



Tate House Gazette

News from the Tate House Museum

Connecting people to Maine's colonial roots and helping them to discover, imagine, and value the relevance of this history to our lives.

VOLUME 22 NUMBER 2

www.tatehouse.org

MAY 2013

TATE HOUSE MUSEUM WILL OPEN FOR THE SEASON ON JUNE 1st . WEDNESDAY THRU SATURDAY 10AM TO 4PM. SUNDAY 1PM TO 4PM. TOURS ON THE HOUR WITH THE LAST ONE AT 3PM

Annual Spring Herb and Plant Sale May 18th 2013 9AM to 2PM Join Us and Help Support Tate House

Saturday May 18th will be the annual herb and plant sale of the Tate House Museum. The sale will be at the Means House from 9 am to 2 pm.

This year Broadway Gardens will be supporting the sale. They will be supplying many herbs and perennials for the sale at a price to us to support our fundraising effort. We also have thinned some of the Tate House Garden rose plants as well as a few other plants.



These will be offered for sale as well. Though they didn't come directly from Mary Tate they have a theoretical connection!

Tate House garden volunteers are also potting up plants from their gardens for the sale. If gardeners would like to supply plants, we would be delighted to have you bring in plants you have potted and established in their pots.



If you need pots for your transplants we have some extras that you could use. So get busy now with thinning your beds.

Give your plants about a week to adjust to the shock of transplanting so they will look healthy for the sale. Label your plants with the name, color, and height as well as the type of soil they prefer and whether sun or shade location. Pass the word to friends and neighbors to come.

This is one of the major fundraisers for the Museum and your participation is vital. We need your support. Previous years plant sale patrons have asked if the Tate House was open for tours. So this year we will offer discounted tours of the Tate House for those buying plants.

See you on May 18th.

Barbara Luke—Garden Committee

PRUNING PARTY

The garden committee opened the season with some style this year with the help of a whole bunch of new volunteer Master Gardeners. The garage door opened at 10:00 AM, May 7th, the benches came out of storage and were placed under the apple tree. Name tags were filled out and donut holes nibbled during welcoming comments. Then we all flocked to the rear of the Tate House Museum for a rose bush Pruning Party. The Rosa blanda, also known as "The Wild Thing" or American Meadow Rose was cut down to size by expert Master Gardener Greta Roderick with assistance from our own PHD Sara Schwartz. Thor Peterson and Ralph Wink tackled the Rosa Eglanteria, common name of Sweet Briar, or the ones I call the "The Wicked Thorny Guys." One of our favorite docents,



Barbara Luke, gave some pruning pointers to MG Jane Considine as she practiced her new skills on the roses in the Herbal Beds; the Apothecary, Jenny Duval, and the Tuscany Roses.

Pruning Cont..

Experienced Master Gardeners Rachel Perry and Susan Burgess teamed up with a new Master Gardener, Bruce Webb on the clean-up duty with racking, lots of racking, some pruning, and filling in those dangerous sink holes.

I bet you didn't know that we had all these interesting types of roses in our interpretation of an 18th Century Garden.



I have to give special mention of Thor Peterson. He found the ladder in the garage and just took this whole idea of pruning to new heights. Yes, Bill Hubbell got a good camera shot of Thor up in the pine trees. I

was not at all surprised to find out that Thor is a professional landscaper and contractor specializing in pruning trees, shrubs and bonsai along with doing stonework.

He's also a carpenter with special interests in renovation and restoration. I suspect his true craftsmanship shows up in the woodworking projects he does with all the wood collected from those other jobs. Just in case you were wondering, the name of his business is "Thor's Trades."

The Tate House Museum Garden is a designated project site approved by Amy Witt from the Maine State University Master Gardener Program. Although there have been a few Master Gardeners who have worked with us at the Tate House in the past, this might be the first year that the MG program coincides so perfectly with our needs. So several of these folks will be volunteering all season at the THMG to fulfill their community service requirements.

Susan Bowditch and Liz Bradley have already welcomed them all to sit-in any of the docent training sessions that might be interesting. One last note of thanks goes to my friend, Nancy Miles, who posted the request for help with pruning at THMG, in the Master Gardener's newsletter.

All of us at the Tate House Museum are so very appreciative of the work done by these most enthusiastic, knowledgeable, and hard working community volunteers who stepped up to "lend a hand."

