

Talk Schedule:

Tour participants are invited to attend any one of a repeating series of two brief talks that will be given at 9:30, 10:30, 11:30AM and 2:30PM.

Lee Dassler, Executive Director of the McLaughlin Garden and Martha McNamara, Associate Professor of History at UMaine, Orono will speak about architectural features of Waterford Flat.

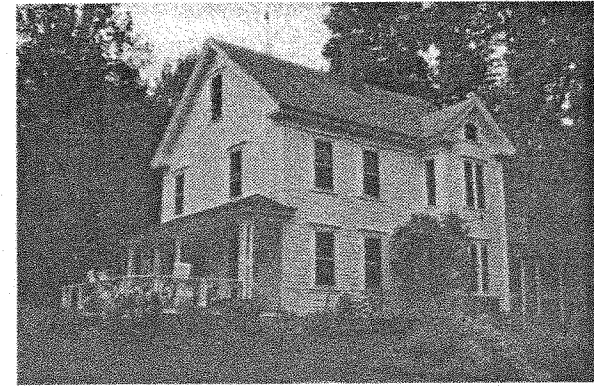
Theresa Mattor of Monro Associates will speak about nineteenth century rural Maine gardens.

The McLaughlin Garden and The Waterford Historical Society would like to thank all the home owners, gardeners, and volunteers involved in this collaborative event. Their generosity, skills and dedication enrich western Maine and help us preserve our historic and cultural treasures.

Special thanks are due to our two chairpersons Mollie Mason and Lilo Willoughby for organizing this event.

The McLaughlin Garden is located at 97 Main Street (Route 26) in South Paris. The garden is open 8-8 daily through October; the Gift Shop daily 10-5; the Tea Room is serving lunches and teas, 11-4 Wednesday-Saturday.
(207) 743-8820. www.mclaughlingarden.org.

The Waterford Historical Society maintains three historic properties in Waterford: the Waterford Town House, The Mary Gage Rice Museum and The Rebekah's Hall in North Waterford.
Admission arrangements made by request.



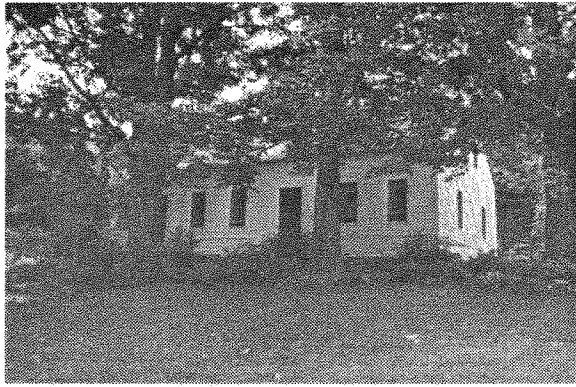
1

The Stone Home Jerry and Abby Burns Valley Road/Rt. 35

The "Stone Home" was built sometime before the Civil War. Beautiful Kedar Brook flows through the property, and there are remnants of a tannery and a gristmill along the waterway. For many years before World War II an enterprising woman, Nellie Stone, ran the house as a vacation place and a convenient stop-over for parents visiting their children attending nearby camps.

In 1976 the property, which the Burnses bought as a vacation home, had no gardens: only twenty-five dead elms. Concentrating on woodland perennials, many of which came from Bernard McLaughlin, Abby has created unique gardens in the rocky soil. The white mulberry (*morus alba*) in the driveway is an important feature. Local lore says that in the 1850's someone got the idea from Europe to start a silkworm industry. Hundreds of mulberries were planted in the county. Unfortunately, most of the silkworms froze the first winter. It is thought that this is the last mulberry tree alive in the area. Despite the slow loss of its huge old limbs, it remains a sanctuary for many species of birds who love the white fruit it bears each July.

Handicapped parking only at this property.

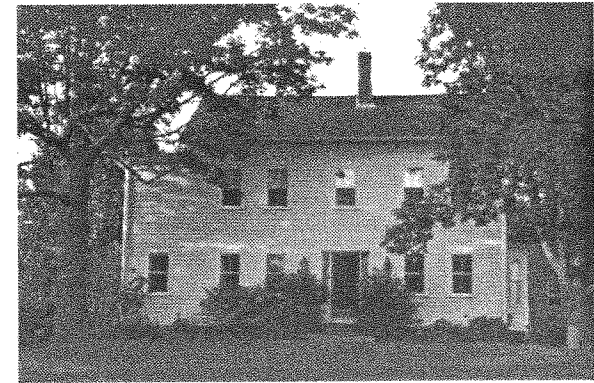


2

**The Old Leonard Place
John and Jane Traill
Rice Road**

John Traill purchased this property in 1976 from Leslie Rogers and his sister Margaret whose family had lived there since 1933. At that time the landscaping of the house consisted of a large grouping of hydrangeas on the right side, four sugar maples in front, and a bridal veil on the left side. Over the past twenty-two years the Traills have expanded the landscape to include a collection of perennials, trees, and shrubs covering the acre around the house. While most of the plant material is from local sources, some specimens come from the Finger Lakes area of New York through Jane's father, a retired horticulturist. Many of these plants would not be considered reasonable for our climate, but with careful planting and maintenance they have acclimated to the harsh winters of Maine.

