

Boscobel Herb Garden- Annual Report June 2021

This year of the Corona virus pandemic has reinforced what all gardeners have always known, the garden is a place of spiritual nourishment and delight. The volunteers at the Boscobel Herb Garden have been able to continue our common work at the Garden together. Boscobel listed us as 'essential workers' and so, properly masked, out of doors, and working at tasks a safe distance from one another, we were able to continue meeting on Tuesday mornings and enjoy the work, the setting and the companionship.

The mulch we put on last year and reapplied this spring was augmented by a large truck load of well composted manure (black gold) which will add tilth and nitrogen to the soil. There is now a regular watering schedule undertaken by the Boscobel maintenance crew. All this care and the weather last winter that was a boon to all gardens means the Herb Garden is flourishing and growth is astonishing.

New additions to the Garden include hops now winding their way up an old apple picking ladder in a corner of the Garden and sorghum, a source of sweetness, flour and brooms is growing the 'wild' pollinator area.

Staff of the Boscobel maintenance crew have been trained by the Cornell Cooperative extension in correct pruning of the espaliered pears and a regular pruning schedule has been instituted with a member of the staff and the PGC crew working together.

Questions from the public about the role of enslaved persons on the Boscobel estate has led us to start research into what plants of interest might have been included in a garden of the early 19th century in the Hudson River valley. We will be meeting at Mt. Gulian in Beacon to review the journals of Mrs. Verplanck and of James Brown the freed slave who worked there.

Matt Weigman made 3 videos in Oct 2020 about the Garden and its design which are available on the PGC website in the members area.

And we have received attention for our efforts. Thanks to Matthew Weigman who wrote the article and shepherded it through the long editorial process, the restoration of the Boscobel Herb Garden by the PGC was printed in the GCA Bulletin, Winter 2021 in the section Impact: Clubs and Communities Zone III.

Submitted by: Felicia Saunders, Matthew Weigman