#### S U M M E R 2 0 0 2

#### NEWSLETTER



# THE ALLIANCE FOR HISTORIC LANDSCAPE PRESERVATION

Many thanks and congratulations are due to the fine conference/meeting planners who made our stay at Winnipeg and the International Peace Garden so special, but I would like, in particular, to recognize Charlie Thomsen, Ted McLachlan and Achim Jankowski. They were incredible.

—Camille Fife



The twin pylons marking the western extremity of the ornamental gardens at the International Peace Gardens.

#### Alliance Conference 2002 Landscapes of Peace and Commemoration

The end of May found thirty Alliance members gathered in Winnipeg to begin a journey of discovery through southern Manitoba. Enthusiastically led by Charlie Thomsen and Ted McLachlan, the group visited St. Michael's Ukrainian Orthodox Church and Neubergthal (a Mennonite street village) both Canadian National Historic Sites.

Through blowing topsoil, mile after mile of undulating prairie, and for some a 'drive down memory lane', the group arrived at Boissevain, just north of the International Peace Gardens in the geographic centre of North America. We were greeted by James Ritchie, overseer of the community archives and native heritage centre.

The following day a series of papers generally focused on the conference's theme, Landscapes of Peace and Commemoration. In the late afternoon, Mr. Ritchie returned to delight us with tales of the local native peoples and in particular the story of the Turtle and the Serpent, a compelling creation story. A visit to see a medicine wheel firsthand brought the story full circle. I don't think any of us will ever view a rock the same way again!

The journey back to Winnipeg included a hike through the sand dunes, a Tim Horton's coffee break and a ditch rescue of a couple from Indiana (you know who you are!). En route we were captivated by an unplanned but exciting display of Canada's Snowbirds acrobatic air show. Blake Roberts ended the formal program with a history of Lower Fort Garry and the challenges of maintaining a 19th C. fort complex.

Continued on next page

#### From the President

Once again, stimulating people, ideas and places have transported those of us who attended the recent Alliance Annual Meeting to a new place. I don't know how this organization manages to continue to create magical times in fascinating places, year after year, but it does. Read more about the event in this newsletter. If you haven't attended an Alliance Annual Meeting, you must plan to do so. Next year's meeting is tentatively scheduled for May 28 - June 2 in the Washington DC area. We will explore urban and rural issues as well as celebrate 25 years of Alliance work and joy. Conference planners, Cari Goetcheus, Barbara Wyatt, Hugh Miller and their committee are hard at work to bring together all the elements which will make it one of the best gatherings ever.

I'm very enthusiastic about a suggestion for our 25th which was made at the Annual Meeting. So many of our members remember past meetings, events and activities that we have a rich store of material to draw upon. We would like to put together a scrapbook of the remembrances of 25 years, including photographs and other graphic materials. So, I'm asking each one of you to search your mind and your files (maybe your attic) to contribute an item—perhaps a few paragraphs about a particular event, person or activity which comes to mind. If you can add something to illustrate it, wonderful, but if not, your contribution will be more than welcome. Please send such items to me, Camille Fife at my e-mail address: westerlygp@aol.com, or by regular mail: 556 W. 1175 N. Rd, Farmersburg, IN 47850.

Members who attended the "Borderlands" conference a few years ago may receive a free copy of the selected proceedings which has recently been published. If you attended the conference the publication is free, but we ask a \$5 charge for postage (Canadian or American). If you did not attend, the charge is \$15 (including postage). Non-members can purchase a copy for a similar price from the Heritage Resource Center. If you would like a copy, please contact me at the above e-mail address.

#### N E W S



#### AND NOTES

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The Alliance for Historic Landscape Preservation

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#### Alliance News

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Alliance Conference 2002 continued from page 1

The meeting concluded with a memorable barbecue at Ted McLachlan's lovely abode above the Red River where toasts were given and promises made to reconvene in the shadow of Washington, D.C. next spring for more 'leisure learning'.

Many thanks are due Messrs. Thomsen, McLachlan and Jankowski, for making this one of the truly great Alliance meetings.

—John E. Zvonar



Ted McLachlan enlightening Alliance members on the wonders of Southern Manitoba.



Alliance stalwarts (Achim Jankowski, Charlie Thomsen, Mary Halbrooks, Susan Buggey, Ron Williams, Anne Hoover) taking a break from their hike through the Singing Sands dunes at Spruce Woods Provincial Park.



