

Annual Meeting 2009

The Alliance in St. Louis, 2009

Every community needs an Esley Hamilton. And most certainly, every organization needs a Carol Grove. Let me explain.

The AHLP recently had its annual conference in St. Louis, Missouri, the Show Me State, and 'show' it did! The theme of the conference was, "At the Confluence of the Mississippi and Missouri Rivers: managing regional change in urban and suburban cultural landscapes." And, once again, it served as the annual 'recharging' event for those committed to the understanding, protection and management of landscapes of all sizes and complexities.

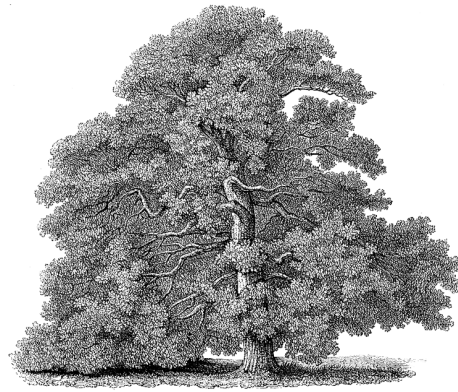
There were nine papers presented, including two student scholarship winners, eight works-in-progress, as well as four 'invited' presentations. (The complete list of presenters and selected abstracts follow this article.) Of course, what enriched the event was the City of St. Louis proper, left to Mr. Hamilton to unveil to us.

Esley Hamilton, Preservation Historian, St. Louis County Parks and Recreation, served as the wellspring of knowledge. The experience would have been far less without him.

As for Carol Grove, our consummate host(ess), what can one say. She proved that once committed to the undertaking of an Alliance meeting, and in spite of numerous challenges therein, she was up to the task. Our reward was a wealth of experiences not soon to be forgotten. So what took place?

Thursday dawned with the prospect of getting to know this Midwest region with Esley and Brenda Williams, promptly took us back over 1,000 years to the story of the Cahokia Mounds WHS and its Mississippian mound-building society within the 'American Bottom' (floodplain of the Mississippi, Missouri and Illinois Rivers). The challenges in managing such a site were carefully communicated to the group.

Bob Moore, historian of the Jefferson National Expansion Memorial, continued our education with a comprehensive stroll through history focused on the Mississippi waterfront and the origins, evolution and fate of Block 33. His 'tour' took us through the French Regime (1764-1804), the increasing river trade to the city's heyday in the mid-19th century (prosperity,



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steamboats and large public buildings) and its decline following the Civil War.

Mr. Hamilton described the founding of St. Louis in 1764 and its evolution through the Henry Shaw era (1840s to his death in 1889) and the development of key sites under his tutelage including the Missouri Botanical Gardens and Forest Park.

Unleashed on the city, and following a drive by past Forest Park etc., the group was deposited on the steps of the Old Courthouse immediately adjacent to the Gateway Arch site. We were welcomed by Mr. Moore and his recently-installed Superintendent of JNEM, Tom Bradley.

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The Arch

From the President

Greetings,

Ah, the crisp, clean fragrance of Autumn in the air; I hope everyone is enjoying Fall as much as I am! As this year comes to a close, so does my tenure as President of the Alliance. It is time for new blood to step in and further energize this organization. As of this newsletter our very capable Vice President, John Zvonar, will be 'at the helm.' I want to thank all past and present Board Members for their time and energy over the years – we have accomplished much. On a personal note, the Alliance has not only afforded me the opportunity to meet and learn from many 'comrades in arms,' but has allowed lifelong friendships to blossom and flourish over the years, for which I am truly grateful.

On to business. As noted in the last newsletter, the Board held a strategic planning session during Fall 2008 that renewed the Board's commitment and energy not only towards historic landscape preservation, but to this organization, and to fully engage the general membership in all levels of its activities.

Initial action items accomplished to further the goals of the strategic plan have included:

- updating business practices;
- refining the roles and responsibilities of Board members;
- creating Standard Operating Procedures for the organization and its subcommittees;
- refining the purpose and goals of the organization;
- undertaking a renewed (existing and new) membership campaign communicating the breadth of benefits of being actively involved in the Alliance, and,
- further enhancing the website, www.ahlp.org.

I am excited about the continued passion and energy coming from the Board and individuals who've been asked to step up. If we can each commit to enhancing the breadth and frequency of our communication, imagine what we can accomplish! However, the Board needs your help with this: we encourage all members to become ACTIVE in the Alliance – this is your organization after all! VOLUNTEER – collectively we can make the Alliance a vital forum for communication in all facets of historic landscape preservation.

I want to thank Debbie Smith, our new Membership Coordinator, who has done a superb job of getting our membership campaign organized and underway.

We had a fantastic annual meeting this past May in St. Louis – thank you Carol Grove! (Read more in the adjoining article.) An exciting 2010 meeting is planned in Albuquerque, New Mexico. Read about it inside. I look forward to seeing you there!

—Cari Goetcheus

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A visit to St. Louis would not be complete without a visit to the Arch. The threat of the Emerald Ash Borer which is threatening the monoculture plantings below the Arch, and introduced to us by earlier by Marla McEnaney, brought into focus the unexpected impacts that can endanger such important works. The harrowing journey up the arch to its precipitous viewing area 630 feet above grade completed the experience.

The day ended with a visit to Delmar Avenue – the Loop – considered one of the Ten Great Streets in America by the American Planning Association. The rock-and-roll institution of Blueberry Hill, envisioned and managed by the inimitable Joe Edwards, served as a suitable venue at which to unwind that evening.



On the steps of the Old Courthouse

Friday

While there were terrific papers presented on this morning, including the scholarship winners, Grant Johnson and Jenn Thomas, it is worth mentioning John Hoal's invited presentation about the Confluence Master Plan. This longstanding exercise, focused on the Mississippi, Missouri and Illinois Rivers, presages a future that will bode well for this larger region, "America's geographic point of exchange." The introduction of linear recreational corridors and trails along the rivers will reverse a 100 year trend and, in

the case of St. Louis proper, will ensure that the locals will once again 'know their river.' One of the stories 'embedded in the community's psyche,' the Mary Meachum Freedom Crossing (1855) was quite poignant.

