

House Restoration Plans Under Way

A tribute to Lee Dassler, a founder and first Executive Director of the McLaughlin Foundation, is nearing completion. The restoration of the dining room and parlors, funded by contributions in her honor, reflects the Rehabilitation and Master Plan recommendations prepared by Barbá/Wheelock Architecture and Preservation of Portland.

The restoration reflects the period from 1886-1936, prior to Bernard and Rena McLaughlin's occupancy, a time when the house was in its prime. The dining room has wallpaper which appropriately complements the oak built-ins, circa 1910. An Arts and Crafts period lighting fixture is an attractive addition. The parlors are painted a slightly softer green and the floral motif-painted stencil border is restored. A newly installed picture rail matches the rooms' woodwork.

Lee Dassler's insistence on responsible garden and historic building treatment was admired by those who joined her and supported her in the preservation of McLaughlin Garden. Her vision for *what is right* motivated her through years of challenges. She established the McLaughlin Foundation as a nationally recognized Cultural Landscape on the National Register of Historic Places, the first site to be so honored in Maine.

The Historic Building Advisory Committee works to insure that planned implementation of appropriate preservation treatment is recommended to the Board of Directors. The volunteered time of highly regarded professionals is a testament

to the significance of McLaughlin Garden preservation. Nancy Barbá of Barbá/Wheelock Architecture and Preservation, Bob Dunning of Little Mountain Cabinetry, Judy Schneider of Interior Resources, and Tom Johnson of York Historical Society are essential in their guidance of this preservation. Andrea Burns and Mollie Mason, past presidents of the McLaughlin Foundation, serve on the Advisory Committee as well.

Andrea Burns Chair, Historic Building Advisory Committee



McLaughlin Garden Barn

came in weekly throughout the summer and our Weed and Feed warriors, who commit to about three hours of work in the garden and then gathered for lunch. I hope to see more of you volunteering in the garden this 2006 season. It is an excellent opportunity to learn more about gardening and plants, make new acquaintances, and take plants home. The incredible work of our volunteers in the garden makes it possible to accomplish much.

See you this spring as the Hepatica emerges!
Kristin Perry, Garden Manager

Let's Get Connected! Email Raffle

An electronic newsletter from our new website is in the works and we'd like to get you on the mailing list. Everyone sending us an email address by June 1st will be entered into a drawing for a coupon for a free lunch for two lunch at café or a free plant at the plant sale.

McLaughlin Garden

97 Main Street, PO Box 16, South Paris, Maine 04281
mclgardn@megalink.net www.mclaughlingarden.org
207.743.8820

Michael Desplaines, Executive Director
Kristin Perry, Garden Manager
Barbra Barrett, Program Coordinator

Ce Ce Adamson
Judy Florenz
Suzanne Grover
Rose Ellen Harmon
Tova Millett
Marcia Pottle
Tony Rice
Harriet Robinson
John Thompson

Board of Directors
Judy Gideonse, President
Marilyn Hammond, Vice President
David Stanley, Treasurer
Mary Zeilon, Secretary

McLaughlin Garden

Spring Newsletter

Garden News from the 2005 Season

The first signs of spring were a welcome sight after a particularly long cold winter. Liverleaf (*Hepatica*) was the first spring ephemeral to emerge through tattered clumps of brown leaves with delicate lavender to blue flowers. The cool wet spring extended the wildflowers and spring flowering bulbs. Lilac peak, which is what we all wait for, was approximately a week and a half late making for a poorly attended festival and slow plant sales. Summer struggled to arrive.

New plantings for the garden along Western Avenue included six new crabapples (*Malus 'Sugartyme'*), which in the future will provide a visual screen and some softening of the harsh streetscape. A matching grant from Project Canopy paid for the new plantings and we provided the labor.

Many of the plants for our annual displays at the front gate, entrance drive, and Western Avenue traffic triangle were grown under lights in the house cellar and then finished in Becky Burke's greenhouse. My favorite annuals included *Nicotiana 'Tinkerbelle'*, *Salvia patens*, *Coleus 'Mt. Washington'*, and *Coleus 'Religious Radish.'*

One of the stars of the season was in the Café Garden located next to the compost bins. It featured plants used by our chef in the Garden Café. These included a mix of greens, herbs, and edible flowers. Some of my favorites were Redbor Kale, with its deep burgundy leaves, Sungold cherry tomatoes tied to bent birch trellis towers, and many herbs and edible flowers.

