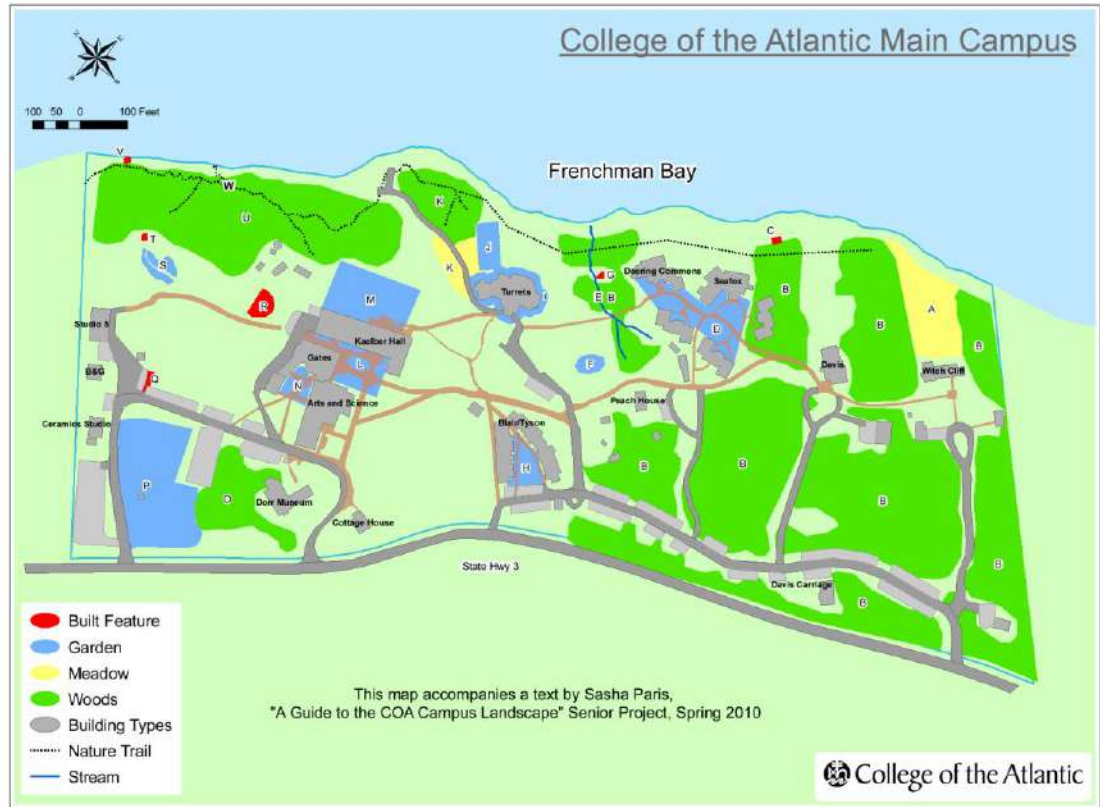


A Guide to the COA Campus Landscape

Features, History, and Three-Season Highlights



Sasha Paris
Senior Project
2010



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Introduction and User's Guide

Natural history, creative writing, and public education have long been among my passions. At College of the Atlantic (COA), I was privileged to study all of these disciplines, as well as those in which they intersect. Nature writing emerged for me as an ideal way to help people better understand and love the places and creatures around them.

I conceived this guide as an exercise in clearly and lyrically describing a place where I had lived, wandered, and thrice watched the seasons progress from autumn to spring. I soon realized, however, that I still had much to learn about the deceptively-small campus. Overlooked wildlife, little-known historical tales, and newly-noticed benches (thirty-five at last count) continually spiced my explorations and research, sustaining my desire to share them with others.

This is not a complete survey of campus wildlife or a thorough history. Rather, it is a guide to twenty-two distinctive landscape features as I experienced them in the years 2006-2010. Visitors, newcomers, and longtime COA community members alike may learn from it.

The book is divided into three categories: gardens, wild areas, and “built features” (manmade structures, excluding buildings, which are not part of other features). Within each, entries progress across campus from south to north. Each entry covers one feature and contains the following:

Description: The feature’s location (also indicated on the enclosed map) and overall layout, including some distinctive species where applicable. A partial species list, with scientific names, is at the back of this book.

History: The feature’s creator(s) and time of creation, what it replaced, and how it has changed over time (as applicable). Some dates are approximate or derived from the informal recollections of my sources.

Seasonal highlights: Notable, site-specific events observed in autumn, winter, and spring. I have never spent a summer on campus, and so could not describe that season. Built features change little with the seasons and so do not contain this section. Many events were noted during 2009-10, a year with an unusually snow-deprived winter and early spring, so their timing may not be characteristic of those to come.

Memory: Eight features include descriptions of vividly-remembered experiences which deepened my connection to them. The original poems at the beginning of each category also represent memories.

I have not had time to describe the Dorr Museum Courtyard, the brushy seaside fringe, the ceramic studio’s Japanese garden, the lawns dappled with exotic trees, or the unstable, off-limits gazebo beside the North Lawn. Even in my targeted features, beasts and blossoms have undoubtedly escaped my notice. I hope you will enjoy this guide, and then see what *you* can find in this campus of small wonders.

Note on creature-name capitalization

I have capitalized the common names of creatures whose species is known to me (e.g. European Hornbeam), a standard practice for biologists. Un-capitalized names (e.g. goldenrod) denote creatures which I could not conclusively identify at the species level, as well as the partial names of those whose full names were used earlier in the description of a given place.

Disclaimer

I have done my best to verify the botanical notes in this guide, but their accuracy is not guaranteed. Some plants may have been misidentified or replaced, and scientific names may change. Please consult other sources before consuming anything or using this information academically.

Overview of historical campus ownership

The property's first human visitors were Native Americans, who used Mount Desert Island as a summer foraging ground. But I do not know when Europeans first took possession of it, so my timeline begins with the first era of wealthy summer vacationers.

1878-1903: Eight "cottages," some quite opulent, are built on the land now owned by COA. Wealthy families summer side-by-side in a manicured landscape.

1907-1938: One by one, the cottages north of the stream are razed or neglected. Wild plants begin to overgrow lawns, gardens, and the spaces between the southern cottages.

1942: The Franco-American Oblate Fathers of Mary Immaculate buy Guy's Cliff (Kaelber Hall's cottage predecessor) for use as a junior college.

1959: The Oblate Fathers buy the property now covered by the northern campus and build several structures on the North Lawn.

1967: The Oblate Fathers buy the Turrets property, but depart for Canada shortly afterward. Their land ends up in the possession of businessman Mike Garber.

1969-71: COA founders acquire the Oblate Fathers' property from Garber and establish the college. Land and building renovations begin.

1976-2002: COA acquires several properties sell for the stream, extending the campus to its current size.