Friday afternoon we were joined by Melanie Fathman who provided us access to three remarkable residential gardens following a wander through the Jens Jensen enclave of Portland Place, a private street dating back to the early 1900s. Esley Hamilton continued to do yeoman's work in helping us piece together the St. Louis story on this tour.

The latter part of the afternoon was spent traversing the Missouri Botanical Garden and its abundance of riches, including the Japanese and Chinese gardens. Some took in the treasures of the Rare Book Room and Herbarium. The purchase of a copy of Carol Grove's tome *Henry Shaw's Victorian Landscapes: the Missouri Botanical Gardens and Tower Grove Park* made for a fitting souvenir.

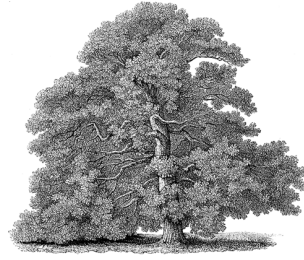


Glass in the Garden exhibition by Dale Chihuly at the Missouri Botanical Garden

Saturday

Following a full morning of papers, posters and vigorous discussion, the group headed south along the Great River Road (off the interstate) towards Ste. Genevieve.

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We were met by Superintendent Jim Baker and given a fulsome tour of the area. Before returning to St. Louis, we breached the dyke (levee) and stood aside the mighty Mississippi: it is only at that point that one appreciates the speed and the massive power of this waterway.

The closing banquet was at the Chatillon-Demenil Mansion, again made possible through our well-connected and indefatigable hostess, Madame Grove.

For those who did not have to scoot away Sunday morning was the bonus visit to Cahokia Mounds WHS, located just across the big river in Illinois. We were accompanied by Will Ballard, who also played the role of chauffeur, and had the chance to experience firsthand the magnitude, if not the on-going challenges, of this World Heritage Site.



Cahokia Mounds WHS

The folks at the Seven Gables Inn in Clayton, Mo, are to be commended for their wonderful facility and over-arching hospitality. This was the right choice if for no other reason than providing the opportunity for Alliance members to informally meet over breakfast or over a pint in the late evening.

Thanks once again to Carol, Esley and all those who gave of their time, energy and spirit to introduce us to St. Louis – the city, the county – on yet another wonderful Alliance ‘ride.’ We look forward now to April 2010, and Albuquerque, New Mexico.
—John Zvonar

Annual Meeting Presentations

Thursday, May 28

Brenda Williams – paper:

Cahokia Mounds Master Management Plan: an interdisciplinary approach

Bob Moore – invited presentation:

The Arch: Jefferson National Expansion Memorial

Marla McEnaney – work-in-progress:

Strategy for Responding to the Emerald Ash Borer at Dan Kiley’s designed landscape at Jefferson National Expansion Memorial

Paul Kelsch – paper:

Planting the Potomac: A Vegetative History of the George Washington Memorial Parkway

Daniel Krall – paper:

E. Gorton Davis: Forgotten Pioneer of Landscape Preservation

Friday, May 29

James Ward – work-in-progress:

Past is Prelude: An Historical and Landscape Level Overview of the Ashley River, Charleston, and S.C.

John Hoal - invited presentation:

Confluence Master Plan

Ron Williams and John Zvonar – paper:

Villas at the Confluence of Landscape and Government

Geoffrey Von Burg – paper:

Olmsted’s Orchard: Restoring “a suitable connection between the flower and vegetable gardens.”

Grant Johnson – work-in-progress / student scholarship:

Christ Church and Manlius Village Cemeteries - What is to become of aging historic cemeteries?

Jenn Thomas – work-in-progress / student scholarship:

The Lowthorpe School of Landscape Architecture for Women, Groton, MA, 1901-1945: An Overlooked Cultural Landscape in Need of Awareness and Preservation

Saturday, May 30

Laurie Matthews – paper:

A Taste of Oregon: Cultural and Natural Resource Planning at Dorris Ranch

Danielle Desilets – work-in-progress:

The Roosevelt Farm Lane in Hyde Park, New York

Kevin Risk – paper:

Polyvocalism at Faulkner’s Rowan Oak:

Fictive Space/Literary Space

Wendy Shearer – work-in-progress:

The Oil Heritage District, Lambton County, Southwestern Ontario

Nancy Brown – work-in-progress:

Regional Landscapes and Energy Development: Considering Landscape Preservation in the Face of Massive Energy Development

Selected Annual Meeting

Abstracts

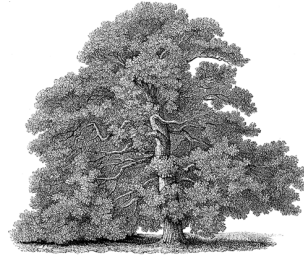
Additional abstracts may be found on our website, www.ahlp.org.

Cahokia Mounds Master Management Plan: An Interdisciplinary Approach
Brenda Williams

Paper

The site of Cahokia marks the center of a 125-square-mile area that contained one of the largest concentrations of people in the pre-Columbian New World north of central Mexico. This area, known as the American Bottom, is a flood plain formed below the confluence of the Missouri and Mississippi rivers and includes their alluvial terraces and the low bluffs along the eastern side of the Mississippi River near the modern city of St. Louis, Missouri. The Mississippians who lived at Cahokia were accomplished builders who erected a variety of structures including small homes and monumental public works. The extant mounds, their arrangement on the landscape, and their relationship to the Mississippi River are still clearly understandable. The site is significant for its importance to our understanding of the prehistory of North America. It was designated a National Historic Landmark in 1965 and a World Heritage Site in 1982.

