

VIEW

SUMMER 2007
NUMBER 7

FROM THE LIBRARY OF AMERICAN LANDSCAPE HISTORY



VIEW FROM THE DIRECTOR'S OFFICE

Dear LALH Supporters and Friends,

It is a pleasure to write to you again with news from LALH. We are celebrating our fifteenth anniversary, and I'm happy to report that after a decade and a half of publishing and organizing exhibitions, we are going strong. This year we add five new books to our roster of publications—*A World of Her Own Making*, *Mission 66*, *Silent City on a Hill*, *Book of Landscape Gardening*, and *A Genius for Place*. To cover all these projects—as well as a bit of history—*VIEW* 2007 is bigger than ever.

Lead stories in this issue describe Ethan Carr's new book *Mission 66* and our reprint of Frank Waugh's *Book of Landscape Gardening*. Carr also contributes a thought-provoking essay about recent developments at the National Park Service and what we've learned in the years since *Mission 66* was launched. Reid Bertone-Johnson, coordinator of the Warren Manning Research Project, describes new findings about the utopian-community-turned-company-town of Hopedale, Massachusetts, and recent preservation at Wilcox Park in Westerly, Rhode Island. Jane Roy Brown, director of educational outreach, offers profiles of three "local heroes," preservation advocates who have made lasting differences in their communities assisted by research in LALH books. Jane also provides an update on Longue Vue, where post-Katrina conditions continue to pose great challenges in the Ellen Shipman-designed landscape. For a retrospective view of LALH, we collected photographs from our files.

LALH is growing behind the scenes, too, having added three new board members since I last wrote to you: John K. Notz, retired lawyer, preservation advocate, and former treasurer of the Society of Architectural Historians, from Chicago; landscape architect and park historian Ethan Carr, Department of Architecture and Landscape Architecture, University of Virginia; and Natalie Shivers, associate University Architect, Princeton University, formerly architect and project director with the National Trust for Historic Preservation. We are also very pleased to announce the addition of James van Sweden, Washington, D.C., one of the twentieth century's most influential landscape architects, to our roster of advisers.

We're very grateful to our growing numbers of donors—thank you for helping us in our important work! LALH is a publicly supported charity, and we depend on you to continue to fulfill our mission.



Robin Karson speaking in Fletcher Steele's Camden (Maine) Library Amphitheater. Photo by Carol Betsch, 2006

Please help us celebrate our anniversary by making a tax-deductible contribution

LALH books, exhibitions, our website, and *VIEW* educate people throughout North America about the meaning and value of historic landscapes—from gardens, campuses, parks, cemeteries, and planned communities to entire towns. Since 1992, LALH has been publishing engaging and beautiful books that promote thoughtful stewardship of the land.

Sincerely,

Robin Karson
Executive Director

LALH
*Celebrating
Fifteen Years*

LIBRARY OF AMERICAN LANDSCAPE HISTORY, a not-for-profit corporation, produces books and exhibitions about North American landscapes. Our mission is to educate and thereby promote thoughtful stewardship of the land.

VIEW is published annually and posted on our website, www.lalh.org.
ISSN 1550-5545. Circulation 20,000

LALH is a publicly supported, charitable organization with 501(c)(3) status. Your gifts support the LALH publishing program. Donations to LALH are tax deductible to the extent permitted by law. We gratefully accept gifts of appreciated stock. Please call for information (413) 549-4860.

Cover: View to the Holyoke Range through cornfields in Hadley, Mass.
Photo by Carol Betsch, 2007.

P.O. Box 1323
Amherst, MA
01004-1323

(413) 549-4860
(413) 549-3961 fax
info@lalh.org

LALH Staff

Robin Karson
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

Jane Roy Brown
DIRECTOR OF
EDUCATIONAL OUTREACH

Neil Brigham
OFFICE MANAGER

Reid Bertone-Johnson
COORDINATOR OF
THE WARREN MANNING
RESEARCH PROJECT

Mackenzie Greer
INCOMING COORDINATOR OF
THE WARREN MANNING
RESEARCH PROJECT

Consulting Editors

Mary Bellino, South Hadley, Mass.
Carol Betsch, Amherst, Mass.
Joel Ray, Ithaca, N.Y.

Consulting Designers

Linda Florio, New York, N.Y.
Jonathan Lippincott, New York, N.Y.
VIEW graphic design: Florio Design,
New York, N.Y.



Mission 66: A Billion-Dollar Remaking of America's Parks

BY ROBIN KARSON

A new LALH book by Ethan Carr analyzes the scope and impact of Mission 66, a controversial National Park Service initiative that involved planning and architecture, as well as landscape architecture. Begun in 1956 and timed to conclude with the fiftieth anniversary of the founding of the National Park Service ten years later, Mission 66 was named with an almost military sense of purpose.

The impetus behind the program was the deteriorating condition of America's national parks—a combined result of deferred maintenance and unprecedented numbers of visitors in the boom years that followed World War II. Additionally, the parks were no longer receiving assistance from the Civilian Conservation Corps (CCC), the Public Works Administration (PWA), and other New Deal programs that had been abolished during the war, a circumstance that proved crippling.



Conrad Wirth (seated, left) with Mission 66 planners, 1956. NPS Historic Photo Collection.

As millions of visitors flocked to the parks in the automobile culture that flourished after the war, they were met with bumper-to-bumper traffic, jammed parking lots, and long lines at concessions and restrooms, situations that undermined almost every aspect of their wilderness experience. Magazines had begun to feature articles with titles such as “National Parks: Tomorrow’s Slums?” and “Twenty-four Million Acres of Trouble.” *Mission 66* author Ethan Carr points out that it was not just the parks that suffered—it was also the public sense of their meaning and purpose. As he notes, “The degradation of the experience eroded the national park idea itself.”

Inspired by the vision and purpose of the NPS founders—including Frederick Law Olmsted Jr., whose father had set the national park idea in motion with his 1865 report on Yosemite Valley—Park Service director Conrad “Connie” Wirth proposed a far-reaching plan that would expand as well as rehabilitate the aging system. Wirth first came to work for the Service in 1931 as the

agency’s “chief land planner” on the recommendation of Olmsted Jr., who had greatly admired Wirth’s father, Theodore, the director of the extensive Minneapolis park system laid out by H. W. S. Cleveland. Too, Wirth’s own training at Massachusetts Agricultural College with Frank A. Waugh had instilled in him a deeply rooted sense of professional purpose. Wirth pitched what was essentially a major new public works program in the years after the Korean War, when the economy was sluggish, and President Eisenhower approved it in every detail, including the approximately one-billion-dollar budget.

The Mission 66 prospectus covered more than one hundred visitor centers, expanded campgrounds, innumerable comfort stations, new and wider roads, parking lots, maintenance buildings, and hundreds of new employee residences. Under the auspices of the program, the park system also acquired hundreds of thousands of acres of new parklands, and it adopted higher standards for utilities and sanitation. Uniforms were modernized. The arrowhead logo became a ubiquitous symbol of the initiative.