Gardens

Early autumn, late afternoon
The garden, bathed in golden light:
A masterpiece borne of loving labor
Sunflowers, squashes, borage, tomatoes,
Cosmos, calendula, kale
Many more – vegetables, flowers and herbs
Food and medicine coaxed from the soil
For those who tended them all summer long
One of my teachers, picking tomatoes, gives me four
No shame of distance and poison to taint them
In myriad shapes and colors, this garden is
As dazzlingly diverse an array of forms
As any rainforest or reef

("A Walk in the Community Garden," September 2007)

Davis Village Gardens

Description

Seafox House, Deering, and the six paired dorms of the Kathryn W. Davis Student Village surround a miniature park of lawns, gravel paths, night lamps, and low stone "sitting walls." In front of each building, glistening flagstones alternate with small trees and shrubs, boulders, and masses of delicate Hay-scented Ferns. These gardens are themed – native Maine plants by Millard/Dority Houses, "modern" by Eno/Hamil, Japanese by Miliken/Shorey – although many residents, including me, do not notice this pattern until informed of it. European Hornbeam saplings grow tethered upright on a central lawn; a few larger trees remain from the South Campus Woods which previously covered the area.

History

The courtyard was created in 2009, concurrent with construction of the Student Village and drastic remodeling of Sea Urchins – a large rundown cottage with a small dorm in one end – into Deering. The process surrounded Seafox with mud and machinery for a year and a half, blocking the bridge and forcing students to detour through the woods. The Student Village was named after a longtime benefactor of COA's international programs, but the manicured gardens and non-toxic, ultra-insulated, renewably-powered dorms have been nicknamed "eco-Disney."

Autumn

Purple-flowered hostas border the front of Seafox. White hydrangeas, some faded to pink, bloom by Deering. Yellow mushrooms briefly appear on the lawn by Seafox, floppy caps overlapping. Many trees and shrubs turn crimson-leaved by early October. Hay-scented Ferns turn warm russet, remaining present through November.

Winter

Rhododendrons remain green, as do the tall conifers around the courtyard's edges. Students build snow creatures on the lawns. On bronzy strands of upside-down bells, which funnel rainwater from the new dorms' eaves, icicles form in circles of perfect glass columns.

Spring

Clover turns green before the roll-on grass around it, vividly splotching the gray lawns well into spring. Vernal Witch Hazel bears stringy red flowers in early April. Other plants wait until May before erupting into a soft fireworks display of pink, purple, and white: viburnum, fothergilla, strawberry, lilac, rhododendron, and more. Buttercups border Seafox and, on warm nights, students open their windows to hear frogs calling in the nearby pools.

Memory...

I crawl across dusty, matted grass, growling in my throat as I scan the April night. It's my first time playing "zombies," and a boy's bite has zombified me. My prey is out there, somewhere, darting through darkness and lamplight between forbidden, golden-lit buildings.



Millard House and Seafoam

Sunken Garden

Description

Slightly cut into the hillside between Turrets and Blair/Tyson, this disheveled little oasis is easily walked by and missed. Concentric flowerbeds ring a dry fountain, divided by crumbling brick paths overgrown with moss and weeds. Shrubs and young trees stand here and there. Stone structures surround the garden: two benches, a pedestal, a small Virgin Mary statue with a headless, broken-limbed child. At the south end, stone pillars of a former arbor surround a brick-floored rectangle set with patio furniture. An arch – currently unstable and unusable – serves as the northern entrance, but two passages allow entry through the arbor.

History

A cottage called The Moorings, built in 1885, formerly occupied this site. In 1907, the owner of Turrets bought and razed The Moorings, converting it into the garden. It was hidden by undergrowth when acquired by COA, and is still being restored. As a joint senior project, Tim Brubaker '09 and Dakota Strassner '09 built a retaining wall into the rising hillside, cleared the beds, replaced existing plants and added new ones. More renovations may occur, although the current landscape plan calls for maintaining the garden as a "ruin."

Autumn

Daisy, Purple Coneflower, Astilbe, and other blooms sprinkle September beds which soon become entirely green and brown. Plastic flowerpots on the patio table hint at the labors of landscapers. Fallen leaves lie everywhere, partly covering the fountain's concrete floor.

Winter

Beds and paths obliterated by snow, the garden becomes a blank white disc between stone structures and fountain. Purple Coneflowers retain seed heads like spiky white space ships, revealed when snow melts from the leaf-covered beds. An azalea by the arbor entrance retains speckled leaves and fat brown flower buds.

Spring

The azalea blooms by mid-April, its bee-swarmed purple glory an overture to the botanical concert of May. Bleeding Heart, Foamflower, Siberian Bugloss, Creeping Phlox and other delicate flowers then assemble amid orderly masses of ferns and many-shaped leaves, between clean paths, restoring color to the old garden.



Virgin Mary statue amid Bleeding Heart and Siberian Bugloss

Blair/Tyson Courtyard

Description

Blair and Tyson dorms join in a V, with an opening at its base and a high hedge across its mouth. Within, pink brick paths border a wedge of lawn sprinkled with Paper Birches, passing through the hedge via an arch on one side and stairs on the other. Flowers and shrubs grow between path and wall; a bleached picnic table sits on the lawn. In this courtyard, the dorms' residents recreate in good weather, share communal meals, and shiver together when the fire alarm goes off at midnight.

History

Blair-Tyson was built in 1995 where the Turrets gatehouse once stood. The courtyard was created concurrently, designed by local landscaping firm Coplon Associates, which also designed the Davis Village Courtyard and Newlin Garden. Aside from tree growth, little has changed since then.

Autumn

Few flowers bloom, aside from asters and dandelions. For students, the season's highlight lies just outside the courtyard, across the parking lot: a Hardy Kiwi vine blanketing trees and fences. Its smooth green fruits ripen by early October, taste exactly like their larger fuzzy cousins, and are eaten like grapes.

Winter

Open and quiet, the courtyard becomes a passage between the parking lot and elsewhere. But those who ignore it in March miss spring's first appearance when snowdrops and crocuses bloom beneath the birches.

Spring

A Cornelian Cherry tree near the "C" entrance, one of several on campus, bears clusters of tiny yellow flowers in April. More flowers follow in May, including grape hyacinth, vivid purple-red honeysuckle, and rubbery, honey-scented fothergilla (also called witchalder). The courtyard becomes a student haunt again, near the campus center yet green and secluded.

Memory...

I walk up the brick path in spring sunlight, feeling dazed. After nearly a year at COA, I've only just now entered this courtyard and realized that the strange old gray arch by Turrets and the big brown dorms with their own parking lot are in fact the same building!



Hardy Kiwi fruit



Fothergilla flower

Turrets Gardens

Description

The front of Turrets is the bit of COA most often seen by tourists, and it greets them with a stone-walled flowerbed at the base of its awning pillars. Two huge Copper Beeches shade the castle's south wall; two more grow on a nearby lawn. Shrubs and wildflowers border its seaward side, ending at a worn wooden bench among mossy rocks. Narrow flowerbeds line the lower back balcony, hidden from view at almost any angle. Rock Doves (pigeons) roost on the roofs above, visible from one of the annex windows.

History

A rather grand cottage, Turrets was built in 1895 from chestnut and local granite. New Yorker John J. Emery and his family owned it until 1958, when they sold it to a businessman who rented it to tourists for a few years. Building and grounds had fallen into disrepair by then, requiring much renovation by the Oblate Fathers and later by COA. The beeches were planted in 1907, and are in good health as of this writing.

Autumn

'Autumn Joy' Sedum blooms pink in the front bed and the back balcony, turning brick-red with age. Globe Thistle flower heads left from summer resemble blue-gray sea urchins. A vine covering one pillar covers itself with white flowers in late September. Beechnut hulls cover the ground below the trees, resembling four-petaled flowers, hairy-rough outside but silky within. Wildflowers brim from the back bed: aster, goldenrod, Tansy, and crunchy brown flower heads of faded burdock. Hedge Bindweed twines around the mass, bearing pink-and-white flowers in early September. Purple and white flower spires secretly brighten the back balcony through November.