The lower lilac walk rehabilitation was completed. Additional perennials were added to the original plantings and annuals were added to fill voids as the perennials grow. One of the new perennials in the garden was a variegated horseradish (*Armoracia rusticana 'Variegata'*) with bold green creamy marbled foliage.

Plant stars of the garden included the first time flowering of tender *Clematis montana* var. *rubens*. This was its third season rambling thru magnolia branches, sheltered between the barn and the ell of the house. Each season it is carefully removed from the tree and buried beneath pine needles until spring. Look for its scented apple-like blossoms this spring. Another favorite clematis is the small white flowering *Clematis fargesiiodes* 'Paul Farges' that flowered throughout the 2005 season at the garden entrance. A late season star, Lavender Mist (*Thalictrum rochebrunianum*), flowered rich lavender blooms on six-foot wiry stems. The Japanese native adds new variety to the garden.

Two interns, Anna Booth and Ben Crockett, garden assistant Bernadette Wolfe, and many volunteers helped to accomplish this past season's work. Garden volunteers include people who



NONPROFIT
ORG.
U.S. POSTAGE
PAID
NORWAY, ME
PERMIT NO. 43

McLaughlin Garden
PO Box 16
South Paris, Maine 04281



Return Service Requested

Dear Friends of the Garden

I remember as a child reading a story in my parents copy of *Yankee* magazine about a man who had an incredible backyard garden where he welcomed people to visit and experience his creation. I remember thinking how amazing that was and how incredible it was that this man had created something that enriched so many with its beauty. It wasn't until years later, after I moved to western Maine and came to visit McLaughlin Garden, that I realized Bernard McLaughlin was that man, and that this place, McLaughlin Garden, was the place I had read about in my youth.

I am proud to be leading the organization that now cares for this historic cultural landscape as we celebrate together our 10th season of preservation and education. I am also proud of the many new changes we're planning. As we strive to provide the highest quality visitor experience here at the Garden, with a renewed commitment to our educational mission, here are some of the changes you'll notice:

- Complete redesign of all of our printed materials including program calendars, newsletters, and brochures
- Redesigned and easily navigated website
- Enhanced on-site signage and new interpretive displays
- Expanded Garden Café hours with service on Sundays

- More low cost and free classes
- Backyard Explorers children's program in collaboration with the Montessori school
- Expanded opportunities to rent our facilities for weddings and special events
- Our new "The Garden Illuminated" evening event
- Completed restoration of the front and rear parlors, as well as the dining room of our historic 1840 house



All of these positive changes are the result of the hard work and commitment of our many volunteers, and are possible through the generosity of you, our friends. I am truly honored to be leading McLaughlin Garden into its next decade as a public institution. As always, if you'd like to help or have comments or suggestions, please don't hesitate to contact me. 🌿

I hope to see you all here at the Garden soon!
Michael Desplaines, Executive Director

2005 Annual Donors

Organizations

Crossway Family Dental
 Paris Cape Realty
 St. Mary's Garden Club
 W.J. Wheeler & Co.
 Bolsters Decorating, Inc.
 Moose Pond Arts & Ecology

Individuals

Cecilia Adamson
 Franca A. Ainsworth
 Chuck & Deanna Akre
 Bill & Lynda Allanach
 Nancy T. Allyn
 Barbara Share & Jack L. Armstrong
 Sandra & Robert Bahre
 Allen & Mary-Alice Bancroft
 Lee Barth
 Robert & Jill Bean
 Ellen and Gene Benner
 Judy Bidwell
 Tony Frangipane & Brenda Birney
 James R. Bordewick, Jr.
 David & Elaine Bradbury
 Katey Branch
 George & Deborah Brett
 John & Judith Brooks
 Becky Burke
 Andrea Hurd Burns
 Donald & Katherine Burns
 Richard & Louise Cadwgan
 Carol Gagnon Cantwell
 Charles & Catriona Case
 Peter & Karen Chapman
 Allan S. & Winona E. Chase
 Joan & Skip Churchill