Ginny Bishop, Garden Committee

Ell Renovations

The Tate House along with funding from the Sprague Foundation completed the renovations to the ell this spring. **John Rich of Palladian Construction** worked long and hard to complete the project



before the start of the school tours. Happily the ell had its facelift in plenty of time for the painting to also be completed.

Clarke Painting, Inc. graciously donated its manpower to the painting of the ceiling and floor. The men remembered coming to the Tate House Museum as 3rd graders to learn about the Mast Trade. A big thank you goes out to all of them, Marc Cole, Scott Smith, Kurt Smith and their crew.

This gives testament to what the NSCDA in the State of Maine has done for the youth of Portland and surrounding towns.



Grace Batsford on Board as Museum Assistant

At its last meeting, the board of directors approved the hiring of Grace Batsford to serve as a museum assistant this season. The new position was the result of discussions with Laura Sprague, our consulting curator, who found an efficient way to maximize curatorial-dedicated funds. Grace's new job is in addition to her duties as weekend manager, a post she has ably held since 2011.

As museum assistant, Grace will work about 15 hours on weekdays during open hours, supporting activities of the education, collection, and building committees. The goal is to create an increased level of oversight and professionalism in the museum operations. She will support new and veteran docents with tours and procedures and coordinate special projects. These include developing new room books, improving the mast trade and archaeological exhibits in the newly-restored ell, and improving collections care. We appreciate Grace's interest in Tate House and look forward to achieving many important goals with her this season.

Fun Day Thank You

Though the crowd was small the accomplishments were many. The energy was supplied by coffee and donuts from Tim Horton's. (Thanks to Betty for arranging that!) Laura Sprague and Mark Sengelmann removed the storm doors from the Tate House and installed the screen doors. Andy Stickney arrived ready to work. He started raking up gravel from the grass around the parking lot but quickly moved to a higher priority---trimming limbs from the apple tree over hanging the garage. He was aided by Mark. Louise White raked the stones off the front lawn of the Means house and Bill Hubbell distributed them over the driveway. Louise, after picking up the errant shingles that had blown onto the lawn, moved over to help Barbara Luke rake the gravel back into the parking lot from the winter plowing that had pushed it into the grass. The wooden signposts on the lawn of the Means House were painted black by Barbara so they look like they belong instead of the eyesore they have been.

Many fun items did not get attention this spring. By fall more will be identified and hopefully more participants will find out that the camaraderie developed during these hours is worth the toil.

Rambling On

Our spring Ramble this year brought us to Massachusetts where we visited The Shirley Eustis House in Roxbury. Built in 1747 The Shirley Eustis House is the mansion home of the Governor of Massachusetts Bay at the time of the French and Indian wars and when George Tate built the Tate house.....two houses of Royal appointments.



Our second destination was the Golden Ball Tavern. Built in 1768 on the Boston Post Road in Weston, the Golden Ball Tavern was the home of Isaac Jones, prominent Weston resident. The Golden Ball Tavern is an eighteenth century house that is interpreted over its two hundred year history.

Springtime in the Neighborhood



Now that the snow is gone for the season (we hope) you can clearly see the stripes on Congress Street that the Stroudwater Village Association worked on with the City of Portland to redirect traffic. The intent was increased safely and decreased speed. The latter has certainly been obtained, the former remains to be seen. There are more additions coming which should help with the safety issue. SVA held a neighborhood meeting and worked with officials to finalize the plans.

A big change will befall the SVA organization this spring. President Elizabeth Hogleund who has held the reins of the organization for ten years, not to mention her many years on the board prior to that, is stepping down as of the Annual Meeting on April 27th. She looks forward to more time to spend with her grandchild and less time reading multiple emails, going to endless city meetings, putting on the Village Day and other events and running Board meetings.

Liz has been responsible for many changes and improvements over the years. She has been a tireless advocate for the neighborhood with the City. She has pursued noise and pollution abatement at the airport, clean waters and improvements to the dam on our rivers and streams, producing a newsletter and bringing our history back to life through celebrations and honoring our residents, and putting on fun entertainment events such as Village Day.

We wish Liz the very best, and thank her from the bottom of our hearts for her many years of self-less work on behalf of Stroudwater Village.