Winter

This winter, an American Red Squirrel living near the pier regularly visited Turrets, perhaps drawing on a beechnut cache. Only the squirrel, and the rabbits whose tracks crisscross every snowy lawn on campus, frequent the windy hillside between bare beds and roaring sea. Few others see the mysterious, meadowsweet-like bush whose glass-smooth whips glow golden on sunny mornings, hung with soft, bleached curls of bindweed.

Spring

Yellow-hearted red tulips, white irises, and other plants fill the front bed. Pink and white honeysuckles bloom behind Turrets in May, and dainty-spurred purple flowers briefly appeal on the back balcony. But the beeches are the season's stars, their sleek buds unfurling silver-fringed coppery leaves which mature to glistening crimson.



Beechnut hull

Seaside Garden

Description

Behind Turrets, on a large rectangle leveled from the hillside, flowerbeds surround a dry, pebble-floored fountain. Stone walls border the garden where the hill rises above or falls away below it. Seating surrounds it: curved wooden benches in a fern-lined niche, a semicircular brick-and-stone platform with a mossy seat built into its back, a marble bench, and a brick-paved ocean overlook. A seaside picnic table is reachable from the latter by downward stairs, a path, and rickety upward stairs.

History

The garden flourished in Turrets' cottage days, with stone paths and a boy-and-serpent statue in the fountain. But it succumbed to weeds after abandonment and remained overgrown through COA's early decades, although students planted it with a few herbs and called it the "Herb Garden." Eamon Hutton '05 cleared and replanted it as his senior project; the project's records include a maintenance guide and list of perennial plants. In 2009, Hutton and ceramic artist Dan Farrenkopf '05 renovated the fountain as a memorial to Jesse Tucker '95, who had died in a 2006 car accident.

Autumn

In early September, the beds brim with flowers: Phlox, Lavender, Cosmos, Korean Mint, White Coneflower (a creamy cultivar of Purple Coneflower) and many more. Spires and clusters are common, as are shades of pink, blue, purple and white. The blooms fade one by one, though snapdragons and a few others persist into November. Five-foot-tall masses of vivid delphinium-like Azure Monkshood bloom in October.

Winter

When deep snow hides the stairs to it, the garden is risky to reach but austere beautiful in sunshine and sunset. Snowmelt bares a palette of color and texture: brittle gray plumes of sage, flattened mats of furry white Lamb's Ear leaves, rusty patches of pine needles used for insulation, and mounds of miniature azalea with dark, speckled evergreen leaves and plump pink flower buds.

Spring

In April, the mini azaleas vanish beneath purple blossoms. Bloodroot blooms within a little palisade by the stairs to Turrets, tiny blue Siberian Bugloss flowers seem to hover in midair above green-and-white streaked leaves, and irises, tulips, white Bleeding Hearts and others lend more splashes of color. But the garden's May glory is its foliage: Artemisia, yellow-leaved and blue-leaved hostas, several fern species, and many others fill the beds with a wide variety of leafy shapes and shades.

Memory...

I kneel beside a mini azalea, watching a bee crawl from one flower to another. It's the spring of 2007, and mysterious honeybee die-offs across the nation are raising fears for the future of our crops. Bowed before the small laborer, I think: *The gift of pollination should never have been taken for granted.*



The garden on an April morning



The garden in May (partial view)

Newlin Garden

Description

COA's most-visited garden lies between Gates and Kaelber Hall, amid pink and grey flagstones which students often call "the red bricks." Trees, shrubs, flowers, and ankle-high masses of Creeping Juniper populate its stone-edged beds. Blue ceramic pots flank the main stairs. Members of the COA community often meet and eat in the garden in good weather, sitting on flat-topped boulders in the beds and on benches nearby.

History

Named for E. Mortimer Newlin (father of COA trustee Bill Newlin and longtime theater professor Lucy Bell Sellers), the garden was created in 1991, replacing a patch of gravel nicknamed "the kitty litter." Coplon Associates designed it, with help from students who debated its features and located benches locally-made from local cedar. It was intended to contain only native Maine plants, but people unaware of this rule have since planted daffodils and other exotics.

Autumn

A cultivated breed of jewelweed blooms in September, resembling low tangles of purple-and-white orchids among the Creeping Juniper. Pink and green succulents fill the blue pots with otherworldly shapes and waxy-sharp textures, until the pots are moved to the greenhouse in October. Mountain Pieris bushes bear sprays of tiny flower buds, each a faceted pink teardrop. Students pick Cornelian Cherry fruits, which darken and sweeten with maturity. On the steps of Gates, potted chrysanthemums give way to pumpkins and bundled corn husks.

Winter

The benches are removed and replaced with mounds of snow, but the garden remains a pretty place to linger in. Mountain Pieris bushes retain their leaves and rosy bud sprays. Pale-furred flower buds stand out on a Star Magnolia tree beside Kaelber Hall, amid Winterberry bushes sprinkled with crimson fruit. Where water trickles from the hall's eaves, these plants' thin branches bend beneath glittering clumps of icicles.

Spring

Common Witch Hazel blooms in March or early April, its flowers like fragrant bundles of yellow ribbon-snippets. A floral parade soon follows: Glory-of-the-snow spreads a blue galaxy across the juniper, Star Magnolia blossoms festoon their tree's leafless branches, Mountain Pieris and Lowbush Blueberry buds swell into white bells, viburnum and fothergilla sweeten the air, and many others add their own notes of white, purple and red before the blue pots return full of flowers. Drum music from the World Percussion class regularly flows from Gates at midday.



Potted succulents



Mountain Pieris flowers

Farrand Garden

Description

The hillside seaward of Kaelber Hall is molded into two sets of double terraces bordered by stone walls, flowerbeds and shrubs. Northern White Cedars grow against the building, some pruned so that bushy branches cover them from tip to toe. A large terra-cotta urn stands in the middle of the northwest terrace. Between the terrace sets, a dirt path runs through a small shrub-encircled clearing where stone books lie open beside a granite outcrop, a nook which always seems secluded despite its nearness to the busiest part of campus.

History

Famed landscape architect Beatrix Farrand designed the garden in 1878, when a cottage called Guy's Cliff (which burned down in 1983) stood in Kaelber Hall's place. She is sometimes thought to have designed only the rose-ringed northeast terrace, but the entire garden is hers, and features her distinctive walls – flat on one side with round stones protruding from the other. In the early days, a goldfish pond graced one terrace and carved swans topped the pillars in the rose garden.

Autumn

Fruit is everywhere: toxic white Snowberries on bushes around the East Lawn stairs, plump red "hips" on the roses around the northeast terrace, glossy dark Common Elder and Glossy Buckthorn berries in the book nook, wild grapes on a bee-swarmed vine covering the back wall of the top northern terrace. Students gather the grapes and medicinal elderberries; the larger buckthorn berries are inedible. A white-flowered breed of Harebell blooms on the stairs between the northern terraces. Yellow Clover blooms beside the stairs amid the leaves of a small succulent; mingled, they appear to be one plant. Eastern Chipmunks, whose squeaks pierce the wooded parts of campus whenever someone walks by, scamper around boldly in full view.