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Prior to 1982 the site was heavily impacted by development. In fact, in the 1950s, a 40-acre housing subdivision consisting of 68 houses was constructed in the Grand Plaza. All but one of the residences from the “Mounds Subdivision” have been removed, however traces of the development are still evident upon the landscape. Other impacts include a massive railroad corridor, interstate highway, regional road, invasive vegetation, and adjacent land use.

Despite these intrusions, Cahokia provides a unique opportunity for visitors to connect to a prehistoric landscape. As individuals climb to the top of Monks Mound they begin to grasp the enormity of the structure and the labor that went into its construction. Those that travel to the southern portions of the site may visit conical mounds in a variety of site conditions that speak to the passage of time since their construction. The high level of significance of the site as well as extensive archaeological evidence has led to the reconstruction of selected mounds, a portion of the stockade, and the AD 1100-1200 calendar feature, Woodhenge.

The project team for the Master Management Plan for Cahokia Mounds State Historic Site included an integrated group of professionals including archaeologists, landscape architects, architects, environmental specialists, financial analysts, site managers and exhibit designers. In this presentation I will provide an overview of the site and discuss some of the compelling aspects that were addressed by the interdisciplinary team. These included lively discussion about the need to generate income to help support the site, the need to attract visitors to ensure that the site receives necessary funding from the state, state of the art interpretive approaches such as hand-held GPS tours, preservation of the historic landscape, clarifying the difference between extant and reconstructed mounds, the pros and cons associated with developing a hands-on archaeological exhibit, ongoing archaeological investigations, impacts

from ATVs and pot diggers in the remote areas, management of native and invasive plants, reduction of impacts from the highway, and others.

Strategy for Responding to the Emerald Ash Borer at Dan Kiley’s Memorial Designed Landscape at Jefferson National Expansion Memorial

Marla McEnaney
Work-In-Progress

This work in progress will describe the potential threat of Emerald Ash Borer infestation at the Jefferson National Expansion Memorial. One of the main contributing features of Dan Kiley’s design is a monoculture of Rosehill Ash trees. In 2008, the Emerald Ash Borer was located in southeastern Missouri, a couple of hundred miles from St. Louis. The National Park Service, including grounds maintenance staff at the Gateway Arch and cultural resource staff from the Midwest Regional Office, are identifying a strategy for addressing this potential threat in partnership with experts from universities and state and federal agencies.

Although Kiley initially proposed a monoculture of Tulip Poplar trees, the National Park Service substituted Rosehill Ash during construction. The deteriorated condition of the trees and the stressful environment posed by the park’s urban setting and poor soils could result in the impact of the Emerald Ash Borer being catastrophic. Public scrutiny of the Arch grounds has recently been elevated due to proposals from the city, local interests, and changes to the grounds in response to security threats.

This presentation will describe concerns related to the monoculture, the rationale for the proposed approach, and the criteria and process that will be used in decision making.

E. Gorton Davis: Forgotten Pioneer of Landscape Preservation

Daniel Krall

Paper Presentation

E. Gorton Davis, professor of landscape architecture at Cornell University from 1912 – 1930, was one of the earliest individuals in the profession who undertook the documentation of historic, designed landscapes. While his first projects focused on English sites, he later began an extensive examination of many of the deteriorating estates along the James River in Virginia. Imitating the photographic techniques highlighted by Charles Adams Platt in his study of Italian villas some fifteen years earlier, Davis, assisted by many of his Cornell students, also generated scaled drawings of these sites, something that heretofore had not been done. Beginning soon after his arrival in Ithaca in 1912, Davis was assisting groups such as the James River Garden Club with some of the earliest documentation projects in Virginia. Several of his plans and photographs were included in the club’s 1923 publication, *Historic Gardens of Virginia*. Interestingly this predates the work of such well-known landscape practitioners as Arthur Shurcliff, Morley Williams and Charles Gillette by almost a decade.

As critical as Davis’s personal research was his involvement in mentoring the first winners of the American Academy in Rome fellowship in Landscape Architecture. With the initial fellowship awarded in 1915, E. Gorton Davis was the person most connected to the first three winners, Cornellians Edward Lawson, Ralph Griswold, and Norman Newton. In his role as mentor, Davis was instrumental in determining both the nature and the format of the garden documentation that these early fellows would undertake. This was not as straightforward as one might think, and the resolution of major disagreements between Davis and James Sturgis Pray, head of the Harvard program, is an important part of his legacy.

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Finally, as head of Cornell's program until his untimely death in 1930, Davis instructed a group of individuals who would become some of the most important early practitioners of landscape preservation in this country. These included not only Lawson, Griswold and Newton, but also Everett Piester, Armand Tibbitts, Tracy Auger, Stanley Abbot, Loutrell Briggs, and Myrl Bottomley.

The major challenge in documenting Davis's many contributions, however, is the meager written record of his accomplishments. By presenting the documentation that does exist, including early correspondence, some articles and a large collection of historic glass slides, the author will discuss the career of E. Gorton Davis and highlight his unheralded role as one of the earliest landscape architecture preservationist.

Villas at the Confluence of Landscape and Government

Ron Williams and John Zvonar
Paper

We propose to deliver a paper based on the "river" theme of this year's AHLPA Annual Meeting, strongly oriented to the meeting's locale in St. Louis, Missouri, a city founded by French-Canadian traders from Quebec that became a confluence of cultural influences as well as of majestic rivers. The paper will follow a remarkable chain of influences linking major 18th and 19th-century figures involved in both government and landscape design, two fields that have been singularly connected at important historical moments.

The state of Missouri is intimately linked with Thomas Jefferson (1743-1826): it was the second state admitted to the Union from within the Louisiana Territory that he purchased for the nation in 1803; it named its capital for him; and the Jefferson Arch stands in St. Louis as witness to his vision of an America whose future lay in the West. Jefferson's hilltop estate at Monticello, Virginia, exemplifies the ideals of the Palladian country villa, set in a landscape

influenced by pastoral gardens of England and carefully integrated to its surroundings in the foothills of the Blue Ridge.