Anita Jones –Chair Board of Directors Tate House

Did You Know

The Falmouth Gazette, published on January 1, 1785 was the first newspaper ever published in Maine. The newspaper was established to promote separation from Massachusetts. Benjamin Titcomb, a native of Maine, was the first printer in the state and joining with Thomas Wait started the “**Gazette and Weekly Advertiser**” in Falmouth (now Portland) on January 1, 1785. But just a year later Titcomb left the newspaper and Wait changed the newspaper's name to the “**Cumberland Gazette**”, Cumberland being the name of the county in which Falmouth was located. It changed names again six years later to the “**Eastern Herald**”.

<http://blog.rarenewspapers.com/?tag=falmouth-gazette>

2013 Opening An All Day Event

Opening Day, June 1st, is rapidly approaching. We're planning a big opening day, with several different tours, along with tea sandwiches, strawberries and punch on the lawn. Tickets will be \$20 for adults, \$15 for senior citizens and \$10 for children under 12. A ticket entitles the visitor to five tours: the Tate House itself, the Tate House architecture tour, a garden tour, cemetery tour and Stroudwater neighborhood tour. We're hoping for a clear day but will suggest umbrellas, just in case..

A docent will be stationed in each of the six rooms in the house. We already have six volunteers but would like six more, so that no one has to cover more than a 3 hour shift. We have a need for one more docent to lead a modified cemetery tour. Delene Perley will be training you.

As on other opening days, we will offer food and will need baked goods, small sandwiches and baskets of strawberries. If you can't be there on the 1st, perhaps you can help with refreshments.

All volunteers and friends are welcome to join us and help kick off another busy, successful summer season at Tate House. Please call Betty Janus at 207-774-6177 or e-mail me at bradleydavid23@gmail.com. Let us know if you can help and what you'd like to do. Thanks for your support!

Museum Office

Summer hours for the Tate House office will be:

Tuesday - Friday 9AM to 4PM

Saturday 10AM to 4PM

Sunday 1PM to 4PM

Office Phone: 207-774-6177

E-Mail Address— info@tatehouse.org

Tate House Gift Shop

This Spring the gift shop is adding several new items for your shopping pleasure. We recently attended the New England Specialty Trade Show and found a wonderful Maine product from Gladstone's Under the Sun. It's called "The Caviar of Maine" and is made from all natural wild Maine blueberries dried in grape juice. This delicious product can be used to create healthy hors d'oeuvres, salads, main dishes and desserts. They also make a similar product packed in 3.5 oz cans and a light syrup which I purchased to sell in the shop. These make wonderful "guest gifts" or a special treat for you.

We are also selling special **Tate House Teas** made by Nellie's Teas of South Portland, ME. One



of those teas is chestnut black tea blended with maple flavoring, apple and spices. Another will be a

chestnut black tea blended with maple flavoring, peach pieces, rose hips and hibiscus. We will also have a green tea blended with blueberries. Marianne Russo who operates Nellie's Tea House blended these teas just for us so we are looking forward to sharing these with you.

Downeast Books has a brand new book called Fairy Garden Handbook which we will be selling. This new how-to book for parents and children combines the best of both worlds. It includes basic information for beginning gardeners, such as soil preparation, planting and watering, then branches into appropriate categories for every fairy gardener.

These are just a few of our offerings this 2013 season so come in and browse and help support the Tate House Museum.

_____Joan M Hatch _____

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

2013

OFFICERS:

Anita B. Jones

Chair

Peter W. Cook

Vice Chair

Andrew Stickney

Treasurer

Chris Dargie

*Secretary***DIRECTORS:**

Elizabeth Bradley

Susan Bowditch

Richard Gilbane

Cynthia Griswold

William Hubbell

Christina Jackson

John Robinson

James Stenberg

Thomas Thomsen

Anne S. Upton

EDUCATION COMMITTEE NEWS**NEW DOCENTS HAVE
ARRIVED!**

Three sessions of Tate House training have been completed with the individuals who participated in the PHD (Portland History Docents) program this spring. They will graduate May 2 at the Maine Historical Society and Tate House will present one more session on May 23 for all docents – new and experienced. This final session will be conducted by Liz Bradley and Laura Sprague on the importance of safety and security; and by Peter Cook who will weave his magic around interpretation.

The new docents are Dorothy Wasilewsky, Prudence Bean, Sharon Colgan, Joline Froton, Julia Gaulke, Peter Gaulke, Mary Carol Haggerty, Peter Jensch, Jessica Siraco, Carol Ward, Diane Hoppe and Gail Carter. That is more than twice as many as chose Tate House last year! Some will be also guiding elsewhere but we are very grateful to have these interesting and committed individuals on board! We hope to keep them busy and happy as they keep our visitors engaged.

