



# Gardenline

SPRING

2017

## Logging the Past to Chart the Future

**T**HE 1942 BEATRIX FARRAND LANDSCAPE at Green Spring now has a permanent home in the Library of Congress that will hold and preserve its story for future generations.

Detailed documentation and photos that chronicle the significance and history of the landscape, from 1942 to the present, were recently admitted into the Historic American Landscapes Survey (HALS), a permanent federal program established by the National Park Service, the American Society of Landscape Architects and the Library of Congress (LOC.) The records will be maintained in perpetuity, to be used as a tool for future understanding, interpretation and treatment of the landscape.

Historic landscapes range from small gardens to national parks, and include farms, quarries, industrial complexes, cemeteries and battlefields. They inform us about significant events, activities and people. They're also vulnerable to harm by forces of nature, development, vandalism and neglect. So it's important to document these special places in order to protect them.



Beatrix Farrand c. 1927  
Farrand archives at UC Berkeley

Green Spring's historic designed landscape showcases the work of masterful landscape designer Beatrix Farrand (1872–1959). In 1942 she designed the gardens around the Historic House for the last private owners, young power couple Michael and Belinda Straight. Her work at Green Spring demonstrates her signature design principles distilled into a small space.

The recent Garden Club of Virginia restoration of our Farrand crescent garden was guided by the landscape's evolution, which ensured a rehabilitation of her original design that's perfectly attuned to our conditions and purposes today. Now the landscape's inclusion in HALS gives historic preservation practitioners of the *future* an accurate and enduring resource to guide them towards historical integrity that balances preservation with change.



Newly-installed Farrand landscape, 1943.  
Photo by Michael Straight.

Our HALS report will also serve as a valuable go-to resource in *our* archives for staff, volunteers, researchers and all interested visitors who'd like to know more about Farrand's Green Spring legacy and the close personal attachment that brought the great designer here. HALS captures not only the archival history of a landscape but also the private memories attached to it, all helping to chart a course of preservation for the future.

The HALS report for the Beatrix Farrand Landscape at Green Spring will be available on the LOC website at [www.loc.gov/collections](http://www.loc.gov/collections) within a few months. In the meantime, you're welcome to stop by the Historic House to request a copy. ❀

Debbie Waugh  
Historic House Coordinator

## Manager's Closing Message



By now you may have heard that I have accepted a promotion opportunity with the Fairfax County Park Authority. In my new position as Operations Manager for the Resource Management Division, I will oversee Green Spring Gardens and eight other sites, including five nature centers, two historic sites and a working farm. I won't be at Green Spring Gardens every day, but I won't be far away.

It's hard to believe I have had the privilege of guiding the growth and development of Green Spring Gardens for more than 11 years. The changes you may have noticed through 2010 were funded by voter-approved bond funding: renovation of the lobby and library, stream bank stabilization, Spring House refurbishment, and a new 3-bay garage. However, the later improvements:

funding for Title One schools, tree work, classroom and office renovations, gazebo renovation, new Club cars, renovating the Glasshouse, and more, were made possible with support from FROGS, primarily through your generosity during the annual appeal fund raisers.

The support FROGS members have shown over the past 11 years has been unbelievably rewarding. I've seen many of you at our programs, buying plants at Spring and Fall Garden Days, or just strolling among the gardens. When we needed to hear your voice, you came through, whether it was to advocate for Green Spring Gardens at budget time or to share your dreams and views at the master plan public meetings.

To all of you FROGS members I say, "Thank you so much for your generosity and support!" You have helped make these past 11 years most memorable for me.

P.S. I've already told staff that I am willing to volunteer in the parking lot for Spring Garden Day. When Ralph sends out the volunteer requests, come join me! ❀

*Mary Olien  
Park Manager*



## Art Shows to Welcome Spring

Spring's arrival will seem even more delightful when you enjoy the following art shows at Green Spring:

**February 21–April 16** throughout the Horticulture Center and Historic House, marking the National Cherry Blossom Festival:

**NATIONAL CAPITOL AREA CHAPTER OF THE SUMI-E SOCIETY**  
Asian Brush Painting/Ink and Watercolor  
Reception March 26, 1pm to 3pm

**April 17 –June 18** throughout the Horticulture Center and Historic House:

**POTOMAC VALLEY WATERCOLORISTS** present "Natural Beauty"

Reception April 23, 1pm to 3pm

Remember: all this wonderful art is for sale!

## Gardenline

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Please contact us through

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703-642-5173

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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

Mary Jane Medeiros, FROGS President  
Tatiana Lisle, FROGS Vice President

*“Spring is when you feel like whistling even with a shoe full of slush.”*

-Doug Larson, American Journalist

FROGS is definitely whistling happy tunes these days! We were fortunate to have had a successful 2016, thanks to our members, the staff at Green Spring Gardens, and our special donors.

