, honey bees were kept in straw skeps, pottery vessels, and other containers. Log gums or bee gums, which are sections of tree trunks containing a feral colony of bees, were cut down and relocated to gardens and orchards.

The question is, when were honey bees first kept at Green Spring Farm? When John Moss and his family lived on the property (1770s through 1839), they farmed tobacco and later switched over to grains. Upon John Moss' death, the property was transferred to his two younger sons, William and Thomas. William Moss sold his portion of the property to his brother Thomas, and purchased a property near by, known as Aspen Hill. This property was located at the intersection of Little River Turnpike and City Rd, which is now known as Old Columbia Pike.

In an advertisement for sale in 1831, Thomas Moss notes the existence of a 'good orchard' at Green Spring Farm. The property did not sell, and Thomas Moss lived on the property for the remainder of his life.

In 1835 William Moss passed away; his property was inventoried and sold at auction. Listed in the inventory were beehives! Here is the list and the monetary value they were given:

- 1 Beehive 1st choice\$1.25
- 1 Beehive 2nd choice.....\$0.75
- 1 Beehive 3rd choice.....\$0.62 ½
- 5 empty Bee gums.....\$0.12 ½ and
- 1 barrel of soap.....\$1.60

(Beeswax can be an ingredient of home-made soap)

A few years later, upon Thomas Moss' death in 1839, the Green Spring Farm property was again advertised for sale. It noted 'an Apple Orchard of well selected fruit, and a Peach Orchard inferior to none perhaps in the County.' Therefore knowing that Thomas' brother, William, had beehives in his Aspen Hill property and that Thomas' orchard was successful, I believe that beehives were probably present

at Green Spring Farm in the 1830s. It's safe to assume that in those times honey was kept locally. Most farmers maintained a few beehives on their property for their needs and sold their surplus.

There are several reasons why honey bees are used to pollinate crops. Their hairy bodies trap pollen and carry it between flowers. The bees require large quantities of nectar and pollen to rear their young, and they visit many flowers to meet their needs. Their small body size lets them pollinate flowers of different shapes and sizes.

Beehives continue to be part of the landscape at Green Spring Gardens today. Two colonies of honey bees buzz around the gardens, visiting ornamental flowers, blooms in the kitchen garden and the new edible fruit garden. 🐝

*Tatiana Lisle
beekeeper and member of the
Historic Green Spring Committee*

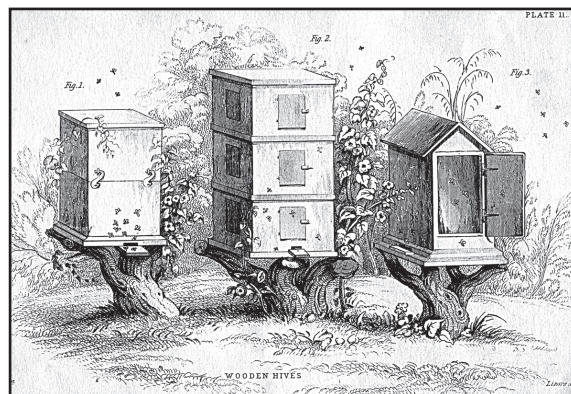


Image courtesy of The Graphics Fairy

Manager's Message



The Perfect Place for Families!

GREEN SPRING GARDENS is the perfect place for families. This summer I have noticed an increase in the number of families visiting for our programs and for simply enjoying the comfortable ambience of the garden. During the school year, over 5,000 school children visit with their classmates. Come summer, we engage them in structured and non-structured opportunities for all ages to enjoy.

To draw families to all the nature, history, garden and farm parks, the Park Authority produced Discovery Trail Map 2015. Pick one up in the Horticulture Center and start visiting the twelve featured parks, including Green Spring Gardens. While here, visit the Children's Garden and Children's Discovery Garden. On sunny days tell time using your shadows on the garden sun clock. A brochure available in the Horticulture Center offers interesting facts about the movement of the sun.