Louis-Joseph Papineau (1786-1871) was the Jefferson of Canada: born to be a seigneur, brilliantly talented in a variety of fields, an important statesman from an early age, and a revolutionary transformer of his country. A man of letters and creator of an extensive library like Jefferson, he also spent his final years as an *émigré* at his rural residence. It was surely no accident that his villa in Quebec's Laurentian foothills, overlooking the Ottawa River and its fertile valley, was named Montebello. The design of Montebello's gardens and landscape, carried out by Papineau himself and his son Amédée (1819-1903), is a literate and impressive interpretation of the ideas of Andrew Jackson Downing (1818-1852), the leading American authority on the picturesque villa.

How did Papineau and his son learn how to do this? Their seminal experience occurred during their exile from Canada following the abortive rebellion of 1837, when they sought refuge in upstate New York along the Hudson River, home of the great American villas of the 19th century. They were particularly influenced by Dr. David Hosack's magnificent landscape at Hyde Park (today the Vanderbilt Mansion, administered by the National Park Service), designed by the accomplished Belgian-American landscape gardener André Parmentier (1780-1830) and greatly admired by Downing. Amédée's travels, wide reading of romantic literature and close familiarity with Downing's writings made him the ideal person to design Montebello; his father even chided him for his enthusiastic interest in Downing.

The study of these remarkable statesmen and their domains will enable us to explore the nexus between political power and landscape design, including the strange irony that leaders with very different philosophies of government revered identical spatial models. This villa tradition continued well into the 20th century in the romantic landscapes of Canadian Prime Minister William Lyon Mackenzie King and American President Franklin Delano Roosevelt in the Gatineau Hills and at Hyde Park.

Christ Church and Manlius Village Cemeteries: What is to Become of Aging Historic Cemeteries?

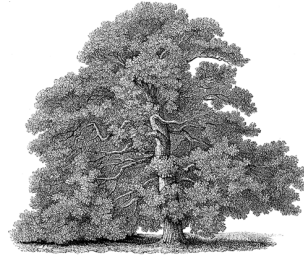
Grant Johnson

*Work-In-Progress/Student Scholarship
Recipient*

Christ Church and Manlius Village Cemeteries in Manlius, New York are a prime example of deteriorating and threatened funereal landscapes found in upstate New York. Manlius is the oldest village in Onondaga County, and located at the crossroads of several important state and county routes. This was crucial to its development as a major point of local commerce prior to the opening of the Erie Canal. The Cherry Valley Turnpike (opened 1803), as well as the Seneca Turnpike (opened 1800), passed through the village on what is now State Route 173. With increased settlement came the corresponding opening of community organizations, schools, and churches.

Christ Church in Manlius has the distinction of being the oldest church building in Onondaga County and the oldest parish in the Episcopal Diocese of Central New York. Its cemetery began in 1813 as a public burying ground for the inhabitants of the village of Manlius and its vicinity. Manlius Village cemetery was established at approximately the same time as Christ Church cemetery. Immediately adjacent, the cemeteries provide visual continuity despite separate ownership, hence their consideration as one landscape.

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The past several decades have seen the decline of the cemeteries due to disabuse, vandalism, weathering, and disconnection from its church and village populations. The cemeteries were successfully listed on the National Register of Historic Places in 2007 for containing the historical record of many of the residents of Manlius throughout the past two centuries, as well as the collection of significant nineteenth century funerary art. There is no signage to denote this, or advocacy for the care and maintenance of the cemetery beyond a one-person cemetery committee.

My research involves attempting to secure signage and recognition for the cemetery as a historic site in the oldest village in the county, as well as creating a proposal for cleaning and maintenance of the grounds and many stones. Furthermore, there are a number of unique zinc monuments believed to have been manufactured and sold locally for a limited period of time, located on the grounds, and worthy of further research and attention.

Important questions to be considered include: how can a village and church be engaged in landscape preservation and stewardship in times of increasing economic hardship? What strategies can be suggested that middle-sized or smaller communities might use to preserve these sites without a great deal of effort or monetary outlay? What criteria allowed for the nomination and approval of the cemeteries and how can these criteria be promoted to increase the profile of the cemetery?

The Lowthorpe School of Landscape Architecture for Women, Groton, Ma, 1901-1945:

An Overlooked Cultural Landscape in Need of Awareness and Preservation
Jenn Thomas

Work-In-Progress/Student Scholarship Recipient

In 2003 the town of Groton, Massachusetts produced a map defining three historic districts for the village.

One property, the location of the former Lowthorpe School of Landscape Architecture for Women at 14 Main Street, defined the southern most boundary just outside of District 2. Even though a Federal style house, “the Prescott House”, was built on the site in circa 1820 and had strong connections to Groton history, it was excluded from the declared historic district. By 2006 the town of Groton, with funding from the Community Preservation Act, completed the “Community Wide Preservation Project—2006.” A Massachusetts Historical Commission “Form B—Building” survey for the house at 14 Main Street was completed. A revised Groton historic districts report was written and the property was integrated.

Yet the Form B—Building report declared the period of significance as late 1700s – 1898. The Lowthorpe School operated from 1902 to 1945, and then was incorporated into the Rhode Island School of Design in Providence. By ending the declared period of significance at circa 1898, the building survey ignored an important period of the property’s history, completely omitting the Lowthorpe School’s impact on the historic Prescott House, the buildings that were added to the property during the Lowthorpe period and the acres of landscape where women students learned their craft.