Douglas & Ellen Clarke
 Adelaide Clifford
 E. Newbold Cooper
 Marie Corneliusen
 Carolyn Costanzi
 Allen & Jacquelyn Cressy
 Capt. John & Eve Crumpton, Jr.
 Betty Cullinan
 Al & Pat Daniels
 Lee Dassler
 Jason Robinson & Michael Desplaines
 Al & Lise Desplaines
 Bill & Jan Detert
 Andrew & Nancy Dewing
 Elisabeth S. Dewing
 Kim McIntyre & Brett Doney
 Hannah N. Dring
 Christopher & Holly Hock Dumaine
 Sally Eckerson
 Bonnie Eletz
 John & Karen Ellis
 Jon Ellms
 Marlene & Lawrence Engdahl
 Deborah Fickett
 Russ and Judy Florenz
 Suzanne Frosch
 Susan J. Furst
 Walter & Louise Gary
 Anne B. Gass
 Harris & Nancy Gates
 Todd & Kristin Gauger
 Roy Gedat
 Dr. Edwin and Jane Gibson
 William H. & Jane P. Gibson

Judith T. Gideonse
 Susan Goodspeed
 Elinor R. Goodwin
 Joan & Louis Green
 Roger & Judith Green
 Charles & Elizabeth Grobe
 Edwin Guyer
 M. Joan Hall
 Mr. & Mrs. Arthur Hamblen
 Marilyn Hammond
 Jason Robinson & Michael Desplaines
 Robert & Rose Ellen Harmon
 Amy Hillman-Siracusa
 & Susan Hillman
 Shirley S. Miller
 Daniel & Cindy Mingle
 Anne Minster
 Peter & Elaine Montpelier
 Robert & Joan Moorehead
 Margaret Mosher
 Jeffrey Newsom
 Paula Nicolai
 Lucy Nordahl
 Karen & John O'Brien
 Georgiana Pacent
 Robert & Lucile Parker
 Christopher & Marcia Pottle
 Adelaide Ray
 Carol & Tony Rice
 Jack & Kathy Richardson
 Nancy Rideout
 Janice Rideout
 George & Harriet Robinson
 Kristin Roy
 Harold & Frances Rushton
 Natalie Sanborn
 Alan Schechter
 Sarah Schenker

Janet Loring
 Hayward A. Luck
 Carol MacNeill
 Carla & Jon Magoun
 Mr. & Mrs. James Marble
 Katharine Martin-Savage
 Kimball & Mollie Mason
 John & Beth Mattor
 Florence Mayberry
 Richard & Tanya McAllister
 Joan McGonagle
 Sarah Meacham
 William & Marjorie Medd
 Shirley S. Miller
 Daniel & Cindy Mingle
 Anne Minster
 Peter & Elaine Montpelier
 Robert & Joan Moorehead
 Margaret Mosher
 Jeffrey Newsom
 Paula Nicolai
 Lucy Nordahl
 Karen & John O'Brien
 Georgiana Pacent
 Robert & Lucile Parker
 Christopher & Marcia Pottle
 Adelaide Ray
 Carol & Tony Rice
 Jack & Kathy Richardson
 Nancy Rideout
 Janice Rideout
 George & Harriet Robinson
 Kristin Roy
 Harold & Frances Rushton
 Natalie Sanborn
 Alan Schechter
 Sarah Schenker

Foster & Mickie Shibles
 John L. Simpson
 Sally & Bob Skillings
 Cary Slocum
 Patricia Snyder
 Joan Leitzer & Kenneth Spierer
 David & Anne Stanley
 Juliann Stauder
 Dee Stegman
 Tim Carnes & Sandy Stevens
 William & Sara Stockwell
 Herb & Lois Strauss
 Mr. & Mrs. Roland Sutton, Jr.
 Kristin G. Sweeney
 Jack & Deborah Swenson
 James & Rachel Tabor
 Carroll & Joan Taylor
 John & Judy Thompson
 Helga Thurston
 Beverly Sears & Karen Torino
 Frances A. Usenik
 Fred & June Van Mourik
 Janet R. Ver Planck
 Dolly H. Verrill
 Elsie P. Viles
 Scott & Zizi Vlaun
 Joan Wenzel
 William & Margaret Wheeler
 Cynthia & Jeff White
 Brenda Whitney
 Caroline J. Wilk
 Nancy Willard
 John & Barbara Willett
 Keith & Lilo Willoughby
 Linda & John Willson
 Mrs. Dana Woody
 Dean & Mary Zeilon