Families that have run out of their own ideas for exploring the gardens will want to sign up for one of the many family and child oriented programs offered. Look for the Family Fun and Garden Sprout programs in the next Programs & Events issue that is part of the FROGS member benefits. For the special birthday

or other family occasion, celebrate with a party package that includes a one hour themed program and an additional hour of reserved time to have refreshments or to do other activities independently.

By the time this issue of Gardenline reaches your home, our camps will be over for the season. When I read the positive reviews our camps received from the parents, I wanted to go to camp myself! We offered camps that spanned a range of interests from dolls to art to insects and eco-explorations. Next summer, we will offer camps again. Sign up early!

Quiet can be found in the gardens, but also in the library. Take a few moments of quiet time to share a book in the children's corner of the library. Keep track of all the books the children read here and on their own over the summer and then pick up a Summer Reading Program Reward Booklet at your favorite Fairfax County library. The booklet contains coupons for prizes at many park locations. At Green Spring Gardens, your child's reading efforts will be rewarded with a packet of flower or vegetable seeds to start or add to your garden at home. Thank you Burpee Seeds for the donation of all the seed packets.

Often we tell ourselves, "Stop and smell the roses." Why limit yourselves to roses! With your favorite child or children, see how many different fragrances you find in the garden. Watch the birds, bees and butterflies to see if they enjoy the same plants you and your young ones also enjoy on each and every visit. ♻️

Mary Olien
Park Manager

Gardenline

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The editorial staff would like to hear from you.

Please contact us through

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703-642-5173

or write:

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If accommodations or alternative formats are needed, please call 703-324-8563 at least 10 working days before the event.



FROGS Talk

Susan Voss, FROGS President

You can now keep up with FROGS and Green Spring Gardens news on several social media sites. In June we launched our new FROGS website: www.friendsofgreenspring.org. Features include recent news, ways to get involved, and the ability to renew your membership or purchase gift memberships online. And you can discover what's featured in the plant shop. Thanks to our new board member, Becky Super, FROGS is also on Facebook, Twitter, Instagram and Pinterest. Check us out for the latest news and photos.

We have had a busy and successful spring and summer season. Despite the heat, Spring Garden Day had the best attendance ever, with 2440 attendees and a profit to FROGS of \$16,400. Another success was the Summer Concert, with so many concert goers that we ran out of cake! Happily the rain held off, and we all enjoyed the New Mountain Fever Band.

Have you noticed the new directional signs for Green Spring Gardens on Braddock Road coming off the Beltway, Little River Turnpike

and Columbia Pike? Together with the newly painted parking lot lines, these FROGS funded projects are another way that FROGS is Keeping Green Spring Growing.

Looking ahead, Fall Garden Day will be Saturday, September 19 (see insert). We often forget that fall is perfect for planting. In addition to local plant vendors, we will have the ever-popular bake sale and a large silent auction.

Don't miss the Annual Meeting on Sunday afternoon, October 18 from 2:00-4:00 p.m. This year we will have a three-part program: a business meeting, an 'Ask the Manager' session, and a presentation by Debbie Waugh on "Green Spring Then and Now." This is your chance to get involved, ask questions and make comments. (See the announcement on the back page). We look forward to seeing you there. ☀



WHAT AN AMAZING SUMMER in the garden. Abundant rainfall resulted in glorious gardens. With autumn upon us, we're ready to supply all of your fall planters out there with everything you might need. Please visit the shop while we still have a great selection! Natives abound, and we have a great variety of shrubs still available.