Winter

Some leaves remain on the grapevine, as green and supple as ever. Most other plants are bare; even the book nook is simply an open patch between the terraces. From the northeast terrace, one can see through the leafless Shore Woods treetops to the path and hillside below.

Spring

The garden comes into flower at a sedate pace. Pink hyacinths emerge first on the western terraces in late April, followed by strawberries, Solomon's seal and white-rimmed purple tulips. Lilac, Golden Chain and Chokecherry trees flank the Kaelber Hall stairs with bright plumes in May, Red-berried Elder reaches white-laden boughs into the rose garden, and the plants in between reveal themselves one by one.

Memory...

I sit on cool grass beside a cedar, against the wall of Kaelber Hall's balcony. It's a sunny blue-and-green day in spring, or maybe autumn, and I'm eating breakfast, or maybe lunch. A chipmunk appears, circling me warily as I sit very still. It moves from my line of sight and – for just a moment – I feel its tiny forepaws on my lap.



Grape leaves in winter

Blum Gallery Courtyard

Description

The oddly-shaped Arts and Sciences Building curls around a small courtyard north of Gates. Gravel paths encircle a patch of lawn and a pedestal to which sculptures can be attached and removed. As of this writing, the featured sculpture is a vertical granite loop representing a feather, made by New Hampshire artist Gary Haven Smith. Three trees surround it: Loebner Magnolia, Eastern Redbud, and a large basswood. A stone bench stands by the magnolia, but I rarely see anyone use it. In fact, this pleasant little space seems to serve mostly as a conduit between the nearby Lecture Hall and the rest of campus.

History

The courtyard was created in 1992, concurrent with construction of Gates, both of them designed by Vermont-based architect Turner Brooks. It is still a work in progress; its paths and connecting stairways were shifted to their current position in 2008, and will probably be modified again soon. The stone feather was installed during a campus-wide sculpture show in 2005. The bench is a monument to Doug Rose, a student who drowned in 1993 while climbing Great Head in Acadia National Park.

Autumn

Redbud leaves turn yellow by mid-October, before the others. Art displays sometimes decorate the nearby lawn. All trees' leaves rapidly turn brown and fall in late October, without much display.

Winter

The ever-low sun keeps the courtyard in partial shadow. But to those who cross it daily, the trees and bench are reminders of the spring to come.

Spring

The magnolia blooms in early April, its white flowers rounder and more ephemeral than those of its spiky Newlin Garden cousin. The redbud follows in May, tiny purple flowers covering boughs which begin to put forth leaves as the blossoms fade.



The courtyard in early May

Community Garden

Description

Between the Dorr Museum Woods and the North Parking Lot, the land opens up to a relatively-vast expanse of garden beds divided by grass paths. More beds lie uphill, including an “ABC Garden” with brick-bordered paths, a little pool and a blue-painted bench. A tool shed and a band of apple trees divide the sets of beds, along with compost bins in which COA’s kitchen garbage becomes fertilizer. A mixed orchard borders the top beds: peach, pear, crabapple, plum, sumac and Cornelian Cherry trees, raspberry bushes, and a grapevine twining the pear tree. A rope fence surrounds the garden, with a colorful wooden gate (pictured on this guide’s inner cover) near the southwest corner. Members of the COA community – students, staff, and faculty – rent plots in some beds to grow their own organic produce. Other beds supply the COA kitchen and the local food pantry. The ABC Garden is used experimentally by the Gardens and Greenhouses class and the school’s day camp, Summer Field Studies for Children.

History

The Oblate Fathers grew vegetables and herbs on this land when they owned the northern campus, and it first served COA as a kitchen garden as well. Sam Elliot and Mel Cote, multi-role members of the early staff, created the first beds in 1971. Jackson Gillman ’78 planted the orchard in 1977. In the 1980s, the garden’s users successfully defended it from a trustee proposal to convert it into a parking lot. A group study built the compost bins in 1988; the early garden had been fertilized with communally-gathered local seaweed and cow manure. European Fire Ants have unfortunately invaded the area (and much of campus), their stings plaguing but not deterring garden users.

Autumn

In September, the beds brim with vegetables, flowers, and herbs – a different colorful combination everywhere one looks. People tend and harvest their plots. American Goldfinches pick seeds from sunflower heads, ignoring observers. Wildflowers border the driveway side: mint, goldenrod, New York Aster and many more. Apples ripen in the lower orchard, misshapen and rough-skinned but free for the taking. The upper orchard also yields fruit, from sweet grapes to tart, crunchy crabapples.

Winter

The beds lie brown and empty, except for bare stakes and occasional lumps covered protectively in green plastic or white cloth.

Spring

Yellow and bi-colored daffodils bloom first, in clusters around the lower garden's border. Gardeners tend some beds, while others are rapidly overrun by edible but unwelcome dandelions. Leafy crops such as chives and rhubarb emerge, becoming more diverse by the week. By May, when white blossoms fill the orchard trees, the garden is back in business.



Part of the lower garden in September

North Lawn Wildflower Meadow

Description

COA's newest garden, also called the Pollinator Garden, lies in a far corner of the North Lawn. Four doughnut-slice flowerbeds, cut from the turf, ring a vertical block of stone. Two longer blobby beds lie seaward of the ring. Both sets of beds are planted with native flowers chosen to attract bees, butterflies, and hummingbirds.

History

Joanna Cosgrove '09 designed and created the garden as her senior project, dedicating it to late botany professor Craig Greene. Cosgrove, and COA community volunteers, hand-dug and planted it in the spring of 2009. A "meadow" by name and intent, it might not be maintained at the same level of neatness and predictability as the other campus gardens.

Autumn

In September, the round bed blazes with blossoms: Cardinal Flower, Blue Lobelia, Anise Hyssop, New York Aster. A few small White Yarrow flowers sprinkle the long beds, along with magenta 'September Ruby' New England Aster. Bees frequent the garden, along with yellow and white butterflies. Although most flowers vanish by mid-October, Anise Hyssop persists into November, its purple spires fading to blue-grey but still sweetly fragrant when rubbed.

Winter

Though brittle and brown, the Anise Hyssop retains hints of fragrance. The garden becomes inconspicuous, passed by en route to the Shore Path, but not forgotten.

Spring

Through the middle of its first May, the garden was brightened only by Thyme-leaved Speedwell, a tiny "weed" whose blue-touched white flowers wilt within minutes of being picked. But Cosgrove's project records promise a colorful spring, complete with Butterfly Weed, Wild Bergamot, and Wild Eastern Columbine. Visitors in later weeks, or future years, might find these blooms before the summer plants take over.

Memory...

My knees are turning solid brown. I kneel over a small but seemingly-endless expanse of lawn cut into brick-sized pieces, picking them up one by one and scratching the soil out from among each one's tangled roots before tossing it aside. Sunburned women – students, staff, and faculty – chat nearby as they cut still more blocks. It's a clear, hot Sunday in May, and we're adding a new feature to the campus landscape.