The Glasshouse renovation is underway thanks to our 2015 annual appeal. Although it is now closed to visitors until late March, the “wish list” will be completed for all to see and enjoy. Our 2016 annual appeal benefiting the *Historic House and its History through Hospitality* has reached nearly \$23,000! Once again, we thank all of you for your generous response to this appeal. All the upcoming improvements are worthy of the long-established traditions of the Historic House and will ensure its beloved legacy endures.

The FROGS Board of Directors has logged many, many hours to be sure that we continue to “keep Green Spring growing.” Ivy Sinaiko and Liz Promen have served the last four years as treasurer and secretary, respectively. We thank them for all they have done as officers and look forward to their continued contributions. Stepping up to assume these roles are Tatiana Lisle as FROGS treasurer and Bevan Shimizu as FROGS secretary.

We look forward to seeing you at the Garden Gate Plant Shop Opening on April 8, Spring Garden Day

on May 20, and the Summer Concert on June 27, when the “Fender Benders” band returns!

On another note, we bid farewell to Mary Olien, GSG park manager. Mary has been a wonderful sup-



## Children’s Education News

ON SATURDAY, APRIL 29, from 10am to 12pm, Children’s Education will be hosting a native plant workshop called Go Native! for scouts and other members of the community. Laura Beaty from the Virginia Native Plant Society (VNPS) will lead a talk about native plants and why they are beneficial to all aspects of an ecosystem. Following the talk, the participants will see a demonstration on how to plant natives in the garden. This will be especially helpful to children or adults who may have never planted a seed or seedling in the ground.

After Laura’s talk, participants will swing into action either by removing invasive plants from Green Spring or by helping us to prepare native seedlings for the gardens here. For this part of the program,

porter of FROGS and a leader that we could count on over the years. FROGS has commissioned a watercolor of the Rock Garden at GSG as a token of our appreciation for all that she has done, and we wish her well in her new FCPA position.

Please remember that you do make a difference. Come join us as we begin whistling new tunes in 2017.

When visiting Green Spring Gardens, introduce yourself. We want to get to know you! ❀

Please continue to visit us at [www.friendsofgreenspring.org](http://www.friendsofgreenspring.org), follow us on Facebook, Twitter and Instagram.

we are asking people to wear gloves, sturdy shoes, and work clothes that can get dirty.

For attending the program, participants will receive a discount from the VNPS for a native plant kit that they can take to plant in a garden - either in their own yard or for a community service project. This workshop is great for anyone who has an interest in gardening or native plants; who wants to work on a gardening service project for school; for scouts; or just for fun. Last year 37 people attended the program, so hopefully we will have another good turnout this year. Please let us know if you would like to volunteer with any aspect of the program! ❀

Priscilla Plumb  
Children’s Program Coordinator



## Opens Saturday, April 8

ARE YOU CHOMPING at the bit for spring and a chance to garden? Come spring, we will have some wonderful plants for you! How about a vine for a fence, arbor or trellis? We'll have many from which to choose, including *Lonicera x brownii* 'Dropmore Scarlet', with its showy red flowers, and our native cultivar, *Lonicera sempervirens* 'John Clayton', with its lovely yellow flowers. Both are great at attracting pollinators and hummingbirds to your garden. We'll also have another native yellow-flowered vine, the delightfully fragrant semi-evergreen, *Gelsemium* 'Margarita.' Two Clematis, 'Fujimusume' and 'Omoshiro' will round out our offerings.

For native spring bloomers, try *Mertensia virginica* (Virginia bluebells), in beautiful shades of blue, and *Stylophorum diphyllum*, our yellow wood poppy. But they don't last long, so get here early! *Heucheras* will abound too, in a wide variety of colors. Come check them out and take a few home. They are great for containers where they add a nice pop of color.

To attract pollinators to your sunny garden, we'll have many *Echinacea*, *Monarda*, *Phlox*, and *Coreopsis* to choose from. Our coreopsis cultivars this year include 'Crazy Cayenne', 'Curry Up', and 'Zesty Zinger' in orange, yellow, and ma-

genta, respectively. How fun! We'll also have *Asclepias tuberosa*, commonly called butterfly weed, which is the 2017 Perennial Plant of the Year. We have many of these in our gardens here at Green Spring, and they do just beautifully in the sunniest and driest of spots.

If you have part shade, how about *Gentiana* 'True Blue'? This perennial is great for border gardens or even containers. It forms a nice mound and has electric blue funnel-shaped flowers from mid-summer to autumn. Great for cut flowers and is deer and rabbit resistant. Others to try are *Lobelia cardinalis* and *Lobelia siphilitica*. These are natives that like it a little moist, but do absolutely wonderfully in part shade.