I asked each one to provide me a little profile of themselves and/or why they wanted to work at Tate House. I did get responses from several but it was like pulling teeth to get most of them to talk about themselves! Here is what I found out:

Peter Gaulke is a carpenter by trade, does millwork, and builds houses and boats as well. In his life he has also been a commercial fisherman. Because these jobs have been around forever, it led his interest to history and history led him to Tate House!

Julia Gaulke spent 15 years in the corporate world and 15 years in the non-profit world and is now looking to learn about the history of the wonderful city of Portland. She is also intrigued and interested to know more about the mast trade! **Joline Froton** retired from Bates College after 27 years and is currently working as an administrative assistant at the Androscoggin Historical Society. This interest in history is probably what drew her to us! **Gail Carter** first heard about Tate House in the 1950s in her Maine history class and first visited it in 1976! As an educator this just seemed a “natural”, especially since the 1700’s is her favorite century. **Peter Jensch** has always been interested in architecture and old buildings. As an exchange student to England in the 1950s he lived in a house begun in the 1300s which is still occupied by the same family who built it!

We are delighted to have so many bright and interesting new docents to add to our committed list of wonderful current docents! We look forward to bringing you more profiles of our new ‘frontline’ at Tate House in future Gazettes.

Is That A Fact !

Henry David Thoreau was born and raised in Massachusetts and as a young man, he began to dislike the city life. He questioned the values of a growing nation and mourned the destruction of the wilderness. In 1838, he began making trips to Northern Maine. He was thrilled by the state’s wilderness but deeply troubled by the increasing logging industry. He is sometimes known as the first environmentalist.

“A Good Time Was Had By All”

In late April, in former times (before the Means House was purchased), we Dames used to gather to make a party out of opening the Tate House for the season. Let me share with you my memories of what we did to get the House spruced up and ready to receive the school children and our summer visitors.



First, you will have to imagine what the House looked like in its winter iteration! Protective plywood covered all the windows and doors (rudimentary storm doors had been rigged-up), and the water turned off. Our curtains, drapes, pictures, mirrors and other decorative arts had been stored away. With our silver safe-locked in the Noyes warehouse, the house had been put to sleep for the cold months.

“All hands on deck!” came the April call from the Tate House Committee to undertake the gargantuan task of bringing the House back to life. There was electricity in the air as friends gathered with bag lunches, step stools, polishes and rags in hand. Others came as well—a fireman who cleaned the gutters of winter leaves, and with his ladders, removed the plywood from the windows, and our plumber who turned on the water and started the furnace to take the chill off.

Then the fun began! With Frannie Peabody supervising and urging us on, each of us had an area of responsibility: the tall ladies, Gertrude McCue and Anne Drummond, with assistance from Sally Rand and Georgiana Chase re-installed the bed hangings, curtains, and draperies; Molly White, and Jonnie Thomas solved any problems with fabrics and sewing; Betty Preti, Hennie Stewart, and Althea Noyes uncovered and hung pictures and mirrors; Mary Rea and I took the plywood coverings down the bulkhead stairs to the cellar, numbered and ordered them for easy fall re-installment, and Dorothy Ryan, our faithful, hard-working “go-for” picked up the slack for everyone.

While Peg Gray, our administrator, watched over the operations wringing her hands in fear that something would go amiss, the rest of us washed china, and glassware, polished silver and brass, gossiped and dreamed of what our big projects might be for the coming year in Tate House.

Gossiping ceased when we opened our lunches and attended a paper given by one of us, pertinent to our keen interest and (may I say) love for the Tate House. Katie Felton gave instructive talks as expert on fire arms and the care of our precious books, I recall giving a paper on the different chair styles in the collection, and others spoke on wedding customs, and children’s education. How we did treasure this happy event that launched our season!

By late afternoon, our tasks completed, the floors washed, we were sincere when we said,

“A good time was had by all!”

By Mary Louise Sprague

Good New!!

Tate House Museum Receives Important Conservation Funding

In April Tate House Museum received the great news that it has been accepted into the 2013 Conservation Assessment Program (CAP), sponsored by Heritage Preservation of the National Institute for Conservation. The \$7,190 grant, matched by 10% from THM, will fund an assessment of the museum’s buildings and collections.