The round bed in September

Wild Areas

Today, these woods are wild.
I step from the garden into a world of sound and motion.
Trees sway against gray skies, their rustle a roar
To match the gray sea roiling below.
Wind wraps me in a cold cocoon.
Asters' heart leaves flutter at my feet.
Only barberry bushes are still, thorny canes and slim berries immovable.
I walk a faint path, tripping on rocks,
Passing piled white pieces of a birch.
Sunlight suddenly spills – the sea turns green –
And vanishes in a moment.
A tree creaks above me.
The air is too dim for mid-morning.
I climb narrow stairs up a hillside, no rail between me and the sea.
Purple harebells dance on the hill's very edge.
Yellow ferns crowd my path, waving like parade spectators.
I emerge beside another garden,
Into the quiet of civilization.

These woods are small.
These woods are young.
They offer few dangers.
We allowed them to grow.
We could fell them in a day.
And often, they are quiet and bright.
But today, in autumn's first windstorm,
These woods are wild.

("Walking the Shore Path," September 2009)

Witchcliff Meadow

Description

Witchcliff's neat back lawn, with its bird feeders and steppingstone flower, is quite narrow. Soon, it abruptly gives way to bushes, granite outcrops, fragrant ground-hugging conifers, and a snag (standing dead tree) set with enormous white shelf fungi. Beyond, long grass and small shrubs cover the hillside to its edge above a gravel beach. A faint path winds along the north side between woods and meadow, forking near its end. One branch leads to the shore, the other ends at a long wooden bench – rotting, lichen-spotted, missing most of its white paint – and a stone fire pit with well-mossed cracks.

History

When COA bought Witchcliff (then a rental home) in 2002, the hillside looked much as it does now. The current landscape plan calls for maintaining it as a meadow.

Autumn

Meadow shrubs turn red and gold. Asiatic Bittersweet vines enveloping bushes at the lawn-meadow border bear masses of hard orange berries, which in late October split and curl back to reveal soft red seeds.

Winter

The bittersweet retains a haze of red seeds, feasted on by songbirds which spread the undigested embryos and give rise, somewhere, to more such tree-strangling invasive vines. The meadow is treacherous to walk in when snow hides its bumps, but easier when the snow has melted and left it flattened, tawny, with patches of green moss and Ground Juniper, quiet save for the cries of gulls and crows foraging on the shore.

Spring

In some years, Pileated Woodpeckers nest in the snag. Violets dapple the lawn before being mowed down, and visitors are deterred from the meadow's green tangles by the probable presence of disease-carrying ticks. A large pink wildflower, whose identity has eluded me, blooms low to the ground at the meadow's edge.

Memory...

I sit on the moss-and-lichened granite at the meadow's edge, watching the sun rise over a milky-blue sea. Soon I will have class in Witchcliff, analyzing creative writing, and then on to more classes in a ridiculously busy term. But for this moment, I strive to be calm, catching a moment of brilliant spring.



The meadow in autumn

South Campus Woods

Description

Woods cover the campus from Witchcliff to the Faculty Village near Peach House, crisscrossed by driveways and paths. Deciduous trees (Norway Maple, Sugar Maple, Red Oak, Quaking Aspen) mingle with conifers (Eastern Hemlock, Northern White Cedar, White Pine, Red and White Spruces). The woods are most open at their north end, floored in grass and Large-leaved Aster, with shallow, brushy pools between the Student Village driveways. Farther south, the canopy begins to close and the floor opens, scattered with saplings, mossy boulders, and fallen trees. Near Witchcliff, large conifers set very close together emanate dusky mystery at the right time of day. Ground Juniper grows near a seaside path between Davis and Witchcliff. Field Horsetails, whose direct ancestors dominated prehistoric forests, border the driveways along with tall Interrupted Ferns.

History

A century ago, this land may have been as manicured as the rest of campus. But the woods have long been growing, neglected by the houses' owners through some mix of indifference and desire for isolation. As COA spread southward (acquiring Sea Urchins and Seafox in 1976, Davis in 1998, and Witchcliff in 2002) our nearest neighbors appreciated the wooded buffer between us and them, and still do. The Student Village replaced a sizable chunk and impacted water flow in the wetlands – after students overrode a proposal to build instead on the cherished but low-biodiversity North Lawn – but the remainder is set to remain.

Autumn

Cones, colorful leaves, and tawny needles fall, aiding identification of the trees above. More sunlight enters as the trees bare themselves; even the area near Witchcliff is striped with light on clear days. Nearby buildings and parking lots become more visible, making it difficult to imagine oneself in wilderness unless one looks only at the ground. Students pull cattails from the pools and cook their edible roots. Chanterelle mushrooms appear near Witchcliff in early autumn.

Winter

Blizzards bend conifer branches beneath loads of sparkling snow, which some people enjoy knocking off. When snowy, the woods are full of animal tracks and blue tree shadows, dimpled underfoot by birch seeds and bits of snow dropped from trees. When the ground is bare, dry leaves reflect sunlight nearly as brightly, patches of glare interspersed with the green of conifers and moss, with here and there the luminous amber cloud of a Quaking Aspen.

Spring

Wood Frogs, which spent the winter frozen solid on the forest floor, breed frenetically in the pools for two early-April weeks. Their quack-like calls give way to the chirps of Spring Peepers, which usually continue well into May, although cold or dry weather may silence them. Shadbush (also called Serviceberry and other names) bears white flowers in late April, which become edible purple fruits in summer. Japanese Knotweed – a rapidly-spreading invasive plant – rises from the pools, and students eat its crisp, sour young stems.



Interrupted Ferns with fertile (dark) leaves



A path near Witchcliff in autumn

Stream and Streamside

Description

Between Turrets and the Student Village, a metal bridge crosses a crease in the land where a stream flows amid deciduous trees (Norway Maple, Red Oak, Quaking Aspen), ferns, grass and Large-leaved Aster. Slightly upstream of the bridge, the stream parts around a tiny island, comes together, and forks again. The larger, deeper fork emerges from a mossy rise near the Sunken Garden. The smaller one flows behind the Davis Student Village in a stony channel amid short grass and conifer saplings, its water red-brown with patches of stagnant-water bacterial sheen. Below the bridge, the stream plunges between ever-steeper banks to the shore. At high tide, it flows directly from woods to ocean. At low tide, it spreads out over the rocks, trickling to sea through a series of pools floored in fine gravel. A low stone wall borders the stream's northern bank.

History

COA built the bridge in the 1970s. Before that, the stream and the formerly-much-higher stone wall served as valued barriers between two groups of cottage properties. A small gazebo beside the stream's mouth vanished during a storm in the 1980s. An arbor covered in Hardy Kiwi vines once stood near the Turrets-side bank; a mossy patch of pavement is now its only remnant, but COA dismantled and stored its stone arch.

Autumn

Spotted Touch-Me-Not, a jewelweed, blooms orange in September on the tiny island. Large-leaved Aster blooms on the banks, as in all wooded parts of campus, white flowers scattered scantily above masses of large, heart-shaped leaves. The stream rises and falls with the rains, sometimes gushing, sometimes trickling over mud. Hollow Green Weed edges some semi-fresh pools on the shore.

Winter

The stream freezes and melts repeatedly, often flowing even on frigid days. Sometimes the smaller fork freezes while the larger flows. Sometimes the stream flows under ice, gurgling hollowly. Rarely, it freezes and then flows on top of the ice, carving a narrower channel.