In 2007, I completed a graduate preservation paper exploring the historic influence of the Lowthorpe School on the Prescott House, the addition of other buildings during the period, and the remaining extant landscape elements on the property. I also began to explore completing an addendum survey for the Massachusetts Historical Commission (MHC) which would include the Lowthorpe history. Luckily, the

MHC had a new annual budget and they hired a preservation consultant, Sanford Johnson (the one who completed the building survey) to do a “Form A—Area Survey” that described the 20th century history of the property. He and I worked together to complete the survey’s historical narrative for Lowthorpe. It was submitted to the MHC in late spring 2008. The report outlines a brief but detailed account of the school’s history and describes the remaining additional Lowthorpe buildings and garden elements. No supplemental photographs or graphics, however, accompanied the report.

I have been researching both Lowthorpe and one of its 1932 graduates, Denver landscape architect Jane Silverstein Ries, since 2002. I had enough Lowthorpe archival information to paint a broader ‘then and now’ survey of extant and demolished elements. The goal of this poster and presentation is to graphically highlight some of these findings and emphasize the importance of the Lowthorpe period to the property at 14 Main Street in Groton. To date, no one has attempted such documentation. This initial comparative analysis of archival materials and current conditions outlines some of the property’s history and the historic preservation challenges that face its present occupants, the Country Day School of the Holy Union.

The Roosevelt Farm Lane in Hyde Park, New York

Danielle Desilets

Work-in-Progress

“All that is within me cries out to go back to my home on the Hudson River”
– Franklin D. Roosevelt

Summary of Work-in-progress:
Roosevelt Farm Lane is a three-mile, universally accessible trail that connects Springwood - the Roosevelt home on the Hudson River, Val-Kill – Eleanor Roosevelt’s home, and Top Cottage – one of only two residences designed by American presidents. The first phase of the trail – Springwood to Val-Kill – is

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now open; the second - Val-Kill to Top Cottage – has been studied for feasibility but not yet designed.

Context and Significance:

Springwood was the nucleus of Franklin D. Roosevelt's life and career. The estate's wooded landscape was a paradise to him - an escape from the demands of political life. After FDR's death, parcels of his estate were sold and subdivided. In 2001 development pressure spurred Scenic Hudson Land Trust to purchase a 300-acre parcel between Springwood and Val-Kill to prevent development adjacent to the Presidential home. The National Park Service restored farm roads on this property for visitors to better understand the FDR story, and more specifically, his management of the land. The historic road network includes those FDR traveled between homes, as well as wartime jeep roads used to protect the property. Completing the connection to Top Cottage is vital to the FDR story, as the cottage is considered the first accessible American home designed by a person of disability.

Questions for discussion:

- What is the balance between design for accessibility and historic preservation, particularly when accessibility is part of the story?
- How do we evaluate layers of historical significance when multiple stories exist (i.e. a Presidential landscape; FDR's forestry initiatives; Eleanor's work while at Val-Kill)?

The Oil Heritage District, Lambton County, Southwestern Ontario

Wendy Shearer

Work-in-Progress

The discovery of oil in 1858 by James Williams occurred in Lambton County in Southwestern Ontario. This new and remarkable resource started a boom and bust cycle of exploration and discovery that created a large, rural industrial landscape. The industrial footprint is woven in a cultural landscape pattern of agriculture, village settlements and a

railway and road network that linked the area with distant refineries.

This 19th century oil technology is the only HAER documentation project undertaken outside the United States. It was completed in 2007.

The site has also been designated a national historic site in the 1920's and 2008, and is looking towards future UNESCO world heritage status.

Today, the approximately 300 acres of oil fields are in the hands of seven private landowners. Most wells still operate using a jerker line system developed here at the turn of the 20th century.

The challenge of our work is to identify and evaluate the cultural heritage, design, associative and contextual values; and to use cultural heritage legislation to protect these values. The significant challenge is that the oil wells are operating, and subject to fluctuating oil prices and the requirements of environmental protection. This is a unique project since it puts heritage conservation directly in the decision making process of business operators and regulators.

The cultural landscape of this area is dominated by a unique collection of oil equipment, including jerk lines, storage tanks and power houses. This equipment sits of the grid survey of agricultural land and presents a rare opportunity to conserve a working landscape rather than a historic artifact.

Regional Landscapes and Energy Development: Considering Landscape Preservation in the Face of Massive Energy Development

Nancy Brown

Work-in-Progress

The goal is to begin to understand the scale of impacts that energy development,

even renewable energy development, will have on historic resources and cultural landscapes. The Bureau of Land Management (BLM) and the Department of Energy (DOE) are currently preparing a Programmatic Environmental Impact Statement (PEIS) and Section 106 analysis to evaluate utility-scale solar energy development on BLM-administered lands in six western states based suitability for utility-scale development over the next 20 years. The BLM has already received 200 utility-scale solar energy proposals, with a single project requiring anywhere from hundreds to thousands of acres. While this analysis should provide a better understanding of the environmental effects of this type of large scale development on the public lands, what will be appropriate mitigation for bulldozing all resources on hundreds of acres in order to cover the land with utility-grade solar reflectors? The Western Energy Corridors PEIS created a network for thousands for miles of potential utility corridors for gas and oil pipelines and overhead high power electric lines. Wind energy is poised for a growth spurt, with the prospect of viewsheds for historic sites, trails and national parks at risk as we develop wind farms. These examples come from cases involving BLM, DOE, and the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission in the past year. With no easy answers, it's time to start talking about cultural landscapes and other historic resources in the path of this tsunami of energy projects rolling across North America.

Remember to visit our website: www.ahlp.org

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Annual Meeting 2010

Enchanted Landscapes: Exploring Cultural Traditions and Values

The Alliance for Historic Landscape Preservation is excited to hold its 2010 annual meeting in Albuquerque, New Mexico. From April 21-April 24, we will explore regional landscapes and hear from local landscape experts, students and faculty of the University of New Mexico School of Architecture and Planning.