A technical assistance program, CAP provides eligible museums with a general conservation assessment. Established in 1990, the CAP program supports independent assessments and written preservation plans for museum. As of 2012, 2,800 museums had participated in the program. Funding, based on a museum’s operating budget, supports a two-day site visit by conservators. Tate House Museum will host visits by two specialists, an architectural conservator to assess building conditions and an objects conservator to assist with the museum collections.

The goal is to identify the priorities for maintenance and preservation of the 1755 National Historic Landmark and the 1797 Means House, both within the Stroudwater Historic District, listed in the National Register of Historic Places.

Laura Fecych Sprague— Consulting Curator

Notes from the Tate House Museum Board Chair

It's pretty exciting to be around the Tate House Museum these days, now that spring is here. On various recent days I ran into the Garden Committee chaired by Bill Hubbell viewing the gardens and planning for summer flowers; the Building Committee chaired by Mark Sengelmann looking over the changes they are making in the Tate House ell with the help of a Sprague Family Foundation grant; a Board member showing prospective board members through the house; and the brand new docents (six of them this year plus 3 or 4 other volunteers) learning more specifics about volunteering at Tate House, in an excellent meeting planned by Susan Bowditch, Education Chair. The Development Committee met and made plans to pursue grant funding, and the Long Range Planning Committee meets next week to continue its work looking toward the future.

The ell changes are making much better use of the space that used to be divided by a one-piece kitchenette and is now one large room adequate for holding school groups as they begin their introduction to the house. Walls, ceiling and floors have been restored, prepared and painted and we anticipate the purchase of a large screen TV for showing the video on the Mast Trade.

The Nominating Committee is working to build an even stronger Board. We look forward to the Annual Meeting on Thursday, June 20th at 8AM to vote them into office.

In the meantime, the annual Plant Sale on May 18th from 9 to 2, and the gala Opening Day complete with docents, many different tours and a luncheon on June 1st will keep us busy and entertained. Please join us for these exciting events.

As always, I am amazed and inspired by the tireless devotion of the Tate House volunteers who make all these events happen. Thank you, one and all!

Anita B. Jones

School Tours

As the oldest historic house museum in the Greater Portland area, Tate House Museum offers school programs to help student better understand the social, political, and architectural history of pre-Revolutionary 18th - Century Maine. We encourage student groups of all ages to visit from third grade through college.

Our elementary school program features a museum visit that includes both a House Tour and a hands-on experience with the Tate Family Trunk. The trunk is filled with reproductions of 18th century objects, similar to those that might have been used by the Tate family in the 1750s, 1760s and 1770s. Students can see, touch and experiment with everything inside!

The School Tour fee is \$5.00 per student. Chaperones and teachers are free. Tours can be booked by calling Betty Janus at the Museum Office Tuesday through Friday 9-4 or by e-mailing info@tatehouse.org.

Architectural Tours

During the 2013 season, Architectural tours will be the first Thursday of the month except for July which will be July 11th. Tours are at 10 and 11:30 and the dates are; June 6th, July 11th, August 1st, September 5th and October 3rd. Entrance fee for the **Architectural tours are \$12.00** per visitor. Tours will also be available by appointment. Call the museum office to book your tour 207-774-6177

Museum Admissions

Adults	\$10.00
Seniors	\$ 8.00
Children	\$ 5.00 (6-12)

Free Admissions to all Tate House Museum Members

Tate House Museum
1267 Westbrook Street
Portland, ME 04102
207-774-6177
www.tatehouse.org

BECOME A TATE HOUSE MUSEUM MEMBER



- ___ \$1,000 Captain Tate
- ___ \$500 Colonel Westbrook
- ___ \$250 Mast Agent
- ___ \$100 Patron
- ___ \$50 Family
- ___ \$35 Individual

Enjoy
free admission to the museum,
advanced notice of special events,
our impressive library on New England
and American colonial history, * full recognition in our
newsletter, discount on gift shop purchases and a donor
recognition event for our top three levels.

Name _____

Address _____

E-mail Address _____

Payment Information:

We are enclosing a check for \$_____ Please make checks payable to: Tate House Museum

Please charge my Visa or Mastercard one time for \$_____

Please charge my Visa or Mastercard quarterly (January, April, July, and October) for \$_____

Card # _____ Exp Date _____

Signature _____ CVV # _____

Cardholder's name (printed) _____

Tate House Museum is a non-profit, 501(c)(3) tax-exempt organization.

I wish to remain anonymous *