Our wonderful hydrangeas have really grown this summer and now

are quite a nice size to add to your garden. Why not try the classic *Hydrangea arborescens* 'Annabelle', with its snowball-size flowers. It's sure to provide some amazing summer blooms in the years to come. We also have *Hydrangea macrophylla* 'Let's Dance Diva' and 'Let's Dance Starlight', which are re-blooming lacecap hydrangeas. New this year in our shop is a dwarf *Hydrangea paniculata* called 'Bobo'. It's a great little dwarf, covered with large white flowers in summer and only grows 3-4 feet tall! Perfect for those of you with small gardens. It will also work in a large container for those with decks or balconies. We'll also have the tried and true *Hydrangea paniculata* 'Limelight' and 'Fire Light' while they last.

Interested in fall bloomers for your sunny garden? How about adding an *Aster* (*Symphotrichum*) *dumosus* 'Wood's Purple' or 'Wood's Pink' this year? These mildew-resistant asters are shorter than many other asters, growing to a height of only about 12-15 inches. Numerous clusters of bright pink or purple daisy-like flowers cover compact mounds of dark-green foliage. These cultivars are long bloomers, flowering from late summer to fall, attracting many bees and butterflies to your garden.

If you have the room and favor tall plants in your garden, why not try *Aster tartaricus* 'Jindai'? These plants come from divisions from our gardens here at Green Spring and would be perfect in the back of your perennial garden. This cultivar grows 3-5

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Summer Intern Experience

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ADRIANA WALTER

I recently graduated from East Carolina University with a BS in Environmental Geography and a minor in Coastal and Marine Resources. I was very fortunate to be offered this

horticulture internship funded by the Friends of Green Spring Gardens (FROGS) and The Potomac Valley Chapter of the Rock Garden Society. My goal is to apply my knowledge of environmental geography concerning sustainable plants and invasive plant management and habitat considerations within various geographic ecosystems. There is also a human component to my Environmental Geography degree. Human interaction with the natural world is often manifested by the creation of outdoor spaces composed of flora best adapted to the environmental conditions within a given geographic location. This is an important element of the human geography concentration area. I also hope to learn more about native plants and local invasive plant species.

In my spare time, I enjoy traveling both in the U.S. and overseas. I have visited over half of the United States, including Hawaii, and hope to complete the other half soon. I always try to visit as many national parks as I can during my travels. Glacier National Park in Montana is my favorite up to this point. I have enjoyed travelling abroad to Japan, Singapore and Costa Rica where I did a summer study abroad with

East Carolina University. While in Costa Rica we visited local ecological reserves, coffee farms, and pineapple plantations; I gained a deeper appreciation of how location and climate influence the types of plants that thrive between different ecosystems. One day I hope to revisit Costa Rica and live there for some time. Pura Vida!

Adriana Walter

Horticulture/Rock Garden Intern

I've lived here in Fairfax County pretty much my whole life. I'm a student of history, a subject that absolutely fascinates me. As a history major at George Mason University, this internship at Green Spring Garden's historic house comes as an absolutely wonderful experience. Since my time here, I've been engaged in historical research. My research covers all the Mosses, the former homeowners of Green Spring that lived here in from 1777 through 1840. I'm exploring the engagement and influence they had with the early Fairfax community.



AMEEN OMAR

The research has been rich so far. I've been able to learn so much about Fairfax just through researching their civic activism. Because of the Mosses' extensive careers in public life, this research has allowed me to venture out to all sorts of great places and sites our county has to offer. I've been in correspondence with the Virginia Room, National Archives and local public librar-

ies. Most of my research, however, took place at the Fairfax Historic Courthouse. There I've been able to access files and look up particular cases that involved the Mosses.

On top of sharper researching skills I've been able to harness, this internship has also given me the ability to strengthen my writing. At the house, I've been working on a paper containing all the research I've done to this point—the person helping me with this assignment has been the house coordinator and site historian, Debbie Waugh. Together, both Mrs. Waugh and I have been able to come up with an outline and theme that truly illuminates the Mosses significance to the community. Our dialogue has helped me in my brainstorming strategy, a method that goes a long way in the future.