Spring

Marsh Marigolds bloom beside the water in April, with flowers like large buttercups amid glistening heart-shaped leaves. Interrupted Ferns rise beside the bridge, as well as in many gardens and wooded areas of the campus. After the ferns unfurl from woolly, inedible "fiddleheads," dark, crumbly fertile leaves emerge in the middle of their fronds, leaving distinctive gaps or "interruptions" after fading.



Upstream view from the bridge in autumn



The same view in winter; water is flowing in an ice channel

Seaside Wilds

Description

Past Turrets, a dense band of wildflowers, shrubs, and small trees separates the East Lawn from the pier road. Facing down the road, at some points Kaelber Hall and the lawn are completely hidden from view. Across the road, trees stand amid long grass on a hillside sloping to the sea. A mown path leads to a clearing where a rough granite bench faces seaward, covered in pale green lichen. The path, part of the Nature Trail which also runs through the Shore Woods, continues downhill to an old picnic table above the sea.

History

The pier road was cut through the brush in 2005, fifteen years after the pier's construction. Vehicles previously had to cross the lawn to reach the pier, and drivers were generally discouraged from trying. As her senior project, Jennifer Books '98 labeled many plants here as part of a guide to the Seaside Garden and the Nature Trail. But I found few of the small silvery labels, and do not know how many of those plants remain. The stone bench is a monument to philosophy professor Richard Slaton Davis, who died in 1982.

Autumn

Tansy mingles with blooming asters and goldenrod; its flowers are clusters of yellow buttons among fringe-like leaves. Lupines grow sparsely, covered in silver-furred seedpods. A purple-leaved 'Cardinal' Tea Crabapple bears round, hard red fruit.

Winter

Denuded, the brush no longer hides lawn and hall. Small treasures still hide within it, though: white bits of grass-seed fluff, delicate bare umbels, and wrinkled purple crabapples scattered on the tree. The leafless shore-side trees, of differing shapes, silhouette beautifully against mother-of-pearl sunsets.

Spring

A forsythia bush, one of several on campus, blooms by the road through most of April. Before losing its yellow shroud, it becomes dwarfed by the crabapple's magenta cloud of blossoms. Chokecherry bushes follow with fragrant white plumes which produce edible but unsavory fruit in mid-summer. Garlic Mustard rises in ever-growing ranks of white flower heads. Lupines, also invasive but better-loved, raise blue torches to herald the beginning of June.



Lupine with seedpods

Dorr Museum Woods

Description

Norway and Sugar Maples, Red Oaks, and a few conifers fill the space between the Dorr Museum and the Community Garden. Large-leaved Asters blanket the ground amid scattered stumps, replaced by grass and ferns in a clearing near the museum's parking lot. Autumn Olive bushes grow at the roadside end, where the woods give way to lawn, assorted trees and shrubs, and a flat-topped stump spotted with green lichen.

History

Like the Shore Woods, this forest fragment resulted from abandonment by cottage owners followed by COA's deliberate neglect. It shrank in the 1990s when the museum building, formerly used as Acadia National Park headquarters on the Bar Harbor town green, was (literally) moved from the town green to its current location and enlarged. Like other woods on campus, it is slated to be thinned by the removal of invasive Norway Maples. A huge jagged stump near the museum wall is the base of a tree which fell during a windstorm in April 2007, luckily falling into the woods instead of the museum.

Autumn

Falling acorns beat the season's rhythm, crashing through foliage and thudding to the ground. Autumn Olives bear gold-speckled red fruit, edible with inedible seeds. Orange Jelly Fungus bears its namesake mushrooms on the roadside stump, beside small orange-maroon shelf fungi.

Winter

American Red and Eastern Gray Squirrels may often be seen, active year-round unlike their hibernating chipmunk cousins. The bare ground reveals many things; one hike yielded cat tracks, reddish Norway Spruce cones, and cold-preserved animal droppings containing remains of autumn fruits. On the stump, the Orange Jelly Fungus vanishes and the shelf fungi turn brown and brittle with chestnut undersides. But even in January, a warm rain can bring them and the lichens to vibrant life.

Spring

Greenery envelops the woods from above and below, but interesting sights continue at the edges. Some conifers bear stubbly brown "flowers"; at every branch-tip of others, a bright bundle of tender needles outgrows its wrapper. Two large shadbushes briefly become flowery white plumes beside the parking lot in April, followed more demurely by a nearby Rowan. Other shrubs – Lilac, Mountain Laurel, Autumn Olive, and a spectacular Seaside Rose – bloom by the roadside in May.

Memory...

I crawl across the ground, wild with surprised excitement. I've come seeking acorns for autumn wreaths, and found few good ones under the scattered oaks on the museum's other side. Here near the road, hundreds nestle in the grass, gleaming brown against patches of starry emerald moss. I dig them out and sort them, choosing the most flawless, the ones still attached to their caps in clusters of two and three. Still more acorns fall around me with dangerous-sounding impacts, but I don't care.



Shelf fungi and Orange Jelly Fungus

Shore Woods

Description

One branch of what I call the Shore Path (part of what was formerly called the Nature Trail) begins at the pier parking lot, another near the Farrand Garden's lower northern terrace. They join and run along the plunging hillside between the North Lawn and the shore, amid Norway Maple, Red Oak, Paper Birch and Red and White Spruce trees, Japanese Barberry bushes and Large-leaved Asters. Marginal Woodferns and deep cushions of moss grow on the hill's wet, vertical sides near the lawn edge.

Branchlets of the path end above the shore, at rocky outcrops where one can nestle to read or watch the sea. Below narrow stairs, the path forks again. One branch ascends, emerging near the Stone Lookout. The other runs along a ledge above the sea, amid grass, shrubs, and White Pine, past the campus border.

History

Beginning in 1882, lawn and hillside were the grounds of an elaborate "cottage" called Beau Desert. A roofed and columned stairway descended to the shore amid peach and apricot trees, and assorted outbuildings. Beau Desert was razed in 1938 for tax purposes – the Stone Lookout is its last remnant – and wild vegetation began to overtake the site. Peter Wayne '87 is thought to have created the Nature Trail as his senior project. Wayne also labeled and described ecologically-significant points on the trail, and Jennifer Books '98 later did the same for trailside plants, but the woods now display little evidence of these senior projects.

Autumn

Harebells bloom purple beside the outer edge of the northern stairs. Interrupted Ferns edging the stairs turn yellow and crumble, while the Marginal Woodferns remain green with tan buttons – releasers of reproductive spores – on their undersides. Japanese Barberry bushes are full of hard, slim red berries. Blue patches of mussel-shell fragments become visible on the bared ground, left by feasting gulls.

Winter

When snowy, the hillside is a minefield of hidden rocks and logs beyond the boulder-strewn path. Walking the northern ledge is inadvisable until the snow melts. But for a careful hiker, the woods remain a place of pleasant solitude. Ice waterfalls cascade from the lawn-cliff even after the snow is gone, a foot deep in places and fringed with massive icicles, but still-green woodferns peep out around their edges.

Spring

Red-backed Salamanders emerge from hibernation, and can often be found foraging under rocks. Maples bloom in April, speckling the ground with small yellow-green flowers. Japanese Barberry bears pale yellow flowers whose blandness belies their role as pernicious pest propagators. Even the mosses reproduce, lifting fertile capsules on threadlike stalks and releasing water-borne spores into their moist surroundings.

Memory...