Our primary venue will be Hotel Albuquerque, which exemplifies the “Albuquerque Style,” a modern blend of New Mexico’s Pueblo, Spanish, Territorial, and Western cultures. The hotel is adjacent to the museum district and Albuquerque’s Old Town. Founded in 1706 by Spanish settlers, Old Town is a City of Albuquerque Historical Zone and reflects a traditional Spanish town in its layout of a central plaza with a church. More than 200 shops, restaurants, galleries, and private residences, many of which occupy historic buildings, surround the San Felipe de Neri Church. Old Town continues to play a central role in religious, commercial, and cultural activities of the city.



La Quinta Cultural Center

Regional tours feature Los Poblanos, an abandoned segment of Route 66, the La Bajada acequia, and Acoma Pueblo.

- Los Poblanos is a 25-acre site northwest of downtown Albuquerque. Ambrosio and Juan Cristobal Armijo owned the 500-acre Los Poblanos Ranch through the 19th century, and Albert and Ruth Simms rehabilitated the ranch in the 1930s. The ranch house was recently converted into an Inn and the onsite La Quinta Cultural Center was brought back to its original use as a building for public use and recreation. The property boasts an organic vegetable farm, a lavender farm, John Gaw Meem buildings, a Rose Greely formal Spanish-style garden designed in 1932, and art by woodcut-printer Gustave Baumann, ironsmith Walter Gilbert, photographer Laura Gilpin, painter Peter Hurd, illustrator Paul Valentine Lantz, painter Larry Miller,

and tinsmith Robert Woodman. Meem is widely considered New Mexico’s greatest 20th-century architect, and his name is synonymous with the Santa Fe style. Rose Greely, a pioneer female landscape architect, was the first female graduate of Harvard’s landscape architecture program and worked primarily in the Washington D.C. area designing formal residential gardens. Los Poblanos is her only known work in the southwest and features vibrant flowerbeds irrigated with river water, Spanish tile fountains, rose cutting gardens, winding pathways, and an allee of mature Cottonwood trees. Poblano means rustic or rural in Spanish.

- La Bajada is a basalt escarpment that is a “scenic and historically important landform” between Albuquerque and Santa Fe that reflects a span of human activities of more than 400 years. Most renowned are the remains of historical-period trail, wagon, and early automobile routes that begin with the Spanish El Camino Real, include the National Trails Highway and New Mexico Route 1, and end with one of the first automobile alignments of Route 66. With 23 hairpin turns, the route remains today as an early road engineering feat and must have been quite the automobile adventure. During the summer of 2008, the University of New Mexico and the National Park Service conducted a weeklong course documenting La Bajada as part of the Historic American Landscape Survey. La Bajada means descent or downward slope in Spanish.
- The La Bajada acequia provides water from the Santa Fe River to the village of La Bajada. Acequias are historic communal irrigation systems that support the culture and livelihood of thousands of families in New Mexico today. Imported by Spanish settlers, acequias are engineered water conveyance systems that divert water from rivers, streams, and mountain runoff to fields. Acequias are often governed by community associations and administered by a majordomo.
- Acoma, also known as “Sky City,” is a Pueblo Indian community constructed atop a 367-foot (112-m) sandstone mesa in west-central New Mexico. The Acoma Pueblo, likely established in the 12th century or

earlier, was constructed on the mesa for its defensive position. It is regarded as the oldest continuously inhabited community in the United States. The Sky City Cultural Center at the mesa’s base includes heritage activities and exhibits. The Acoma Pueblo is a National Trust for Historic Preservation Historic Site and an excellent example of a continuing cultural landscape.

New Mexico is a unique blend of historic and modern traditions, urban and rural spaces, and artistic and scientific influences. With its scenic byways, sacred peaks, and endless vistas, and where the night sky is considered a heritage resource, it is no wonder they call it the Land of Enchantment. Mark your calendars and save the date—April 21–24, 2010—we look forward to seeing you!

—Carrie Gregory and Lori Lilburn

Student Scholarships Available

The Alliance for Historic Landscape Preservation Scholarship Committee announces student scholarships are available to attend and present research at the 2010 Annual Meeting in Albuquerque NM, April 21–25, 2010.

For the 32nd Annual Alliance Meeting, one or more scholarships are available for students in the fields of study related to cultural landscape architecture including landscape architecture, architecture, planning, conservation, cultural geography, history, anthropology, and horticulture.

Students may apply to receive a waiver of the conference registration fee and a payment of US\$300 to defer travel expenses to attend the conference.

How to Apply

The following materials must be received on or before **Friday, February 12, 2010:**

- a letter addressed to the Alliance Scholarship Committee detailing your interests in attending the 2010 meeting;
- a copy of your curriculum vitae;
- an abstract of your research to be presented at the meeting; and,
- letters of recommendation from 3 faculty members and/or employers who are familiar with your research.

Successful applicants will be informed by the end of February, 2010.

Where to Send Applications

For U.S. students: Anne Hoover, CLP LLC, 3901 W Riverside Avenue, Muncie IN 47304-3156, (765) 284-1584, anne_hoover@att.net.

For Canadian students: Achim Jankowski, 5534 Granville Road, Granville Ferry, Nova Scotia B0S 1K0, (902) 532-0703, achim.jankowski@ns.symptaico.ca.



A N D N O T E S

Curriculum Development for Preservation Landscape Maintenance

In September 2009, the National Center for Preservation Technology and Training (NCPTT) and the Olmsted Center for Landscape Preservation (OCLP) hosted a round table discussion at the Hampton National Historic Site in Towson, Maryland focused on identifying unmet training needs in the field of landscape preservation maintenance. Among the fifteen participants were historic site managers, grounds supervisors, cultural resource managers, landscape architects, and horticulturists from within and outside the National Park Service.