Ameen Omar

Historic Resources Intern



JESSICA MEYER

I came from New Orleans to be a part of the Green Spring Gardens family. I am currently in school studying biology and invasive species management. I have been selected and hired as an intern to create an Invasive Species Management Program at the White Garden in Falls Church, VA. I was so excited about the opportunity that I eagerly drove a thousand miles for this offer. Working with Mary Olien of Green Spring Gardens and her staff has been a pleasant experience. I am always included in every

workshop and staff meeting, and I have been constantly offered literature to improve my education. I find this team to be very supportive and eager to share their wisdom.

I came here thinking I was going to knock out everything in my path within a month; but after time and shared wisdom, I am learning a much more delicate art to managing a site. I am given opportunities to work with people who have worked with Fairfax County for years and who have much training with the field of work I chosen. My manager has set me up for success, and I am very happy to have this opportunity to intern here.

Jessica Meyer
White Garden Intern



ISOBEL SNEE

I am a horticulture intern at Green Springs Garden. I work for Nancy Olney at various gardens in Green Spring. I have been learning a lot about many different kinds

of plants and various gardening skills. I have found that my experience here has been not only informative but also enjoyable. I developed an interest in plants and animals at a young age and decided to pursue a major in horticultural therapy. I am a sophomore at Colorado

State University in Fort Collins. After I graduate I plan to live in Colorado and work as a plant therapist with children. I would like to thank Friends of Green Spring (FROGS) for funding this experience and giving me this wonderful opportunity to work at the Gardens.

Isobel (Izzy) Snee
Horticulture Intern



MEIGAN MCMANUS

I am a student at the University of Virginia and will graduate in May 2016 with a degree in Environmental Science and a minor in Global Sustainability. After

graduation, I plan to attend graduate school seeking a degree in Restoration Ecology. Inspired by a guest lecturer whose work combines restoration ecology with public spaces, I hope to ultimately become a consultant in order to introduce more sustainable land management practices and control invasive species.

Having previously worked at Wolf Trap National Park for the Performing Arts in high school, my ideal summer internship would be an opportunity to further my knowledge about native plants and invasive species control. One of my former co-workers, a previous Virginia Native Plant Intern, suggested I apply to the position at Green Spring Gardens. The experience and knowledge I have gained with only a month of working with Brenda Skarphol and the Virginia Native Plant Society makes me excited to continue my internship through the summer.

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AURORA DIFIIORE

This summer I am working as the community outreach and marketing intern for the SNAP matching dollar program at the Fairfax County Farmers Markets. The program provides an economic incentive for low-income individuals receiving SNAP (formerly known as food stamps) to shop local, nutritious produce at our markets. I was eager to gain real-world experience implementing a social policy initiative like SNAP at markets. I had some familiarity with the program through undergraduate research and I had learned one of the greatest barriers to its success was *simply* a lack of communication. Many SNAP recipients just did not know about it! As the community outreach intern, I am responsible for trying to fill these gaps in communication and

inform SNAP recipients in our communities of the incentive program. As I began to strategize on how to improve communication, I realized just how challenging community outreach could be. I am able to use the skills gained from my undergraduate education in sociology to identify ways of overcoming communication barriers and reaching low-income populations. It has involved identifying and networking with local non-profits, faith organizations, community centers and retailers to spread the word. I have found the internship to be an excellent learning experience and it has even inspired me to pursue an advocacy emphasis to my public policy degree. I am happy to have worked this summer to help a cause I feel strongly about—making nutritious produce more accessible to all members of our community!

Aurora DiFiore
Farmer's Market SNAP
Community Outreach Intern

Modest Garden, Masterful Gardener



Left to right: John Quast, Jr., Michael Straight, Jr., Audrey Straight at Beatrix Farrand landscape dedication. Photograph by: Don Sweeney, FCPA.