Anne Hoover, Susan Buggey and Charlie Thomsen alongside our trusty tour bus.

N E W S



#### AND NOTES

Cultural Landscape Foundation Releases List of 10 Groups of Endangered Landscapes

Historic buildings are not the only endangered national treasures. A list of endangered cultural landscapes entitled "Land Slide: Great American Landscapes at Risk," has been published by the Washington, D.C.-based Cultural Landscape Foundation (CLF). The East Plaza of the U.S. Capitol grounds and Rochester, New York's Seneca Park (both designed by Frederick Law Olmsted), Denver's Skyline Park (designed by Lawrence Halprin), and numerous other public and private masterpieces of landscape design are faced with disfigurement and destruction by bulldozers, neglect and development. Descriptions and photographs of these endangered landscape masterworks can be viewed on their website www.tclf.org.

"Saving historic buildings is relatively easy because we have learned how to 'see' and value architecture," said Land Slide's project director Ellen Shillinglaw. "Land Slides goal is to increase the visibility of landscape architecture." The "Land Slide" website highlights the importance of these "designed" landscapes – landscapes created for people rather than naturally occurring formations - and rallies community and national support to preserve them. The website features 10 categories of landscapes, a brief history for each, short biographies of the landscape architects or designers responsible for the property, how it is threatened or endangered, and resources and hotlinks to additional information on how the public can get involved.

In addition to the U.S. Capitol grounds, Seneca Park and Skyline Park, the list includes:

- Two other Halprin designs: the sculpture garden of the Virginia Museum of Fine Art in Richmond and Heritage Plaza in Ft. Worth, TX;
- The River Road Estates of Louisville, Kentucky;
- The magnificent grounds of Stan Hywet Hall in Akron, Ohio;

- Two 1960's Indiana landscapes by Dan Kiley: the Concordia Theological Seminary campus in Fort Wayne and North Christian Church's grounds in Columbus;
- The rare 1930's Italianate landscape of Val Verde designed by Lockwood DeForest in Montecito, California;
- The 1970's Sasaki Associates Christopher Columbus Park in Boston;
- The trees of the City of Savannah, Georgia;
- The nation's college campuses.

The Cultural Landscape Foundation is the only not-for-profit foundation in America dedicated to increasing the public's awareness of the importance and irreplaceable legacy of cultural landscapes. Through education, technical assistance and outreach, CLF aims to broaden the support and understanding for cultural landscapes nationwide in hopes of saving our priceless heritage for future generations.

For more information contact Ellen Shillinglaw at 202/483.0553 or ellen@shillinglaw.net.

## The Olmsted Center for Landscape Preservation Initiates an Arborist Development Program for Urban Youth

Working with the Boston Community Partnership, a collaborative program of the National Park Service and the National Parks Conservation Association, the Olmsted Center for Landscape Preservation and Boston National Historical Park coordinated a two-day workshop on tree care for inner city youth. Nearly twenty teenage students participated in the training that covered topics such as tree biology, maintenance procedures, and climbing and pruning techniques.

The program introduced participants to the occupation of tree care through classroom sessions and field experience. National Park Service and consulting arborists worked to provide this training that will serve as a pilot for the future development and implementation of a career feeder program for Boston urban youth in professional tree management. Working with public and private partners, the program will build a skilled and highly motivated pool of candidates that can assist with addressing a substantial backlog in tree care in public parks throughout the greater Boston area.



Dan McCarthy, Arborist, National Park Service, instructing a student in tree climbing and maintenance techniques.

This program is one of several career development opportunities coordinated by the Olmsted Center for Landscape Preservation. The Olmsted Center is a program of the Northeast Region of the National Park Service that strengthens the capacity of parks to preserve and manage cultural landscapes. The Olmsted Center provides a full-range of technical assistance to historic properties in cultural landscape research, planning, stewardship, maintenance, and education. A key component of the Center's work is conducted through partnerships with universities, government agencies, and private non-profit organizations. For additional information please call (617) 566-1689 or visit our website at www.nps.gov/frla/oclp.htm.