Shrubs add much needed structure to gardens. We'll have plenty of Hydrangeas to choose from, including 'Lime Rickey', 'Bobo', 'Gatsby Moon' and 'Pillow Talk', as well as a number of Viburnums, including 'Blue Muffin', 'Red Balloon', and 'Lil Ditty'. If you want to try

something new, look for *Diervilla* Kodiak® Black, a handsome shrub with very dark foliage. This native shrub does great in sun or part shade, is drought-tolerant and deer resistant. Who could ask for more? We're also offering *Aronia Low Scape*™ Mound, the perfect dwarf landscape shrub. It tolerates many different soil types, has dark foliage, wonderful white flowers in spring, and intense red foliage in the fall.

Spring is such a great time to visit Green Spring Gardens! Come to the shop on April 8th and keep coming back throughout the season. We'll be putting out new plants all summer long. Be sure to mark your calendars for Spring Garden Day on May 20th, and make plans to come and enjoy the day with our many vendors. Happy Shopping!

The Garden Gate Shop is open 9:00–4:00, Monday–Saturday; 12:00–4:00, Sunday. ☘

Diana Shannon  
Plant Coordinator

## Elly Doyle Awards Honor Green Spring Volunteers



From left to right: Mary Olien, Mary Jane Medeiros, Sandy Rittenhouse-Black, Walt Jarrett

Park Manager Mary Olien and Assistant Manager Sandy Rittenhouse-Black joined in celebrating Fairfax County Park Service Awards given to two exceptional Green Spring volunteers. Mary Jane Medeiros received a Special Recognition Award and Walt Jarrett received a 2016 Outstanding Volunteer Award. Both honorees have given an extraordinary number of valuable volunteer hours to help Green Spring Gardens thrive. ☘

# Spring Gardening Tips

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**F**IRST TIP: Don't panic. Spring is certainly a busy time in the garden, but if you prioritize your tasks and keep it simple, you will get it all done and still have time to enjoy the sunshine.

Pull winter weeds such as chickweed BEFORE they flower and set seed. Use a hoe and discard the tops; do not worry about leaving roots behind since most winter weeds are annuals and will not resprout from the roots.

Remove dead leaves and debris missed in your fall and winter clean up. Focus on areas around roses and peonies where blackspot and botrytis spores may have overwintered in the litter, just waiting to re-infect your plants.

Pruning is time consuming and not always necessary. If you prune a plant every year, it is in the wrong place. When planning and planting this spring, focus on the ultimate size of each plant and its correct placement. Give your plants the room they need to grow naturally and concentrate on smaller cultivars for smaller spaces. In the long run your plants will be happier, and you will have less pruning to do.

Prune hydrangeas only if needed. Wait until buds swell before pruning, generally around mid April. Prune *Hydrangea macrophylla*, which blooms on old wood, only for shaping; cut back one or two sets of buds and remove older canes. Do heavy pruning after flowering. *Hydrangea arborescens* and *H. paniculata*, which bloom on new wood, can be cut back severely if necessary.

Prune subshrubs such as *perovskia*, *caryopteris*, and hardy *salvias*, which we treat as subshrubs,

to as low as 12-18" every spring to prevent legginess. Wait until growth appears before cutting back.

Divide perennials and grasses only every 3 years or so. Some exceptions are vigorous spreaders like asters and campanulas that should be tackled every year. To eliminate undue stress to the plants and you, divide soon after new growth emerges, generally in early to mid April. After digging, discard woody or dead centers and replant divisions. Each division should include 3-4 growing points, or eyes. Divide hostas while in their "cigar" stage, before leaves unfurl. Any damaged leaves will remain marred for the season. Grasses can become next to impossible to divide if left untouched for too many seasons. You will have to get out the hatchet and crowbar and eat your Wheaties. Do not worry if your plants do not get divided this spring. You can still do some dividing in the summer and there is always next year. Your plants may be a little congested and floppy, but they will be fine.

Stake plants in mid to late spring BEFORE they need it. When plants

reach staking size they are ungainly and difficult to work with. Insert PVC pipe into the ground next to and within a clump of perennials. When the time comes, simply drop the stakes into the pipes and weave twine through the clump. To prevent your peonies from falling face down in the mulch, place a 2' tall decorative wrought iron fence around the clump. The fence acts as a basic open-ended frame; as the peonies grow, they will flop against it. Provide extra support by weaving twine through the stems and attaching to ends of the fence. To keep tall grasses from flopping, build a rebar teepee around the clump. Later in the season encircle the teepee with a twine or copper "spiral girdle."

Label as you plant, or at least keep your labels in a safe place for future reference. And, as always, keep up your journal.