On June 10th, the Garden Club of Virginia officially presented the restored Beatrix Farrand landscape at Green Spring Gardens to the Fairfax County Park Authority at a ceremony hosted by Green Spring.

Garden Club of Virginia Restoration Committee chairman Kimbrough K. Nash presented the project to Green Spring manager Mary Olien, who accepted on behalf of the Park Authority. Remarks were also made by Nina W. Mustard, first vice president of the Garden Club of Virginia and the project landscape architect William D. Reiley.

In 1942 famed landscape designer Beatrix Farrand designed a simple garden “room” behind the house at Green Spring for family friends Michael and Belinda Straight. The spacious lawn enclosed by a boxwood crescent provided the perfect outdoor space for the Straights – Green Spring’s last private owners – to entertain their many guests of national and international renown. Michael Straight Jr. and his wife Audrey were among the 75 guests attending the event. Also present were John Quast, Jr. and his wife Gloria. John spent his childhood at Green Spring during his father’s long tenure as caretaker of the property for the Straights.

Farrand designed over 200 gardens for distinguished clients from the

1890s to the 1950s. Her recognized masterpiece, the gardens of Dumbarton Oaks in Washington, D.C., is considered the apogee of her career. At Green Spring this master of grand scale work distilled her design philosophy into a small space. Though modest in scope and scale, Farrand’s garden here is a pure expression of her style and technique. It was one of the last projects of her celebrated career and her only garden design in Virginia.

The Garden Club of Virginia is synonymous with the preservation of significant historic gardens throughout the Commonwealth. The restoration of the key elements of Farrand’s garden here ensures that the hallmarks of her designs continue to be accessible to the public and will help Green Spring Gardens educate visitors about her important cultural legacy in American landscape design.

The presentation was followed by a garden party tea reception on the lawn behind the Historic House, where attendees could admire the restored garden at close quarters. Please visit the house to learn more about the fascinating life and work of Beatrix Farrand and her close personal connection to the Straight family at Green Spring. ♻️

*Debbie Waugh
Historic House Coordinator*

Looking at the work I do with Brenda Skarphol’s crew through the lens of an Environmental Science major, Brenda has taught me about the deeper intricacies of managing and planning gardens, such as considering color and texture when selecting plants. Planting and removing plants in and out of the Virginia Native Plant Garden has taught me how dynamic the communities within the gardens truly are. My past work at Wolf Trap heavily focused on invasive control, and working in the Virginia Native Plant Garden allows me to grow my horizons as well as return to my roots (pardon the bad puns, I could not help it). I know that for years to come, I will look back fondly at my experiences at Green Spring Gardens with Brenda, her crew, and the Virginia Native Plant Society.

*Meigan McManus
Virginia Native Plant Intern*



MADELEINE BOEL I am a junior at the College of William & Mary and an Alexandria native. At school I am a Public Policy and Environmental Policy double major, and I am interested in government and nonprofit work. This internship is a wonderful opportunity to teach children sustainable practices and learn how the Park Authority functions and thrives. Getting children interested in nature early is the best way to promote good stewardship, and Green Spring is the perfect place for

children to learn. The park is a great resource to the public, especially for children who need space to explore. So far I have been helping with summer camp and have become acquainted with the great Children's Education staff; I will also help design MWEE (Meaningful Watershed Education Experience) curriculum for 4th graders. I have already learned the importance of making science exciting for children, and am looking forward to spending the rest of the summer in the gardens!

Madeleine Boel

Children's Education Intern

Plant Shop

Continued from page 3

feet tall and produces attractive pinkish flowers with yellow eyes that really attract the butterflies. Another plus of this plant: this late bloomer usually continues to flower until frost. Come visit us today and see it in our gardens before you buy one.

Remember that the Garden Gate Plant Shop closes after the first frost or by November 1 at the latest. Continue to shop with us throughout the fall for some amazing plants. Happy Shopping!