#### N E W S



#### Library of American Landscape History Celebrates Its Tenth Anniversary

Since its founding in1992, the Library of American Landscape History (LALH) has set high standards in scholarly research on North American landscape history. The LALH publishing program includes reprints of out-of-print classics, surveys (e.g. *Pioneers of American Landscape Design*), and monographs on important places and practitioners.

LALH's most recent book is A Modern Arcadia: Frederick Law Olmsted Jr. and the Plan for Forest Hills Garden. Susan L. Klaus's monograph analyzes the conception of the 142-acre planned community, created in 1909 to take advantage of the new Long Island Rail Road, through its early years of design and development. Her richly illustrated history offers critical insights into American planning history and landscape architecture. It also sheds welcome new light on the early career of "Rick" Olmsted.

Other recent LALH publications include Landscape Architecture as Applied to the Wants of the West by H.W.S. Cleveland (from 1873) and The Prairie Spirit of Landscape Gardening by Wilhelm Miller (from 1915). Scholarly introductions to these important historical texts offer intriguing new perspectives on the profession's early years and the search for an American landscape aesthetic.

Horace William Shaler Cleveland (1814–1900) is one of the least understood giants of nineteenth-century landscape design. He wrote his 1873 book because he believed that badly planned communities along the rapidly developing rail lines of the West would negatively affect emerging American civilization. A new introduction by Daniel J. Nadenicek and Lance M. Neckar traces Cleveland's organic aesthetic from his Unitarian background and associations with Emerson and Longfellow, through his careers as scientific farmer, engineer, and landscape architect of



Library of American Landscape History author Robert E. Grese leads a tour through the Nichols Arboretum, designed by Ossian Cole Simonds. Robert is director of the arboretum which is located at the University of Michigan in Ann Arbor.

important cemeteries, parks and park systems from Concord, Massachusetts, to Minneapolis. The essay also addresses the historical importance of Cleveland's notion of linking urban centers with parks, and commuter suburbs as a blueprint for developing cities. By the early 1880s Cleveland believed that landscape conservation lay within the realm of the new profession. This message and the broad scope Cleveland defined for landscape architecture proved both influential and lasting.

Wilhelm Miller's lavishly illustrated circular from 1915 championed the prairie style of landscape gardening through the work of Jens Jensen, Ossian Simonds, Walter Burley Griffin, Frank Lloyd Wright, and others. In a fascinating introduction, Christopher Vernon argues that the first reference to the prairie as a source of design imagery actually came from Wright. Vernon is persuasive that the term, as used by Miller, Jensen, and others, was largely metaphorical, part of a grand, philosophical initiative to discover in the Middle West the basis for a non-European, truly American landscape aesthetic.

An LALH exhibition, A Genius for Place: American Landscapes of the Country Place Era, a collaborative project between curator Robin Karson and photographer Carol Betsch, focuses on the continuing search for an American style of landscape design through the first half of the twentieth century. Beginning with Gwinn (OH) and culminating with Naumkeag (MA), the survey examines seven pivotal landscapes. It traces a development from the tension between formality and naturalism through the first stirrings of modernism. At Longue Vue House and Gardens, New Orleans, through December 2002.

LALH books are published by University of Massachusetts Press, Amherst. To order by phone: (413) 545-2219; fax: (800) 488-1144; email: orders@umpress.umass.edu.



#### Historic American Landscape Survey (HALS) Update

As you may be aware, HALS won a grant to sponsor three workshops to assist in developing landscape documentation guidelines similar to those that currently exist for the Historic American Buildings Survey (HABS) and the Historic American Engineering Record (HAER), but customized to the unique qualities of landscapes. Two of the three workshops have been held to date. They have been well received and have focused attention on the various needs of landscape documentation within the realm of measured drawings, photography and written history. The final workshop will be held just prior to the ASLA annual meeting, with the results of the workshops and overall HALS progress presented in an educational session at that meeting. Ultimately the draft-annotated guidelines will be widely distributed for comment near the end of calendar year 2002.

Two activities have occurred recently that HALS wants to bring to your attention.