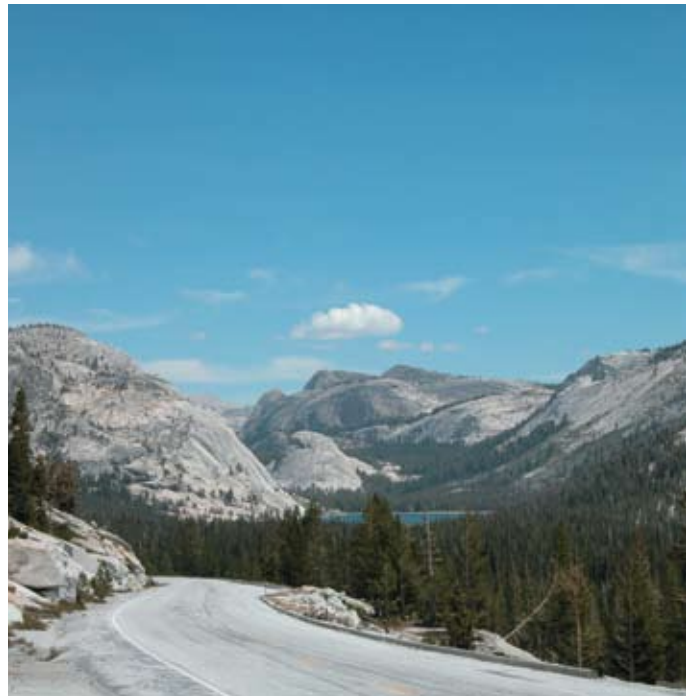
Carr’s study illuminates the thinking behind many features of the program, including the now-familiar visitor center, which was an invention of the Mission 66 architects who found design inspiration in the new shopping centers of the time. Despite their modernist trappings, these buildings were manifestations of the same philosophies and purposes that had guided the rustic “parkitecture” of the 1920s and 1930s. Still, their sleek lines and industrial materials shocked many visitors, and a public outcry erupted.



Tioga Road congestion in the early 1950s Yosemite National Park. NPS Historic Photo Collection.

There were other negative responses to the program. By the 1960s, ecological awareness was growing, and with it concern about the preservation of American wilderness. The far-ranging construction projects of Mission 66, particularly new roads and road improvements, seemed to many Americans a threat to wilderness that was held in public trust. Mission 66 projects were not only dramatically altering some scenic landscapes, they were greatly increasing public access to them. An intense debate about wilderness ensued—how it was to be defined, designated, and protected. At the heart of this conflict was a profound disagreement over the purposes of America’s national parks.

Among the wilderness advocates enflamed by the program’s construction plans was the landscape photographer Ansel Adams, who spoke out passionately against a signal Mission 66 project, the widening of Tioga Road in Yosemite. A battle developed that was taken up by the Sierra Club, transforming the non-profit organization from a hiking club to a major player in the modern environmental



Tioga Road, approaching Tenaya Lake, Yosemite National Park. Photo by Ethan Carr.



Flamingo Visitor Center, Everglades National Park, designed 1956–57. NPS Photo by Jack Boucher.

movement. The Wilderness Preservation Act passed in 1964 was another ironic legacy of Mission 66.

As a result of the mounting opposition and resulting negative publicity, Wirth stepped down from his post in 1964, two years before

the program was to have been completed. But many of the Mission 66 projects had been implemented by then, and these had, in fact, vastly improved park experiences for millions of visitors. In significant respects, the program transformed the national parks into the system we know and use today.

In *Mission 66*, Carr argues that the founding fathers of the National Park Service were, first and foremost, motivated to provide scenic enjoyment to all Americans. These men believed that contact with nature was vitally important to the health of individuals and, by extension, the nation. Carr sees a continuation of this mission in the actions of the second wave of park development progenitors—Wirth, his chief landscape architect Thomas C. Vint, and the other protagonists in the Mission 66 story—individuals who were con-

vinced that their own actions were in keeping with the wishes of Olmsted Jr., Stephen Mather, and the other Park Service founders.

At the present moment of crisis, deferred maintenance, overuse, and abuse once again threaten the integrity of this great national resource. We're hopeful that the sophisticated analysis in Carr's book can help guide future planning initiatives that will take into account the philosophical dilemma of maintaining both the National Park idea and the reality—a charge that encompasses protecting scenic resources as well as making them accessible to millions of visitors. "The story of Mission 66 is a reminder that the parks are reservoirs of national identity, history, and imagination as well as ecosystems," Carr writes. "Their vast symbolic power has been constant but has also constantly shifted in meaning."

Mission 66: What a Historic National Park Development Program Implies about National Park Stewardship Today

BY ETHAN CARR

As the 100th anniversary of the National Park Service in 2016 rapidly approaches, the national parks face the same amalgam of heavy use, underfunding, and need for expansion of the system that catalyzed Mission 66 a half century ago. In recognition of the historical parallel, the NPS recently launched the Centennial Challenge, an effort supported by the National Parks Conservation Association and other advocates, intended once again to encourage Congress to meet its obligations

to the national parks. Park Service officials have invoked Mission 66 as their inspiration, and they have suggested that the Centennial Challenge is comparable in its scope and purpose.

While any effort to increase national park funding must be welcomed and endorsed, a comparison between the Centennial Challenge and Mission 66 highlights important differences. Described as a ten-year, three-billion-dollar program, the Centennial



Overlook shelter, Cape Cod National Seashore. Photo by Ethan Carr.

Challenge is actually counting hundreds of millions of dollars in private donations—one-third of the total cost—in that figure. And the value of the dollar has shrunk since the 1950s. It would take more than seven billion dollars, by one estimate, to equal the one billion spent through Mission 66. The number of parks in the system has also more than doubled since 1966, the number of visitors has vastly increased, and mandated administrative and legal tasks have proliferated. Finally, because park operations budgets have actually decreased, especially over the past several years, the entire Centennial Challenge may not even make up for recent cutbacks, much less prepare the parks for the next century.

Mission 66 was carefully planned for a year prior to its launch, and the program completely mobilized park staff and superintendents, who drew up redevelopment plans and budget estimates for projects in virtually every park of the system. NPS director Conrad Wirth, who was a trained landscape architect, conceived of the entire effort and supervised it in every detail. His credibility as a longtime Park Service administrator was



Clingman's Dome Observation Tower, Great Smokey Mountains National Park. NPS Photo by Jack Boucher.



Yosemite Valley. Photo by Ethan Carr.

vital to the program's acceptance on Capitol Hill. Mission 66 planning studies, which often built on Park Service plans begun in the 1930s, indicated the need for extensive acquisitions of recreation areas, seashores, and historic sites. Many of these expansions were accomplished under Mission 66 and later (after Wirth's retirement) under George B. Hartzog Jr. The Centennial Challenge has not yet benefited from anything like such comprehensive planning, and the proposed appropriations that would be involved—although they would be a welcome change from six years of flat or declining budgets—could not possibly cover a comparable remaking and expansion of the park system.

There is a cycle in the history of federal investment in the national park system that implies an obligation on the part of each gener-



Quarry Visitor Center, Dinosaur National Monument, designed 1958. NPS Historic Photo Collection.

ation of Americans and their elected officials. Many Mission 66 facilities are now deteriorating, even as more people are demanding increasingly diverse recreational opportunities. As in the mid-1950s, a system-wide expansion and redevelopment is overdue. The need for a generational investment of capital is a major factor in what the Park Service prosaically describes as its “deferred maintenance backlog,” estimated in the billions of dollars and growing every year. But the problem is not deferred maintenance. It is far more serious: an entire generation is failing to meet its obligation to demand and secure adequate funding for the national park system.

Above all, what Mission 66 reminded Americans was that the federal government has a profound responsibility—one that needs to be backed up by government appropriations, not just private donations—to preserve the most significant examples of the nation's natural and cultural resources in ways that allow the public to appreciate their significance without destroying them. The success of that program was not that it built so much infrastructure (critics charged that it built *too* much), but that it permanently raised federal spending per park, reflecting the increased use the parks were experiencing and the ever more complex task of preserving them.