Much of the landscaping was done with practicality in mind. The areas dangerous to mow were turned into gardens. Trees, shrubs, and plants were chosen to invite birds and other wildlife to the gardens. Water areas were encouraged, but managed. Vegetable gardens and fruit trees were incorporated into the landscape. An old sandbox became an area for transplants not quite ready for the gardens. A long abandoned well became a source of water and a playhouse a storage area.



3

**Skye Farm
Josh and Susan Burns
Apple Blossom Drive**

Born in 1865 Frank Morse Sr. began an apple orchard in the late 1800's amidst 250 acres of woodlands and fields on the shore of Lake McWain. His grandson stayed in the apple business until 1991, when the property was purchased by the Burnses.

The house, originally built as a one-story cape, was lifted to accommodate the current first floor in the early twentieth century.

When the Burnses purchased the property, the house was remodeled and tennis courts and gardens were added. The stone wall with granite cap along the drive is reminiscent of an earlier granite wall and was built by Peter Morse, great-grandson of the original orchardist.

Perennial beds, vegetable gardens, trees along the drive and in the fields, and woody shrubs were added to the landscape. The north lawn was designed as a regulation croquet court.

A paddock and animal fencing were added to accommodate the Burnses' Scottish highland cattle and ringneck pheasants. Josh and Susan continue to work and expand the orchards.



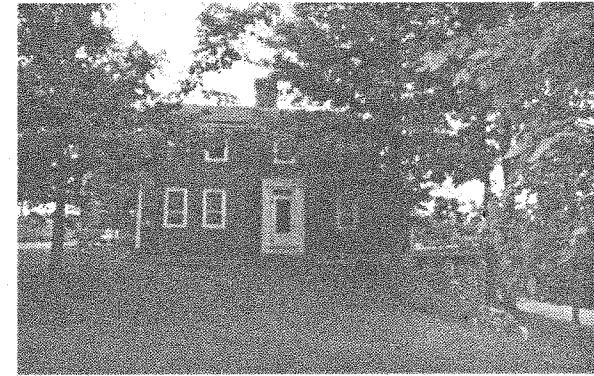
4

**Sycamore Terrace
Keith and Lilo Willoughby
73 Plummer Hill Road**

The house was built in 1795 by Dr. Stephen Cummings. That winter, in the front parlor, the Waterford "freeholders" drafted a petition to the Great and General Court of Massachusetts for the right to incorporate the town. The meeting was held in this new dwelling because it was at that time the geographic center of Waterford. The right to incorporate was granted in 1797.

In 1821, after the Rev. John Douglass was called to be the first permanent minister, the house became the Manse. After his death in 1878, his daughter Harriet enlarged the house to become a ladies' seminary which functioned successfully until just before the first World War. Since there were no direct heirs the house stood abandoned for about 40 years. In 1950 it was purchased by the local orchardist Charles Fillebrown and his wife Mary. It was cut in half and had the third floor removed, down from 36 rooms to 6. The current owners purchased the house in 1975, gradually updating it to its present appearance. There is a photo display of architectural changes on the front porch.

The Sycamore tree in front was brought from North Carolina to please Mrs. Cummings, who was a Southerner. For several winters after its arrival, the sapling was dug up and moved into the cellar. The tree is now on the Governor's list of tallest trees in the State of Maine and was at one time the largest deciduous tree in the state. The 1998 ice storm reduced some of its majesty.



5

**The Old Plummer Place
Hank and Andrea Burns
355 Plummer Hill Road**

Samuel Plummer, a farmer and accomplished builder who came to Waterford from Rowley, Massachusetts, built this vernacular Federal farmhouse in 1794. The home, which stands at the northern end of what was the "Plummer Neighborhood," remained in the Plummer family until 1936 when it was purchased by Constance Warren, president of Sarah Lawrence College. After ten years of summer residency in Waterford, Hank and Andrea Burns of Salem, Massachusetts, bought the house from the McKinley family and became full-time residents in 1973.

The post and beam structure, a somewhat unusual survivor from the late eighteenth century, has "feathered" clapboards, double sills, a massive center brick chimney, and five operating fireplaces. Original plaster and woodwork, nine over six windowpanes, many with the original cylinder glass, wainscoting, wide floor boards, and multi-fielded door and window casings are notable architectural features.

A once magnificent American elm de-limbed by the recent ice storm frames the home. Meandering gardens adorn former barn and outbuilding foundations. The old barnyard leads to a hidden copse garden, which was once a lower barn floor. The vegetable garden boasts a view of Paris Hill and Streaked Mountain.



6
Rydal Mount
 William and Meg Wheeler
 Rice Road

Built in 1817 by Dr. Leander Gage, this Federal-style homestead follows the classic "big house, little house, back house, barn" style seen in so many Maine farmhouses. An additional freestanding barn was built in 1825.