- 1. In March 2002, a HALS educational and fundraising brochure was printed. Sponsored by the ASLA Executive Committee, the brochure provides background information on the recent development of the HALS program based on HABS and HAER experiences over the past 70 years, past landscape documentation efforts, and an overview of the funding needs for the new program. To receive a copy of the brochure, email hals@asla.org and include your name and mailing address.
- 2. In May 2002, ASLA held a mid-year meeting in Washington, DC where an overview was given of the need for HALS, and the responsibilities of ASLA within the Memorandum of Understanding between the National Park Service, the Library of Congress and ASLA to cooperatively develop HALS. One of the responsibilities of ASLA is to create a "masterlist" of significant historic landscapes that merit documentation by HALS.

As part of the "masterlist" identification effort, HALS developed a "toolkit" to use as a reference. The toolkit provides background information on the development of HALS, criteria for identifying significant historic landscapes, a HALS Submission Form, and sample letters to send State Historic

#### AND NOTES

Preservation Offices, academic institutions and private practitioners.

By the end of the year, HALS plans to reach out to other landscape and preservation organizations to request their assistance with developing this masterlist of significant historic landscapes, and providing them with the HALS toolkits. We will need each Alliance member's help with this effort. Please contact hals@asla.org and offer your assistance by identifying specific historic landscapes that should be documented by HALS. If you are interested in receiving an electronic version of the HALS Submission form, please contact cgoetcheus@comcast.net.

As always HALS appreciates your support and volunteer efforts and is open to any ideas or suggestions you may have to further develop HALS. Please feel free to email hals@asla.org with your comments.

#### Death of Renée Péchère

On Thursday, May 9, 2002, Renée Péchère, the President-Founder of the ICOMOS international committee on historic gardens passed away at the age of 94. Few knew that, notwithstanding his passion for the preservation and restoration of historic gardens, Mr. Péchère was an accomplished landscape architect with a thriving international practice and a wonderful sense of humor and amazement. Once he related how he guestioned a new client on the extraordinary width of a very grand, tree-lined allée leading up to the main residence (in southern USA), only to find out that the grand allée was not for cars but for the owners' private jet!

The world has lost a great champion for gardens and landscapes, historic or contemporary. The practice of landscape architecture was greatly influenced by his work and his philosophy.

#### National Preservation Institute Seminar

The National Preservation Institute, a nonprofit organization that provides professional training for the management, development, and preservation of historic, cultural and environmental resources, is sponsoring a series of seminars during 2002. These include a variety of seminars relating to historic landscapes including Planning, Design, and Interpretation for Historic and Cultural Landscapes; Photodocumentation of Historic Structures and Landscapes; and Identification and Management of Traditional Cultural Places. The seminars are offered throughout the year in various cities throughout the United States. There are scholarship opportunities. For more information see info@npi.org, email www.npi.org or call (703) 765-0100.

### Landscape focus for California's Historic Preservationists

For the first time in its organization's history, the California Preservation Foundation devoted an entire track of its annual conference to cultural landscape issues. Beginning with a pre-conference landscape workshop conducted by Charles Birnbaum of the National Park Service, attendees at the 27th annual conference spent three days in May exploring such topics as cultural landscape identification and evaluation, the disappearing agricultural landscapes of rural California, consensus building between cultural and natural resource managers, and the role of western cultural landscapes in the development of heritage areas. Landscape concepts were further emphasized with a tour to Jack London's historic Beauty Ranch, now a California State Historic Park, in the nearby Valley of the Moon.

Conference planners confirmed the success of this year's landscape sessions with plans to incorporate a similar landscape track in next year's conference program in Santa Barbara.

#### MEMBER NEWS

#### News from the Members

Barbara Geiger is seeking any information about Hilbert Einar Dahl, ASLA (1893-1968) for her research into the gardens at the Bahá'í Temple in Wilmette, IL. Dahl received his BS in Landscape Gardening from Penn State in 1917, and an MS in 1920. He worked in State College, PA, Chicago, Charleston, WV, and Louisville, KY. So far all leads have been dead-ends! She is especially interested in any of Dahl's other landscape plans.

Contact:

Barbara Geiger Conservation Coordinator Baha'i Temple 112 Linden Avenue Wilmette, IL 60091-2839 847-853-2319 847-853-2316 fax

Arnold R. Alanen and Robert Z. Melnick's book, *Preserving Cultural Landscapes in America*, received three major awards in 2001: an ASLA Merit Award for communications, Pioneer America Society's Allen G. Noble Award for the year's outstanding volume on material culture, and the Society of Architectural Historians' Antoinette Forrester Downing Award for historic preservation.

