Gaiety Hollow, a garden the Garden Conservancy has been assisting in Salem, Oregon, is moving ever closer to certification as a historic landscape and to a new status as a public garden. In June, the Oregon State Advisory Committee on Historic Preservation approved the site for inclusion in the National Register of Historic Places. The application had been already approved by the Salem Historic Landscape Commission and now proceeds for a final review at the national level. Though Gaiety Hollow also served as the home and office of pioneer landscape architects Elizabeth Lord and Edith Schryver, the nomination presented the garden as the site’s primary historic attribute.

These are among the many steps underway to affirm Gaiety Hollow’s cultural significance, restore the site, and open it to the public. Lord and Schryver’s firm, the first all-female landscape architecture practice in the Pacific Northwest, designed more than 250 landscapes throughout the Northwest and was a major force in shaping the city of Salem. They designed many local landscapes, including the historic gardens at the Deepwood estate near the city’s downtown.

The office was based at Gaiety Hollow for forty years, starting in 1929.

Lord and Schryver’s personal garden at Gaiety Hollow showcases their design principles and horticultural practices. It is perhaps the best example of their life’s work, a place where they could play out their design principles freely, unfettered by clients’ wishes. The garden draws on classical garden design traditions but also has a distinctive Pacific Northwest flair, showcasing plants suited to the region. It integrates architecture and garden in a formal design executed with superior craftsmanship, creating a “dynamic interplay of spatial relationships.”*

The Lord & Schryver Conservancy (L&S Conservancy), a local, volunteer-based nonprofit organization that was established ten years ago at the recommendation of the Garden Conservancy, is leading the charge to restore Gaiety Hollow and to preserve it as a public garden and resource. The goal is to foster a greater understanding of Lord and Schryver’s work.

& Schryver’s legacy and the firm’s contribution to Northwest landscape architecture. L&S Conservancy is working to bring the whole property into the public domain, including the house, garden, and studio. The studio will contain historical archives and serve as a library study area. L&S Conservancy currently manages the property under a five-year lease option agreement, with the understanding that it will raise the funds to buy the property by the summer of 2016.

**Other recent developments**
Progress has accelerated this season on a number of fronts, indoors and out.

**Garden restoration**
In 2013, the L&S Conservancy launched Phase I of a multi-year restoration of the home garden to its Period of Significance, following the guidelines of the US Department of Interior.

Three large trees were removed due to their diseased condition and inappropriate scale and presence, and a young Oregon white oak planted to replace one. The L&S Conservancy also pruned boxwood hedges to allow better penetration of light and to bring the hedges back into scale with the rest of the garden.

In addition to handling routine garden maintenance chores such as pruning, deadheading, weeding, and mulching, L&S Conservancy volunteers are working diligently to overcome a severe infestation of bishop’s weed (*Aegopodium podagraria*). They also established a woodworking shop in the garage for the repair and replacement of the extensive fences, gates, and other garden structures. Rebuilding is now underway and an irrigation system will be installed next.

Volunteers and crews replanting, pruning, rebuilding, and otherwise renovating Gaiety Hollow this spring
Photos courtesy of Bonnie Hall; see more at gaietyhollow.com.
House renovation
L&S Conservancy is refurbishing the interior portion of the house that will be open to the public. Recent improvements include painting, refinishing the wood floor, and installing lighting and presentation equipment.

Organizational development
In order to build capacity and become a vital resource for the community and for the public at large, L&S Conservancy is developing an educational program and building up Gaiety Hollow’s archives. It has also established an advisory group and expanded the board. Members of L&S Conservancy are making presentations to local and regional groups to build further community support.

Last fall, L&S Conservancy launched a capital campaign to raise funds to be able to purchase the property by the summer of 2016. By June, 2014, more than half of the goal had already been reached. L&S Conservancy president Bobbie Dolp comments, “We are encouraged by the tremendous support that has come forth quickly. We still have a long way to go but are confident that our goal of opening Gaiety Hollow as a cultural center for the community will indeed be realized.”

The Garden Conservancy and the L&S Conservancy
The Lord & Schryver Conservancy has been affiliated with the Garden Conservancy preservation assistance program since 2005 and is also a member of the Garden Conservancy Northwest Network. Garden Conservancy staff members have advised on technical plans to restore Gaiety Hollow and on its preservation strategy, and, in 2013, the Garden Conservancy also endorsed the L&S Conservancy’s capital campaign to acquire and preserve the property.

For more information about Gaiety Hollow, visit www.lord-schryverconservancy.org or follow artist Bonnie Hall’s lively blog at gaietyhollow.com.

For Sale: Three Open Days Gardens
Below are a few distinguished garden properties that have participated in our Open Days program and have come to our attention as needing new owners. We list them here as one way to help save outstanding gardens.

Duck Hill, North Salem, NY
Duck Hill, the garden of Open Days co-founder Page Dickey and her husband Bosco Schell, has been a popular destination for Open Days visitors since 1995. It features a series of beautiful hedged-in gardens surrounding a nineteenth-century farmhouse set in rolling hills.

For more information, contact Cynthia Jaffee, Houlihan Lawrence Real Estate, telephone 914.234.9099.

Garden of James David and Gary Peese, Austin, TX
A cornerstone of our Austin Open Days, this garden features two acres of unfolding spaces in the suburbs of Austin, Texas. Limestone stairs, gravel paths, and water features provide the framework for an extraordinary collection of drought-tolerant plants, both native and introduced.

For more information, contact Laura Gottesman, Gottesman Residential Real Estate, telephone 512.657.4966.

Finkelstein Garden, Remsenburg, NY
A Suffolk County property with rambling garden paths, pergolas, greenhouse, and Koi pond. The garden includes a mature European weeping beech, copper beech, Atlas cedars, Southern magnolias, Rothschild azaleas, Dexter rhododendrons, and camellias. Contact the owner, telephone 631.325.0592.

Ribbon-cutting ceremony on July 19, 2014, at the newly renovated visitor center at Steepletop, Edna St. Vincent Millay’s historic property in Austerlitz, NY. Left to right: Maureen Jackson, Vincent Barnett, Mark O’Berski, Greg Vogler, Eileen Fusco, and Joanne Schiff. Photo by Dave Jackson