Remember, gardening is fun, not a battle to be won. ❁

*Adapted from an article published in 2007 by former Green Spring horticulturist Mary Frogale*

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## Gardens are for sharing!



[www.friendsofgreenspring.org](http://www.friendsofgreenspring.org)

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# Roses, Roses, Roses

**“A Rose is a Rose is a Rose....”**

-Gertrude Stein

**“A single Rose can be my garden....”**

-Leo Buscaglia

**“A rose is perfect in every moment of its existence...”**

-Ralph Waldo Emerson

SO MANY QUOTES ON ROSES-- it is hard for me to choose a favorite one for this article! But it goes without saying, roses can enhance any garden. Beautiful, versatile and timeless, the rose is the U.S. national flower.

The most common shades are white, yellow, orange, pink and red. There has never been a blue rose, for roses lack the pigment delphinidin.

Beatrix Farrand's favorite rose was the white Alba rose. One of the oldest varieties, it has been around since before the Crusades. Many experienced gardeners like this rose, for *“it has a quality of constancy,”* as Beatrix Farrand noted.

Green Spring horticulture library has a nice collection of books on roses:

*A Year of Roses*, by Stephen Scanniello, rosarian of the Brooklyn Botanic Garden's Cranford Rose Garden. He charts the month-to-month labor of love necessary for keeping roses healthy and beautiful.

*Beautiful Roses*, by Marie-Helene Loaec. Plant and grow the most

beautiful and fragrant roses to delight your senses. Fifty different types are described, including information on everything from their fragrance to their cultivation.

*Passion for Roses*, by Peter Beales, a comprehensive guide to landscaping with roses.

*Roses of America*, by Tania Bayard and Stephen Scanniello. Included is the history of the rose in America. It contains beautiful color illustrations of roses for every landscape.

*The Rose Bible*, by Rayford Clayton Reddell, contains inviting pages on antique to modern roses, species roses to hybrids, bushes and shrubs, ramblers and climbers, tree roses to miniatures, and everything the rose gardener needs to know.

*Roses: An Illustrated Treasury*, compiled by Michelle Lovric.

*Roses Made Easy*, by Olivier de Vleeschouwer.

*Ultimate Rose*, by American Rose Society. This gorgeous guide to every rose class includes an overview of rose history and closes with a

concise section covering basic techniques for growing roses as well as examples of arranging and drying roses.

Rather than roses in the garden, perhaps your interest might be the annual “Run for the Roses,” also known as the Kentucky Derby, where you might enjoy a little “rosewater” in your mint julep. This refreshing and very potent concoction is the traditional drink choice at the Derby. (Ref. *A Garden of Words* by Martha Barnette, a book found in our library.)

So if you have a passion for roses, as many of us do, “Will you accept this rose?” and take some time this summer to smell the roses and perhaps read one of the rose books in our library. Or, see you at the “Run for the Roses,” and don't forget your hat!

Also, please don't miss our used book section just in front of the library entrance. We also accept book and gardening magazine donations for resale. ❁

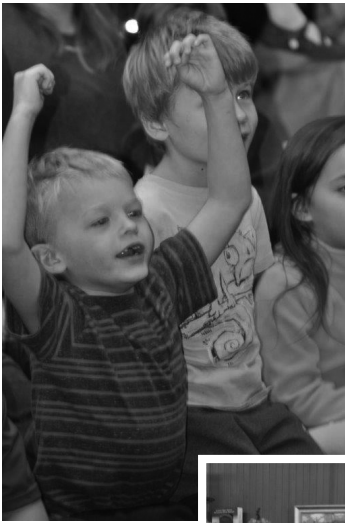
Pauline Perry,  
Librarian

Horticulture Center Library

Library Hours:

Monday–Saturday: 9:00am–4:30pm

Sunday: Noon–4:30pm



Hooray for Bob Brown Puppets



Miniature teapot by Happily Ever After



Enjoying the complimentary goodies

The Schuttingas: Gingerbread House Group Winners



# *Gardeners Holiday – December 2017*

Photos by Kathy Trichel; all rights reserved



Festive Historic House door



Young harpist at “play”



# Gardenline

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

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*Monday, May 8-Friday, May 12*

## **VISITOR APPRECIATION WEEK AND NATIONAL PUBLIC GARDENS DAY**



We hope you'll stop by Green Spring Gardens during the week of May 8–12 for a free event each morning to honor our visitors and celebrate National Public Gardens Day (May 12.) Events will include gardening discussions, demonstrations, plant giveaways and docent-led tours of the gardens and Historic House (a peek upstairs too!) Afternoon refreshments will also be served all week.

Details will be available at [www.fairfaxcounty.gov/parks/greenspring](http://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/parks/greenspring).