Jan Wooley has a new position as Coordinator of the Cultural Stewardship Program in California State Parks, overseeing preservation projects ranging from artifact curation to cultural landscape reports for cultural resources within the State Parks system. Her new e-mail address is jwool@ohp.parks.ca.gove, or she can be reached by phone at (916) 653-8142.

Thom Thompson is leaving NPS and moving to Southern California where he is going into consulting. His new contact information is:
Thom Thompson
353 North Hermosa Drive
# 7C2
Palm Springs, CA 92262
760-323-9580
xeriphile@earthlink.net



#### AND EVENTS

Dan Nadenicek will begin a new job as Chair of the Department of Planning and Landscape Architecture at Clemson University on July 1st. After that time he can be reached at:
Department of Planning and Landscape Architecture, 121 Lee Hall, Box 0511, Clemson University, Clemson, SC 29634-0511, phone:864.656.3926, e-mail: dnadeni@clemson.edu.

#### AHLP Student Schalorship Fund

As many of you know, the Alliance has maintained a scholarship fund to help students attend our annual meetings and participate in these activities. For our 2003 Annual Meeting we hope to have several new opportunities for student participation. In order to make this possible, it is important that we continue to build our scholarship fund. The future of our profession and the Alliance is in the next generation, so please consider a contribution. If you wish to become personally involved in activities which promote student involvement, please contact Bob Grese, Chair of the Education Committee: (734)-763-0645, bgrese@umich.edu.

#### **Upcoming Events**

July, 2002 This July, Christopher Vernon will be in the Midwest presenting several slide lectures to coincide with the republication of Wilhelm Miller's *The Prairie Spirit of Landscape Gardening* by the University of Massachusetts Press in association with the Library of American Landscape History. Join Christopher and gain renewed insight into the links between site, architecture, and garden design as he discusses the first distinctly American design style emerging from the Midwestern prairies at a lecture

and book signing, Tuesday, July 16, 6-9:30pm. The Morton Arboretum, Lisle, IL (630) 719-2468 (course #SE716) or a free public lecture coinciding with the exhibition *A Force of Nature: The Life and Work of Jens Jensen* on Wednesday, July 17, 6-7:30 p.m. at the Chicago Cultural Center, 78 E. Washington, Chicago (312) 742-1771.

Thru July 28, 2002 A Force of Nature: The Life and Work of Jens Jensen a large-scale exhibition at the Chicago Cultural Center has been extended through July. The curators Julia S. Bachrach and Jo Ann Nathan may develop a traveling version of the exhibit in the near future. For more information contact the Jens Jensen Legacy Project at (312) 742-1771 or jjensen11@mindspring.com.

August 6-8, 2002 Preserving Historic Trees: A Workshop on the Specialized Techniques Needed to Care for Aged Trees in Cultural Landscapes Roosevelt Vanderbilt National Historic Site

Roosevelt Vanderbilt National Historic Site Hyde Park, New York

Trees are typically very important features of cultural landscapes and often have direct associations with important people and historical events. As such, trees of historical value require special conservation and arboricultural treatments to stabilize deterioration, maintain health, and minimize loss. The specialized techniques required to care for older trees are usually not covered in traditional tree care seminars and courses. This workshop will focus on the principles and practices of caring for older historic specimen trees in cultural landscapes.

The program will include classroom presentations, hands-on demonstrations and field exercises to broaden participants understanding, awareness and skill in historic tree preservation and maintenance.

Space for this workshop is very limited. For additional information please contact Gina Heald, Preservation Maintenance Program Manager at (617)223-5115 or Charlie Pepper, Deputy Director, Olmsted Center for Landscape Preservation, at (617)566-1689x260.

#### PUBLICATIONS



The Sanitary City: Urban Infrastructure in America from Colonial Times to the Present by Martin V. Melosi (Creating the North American Landscape; Johns Hopkins, 2000) 600 pp., 46 halftones, 49 line drawing Hardcover only, \$61.95

Winner of the American Society for Environmental History's George Perkins Marsh Prize, the Best Book in North American Urban History for 2000 given by the Urban History Association, and the Abel Wollman Award given by the Public Works Historical Society.