Japanese Barberry spines pierce my gloves and hands. I struggle to cut through a bush's base, my shears gnawing ineffectively at the fibrous yellow wood. Berries patter to the ground around me, sowing new bushes. Other people work nearby, volunteering their time on a cold gray autumn day to attempt combating this tenacious invasive plant.



The northern ledge path

Shorefront

Description

Frenchman Bay borders the campus's eastern edge, where the land falls sharply to the shore. Except for gravel beaches behind Witchcliff and beside the pier, the granite shore is a mix of cobbles, boulders, and solid stone. Schoodic Peninsula's forested hills are faintly visible across the bay. Bar Island lies a quarter-mile away; its most-visible half is owned by Acadia National Park. For part of each afternoon, it remains sunlit after the campus is left in shadow.

Low tide, especially during a full moon, bares generous expanses of seafloor to beachcombers and aspiring marine biologists. Springy masses of rockweed cover the rocky areas: short, branching Bladder Wrack, long Knotted Wrack with occasional chocolate-brown clusters of Tubed Weed clinging to it. Both rockweeds are tipped with bumpy golden hearts and ovals, which release reproductive spores into the sea. Barnacles cover the rocks wherever algae are absent; Blue Mussels cluster in the lower intertidal. Common Periwinkles and Atlantic Dogwinkles swarm across the rocks; both are small gray snails, but the latter are larger and rarer, with a notch at the entrance of each shell. One can occasionally find other creatures in tide pools and among rocks, such as Northern Sea Stars, Waved Whelks, Green Sea Urchins, and several crab species. Herring Gulls and American Crows wrestle crabs out from among the rocks, drop mussels to smash on the ground, and swallow any animal they can pick up. Shells, lobster buoys and dead rockweed stripe the gravel beaches, along with the occasional whelk egg case or strand of kelp. Amphipods (tiny hopping crustaceans) teem in the smelly detritus.

History

The current pier was built in 1990. But in the summer-cottage days, numerous others decked a well-groomed shoreline. Evidence of a previous mooring lies near the pier: a life-encrusted block of stone (or possibly concrete) anchored to a rock cleft by a massive rusted chain.

Autumn

Intertidal life (described above) is abundant, especially on calm, mild days when periwinkles roll under every footfall. Students swim near the pier's floating dock until the dock is removed and the pier closed for winter. Storms scoop terraces out of the gravel beaches and leave behind windrows of rockweed.

Winter

At low tide, the bared shore looks odd when surrounded by snow. Rockweed bundles are sheathed in thin ice, which breaks with a crunchy hiss when pressed or stepped on. Few invertebrates are visible, as they avoid exposure to the dry, cold winds, but gulls and crows still forage for them between high tides. Common Loons, Horned Grebes and a variety of

ducks winter on the bay, having fled their frozen breeding lakes for the food and protection offered by still-open water. Even in February, students have been known to enter the sea.

Spring

The floating dock returns in April, and students immediately begin jumping off of it. Periwinkles breed, filling tide pools with minuscule snails. Other intertidal creatures return, rockweeds grow again, and gravel begins to accumulate on the beaches.

Memory...

I stand on the sunny pier-side beach, holding a large female Jonah Crab. I've frightened away the gull which plucked her from the shallows before my eyes, but what should I do with her now? Return her to the predator-haunted sea? Put her in the Dorr Museum touch tank, protected and serving an educational purpose but removed from her ecosystem and regularly handled by humans? After three weeks at COA, I face my first practical quandary about how to interact with the natural world.



Knotted Wrack, Blue Mussels, Common Periwinkles and barnacles

Built Features

Who built this shrine? And when? And why?
What sins and prayers has it seen?
What secrets were shared in the cedar cradle?
What lessons learned, what rumors sown?
I have seen things here:
A bare foot and a bow drill turning cedar wood to flame
Bags of herbs in moonlit snow beneath bushes, a scavenger-hunt prize
Halloween witches around a fire, teaching families about witch hazel
Tiny artworks in my palm, revealed by a lighter-flash as I stagger on ice
A child's damp garments, left and never claimed
Floodlights and a microphone propelling my poetry into a frigid May night
A Greek tragedy, death dealt before me as I lounge on flowery grass
This ice and fire, this light and darkness
Are only fragments of its history

("Pondering the Shrine," September 2009)

Seafox Terrace

Description

Just off the path between Seafox and Davis, a dirt path leads downhill to a square terrace overlooking the sea. Grass, moss, and dead leaves cover its floor, except where the concrete has buckled into slanting slabs, but two old wooden chairs stand ready for visitors. Students seek it out for solitude close to home, although a rusty pipe running below it to the sea would dash any hopes for a pristine vista.

History

Arbitrarily associated with Seafox, the terrace belonged to the owners of either Seafox or Davis before COA acquired these properties. Several hotels along Route 3 had access to it as a canoe-launching site, via a 25' right-of-way corridor extending to the road. They technically still have this privilege, but do not use it. The terrace is now a “grandfathered” feature of the landscape – an exception to the current ordinances against shoreline development – and may be repaired in the near future.



Garber Memorial

Description

On the hillside between Turrets and the stream, a low, horseshoe-shaped stone wall faces seaward. A stone seat runs along its inside, above a brick floor. Green-brown lichen spots its top. Despite its nearness to the Student Village, I have never seen anyone use it, and sometimes forget its existence myself. It is easily by passed unnoticed from the nearby path.

History

After the Oblate Fathers left Bar Harbor, Mike and Nettie Garber acquired their property, which extended from the stream to the north end of the current campus. The Garbers leased the land to COA's founders in 1969, and then sold it to them very cheaply in 1971. They are largely forgotten – some people now claim that the founders bought the campus from the Fathers – but this memorial was built in 1999 to serve as a reminder of their crucial role in the creation of COA.



Shrine

Description

Behind Kaelber Hall, just beyond the parking lot with its dumpsters and propane tanks, a tall semicircle of Northern White Cedars embraces a piece of another world. A double platform lies within the cedar wall, set with large urns, vases and basket-like sconces. Bushes and small plants grow in a bed on the lower tier; rock-bordered ferns rim the front. A stone wall rises at the back, painted with a white sun on a blue-gray background. Large patches of paint are missing, and cigarette butts lie ugly in the urns, but the Shrine continues to serve as a site for performances, parties, and meditation meetings (see examples on page 42).

History

The Oblate Fathers built the shrine to the Virgin Mary in 1959 and held Masses there. It was much more ornate when new, with a pillared awning and a tall statue in front of the painted sun. Over the years, it lost most of its adornments and crumbled severely. Scott Bishop '97 repaired, stabilized, and redecorated it as his senior project, and created the “plant bed” on the lower tier.



The shrine's upper tier

North Lawn Pillars

Description

Eight tall poles border the parking lot past the North Lawn. Some vary in height; each bears a unique set of curves, bulges, and spirals. To create them, concrete was poured into fabric molds where it flowed and hardened in unique shapes – as hinted at by close inspection of their fabric-textured surfaces.

History

Each pillar was made by a different student of architecture professor Mark West, now an associate professor at the University of Manitoba and a specialist in fabric-formed concrete structures. Produced and erected in 1992 as a collective class project, they were not expected to remain on display for so long.