Diana Shannon

Plant Shop Coordinator

Bloomin' Bucks with Brent and Becky's Bulbs Continues

Brent and Becky's Bulbs in Gloucester, Virginia, is continuing the FROGS fundraising program. Order bulbs, or anything else from Brent and Becky's Bulbs, and they will donate 25% of the payment to FROGS.

Simply log on to bloominbucks.com, click on the drop-down box, scroll down to select Friends of Green Spring Gardens and then enter the online catalog. You'll get a superb selection of garden items and help support Green Spring Gardens at the same time.

Summer Camps a Success

As the new school year begins, Children's Education can look back with a sigh of satisfaction at our summer. This year's nine camps were a resounding success, enjoying the support of a full staff and our excellent intern Madeleine Boel.

We implemented some new activities, such as "shared chores"—wiping tables, drying sinks, picking up trash as we walked the gardens, collecting recyclables—that we listed on bumblebee popsicle sticks and had the campers select each day. Rather than their rebelling, we found that campers chose their bumblebee sticks eagerly, making sure that they received a new job each day. The most desirable chore: feeding our compost worms leftover fruit and vegetables from their snack and lunch. Reflecting the spirit of cooperation, even that chore was generously shared by campers like Lily who understood that it was hard to wait one's turn to do fun things like shred old lettuce for those poor, hungry worms. The children embraced their responsibilities and got satisfaction from doing—and sharing—them.

Another lesson from our camps was the power of a good story at the end of a busy day. Sitting down for story time seemed to restore our campers to a quiet, comfortable place. The stories we read came from picture books and Native American tales. We thank FROGS for the great assortment of children's fiction and non-fiction in our library. This summer, books purchased by FROGS, specifically for our "All American Girl Living Doll Camp," helped make the history between the Revolutionary Period and the 1940s come

alive for our campers.

Each summer we look forward to meeting new campers and seeing familiar faces. When we have repeat campers, we know that we are doing something right. This year we had many repeats, as well as children who had come to Green Spring for birthday parties, field trips, scout programs and other activities. More than five thousand children participate in our programs each year. Summer camps offer Children's Education staff a unique opportunity: during a full week of camp we get to know those children well. We hope, in turn, that they forge a connection to Green Spring that will last for many years to come. ☘

Ann DiFiore

Children's Program Specialist

Current Art Shows at Green Spring Gardens

THROUGH OCTOBER 25:

Throughout the Horticulture Center:
Springfield Art Guild: *various media*

At the Historic House:

Vivian Attermeyer: *watercolor painting and sketches*

OCTOBER 26—DECEMBER 28:

Throughout the Horticulture Center:
Carol Higg: *batik, oil, watercolor and collage*

Jean Wolfe: *acrylics entitled "Life Force"*

At the Historic House:

Erik and Caroline Hottenstein:
watercolors

Receptions for all artists:
November 1, 1pm–3pm



Gardenline

Green Spring Gardens • 4603 Green Spring Road • Alexandria, VA 22312

Gingerbread House Contest Returns

A gingerbread house contest will again be featured at Gardeners Holiday, Sunday, December 6. There will be five categories: individual children twelve and under, individual teens, adult, family, and groups. Further information, rules and a sign-up form can be obtained on the FROGS website or at the Horticulture Center. Entry forms must be submitted by December 1. Size will be limited to a house that will fit onto an 18" square board. Start now to draw your plans and check out recipes. \$25 gift certificates will be awarded to the winners in each category.



Friends of Green Spring Annual Meeting

Sunday, October 18 2:00-4:00 p.m.
Green Spring Gardens Horticulture Center

**All members are encouraged to join us
for a three-part program:**

- Business Meeting: Learn about board activities, ask questions of the board or provide comments
- Ask the Manager: Your opportunity to ask Mary Olien, site manager, about Green Spring Gardens
- Special Presentation: "Green Spring Then and Now" by Green Spring's Historic House Coordinator Debbie Waugh