This is the kind of shift in perception that is needed today. But many seem to have concluded that public funds are no longer as necessary as they were in the past. Even the

Park Service suggests that we need to rely more on partnerships with private nonprofit organizations to fund the construction of new visitor centers and the rehabilitation of park landscapes. No one who has witnessed the renaissance and restoration of New York's Central Park over the last twenty-five years would argue that such partnerships are not a good thing. But the aid of partnership organizations must never be allowed to obviate the duties of governments to their park systems and to the public. The national parks are a public trust; if their continued viability now requires a cyclical payment, Congress must loosen its purse strings.

We are in danger of losing the conviction that our national parks benefit all Americans, not just park visitors or the private organizations that collaborate in their management. Unique repositories of biology, scenery, history, and national identity, the national parks are resources that belong to the public at large, and thus have a legitimate claim on the general treasury in proportion to the requirements of their maintenance. Frederick Law Olmsted said as much in 1865, not about Central Park but about Yosemite Valley. He insisted that the preservation of such areas “for the free enjoyment of the people” was necessary not only to the health of individuals but for the well-being of society as a whole. As such, it was not just a nice idea but, in fact, “a political duty” of government. The new Congress needs to be reminded of this in time for 2016—and maybe the rest of us do as well.

Book of Landscape Gardening: A New Volume in the ASLA Centennial Reprint Series

BY ROBIN KARSON

National Park Service director Conrad Wirth, who had been one of Frank A. Waugh's most talented students, recalled that his teacher believed "that man-made landscape developments, to be successful, must meet the needs of the people and that the natural elements were a part of these needs." This Olmstedian notion was shared by other of Waugh's students at Massachusetts Agricultural College—now the University of Massachusetts Amherst—where Waugh founded one of the nation's first programs in landscape architecture in 1902. Waugh's well-known pupils included A. D. Taylor, prominent designer and author of *The Complete Garden* (1921); Stephen Hamblin, who taught at Harvard and became director of the botanical garden there; John Noyes, chief landscape architect of the Missouri Botanical Garden in St. Louis; Earle Draper, prominent planner of subdivisions, campuses, cemeteries, and parks; and John W. Gregg, director of the landscape architecture program at University of California, Berkeley.

In addition to being a great educator, Waugh was also a prolific writer—author of more than three hundred articles, pamphlets, and circulars, and twenty books on a wide range of topics. His most widely read work was *Book of Landscape Gardening*, first published in 1899 and issued in two subsequent editions in 1912 and 1926. Waugh's book is being reprinted by LALH with a new introduction by Linda Flint McClelland—a graduate of the program

Waugh founded—as the seventh volume in the American Society of Landscape Architects Centennial Reprint Series. McClelland sees in Waugh's life's work unswerving advocacy for consideration of "the whole outlook," as he put it, "the country landscape with all its hills, valleys, streams, lakes, forests, and cultivated fields—a commodity which . . . is of the very greatest importance to all our civilization."

McClelland's essay illuminates Waugh's philosophic perspectives and also his background, from his childhood in McPherson, Kansas, to his undergraduate years at Kansas State Agricultural College to his teaching in Amherst, as well as his wide-ranging talents. In addition to being a landscape architect, Waugh was an accomplished photographer, printmaker, and flutist, and sometimes he used these media in his teaching. He liked to demonstrate the musical quality of water, for example, by playing his flute beside rushing streams. In Waugh's view, the landscape architect was first and foremost an artist "capable of seeing, feeling, and understanding . . . the beauties of the landscape, and capable, too, of interpreting these beauties to others."

Despite Waugh's romantic ideas about the transformative effects of such beauty, he was also a realist, a passionate advocate of land use planning in an era of explosive development. For many years he served as a consultant to the U.S. Forestry Service, where he advised on



Frank Waugh cultivating his vegetable garden. From *Textbook of Landscape Gardening* (1922).

the design of roads, campgrounds, headquarters sites, trails, and viewing points. Waugh's 1935 *Landscape Conservation: Planning for the Restoration, Conservation, and Utilization of Wild Lands for Parks and Forests* reflected the insights he gained through ecological studies conducted in the late 1920s. It was later republished as a training manual for the Civilian Conservation Corps.

Over the course of his long career, Waugh published on subjects that ranged from pomology, horticulture, and planning to forestry and design. Like many of his colleagues (including Wilhelm Miller, born the same year, 1869, and author of *Prairie Spirit in Landscape Gardening*), Waugh felt that it was his duty to teach new American homeowners how to make their properties orderly and attractive through the application of sound landscape principles. This was the impetus behind his *Book of Landscape Gardening*, which in its final edition included many of Waugh's own photographs, of tree-lined streets in Amherst, the royal palace at Koblenz on the Rhine, and new gardens in California.

McClelland's essay traces the changes made in each new edition of the book, noting Waugh's shift in emphasis from village improvement and country planning toward the promotion of scenic conservation. Aiming the last edition at the widest possible audience, Waugh wove in diverse inspirational epigraphs, including passages by O. C. Simonds (whose 1920 book *Landscape-Gardening* covered some of the same topics) and verses by the Chinese poet T'ao Ch'ien. Among the many books that Waugh produced over the course of his richly productive life, *Book of Landscape Gardening* was his most comprehensive statement on the art of landscape architecture. McClelland's introduction provides an engaging overview of this important work and also offers an extensive bibliography of Waugh's writings—the first such compendium. Her new scholarship provides much-needed information about one of the profession's great teachers and preservation advocates.



Campus pond, University of Massachusetts Amherst, featured in Olmsted's plan and implemented by Waugh. Photo by Carol Betsch, 2007.

Longue Vue: Renewing a Shipman Landscape

BY JANE ROY BROWN

Two years after Hurricane Katrina blasted the Gulf Coast, residents find themselves in a landscape transfigured by the storm. Where winds and brackish floodwater claimed thousands of trees and other plants, the losses have spawned new microclimates and ecologies, as sun now blazes into spaces once sheltered by leafy canopies. Although such changes have reshaped private yards, public parks, and streetscapes alike, historic landscapes, such as that of Longue Vue House & Gardens in New Orleans, pose special recovery challenges.

“Nature is resilient,” says Bonnie Goldblum, the property’s executive director. “It will come back in some places as it was before, and in some cases people are rethinking how the landscape should be changed to better withstand flooding.” But while those who own or manage more contemporary gardens are considering introducing flood-tolerant plants, “we at Longue Vue also have to protect and restore a historic landscape,” she says.



Spanish Court, Longue Vue. Courtesy Longue Vue House & Gardens.

Only months before Katrina struck, Goldblum had just finished a multiyear, \$4-million landscape restoration of this eight-acre urban estate created by architects William and Geoffrey Platt, landscape architect Ellen Shipman, and horticulturist Caroline Dormon between 1939 and 1942. The project was orchestrated by Heritage Landscapes, a national firm specializing in historic properties. (LALH Executive Director Robin Karson contributed to the historic landscape report that helped guide the work.) The project had returned most of the estate’s eleven garden rooms to their original Shipman plans, and the U.S. Department of the Interior had designated Longue Vue a National Historic Landmark, in part because it contained Shipman’s most intact surviving work—that is, until September 2005. Although damage was widespread, the Wild Garden, the Canal Garden, the Walled Garden, and the Spanish Court, all on the property’s south side, took the brunt of the storm. “Prior to Katrina we were in maintenance and conservation mode. Now we’re rebuilding, and we have double the tasks,” Goldblum says, ticking through a list of projects that includes replacing the sod in the Oak Lawn, which perished under brackish floodwater and has



Pigeonnaire in Wild Garden, Longue Vue. Courtesy Longue Vue House & Gardens.

been overtaken by weeds. “It takes a tremendous amount of physical labor and resources.”