The home was named Rydal Mount by Ralph Waldo Emerson's aunt, Mary Moody Emerson of South Waterford, because she believed the setting to be similar to Wordsworth's home in England's Lake District. The home went out of the family in 1855 and was bought back into the family in 1903 by a grandson of Dr. Gage. It is currently owned by William Wheeler, Leander Gage's great great grandson. A new addition was added to the rear of the home in 1996 when the Wheelers became year-round residents. Respectful blending of old and new will be of interest to the visitors of this home.

Picket fences and stone walls are the defining exterior features of Rydal Mount. Formal gardens were laid out around a sundial and millstone in front of the house by Charles Chadbourne of North Bridgton in 1910 and remain relatively unchanged in design and plant material today. Meg has added numerous perennial border gardens along the fences and stone walls, cutting gardens, an herb garden outside the kitchen door, and a new shade garden behind the red barn which she describes as "a work in progress."

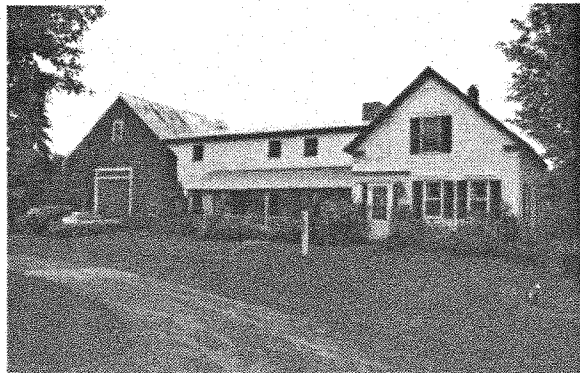


7
The Whitman House
 James Bordewick/Martha McNamara
 670 Rte. 35/37

Built ca. 1810 by Charles Whitman, a lawyer who moved to Waterford from Stow, Massachusetts, the property originally included a lawyer's office and cobbler's shop. The cobbler's shop still stands adjacent to the property facing the Waterford Town Common. The home's original hip roof (pitched on four sides) was "updated" to a peaked roof (pitched on two sides) in the mid-nineteenth century.

The Palladian window, or "venetian window" as they were called in the early nineteenth century, and the large proportions of the first floor rooms were quite unusual for western Maine in the first decades of the nineteenth century. The barn dates from the mid-nineteenth century, as does the adjacent shed, now known as the "pig parlor."

The gardens were laid out by the previous owners, Bob and Sheena Fraser. Perennial beds of peonies, roses, coreopsis, and daylilies line the driveway. Off the "pig parlor" old-fashioned roses, rosa rugosas, and hydrangeas frame a gravel terrace. Honysuckle and annual beds punctuate an expansive lawn.



8
The Lahti House
Chuck and Janet Truman
Rt. 37

Little is known of the early history of this nineteenth century farmhouse. Amos Flint bought 41 acres from Daniel Brown. (Both men were from early Waterford families.) Flint built a small dwelling and later added the ell and barn. One of the subsequent owners had a slaughterhouse in the back field. Agnes and Arnie Lahti bought the property, which was in disrepair, in 1941 from Isabelle Whitcomb for \$1,100.

In the late 1980's Agnes sold the property to her daughter and son in-law, Janet and Chuck Truman. The Trumans built an apartment in one section of the barn for Agnes and remodeled the house, achieving a tasteful blend of old and new. Sportsmen will find Chuck's Montana Room of special interest.

Golden glow, day lilies, and bouncing bet were the only plants growing on the property in 1941. Today passersby enjoy the fruit of Agnes Lahti's many years of gardening. Mixed perennial borders, fruit trees, blackberries, flowering shrubs, vast lawns and spring bulbs along the rock walls are some of the delights Agnes shares with her neighbors along with her knowledge of indigenous plants and wildflowers.

9
Town House
Waterford Historical Society

The Greek Revival Town House was built in 1843. Many of the framing timbers were recycled from the town's first meetinghouse, an 1802 two-and-one-half story structure with porch built on "Kingman Hill", on the present Plummer Hill Road. In 1837, as Waterford's population shifted, the congregation chose to build a new church in the "Flat" and abandoned the meetinghouse for secular use.

10
Knight Library

In 1899 the "Waterford Ladies Library Association" was incorporated. Initially a small collection was maintained by sisters Carrie and Sarah Knight in the Ambrose Knight Store. The sisters organized the construction of the current stone library before their deaths in 1911. Following a fire in 1937, the current shingled gambrel roof (designed by John Calvin Stevens and John Howard Stevens) was constructed.

11
First Congregational Church

With the exception of the columned portico, the present church was designed by John Calvin Stevens and John Howard Stevens to recreate the original 1837 structure which burned in 1928. The bell was recast in 1929 from the original Revere Foundry bell.

Support for our talks and for the publication of this guide were made possible by a grant from the Maine Humanities Council.