Centered on field staff training, participants identified subjects unique to landscape preservation maintenance and discussed a variety of delivery methods including face-to face, internet, video, and publications. Participants also discussed development of a curriculum that would allow individuals to complete a certificate program or take individual classes of interest. Next steps include identifying existing landscape preservation maintenance training resources, locating additional resources that can be adapted for field staff training, and developing a core curriculum. As work on the curriculum develops, we will be looking to additional organizations and historic sites for input. To hear a podcast recorded during the roundtable go to www.ncptt.nps.gov and click on Podcasts. For additional information contact Debbie Smith (debbie_smith@nps.gov).

Preserving America's Garden Legacy at the Smithsonian's Archives of American Gardens

While the Smithsonian Institution is well known for its many high-profile museums in Washington, D.C. and New York City, one of its lesser known treasures is the Archives of American Gardens (AAG). AAG collects unique images of and documentation relating to a wide variety of gardens throughout the United States

that are not documented elsewhere.

AAG offers landscape designers, historians, researchers, and garden enthusiasts access to a collection of over 80,000 photographic images and records documenting more than 6,000 gardens. The Archives, part of the Smithsonian's Horticulture Services Division which designs and manages the gardens and landscapes surrounding the Smithsonian museums in Washington, documents gardens throughout the United States from the early twentieth century to the present.

This ongoing initiative to capture garden documentation is especially critical since all gardens are subject to change, loss, and destruction. Change can go unnoticed in the benign form of maturing plantings or gradual design modifications. Calamitous destruction caused by natural disasters or sweeping land development, however, results in a far greater loss to America's garden legacy. Garden records, especially photographic records, are a valuable means of helping us restore or, more poignantly, enjoy that which cannot be rebuilt.

AAG's largest and most heavily used collection is the Garden Club of America Collection. Centered around a core collection of 3,000 glass lantern slides from the 1920s and 1930s, it continues to grow each year as GCA volunteers throughout the country document both historic and contemporary private and semi-public gardens. Other AAG collections feature the work of individual landscape architects, garden photographers and garden-related businesses.

A considerable range of garden types are represented in the Archives, everything from pocket-sized balcony gardens to enormous estates. Rose, woodland, vegetable, patio, cottage and

Italianate gardens are just a few of the types that are documented. Garden features such as furnishings, ornaments, and structures also figure prominently in the documentation. By capturing the changing trends, fads, social values, and popular traditions embodied in gardens, AAG holdings foster a better understanding of gardening's far-reaching contribution to American culture.

AAG holdings include glass lantern slides, stereographs, photographs, negatives, 35mm slides and supplemental files such as plans, planting lists and business records. In response to the proliferation of digital photography, AAG recently developed standards for born digital images intended for the archives. The policy addresses the myriad aspects of digitization including digital capture, metadata standards, and digital preservation. All are critical to ensuring that the digital images taken today will be available to researchers decades from now.

AAG welcomes researchers from all backgrounds. Over 30,000 images from the AAG collections are available online at www.siris.si.edu. These images provide an invaluable on-line resource for professionals and novices alike to use in their pursuit of studying or simply appreciating gardens and garden design. AAG images appear in numerous publications and exhibits including an American Garden Legacy traveling exhibition series sponsored by the Smithsonian.

For more information about the Archives of American Gardens as well as horticulture at the Smithsonian, go to www.gardens.si.edu.

Lotusland:

Recreating the Cypress Allée and Water Stairs

Lotusland is the 37-acre estate of the late Madame Ganna Walska, the well known operatic singer and socialite, who created a botanical display garden featuring tropical and sub-tropical exotic species. The estate, located in Santa Barbara, CA, is now owned and operated by a non-profit educational institution, which she established to carry on her work after her death in 1984.

Most visitors to Lotusland are immediately impressed by the mass plantings of dramatic plants, the exotic flora from all over the world and the arresting contrasts and sudden transitions in mood and plant material as they move from one distinct garden area to another. These are the striking signature elements of Madame Ganna Walska's inspired vision. Earlier treatments to the property, dating from 1882, are hidden or entirely obliterated today. A few historic design features remain as fragments of past owners' landscapes. One such element was designed by Mrs. E. Palmer Gavit in the early 1920s with the influential Santa Barbara landscape architect, Peter Riedel. It consisted of a long brick walkway extending south from the swimming pool and culminating at an ornamental, carved limestone wellhead. Extending at a right angle toward the east from that "wishing well," a series of fourteen basins created a water stairway that, when it was installed, fed into the large pond. This pond, originally a reservoir for irrigation water dug by R. Kinton Stevens in the late 1800s and now the central feature of Madame Walska's Japanese-style garden, had become a pleasure pond, complete with sailboat, for the Gavit family.

Photographs of this formal garden feature, published in Winifred Starr Dobyns' *California Gardens* (1931), show an allée of Italian cypress flanking the long walkway with a groundcover of ivy. The wishing well was surrounded by a dense evergreen hedge that subsequently also enclosed the flagstone paths on either side of the water stairs.



A N D N O T E S



Restored Water Staircase with recent plantings

This type of formality was typical of gardens constructed during this period. Peter Riedel had closed his nursery by 1917 and was devoting his energies to landscape design, including this project. Although the house that the Gavits built was in the Spanish style, this garden element is more reminiscent of the Italian.

Only the hardscape, paths, wellhead and water stair basins remained after Madame Walska's death, although there are images showing the cypress allée existing well into her tenure in the garden. Those pathways, the water stairs and the wellhead have now been refurbished and are accessible again. Stone paving has been added around the wishing well to provide a stable surface for visitors. Water circulates from the wishing well to the water stairs where it spills over the lips of the stepped

basins. The construction project also included replicating the original allée and hedges. While the cypress allée has much the same look and feel that it had when Mrs. Gavit commissioned it, some compromises had to be made. On the east side of the allée, Madame Walska planted an arboretum of exotic trees in the 1950s and on the west side, the visitor entrance was constructed in the early 1990s. These plantings may be glimpsed between the procession of cypresses. The stone waterfall and plantings of the Japanese garden have also replaced the more rustic look of the old pond as seen from the top of the water stairs during the Gavit era. In spite of these "modern" changes, the reconstruction once again connects the water garden and bath house to the water stairs as Mrs. Gavit envisioned.