Poses of volunteers from local garden clubs and church groups, the Garden Club of Atlanta, and the Garden Conservancy, among other organizations, have lent hundreds of helping hands. The past year’s achievements include stabilizing the damaged irrigation system and replanting major trees and shrubs in the Wild Garden and the boxwood parterres in the Spanish Court. “The boxwoods are the major accomplishment,” says Goldblum. “We put in about eight hundred.”

The Garden Conservancy, Heritage Landscapes, and Longue Vue have created a historic landscape–renewal plan that addresses post-Katrina restoration and recapturing Shipman’s tree tracery, texture, and palette. The renewal is based on Shipman’s original plan and design intent, the historic-landscape plans done in the 1990s by Heritage Landscapes, and Shipman documents recently uncovered at Longue Vue. Together they show the design as it existed in the mid-nineties and today, as well as changes that have taken place over the decades. The project focuses on replacing and caring for trees, understory shrubs, and ground covers; restoring views; and reintroducing the original grading in the Wild Garden.

Shipman’s plantings were not always suited to the New Orleans climate. As they see what fared poorly in the wake of the flood, the landscape-renewal team has tried to find alternative plants that fit the design intent and maintain the integrity that earned National Historic Landmark status. The Wild Garden, which is home to native plants, will be given a freer rein than the formal gardens. “We just have to allow nature time to determine what will renew and what really has died,” Goldblum observes. “With certain trees missing, other indigenous plants are coming into their own. We have replaced many things, but the biggest challenge is still the unplanted areas where we need to put in temporary trees for shade.”

Meanwhile, in a city starved for greenery, local visitors are returning, and Goldblum notes that they are using the grounds more contemplatively now than in the past, when they came mainly for structured activities such as the annual Easter egg hunt. “I think residents are yearning for green, relaxing outdoor space, and the gardens were a little intimidating in their manicured state,” she says. “Now it’s as though they’re more accessible.”

For more information about Shipman, see *The Gardens of Ellen Biddle Shipman* (Sagapress in association with LALH, 1996) at www.lalh.org. To track progress or find out how to help at Longue Vue, visit www.longuevue.com.

Realizing Warren Manning's Vision for Wilcox Park

BY REID BERTONE-JOHNSON

Set on fourteen acres in the heart of downtown Westerly, Rhode Island, Wilcox Park offers visitors an opportunity to experience one of the great park landscapes designed by Warren H. Manning (1860–1938). A broad, shallow basin with an open meadow in the center, the park is defined by high stone walls and a generous border of coniferous and broad-leaved evergreen trees and shrubs surrounding to the north, east, and west. A formal terrace provides a dramatic gateway from the south. The combination of topography, vegetation, and strong architectural features envelop visitors as they enter, shielding them from the commotion of the town beyond. Wilcox Park is a rare gem: Manning's park designs represented less than 12 percent of his work, and Wilcox Park is one of the very few that have survived with its spatial integrity intact.

Since the park's construction in 1904, the Memorial and Library Association of Westerly have been its owners and administrators, maintaining as well records of its rich history—documents that have provided an important resource for subsequent preservation efforts. For park manager Alan Peck the benefits of being part of a larger organization are significant: “The library serves as a safe depository for all of the original park documents and provides vast resources including its website, staff, and indoor spaces for park functions.” Kathryn Taylor, director of the association, notes the vibrant involvement of the Westerly community, whose efforts range from “picking up trash to raising hundreds of thousands of dollars to fund the restoration currently under way.” She also points with pride to the very active group of seasonal volunteers who help maintain the gardens.

Built in memory of Stephen Wilcox, inventor of the water tube steam boiler, Wilcox Park embodies the civic-minded philanthropy that led to its creation. Manning was hired in 1899 to design the park on a parcel of approximately seven acres, and he revised the plans in 1903. Construction began the following year. During Manning's tenure, he worked within the boundaries of the original seven-acre parcel, but he encouraged the association to acquire adjoining land to allow the natural topography of the bowl to define the park's perimeter. In 1905 the association was able to purchase the additional seven acres, and Manning's concept was laid out by Frank Hamilton, a local landscape architect.

There have been subsequent alterations to the design. In 1924 Arthur Shurcliff, who, like Manning, got his start as an Olmsted assistant,

redesigned the formal terrace along the southern edge to align with the newly constructed town hall. In 1937 Shurcliff designed a war memorial sited on the eastern edge. After the great hurricane of 1938 downed more than one hundred mature trees in the park, the association had them replanted according to the original plans, mostly the native species preferred by Manning. In the 1960s and 1970s, the association added an arboretum-quality collection of trees and shrubs. Although Wilcox Park now represents many layers of history and stylistic differences, Sandra Jaquay-Wilson, an LALH researcher for the Manning Project, notes that “Manning's design intent, to provide a jewel of a park in the city center, is very well preserved and the park continues to be a beautiful and elegant site.”



Wilcox Park, meadow view. Historic photo courtesy of Elmore Design Collaborative.

Wilcox Park is widely recognized by both national and international organizations as a significant historic designed landscape. It was placed on the National Register of Historic Places in 1973 and in 1999 received a Centennial Medallion Award from the American Society of Landscape Architects. The park was also nominated as a Great Public Space by the Project for Public Spaces and in 2004 was named a “nationally significant” property on the National Register of Historic Places, a designation that qualifies the park for federal funds.

The National Park Service and the National Trust for Historic Preservation recently honored Wilcox Park with a “Save America's Treasures” grant that was matched by The Champlin Foundations. A capital campaign has set a goal of an additional \$7,000,000 for



Wilcox Park, meadow, surrounded by a large variety of rare and native trees. Photo by Reid Bertone-Johnson.

LOCAL HEROES
Three Activists Help Preserve
Designed Landscapes

BY JANE ROY BROWN

The Champion of Venice

In Torrington, Connecticut, in the 1940s and '50s, "you could walk to everything," Betty Intagliata recalls of her childhood. Intagliata, a retired teacher and businesswoman, now mourns this vanished ideal of American towns and cities, many of which have lost downtown stores and services to suburban malls. That was among the reasons that Betty and her husband, Paul, who now live in Venice, Florida, have fought to preserve the intimate scale and layout of their adopted hometown.



Betty and Paul Intagliata at the Venice train depot. Courtesy Betty Intagliata.

Intagliata, who had formerly served on the Manchester, Connecticut, city council, immersed herself in the community after moving to Venice in 1981. It began when, as local business owners, the Intagliatas became active in the downtown merchants' association. As president, Betty successfully pressed city officials to apply for the Florida Main Street Program. Spawned by the National Trust for Historic Preservation, Main Street programs stress historic preservation as a cornerstone of economic redevelopment. "The idea was to attract residents downtown, so that businesses could compete with the malls," she says. Paul Intagliata served as Venice Main Street's first president.

Increasingly drawn to historic preservation, Intagliata served on, and later chaired, the Venice Historical Commission (now the Historic Preservation Board), an advisory board to the city council. During her fifteen years on the commission, she worked on wide-ranging projects, including overseeing the production



Stone bridge in Wilcox Park, designed by Manning, 1905. Historic photo courtesy of Elmore Design Collaborative.

improvements to both the library and the park. These include replacing about 90 percent of the park's walkways, re-pointing a Manning-designed footbridge and sections of original stone wall, re-creating lighting fixtures, restoring the fish pond added by Frank Hamilton in 1908, and installing a new irrigation system, with the fish pond as reservoir. In 2004 John Copley & Associates completed a master plan for the park which was recognized with a Merit Award from the Boston Society of Landscape Architects.