An invisible infrastructure defines a significant portion of the American urban experience, affecting everything from the quality of the water we drink to the frequency of our trash collection to the pressure of the flush in our toilets. In this ambitious and comprehensive volume, Martin V. Melosi, a professor of history at the University of Houston, studies water supply, wastewater, and solid-waste-disposal systems in U.S. cities from the colonial era to the present day. Along the way, Melosi discusses not only changing technologies and the expanding population but also growing public health awareness and ecological theories. He shows how the social beliefs and scientific understandings that emerged over time influenced how Americans have viewed waste and sanitation in urban life and how they came to accept workable solutions to the problems of sanitation, water delivery, and waste removal.

#### & RESOURCES

City Lights: Illuminating the American Night

by John A. Jakle (*Landscapes of the Night*; Johns Hopkins, 2001)

Winner of the 2002 J. B. Jackson Award given by the Association of American Geographers.

Today's cities shine brightly at night, illuminated by millions of street lamps, neon signs, and incandescent and fluorescent bulbs burning in the windows of office blocks, apartment buildings, and homes. Indeed, the modern city is in large part defined by this brilliance. In contrast, cities before the end of the 19th century were dominated by shadows and darkness, their oil lamps mostly ineffectual against the night. The introduction of modern lighting technologies in the 1870s — at first natural gas and later electricity — transformed urban life in America and around the world.

In City Lights, John Jakle reveals how artificial lighting became a dynamic instrument that altered every aspect of the urban landscape and was in turn shaped by the growth of America's automobile culture. He examines the technological and entrepreneurial innovations that made urban illumination possible and then explores the various ways in which artificial lighting was used to enhance — for reasons of commerce, safety, aesthetics, and mobility — such public spaces as streets, festivals, world's fairs, amusement parks, landmarks, and business districts. From the corner street lamp to the dazzling display of Broadway's "Great White Way," City Lights offers a lively and informative investigation into the geography of the night.

A Modern Arcadia: Frederick Law Olmsted Jr. and the Plan for Forest Hills Gardens by Susan L. Klaus

(University of Massachusetts Press in association with the Library of American Landscape History, 2002) 224 pp., 100 illus., \$39.95 cloth.

"Bright, cheerful houses, well arranged, well trimmed lawns, hedging carefully cut . . . distinctly joyous," wrote architectural critic Herbert Croly in 1914 about the Forest Hills Gardens community in Queens, New York. *The New York Tribune* agreed, reporting that the place was a "modern Garden of Eden, a fairy tale too good to be true."

Conceived as an experiment that would apply the new "science" of city planning to a suburban setting, Forest Hills Gardens was created by the Russell Sage Foundation to provide housing for middle-class commuters as an alternative to cramped flats in New York City. Although it has long been recognized as one of the most influential planned communities in the United States, this is the first time Forest Hills Gardens has been the subject of a book.

Klaus's fully illustrated history chronicles the creation of the 142-acre development from its inception in 1909 through its first two decades, offering critical insights into American planning history, landscape architecture, and the social and economic forces that shaped housing in the Progressive Era. Klaus focuses particularly on the creative genius of Frederick Law Olmsted Jr., who served as planner and landscape architect for the project. Drawing on his father's visionary ideas but developing his own perspective, the younger Olmsted redefined planning for the modern era and became one of the founders of the profession of city planning in the United States.

The Alliance for Historic Landscape Preservation 82 Wall Street, Suite 1105 New York, NY 10005 USA www.ahlp.org



Quércus Sùber, Cork Oak

#### Application for Membership

The Alliance for Historic Landscape Preservation

Membership is open to individuals and organizations with a commitment to landscape preservation. Complete this form and return it with a check payable to Alliance for Historic Landscape Preservation, c/o Tina Bishop, 3037 West 24th Street, Denver, CO 80211

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#### About the Alliance

The Alliance for Historic Landscape Preservation is an interdisciplinary professional organization which provides a forum for communication and exchange of information among its members. It is dedicated to the preservation and conservation of historic landscapes in all their variety from formal gardens to public parks to rural expanses.

The Alliance was founded in 1978 when a small group of people from diverse backgrounds met at New Harmony, Indiana, to share their mutual interests and concerns about the growing fields of landscape preservation. From this initial symposium came recognition of the need for increased communication and understanding regarding historic landscapes and a commitment to the interdisciplinary nature of the field.

#### Alliance News

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