2005 Auction Donors

Despite the rain, a fantastic time was had by all at this past summer's Benefit Auction. The theme of "A Botany of Desire" drew many supporters of the Garden who bid on a number of fabulous live and silent auction items. As always, our friends at The Good Food Store in Bethel provided the evening's most desirable food and refreshments. The auction was our most successful ever, and the 2006 committee is already hard at work planning for the evening of August 19th, so save the date on your calendar. If you are interested in donating to this year's auction, please contact our office. Thank you to the following donors to our 2005 Auction, and a special thank you to our 2005 auction sponsors, Chalmers Realty, Norway Savings Bank, and Rupert and Suzanne Grover. 🌿

Abby Duarte Sayen
 Akari
 Akers Ski
 Andrea Burns
 Becky Burke
 Bessey Motor Sales
 Bethel Historical Society
 Bill & Beth Miller
 Bill & Joan Wood
 Bob & Sandra Bahre
 Bridgton Books
 Bridgton Highland Golf Club
 C. Ray Snedeker
 Carter's XC Ski Center
 Chris Pottle
 Churchill Photography
 Craftworks
 Creaser Jewelers
 Cross Jewelers
 Debra Ann Flynn
 Deertrees Theater Cultural Center
 Downeast Books

Enterprise Maine
 Gene & Ellen Benner
 Good Food Store
 Hans Paulsen
 Healing Hands Massage
 Holly Hagy
 Hotel Hawthorne
 Jack & Ursula Makowski
 Judith Kinsman
 Kimberly J. Bell
 King's Hill Inn
 Lake Kezar Country Club
 Lee Barth
 Longfellow's Greenhouses
 Lovell Designs
 Maine Audubon
 Marc Bancroft
 Mary & Dean Zeilon
 Maurice's Restaurant
 McSherry's Nursery
 Migis Lodge on Sebago Lake
 Mougalian Oriental Rugs

Eastern Slope Inn & Resort
 Nancy Hohmann
 Nancy Rideout
 NorthHorse Equine Massage
 North Star Garden Design
 Northern Outdoors
 Norway Veterinary Hospital
 O'Donal's Nursery
 Old Mill Storage
 100 Aker Wood
 Personal Best
 Pine State Distributors
 Polly Hayton
 Portland Harbor Hotel
 Portland Symphony Orchestra
 Preciously Porcelain
 Provencher's Home & Garden
 Rare Air, Inc.
 Rose's Stained Glass
 Royal River Grillhouse
 Russ Florenz
 Serendipity



Sharon DeGiovanni
 Skillins Greenhouses
 Snug Harbor Farm
 Sudbury Inn
 Sunday River Ski Resort
 Susan Burns
 The Apple Doc
 The Irish Ewe
 The Lake House
 The Parker House Inn
 Thos. Moser Cabinetmakers
 Tony & Carol Rice
 Tony Frangipane
 Top Line Marketing
 Trolley House
 Vera Bradley
 Western Auto
 The McLaughlin Foundation
 Whispering Winds Farm
 Winterwood Farm
 York Historical Society
 York's Rhododendrons

Upcoming Volunteer Opportunities

May 19th-21st, White Mt. Flower Show, Fryeburg

May 27th-29th, Lilac Festival & Plant Sale

May 29th, Lilac Lap

Back in July, I joined the staff at the Garden as the new program and volunteer coordinator and continue to settle into the position. I have thoroughly enjoyed getting to know the many volunteers and board members of The McLaughlin Foundation and look forward to introducing myself to the rest of you whom I have not yet met. One of the most impressive aspects of my job thus far has been the fact that so many people are invested in this special place and are willing to give so much of themselves to preserve the garden and house for generations to come. Although I never met him, I'm sure Bernard would be proud to know there are so many stewards of his beautiful property.

During the 2005 summer I was privileged to take part in many of our programs, including Weed and Feeds, Backyard Explorers, the Brown Bag Lunch series and most impressionable, the Annual Auction. For 2006 we hope to build on our past successes while we add new, exciting and educational programming in hopes of increasing the number of visitors and program participants at the Garden. New programming that we are working for this year includes classes on terrariums, mushroom collection and cultivation,

rock gardens, kitchen gardens, the art of bonsai, a new series on sustainable gardening and much more. In an effort to better serve you, we also welcome any ideas that you have for new programs in 2006.

We need your support to make 2006 another successful year. There are many opportunities to volunteer at the Garden this coming season and we hope that you will join us during one of our major events such as the Annual Plant Sale, the 2006 Auction, or one of the many others. Without your help, the Garden would not be here. You make it possible to implement many of our events and programs. 🌿



Barbra Barrett, Program and Volunteer Coordinator