Under the direction of Elmore Design Collaborative, the Memorial and Library Association has begun to reestablish historically appropriate shrubs and trees and to maintain existing plantings with a focus on restoring historic views into and within Wilcox Park. President Tom Elmore observes, "The Association has done a wonderful job over the years of preserving the integrity of Wilcox Park. While changes have occurred, the park's significance and historic integrity have always been understood and been well respected. . . . Several historic and current designers have placed their handprint on this park but always with respect to Manning's initial design ideas and considerations."



Looking toward Venice Public Beach. Photo by Robin Karson.

of an award-winning video about the history of Venice. In the process she learned more about John Nolen (1869–1937), one of the country’s first town and city planners, who had laid out Venice in the 1920s. The beachside city embodied the planning precepts outlined in Nolen’s book *New Towns for Old* (1927). Its compact urban center provided efficient circulation and views to fields and beaches. Abundant parks, a centrally located train depot, varied housing, and street-level stores created mixed-income neighborhoods where people could walk to shops and services.

Intagliata helped found the Venice Area Historical Society in 1990, serving as its first (and current) president. Meanwhile, a population boom was pushing Venice beyond its historical boundaries. In 2005, as public debate about the city’s growth intensified, the historical society bought copies of the new LALH edition of *New Towns for Old* and distributed them to city officials, along with literature about New Urbanism—a planning movement that advocates pedestrian-friendly downtowns and other principles espoused by Nolen. “I feel that education of both the citizens and their elected officials is the key to changing how to deal with growth,” Intagliata says.

She also wrote grants to fund public lectures by Nolen scholars Bruce Stephenson and Charles D. Warren (author of the new introduction to the LALH reprint), who spoke to packed halls. In February 2007, Intagliata organized a seminar on New Urbanism that drew more than a hundred people, including city and county officials. The historical society also supported the nomination of Nolen’s Venice plan to the National Register of Historic Places.

Far from winding down, Intagliata has shifted her formidable energies to the county level. Having recently wrapped up a two-year stint as chair of the Historic Preservation Coalition of Sarasota County, which unites twenty-one preservation organizations, she now sits on the Sarasota County Historical Commission and helped organize the May 2007 statewide conference of the Florida Trust for Historic Preservation. “Of course,” she says, “I lined up a speaker on Nolen.”

Hannibal’s Park Protector

“A friend once told me that if you don’t do politics, politics does you,” says Wells Pettibone, reflecting on his efforts to protect Riverview Park, a picturesque preserve of trees, paths, and winding carriage roads on a bluff overlooking the Mississippi River in Hannibal, Missouri.

Pettibone, a Hannibal native who works as a financial consultant in this city of 18,000, had no desire to wade into local politics when he started serving on the board of trustees for the city parks and recreation department. But when public works officials announced



Riverview Park. Photo by Georgia Degitz.

their plans to erect a 30-foot-high water tank on land they owned inside the park, he spoke out. Pettibone, whose ancestor W. B. Pettibone gave the park to the city in 1909, viewed it as an important part of Hannibal’s history and culture.

One of his first steps was to challenge the city’s legal right to build the water tank. Although a judge ruled in favor of the city, Pettibone’s research revealed that Riverview had been created by Ossian Cole (O. C.) Simonds (1855–1931), a landscape architect associated with the Prairie Style, whose most famous design is Graceland Cemetery in Chicago.

Through the Internet, Pettibone discovered the LALH reprint of Simonds’s book *Landscape-Gardening* (1920), bought a copy, and used it to substantiate the park’s historical importance. A few years later, in 2006, this lineage propelled the park’s successful nomination to the National Register of Historic Places, an effort steered by Pettibone and other supporters.

Since then, the city parks and recreation department has removed incongruous fencing and several trees that blocked views in one of the bluff-top overlooks. “Walls will be replaced with stone that fits in with the historical park, and roads will be repaired and resurfaced with earth-toned gravel to keep the rustic look,” reports Chris Atkinson, the current director of parks and recreation. New plantings will help screen the water tanks.

During the contentious debate about the water tanks, members of the parks department and board of trustees received some valuable public feedback that has stimulated new projects, such as improving connections among Hannibal’s parks, says Pettibone. The parks board is now planning a bike and pedestrian trail linking parks throughout the city, making them more accessible. New trails also will lead from Riverview Park to the downtown historic district and the Mark Twain Home—the most famous attraction in the city where the author was born. Riverview Park has also reclaimed several acres of land formerly occupied by storage sheds, and the site will soon be converted into a picnic area.

“The trustees and parks officials now view the park as having a level of historical integrity that requires protection and restoration,” says Pettibone. “We’re looking into other preservation projects at Riverview, and we’ll pursue them with a careful eye to preserving Simonds’s design intent.”

The growing awareness of historic landscapes and the importance of parks in general comes at a time when Hannibal is trying to expand the role of historical tourism in the local economy.



Wells Pettibone, Riverview Park. Courtesy Wells Pettibone.

In this new, optimistic atmosphere, Pettibone says, Riverview Park's National Register listing and the positive changes flowing from it not only are pleasing from the standpoints of aesthetics and recreation, "they're good for business."

The Detective of Union Park Gardens

When Adele Meehan moved from Philadelphia to Union Park Gardens, a World War I-era suburb of Wilmington, Delaware, eleven years ago, she was immediately smitten with the neighborhood. Its houses—small by today's standards but well built and evocative of their period—lined curving streets shaded by mature trees. Meehan soon found herself immersed in the life of her new community, taking an active role in the neighborhood association, editing its newsletter, and later becoming the president.



Adele Meehan at Union Park Gardens. Courtesy Adele Meehan.

About five years ago these volunteer projects led her to investigate the community's origins. She learned that John Nolen, the same early-twentieth-century planner who designed Venice, Florida, laid out Union Park Gardens to house shipyard workers during World War I. Housing was scarce at the time, because construction labor had been diverted into wartime industries. Nolen appealed to the federal government to fund most of the project, linking it directly

to the war effort: "You can't man the works unless you house the man," he wrote in his 1918 report to the Wilmington Chamber of Commerce.

Meehan's attraction to Nolen's ideas drew her into the stacks of libraries and archives, chasing clues. "It's so exciting when you find something new—like going into old city directories and discovering what the first residents of Union Park Gardens did for a living," she says. She eventually stumbled upon a rare original copy of the 1927 edition of Nolen's *New Towns for Old*, which contained a chapter on Union Park Gardens. As Betty Intagliata had done in Venice, Meehan ordered a copy of the 2005 LALH reprint edition.

Meehan has found little published locally about her community. For that reason, and because Union Park Gardens has no official recognition of its historical significance, she wants to make its history public, so residents will preserve its character. To that end she helped organize a 2005 symposium and tour of Union Park Gardens and another neighboring Nolen-designed community from the same period, featuring a lecture by Charles Warren. In preparation, she spent months creating displays chronicling Union Park Gardens' development. The symposium, which brought together state and city officials, residents, scholars, and students, garnered media coverage. She has since helped organize other events, using the community to spotlight Nolen's national importance and current relevance.

"What I did for the first event has exposed Union Park Gardens to the rest of the city, the state, and people who live in other historical neighborhoods," Meehan says. A year after the 2005 symposium, the Delaware-Maryland Chapter of the American Planning Association (APA) arranged a tour of Union Park Gardens during its annual meeting. The 2007 national APA conference in neighboring Philadelphia also featured a tour of the community.