Stone Lookout

Description

At the North Lawn's far seaward edge, where it meets the Shore Woods, a flat grassy circle projects out over the plunging hillside, supported by a stone wall on its outer side. Atop it, stairs lead to a concrete block containing a rusted iron I-beam, the stump of a large cross. Students often sit beside this ruined religious symbol to smoke, play guitar, and laze away sunny weekends.

History

The stone circle was originally a porch of Beau Desert cottage (see Shore Woods), and is the last remnant of that lavish cottage. The Oblate Fathers added the cross in 1959; covered in blue neon lights visible from across the bay, it became a beacon for ships and a landmark still remembered by lifetime locals. In the 1970s, COA students replaced it with a windmill which burned down in the 1980s, ignited by the friction of its own movement.



View from the top of the Shore Path

Monks' Circle

Description

Beside the northern end of the Shore Path, a flat-topped stone tower rises from the sea. From its grassy earthen top, one is surrounded by views of wildness: island-studded bay, rising wooded hillside, and rocky projections hiding the shore. Waves gurgle and sigh in a sea cave to one side, sometimes the only sound present.

History

Also called the Monks' Tower and Beau Desert Tower, this structure was built in 1882 as a lookout tower for residents of Beau Desert. The Oblate Fathers adapted it for their purposes in the 1950s; it became associated with them thereafter. By 1990, waves and weather had nibbled it into an upright mound of rubble with an ever-growing cavern in its base. Peter Emmet '91 razed it and began to rebuild it by hand as his senior project. Marty Anderson '94 completed the job a year or two later.



View from the path at semi-low tide

Note on labeled plants

Over 100 trees and shrubs across campus currently bear labels denoting family, common name, and scientific name. These labels were produced by Elyse Dana '09, as part of her senior project assisting with the development of a campus-wide arboretum. Intended to educate viewers and inform future plans for tree planting and maintenance, the labels were manufactured by the Coastal Maine Botanic Gardens. Dana also created a database of labeled trees, including a set of detailed maps. Students in the Plants in the Campus Landscape course labeled more trees from the database in 2010, and still more may be labeled in the future.

Daylight is too short
To know all the green mysteries
That wed it
--- Jenny McBride

Partial species list

The following campus denizens have been identified to the genus or species level with reasonable certainty. Most have multiple common names, are distinctive but unfamiliar to many readers, or are represented here by several similar species. **Note:** taxonomy is a process of continual revision, and some scientific names may become outdated.

Plants

Anise Hyssop (*Agastache foeniculum*)
Aster, Large-leaved (*Eurybia macrophylla*)
Aster, New England (*Symphotrichum novae-angliae*)
Aster, New York (*Symphotrichum novae-belgii*)
Barberry, Japanese (*Berberis thunbergii*)
Beech, Copper (*Fagus sylvatica*)
Bindweed, Hedge (*Convolvulus sepium*)
Bittersweet, Asiatic (*Celastrus orbiculatus*)
Bleeding Heart (*Dicentra spectabilis*)
Bloodroot (*Sanguinaria canadensis*)
Buckthorn, Glossy (*Rhamnus frangula* or *Frangula alnus*)
Bugloss, Siberian (*Brunnera macrophylla*)
Cardinal Flower (*Lobelia cardinalis*)
Cedar, Northern White or Arborvitae (*Thuja occidentalis*)
Cherry, Cornelian (*Cornus mas*)
Chokecherry (*Prunus virginiana*)
Clover, Yellow (*Trifolium agrarium*)
Crabapple, Tea 'Cardinal' (*Malus hupehensis* 'Cardinal')
Coneflower, Purple (*Echinacea purpurea*)
Elder, Common (*Sambucus canadensis*)
Elder, Red-berried (*Sambucus racemosa*)
Fern, Cinnamon (*Osmunda cinnamomum*)
Fern, Hay-scented (*Dennstaedtia punctilobula*)
Fern, Interrupted (*Osmunda claytonia*)
Foamflower (*Fiarella cordifolia*)
Fothergilla or Witchalder (*Fothergilla* sp.)
Glory-of-the-snow (*Chionodoxa* sp.)
Goldenrod (*Solidago* sp.)
Golden Chain (*Laburnum x wateri* 'Vossi')
Grape Hyacinth (*Muscari* sp.)
Harebell (*Campanula rotundifolia*)
Hornbeam, European (*Carpinus betulus*)
Horsetail, Field (*Equisetum arvense*)
Juniper, Creeping (*Juniperis horizontalis*)
Juniper, Ground (*Juniperis communis* v. *depressa*)
Kiwi, Hardy (*Actinida arcuta*)
Knotweed, Japanese (*Polygonum cuspidatum*)
Magnolia, Star (*Magnolia stellata*)
Maple, Norway (*Acer platanoides*)

Maple, Sugar (*Acer saccharum*)
Marsh Marigold (*Caltha palustris*)
Monkshood, Azure (*Aconitum carmichaelii*)
Oak, Red (*Quercus rubra*)
Olive, Autumn (*Eleagnus umbellata*)
Pieris, Mountain (*Pieris floribunda*)
Pine, White (*Pinus strobus*)
Redbud, Eastern (*Cercis canadensis*)
Rose, Seaside (*Rosa rugosa*)
Rowan Tree (*Sorbus aucuparia*)
Shadbush (*Amelanchier* sp.)
Snowberry, Common (*Symphoricarpos albus*)
Solomon's Seal (*Polygonatum* sp.)
Speedwell, Thyme-leaved (*Veronica serpyllifolia*)
Spruce, Norway (*Picea albies*)
Spruce, Red (*Picea rubens*)
Spruce, White (*Picea glauca*)
Tansy (*Tanacetum vulgare*)
Touch-me-not, Spotted (*Impatiens capensis*)
Winterberry (*Ilex verticillata*)
Witch Hazel, Common (*Hamamelis virginiana*)
Witch Hazel, Vernal (*Hamamelis vernalis*)
Woodfern, Marginal (*Dryopteris marginalis*)

Algae and fungi

Hollow Green Algae (*Enteromorpha intestinalis*)
Tubed Weed (*Polysiphonia lanosa*)
Wrack, Bladder (*Fucus vesiculosus*)
Wrack, Knotted (*Ascophyllum nodosum*)
Orange Jelly Fungus (*Dacrymyces palmatus*)

Animals

Ant, European Fire (*Myrmica rubra*)
Chipmunk, Eastern (*Tamias striatus*)
Crow, American (*Corvus brachyrhyncos*)
Dogwinkle, Atlantic (*Nucella lapillis*)
Frog, Wood (*Rana sylvatica*)
Goldfinch, American (*Carduelis tristis*)
Gull, Herring (*Larus argentatus*)
Loon, Common (*Gavia immer*)
Mussel, Blue (*Mytilus edulis*)
Periwinkle, Common (*Littorina littorea*)
Salamander, Red-Backed (*Plethodon cinereus*)
Sea Star, Northern (*Astrea vulgaris*)
Spring Peeper (*Pseudacris crucifer*)
Squirrel, Eastern Gray (*Sciurus carolinensis*)
Squirrel, American Red (*Tamiasciurus hudsonicus*)
Woodpecker, Pileated (*Dryocopus pileatus*)

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Final thanks go to the COA alumni who created, renovated, and described so many of the landscape features which we now take for granted, and to the Buildings and Grounds crews and others who continue to maintain them for our enjoyment.

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