We speculate that these formal garden spaces, with a decidedly European influence, resonated with Madame Ganna Walska, who was Polish-born and spent many years in Paris before permanently re-locating to America, so that she preserved them as she built her own gardens around them. Now that these gardens are renovated and accessible to visitors for the first time since Lotusland opened to the public, the rich history of the making of Lotusland is even more palpable.

—Virginia Hayes and Gwen Stauffer

Fort Worth Botanic Garden Listed on National Register of Historic Places

In January 2009, the Fort Worth Botanic Garden was listed on the National Register of Historic Places for its significance as a designed landscape. Specifically, its municipal rose garden was noted as a nationally significant example of the work of the renowned landscape architecture firm of Hare and Hare of Kansas City, Missouri.

N E W S



A N D N O T E S

The Fort Worth Botanic Garden had its origins as Rock Springs Park. On the advice of landscape architect George E. Kessler, the Fort Worth Board of Park Commissioners acquired 37.5 acres of a wooded tract adjacent to Trinity Park in 1912. Within a thicket of trees was a series of natural springs from which the park received its name. The park remained largely unimproved until 1929 when work began on the construction of rustic stone trails, naturalized waterfalls, and water gardens in the area around the springs. Work on this section of the park was completed in 1931.

In 1930, S. Herbert Hare developed a master plan for the park that included an elaborate municipal rose garden and long vistas cut through native stands of trees. The garden's design was inspired by Italian and French Renaissance landscapes with a shelter overlooking a rose ramp divided by terraces and a water cascade, parterres, and a large pond. Park officials believed it would take decades to complete the plan due to its ambitious scope. But an innovative partnership between the park board, Tarrant County, and the local Reconstruction Finance Corporation (RFC) resulted in its completion in nine months. Men employed through the RFC built the garden using 4,000 tons of Palo Pinto sandstone. This beautiful reddish-

brown stone was used for architectural features such as the overlook shelter, the rose ramp and water cascade as well as a colonnade that connected the rose ramp and parterres with an oval rose garden to the north. From February to October 1933, approximately 750 men worked on this project. Because there were so many men on the relief rolls, they were limited to working two days a week in shifts of 40 to 50 men. But many of the workers became so enamored with the project they worked some days without compensation.

The garden was dedicated on October 15, 1933 but it was not until the following spring that it was actually planted with roses. Even without roses, the garden was an immediate sensation in Fort Worth and received nationwide attention. But Hare's concept for Rock Springs Park included other elements besides the water gardens in the Rock Springs area and the municipal rose

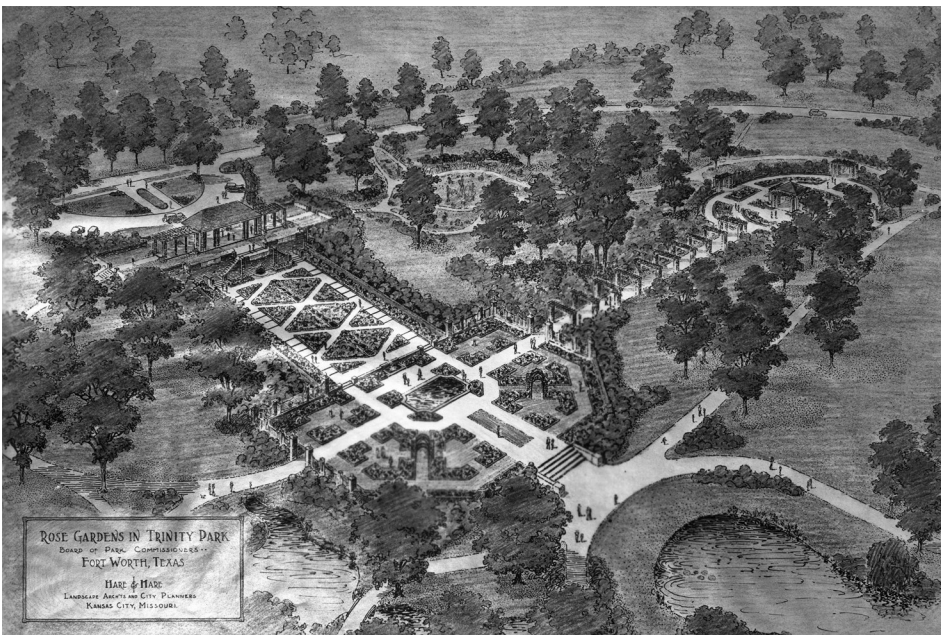
garden and the park board continued to build on the park's success. Through other New Deal programs, the Horticulture Building was completed in 1934 and the Cactus Garden (now the Perennial Garden) was completed in 1935. The park board voted to change the park's name to the Fort Worth Botanic Garden in December 1934 in recognition of its expanding scope as an "outdoor learning library" of plant life.



Rose Ramp as it appears today

In 1954, acreage was acquired north of the rose garden. Hare's design for this area consisted of a horseshoe-shaped sidewalk lined with ten graceful live oak trees. Hare included another vista between the arms of the horseshoe, a design element for which he was widely known.

Today's Fort Worth Botanic Garden contains 109 acres. But the historic core of the garden, particularly its municipal rose garden, remains a place of special beauty. Hopefully its listing on the National Register will once again bring it wide acclaim.



1933 Hare & Hare drawing of the Rose Garden (Courtesy of the Fort Worth Parks and Community Services Department.)

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Quercus Süber, 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, US: Nancy Brown, 8A East Oak St., Alexandria, VA 22301 or CAN: Wendy Shearer, 173 Woolwich St. Ste 202, Guelph, Ontario NIH 3V4.

Membership Information *(as you would like it to appear in the directory)*

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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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