Meehan's current goal is to attain official historic preservation status. Recently she attended an educational meeting organized by state preservation officials, which instilled a renewed sense of purpose. "It's key to teach residents, contractors, developers—even people who sell home supplies—to be aware of preserving the period of a house," she says. "And to get funding and recognition, you have to get politicians involved. So I've been pestering the city officials, asking them, 'Why doesn't Wilmington pop up when you Google "Nolen"? It would be good for tourism.'"



Union Park Gardens streetscape. Photo by Adele Meehan.

FOR PROFESSIONAL AND GENERAL READERS

LALH members receive a 30 percent discount on LALH books ordered by phone from University of Massachusetts Press.

ORDER INFORMATION

University of Massachusetts Press: (800) 537-5487 or www.umass.edu/umpress

University of Illinois Press: (800) 545-4703 or www.press.uillinois.edu

LALH: (413) 549-4860 or www.lalh.org

NEW



Mission 66: Modernism and the National Park Dilemma

Ethan Carr
UMass Press/\$39.95, cloth

How a major federal program shaped the development of the national park system

“An intelligent and level-headed look at the great promise and the great problems associated with the park service’s Mission 66 program.”
—Ken Burns, filmmaker

LOOK INSIDE



A World of Her Own Making: Katharine Smith Reynolds and the Landscape of Reynolda

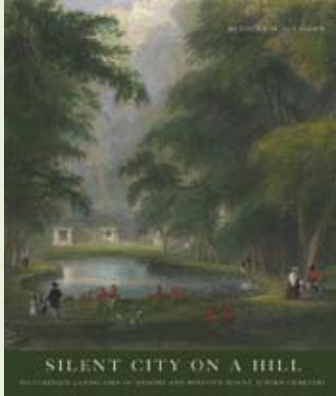
Catherine Howett
UMass Press/cloth, \$39.95

The story of the creation of a remarkable estate in Winston-Salem, North Carolina

“Brilliantly written—uplifting and riveting—this book brings out of obscurity a ‘new woman’ of the South who dedicated her brief life to the creation of a place called Reynolda.”—Barbara B. Millhouse, founding president, Reynolda House Museum of American Art

LOOK INSIDE





Silent City on a Hill: Picturesque Landscapes of Memory and Boston's Mount Auburn Cemetery

Blanche M. G. Linden
Foreword by William C. Clendaniel
UMass Press/\$39.95, paper

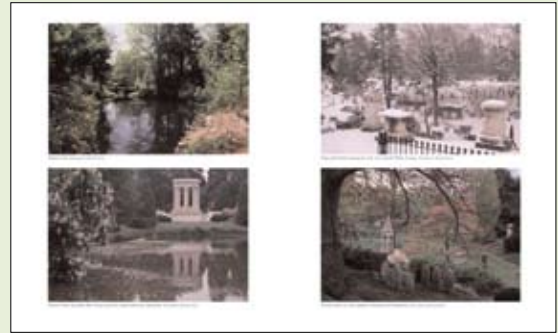
The new edition of this classic history of America's first rural cemetery, expanded and completely redesigned in a larger format, contains new color photographs by Richard Cheek and new black-and-white photographs by Carol Betsch.

Praise for the original edition:

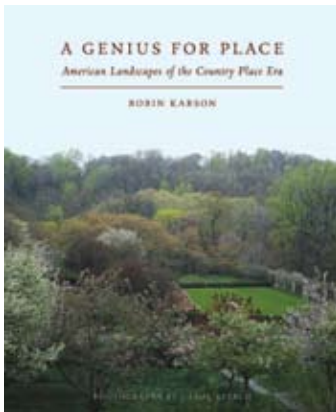
"No one in the future will be able to write about nineteenth-century cemeteries in the United States without first studying this book."

—*Journal of the Society of Landscape History*

LOOK INSIDE



FORTHCOMING



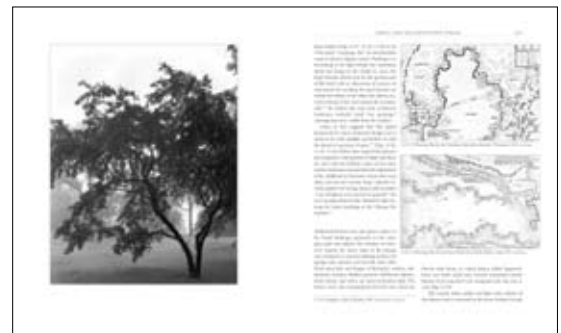
A Genius for Place: American Landscapes of the Country Place Era

Robin Karson
Photographs by Carol Betsch
UMass Press/\$65.00, cloth
December 2007

This definitive, beautifully illustrated work traces the development of a distinctly American style of landscape design by analyzing seven country places created by the period's leading landscape architects.

"Monographs have been written about some of the individuals who created America's glorious estate landscapes during the opulent period known as the country place era, but the collective story of these place-makers and their creations has not been told until now. Here at last is a book that treats eight important designers of the early twentieth century and seven extraordinary landscapes associated with them in a fluid, integrated narrative offering engaging biographical detail and insightful analysis."— Elizabeth Barlow Rogers, author of *Landscape Design: A Cultural and Architectural History*

LOOK INSIDE



BACKLIST



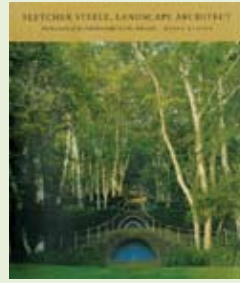
Henry Shaw's Victorian Landscapes: The Missouri Botanical Garden and Tower Grove Park

Carol Grove
UMass Press/cloth, \$39.95

The story of two remarkable Victorian-era landscapes created by Englishman Henry Shaw for his adopted city, St. Louis

"Beautifully illustrated with contemporary and historical photographs, this volume offers an insightful history of Shaw's landscapes, among the most important examples of the gardenesque in America."—Forbes Book Club

Winner, 2007 Independent Publisher Bronze Medal
Named a 2007 Outstanding Academic Title by *Choice* magazine



Fletcher Steele, Landscape Architect: An Account of the Gardenmaker's Life, 1885-1971

Robin Karson
UMass Press/paper, \$34.95

One of the "75 Great Garden Books" of the American Horticultural Society

Winner of the ASLA Honor Award

"A meticulously detailed, fascinating account of Steele's life and work."—*Journal of the Society of Architectural Historians*



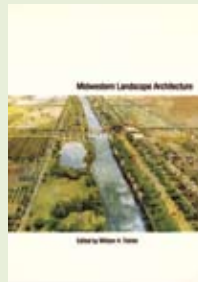
A Modern Arcadia: Frederick Law Olmsted Jr. and the Plan for Forest Hills Gardens

Susan L. Klaus
UMass Press/paper, \$24.95 (cloth, \$39.95)

Winner of the Historical Preservation Book Prize, Mary Washington College

Winner of the New York Society Library Book Award

"Klaus has produced an exemplary short architectural monograph: succinct, eloquent, contextual, and copiously illustrated."—*Choice*



Midwestern Landscape Architecture

Edited by William H. Tishler
Univ. of Illinois Press/paper, \$19.95 (cloth, \$37.50)

"Written by a talented cast of landscape scholars, the chapters are well researched, well documented, and well written."—*Landscape Journal*



Walks and Talks of an American Farmer in England

Frederick Law Olmsted (1852 edition)
New introduction by Charles C. McLaughlin
UMass Press/paper, \$24.95 (cloth, \$50)

"This book is the work of a generous-minded man who sought to bring aesthetic access, decency, and the benefit of agrarian improvement to humankind."—*Times Literary Supplement*

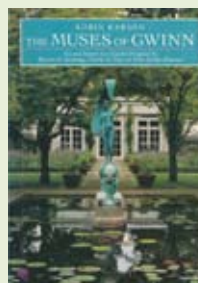


Pioneers of American Landscape Design

Edited by Charles A. Birnbaum and Robin Karson
Temporarily out of print

Winner of the ASLA Merit Award

"*Pioneers of American Landscape Design* . . . makes a compelling case that landscape architects were far more important than architects in shaping America's designed environment."—*Architectural Record*

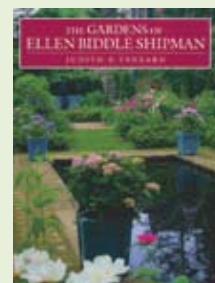


The Muses of Gwinn: Art and Nature in a Garden Designed by Warren H. Manning, Charles A. Platt, and Ellen Biddle Shipman

Robin Karson
LALH/cloth, \$39.95

Winner of the ASLA Honor Award

"Karson's examination is thorough and scholarly . . . [and] includes penetrating and illuminating essays."—*Journal of the Society of Architectural Historians*



The Gardens of Ellen Biddle Shipman

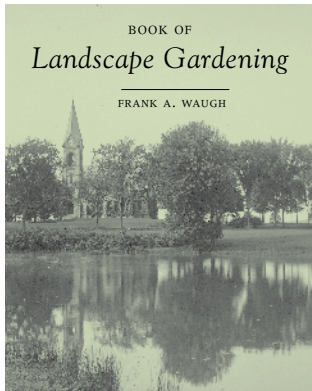
Judith B. Tankard
LALH/cloth, \$39.95

Winner of the American Horticultural Society Book Award

"The text is fascinating, historic, and poignant."—*New York Times*

ASLA CENTENNIAL REPRINT SERIES

FORTHCOMING



Book of Landscape Gardening

Frank A. Waugh (1926 edition)
New introduction by Linda Flint McClelland

UMass Press/cloth, \$34.95
Fall 2007

A new edition of a book that helped shape American landscape architecture

“Waugh is one of the unsung heroes of American landscape architecture. By reissuing this long out-of-print classic and articulating Waugh’s role as a designer, educator, and popularizer, Linda McClelland and LALH have done a great service to the field.”—Tim Davis, U.S. National Park Service



New Towns for Old: Achievements in Civic Improvement in Some American Small Towns and Neighborhoods

John Nolen (1927 edition)
New introduction by Charles D. Warren

UMass Press/cloth, \$34.95

“Nearly a century later, [Nolen’s] remarks and principles remain current. . . . Warren does an admirable job of placing us in Nolen’s historic and professional context.”
—*Journal of Urban Design*



Landscape-Gardening

O. C. Simonds, (1920 edition)
New introduction by Robert E. Grese

UMass Press/cloth, \$29.95

“*Landscape-Gardening* will appeal to both professionals and dedicated homeowners for its eloquent promotion of nature and native landscaping, and its fervent call for a greater stewardship of the land.”
—Robert Cook, Director, Arnold Arboretum



Landscape Architecture, as Applied to the Wants of the West; with an Essay on Forest Planting on the Great Plains

H. W. S. Cleveland (1873 edition)
New introduction by Daniel J. Nadenicek and Lance M. Neckar

UMass Press/cloth, \$29.95

“The publication is invaluable, timely, and altogether a good omen for the West.’ Olmsted’s words ring true yet today, for the book is one of landscape architecture’s early classics.”
—*Journal of the New England Garden History Society*

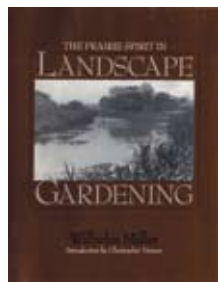


The Spirit of the Garden

Martha Brookes Hutcheson (1923 edition)
New introduction by Rebecca Warren Davidson

UMass Press/cloth, \$34.95

“A book remarkable for its concise and practical suggestions and which is at the same time brilliantly and entertainingly written.”
—*Architectural Record*, 1923

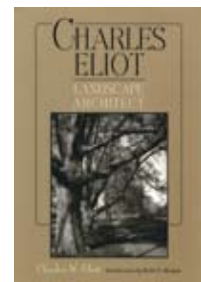


The Prairie Spirit in Landscape Gardening

Wilhelm Miller (1915 edition)
New introduction by Christopher Vernon

UMass Press/cloth, \$34.95

“*The Prairie Spirit in Landscape Gardening* is more valuable today than ever. What could be more appropriate than Miller’s call for us to design environmentally sound gardens that proudly display our native plants?”
—James van Sweden, FASLA



Charles Eliot, Landscape Architect

Charles W. Eliot (1902 edition)
New introduction by Keith N. Morgan

UMass Press/cloth, \$50

“A classic, the expression of enduring landscape values despite nearly a century of extraordinary changes in the profession.”
—*Journal of the New England Garden History Society*

FIFTEEN YEARS OF PROGRESS
From Rural Cemeteries to National Parks

BY ROBIN KARSON

LALH was incorporated in Massachusetts in the spring of 1992, and the first LALH Trustees meeting was held a few months later at Gwinn, in Cleveland, Ohio. According to the minutes, I presented plans for a book and an exhibition about the estate which might serve as a model for other LALH projects. We discussed a reprint series of classic works by Charles Eliot, Samuel Parsons Jr., Frank Waugh, and others.



Robin Karson and LALH president John Franklin Miller enjoying Applewood, Mott estate, Flint, Mich. 1998.

I spoke about the need for a book on Warren Manning and for a book and an exhibition about the country place era. As I look back, it is striking how many of these ideas have borne fruit, how steady the growth of the organization has been, and how strong the founding



Robin Karson, author Susan L. Klaus, and photographer Carol Betsch celebrating the launch of *A Modern Arcadia*, Century Association, NYC. 2002.

mission has proved—to develop books about American landscape history that would educate wide audiences.

That we have achieved so many of our goals is due to the support of a very vibrant board—in particular, our founding president Nancy R. Turner—and many friends, granting agencies, and sponsors.

By the end of 2007, LALH will have nineteen titles in print and many thousands of books sold. We have a beautiful office suite at the edge of the University of Massachusetts Amherst campus, an energetic and talented staff, a growing roster of trustees and advisers, and contracts for many future books.

Following the 1995 publication of *The Muses of Gwinn*, LALH brought out *The Gardens of Ellen Biddle Shipman*, which, like *Gwinn*, was accompanied by a touring exhibition. Within two years, LALH had formed a partnership with University of Massachusetts Press that involved new roles for us, including design and educational outreach. Our next venture was the lead volume in the ASLA Centennial Reprint Series, *Charles Eliot, Landscape Architect* (1902). Other books soon followed—

The publications of LALH have made an incomparable contribution to forming the discipline of American landscape studies—by recovering and providing critical appraisals of its historic literature, and by adding a series of major new works, many of which address previously neglected subjects.

—Catherine Howett, FASLA, Emerita, University of Georgia

The contributions of LALH over the last 15 years have been truly significant—to the history of the American landscape, to the profession, and to contemporary practice. Congratulations, LALH, keep up the outstanding work!

—George Curry, FASLA, College of Environmental Science and Forestry, SUNY, Syracuse

including six additional volumes in the ASLA series, monographs, and surveys. Many of these books were recognized with awards—for scholarship, quality of design and production, and clear, concise writing. We have also seen our books inspire preservation of important landscapes, ranging from parks to urban plans to private estates.

Over time, the LALH program has expanded, most recently to include the Warren Manning Research Project, a Web-based survey attracting



Charles and Ann McLaughlin in a springtime snow at Dumbarton Oaks, Washington, D. C., with Trustee Michael Jefcoat. 2003.

attention as a model for collaborative research. Almost daily new discoveries come to the attention of our project team, and these will form the basis of an encyclopedic volume covering Manning's most significant landscape designs.

Our involvement in investigating the role of women in American landscape architecture, first launched by the Shipman biography, has deepened considerably. Catherine

Howett's *A World of Her Own Making*, which analyzes the creation of Reynolda estate, sheds important light on one of the most substantial building projects by a New Woman of the early twentieth century. My own forthcoming book, *A Genius for Place*, examines the work of Shipman and her female colleagues, placing them in context with one another and with the larger currents of the country place era.

LALH has advanced our understanding of landscape history and the profession of landscape architecture by light-years. Its reprints of classic literature, original publications, and exhibits provide us with important insights into the American landscape and the responsibility we have to care for it for future generations.

—William H. Tishler, FASLA, Emeritus, University of Wisconsin



Author Robert E. Grese leads LALH Trustees on a tour of the Nichols Arboretum, Ann Arbor, Mich. 1998.

ABOUT LALH

The cover of this year's *VIEW* is enlivened by the image of farm fields against the panorama of the Holyoke Range, a scene unchanged since the Amherst days of Frank Waugh and his student Conrad Wirth, creator of Mission 66. Like the topics in the LALH program, *VIEW* has grown both in scope and size. The current issue—which has been mailed to 20,000 individuals, institutions, and libraries—is our most ambitious yet.

Future books from LALH will cover a wide range of projects—from Garrett Eckbo's *Landscape for Living*, to Frederick Billings and the origins of scientific forestry, to green roofs designed by Cornelia Hahn Oberlander. The mission of LALH was clear at the outset, and it has not wavered: to educate and thereby promote thoughtful stewardship of the land.

It is people like Robin who are keeping the history of our great country's horticulture and landscape architecture alive and showing us how it influences and informs our practices today.

—Katy Moss Warner,
President Emerita,
American Horticultural
Society



LALH Trustees Charles McLaughlin and Elizabeth Barlow Rogers reminiscing at Central Park Conservancy offices. 2004.



LALH Trustees explore Manitoga, home of Russel Wright, Garrison, N.Y. 2005.



Robin Karson, past president Nancy Turner, and other LALH Trustees exploring Forest Hills Gardens, Queens, N.Y. 2001.



Dean Cardasis, director of the James Rose Center, Ridgewood, N.J., gives LALH Trustees insight into Rose's unique design. 2002.

The scholarly publications of LALH and its talented authors are a pleasure to read and a treasure trove of narrative and images. Thank you for your dedication to our landscape heritage.

—Patricia M. O'Donnell,
FASLA, Heritage Landscapes,
Charlotte, Vermont



LALH Trustee Ethan Carr (right) shares his ideas about redesign in New York City parks. 2006.



Robin Karson and LALH Trustee Ann Wilhite talk about the redesign of City Hall Park, NYC. 2006.

Recovering Manning's Legacy in Hopedale, Massachusetts

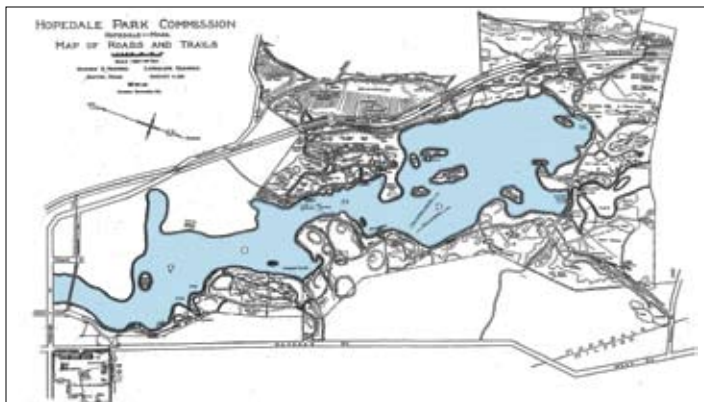
BY REID BERTONE-JOHNSON

Last year's *VIEW* introduced the Manning Research Project, a Web-based initiative to investigate the work of American landscape architect and planner Warren H. Manning (1860–1938) in preparation for a two-volume book. The project is a unique collaboration involving more than seventy-five widely dispersed researchers, who are using the Internet and other technologies to locate and share information. It has attracted the attention of landscape and planning historians, allied professionals, property owners, and other historic landscape enthusiasts, many of whom have joined the research network. At this writing almost one hundred surveys reside in the LALH Manning database, and researchers hope to complete more than four hundred by the end of 2007.

During the past year the research network has uncovered significant new information about Manning's projects and practice. Among the highlights are Manning's plans for the township of Bisbee, Arizona; dozens of commissions in at least seven states for the family of Cyrus McCormick of reaper fame; and several intact private estates across the country. Researchers have identified clusters of Manning-designed landscapes in Ohio, Connecticut, Illinois, North Carolina, Maine, Pennsylvania, Michigan, Rhode Island, Alabama, and several other states, including Manning's native Massachusetts.

Students from the Landscape Institute of Harvard University's Arnold Arboretum, working under the direction of Elizabeth Igleheart, joined the Manning project and researched fifty Manning commissions in New England. This assignment served as the backbone for the students' education in historic landscape research and provided them an opportunity for hands-on experience. One Landscape Institute student discovered a long-forgotten speech that Manning delivered to the Peterborough Progressive Club of Peterborough, New Hampshire, in 1932, in which he outlined his thoughts on the importance of town planning. The students also discovered well-preserved sections of public parks by Manning in Billerica, Wellesley, and Hopedale, Massachusetts.

Before Igleheart and her students started their research, we knew very little about Manning's work in Hopedale, despite the fact that his records list twenty-seven projects there over forty years. (Neither of the two major repositories of Manning's papers, UMass Lowell and Iowa State University, contains any record of this work.) Kathleen



Manning's 1913 plan for the Parklands, Hopedale, Mass., includes more than 200 acres of mature trees, walk-in fireplaces, and a bathing beach. Plan courtesy Dan Malloy.

Caldera, the student who decided to investigate several of the Hopedale properties appearing on Manning's client list, first needed to identify which projects had been completed and determine their locations. She began in Hopedale's Public Library, where she mined annual town reports, old town directories, and other sources for clues, and where she also made a fortuitous connection with longtime Hopedale residents Dan and Elaine Malloy, who had knowledge of Manning's involvement there. Their recently published *Images of Hopedale* is a pictorial history of the mill town, which was originally settled in 1842 as a utopian community.



Hopedale Town Park, once a cranberry bog, now bounded on three sides by high stone walls and mature trees. Photo by Reid Bertone-Johnson, 2006.

With the Malloys' assistance and after several visits to the library, Caldera was able to piece together much of the story of Manning's work. His first recorded project was in 1890, a residence for Frank J. Dutcher. Manning then worked on an estate for George A. Draper, president of Draper Mill. Ties to these clients led to many other commissions, including a 273-acre park surrounding a mill pond and an adjacent playground, both of which survive intact. Caldera's survey records a bathing beach constructed in 1899, a bathhouse added in 1904, and a trail system designed in 1907. Manning's design for the park also included a tree nursery to aid its first superintendent in maintaining the woodland setting. A 1913 plan for the nursery shows his layout of trees, including red oak, white oak, chestnut, white pine, birch, hemlock, maple, juniper, gray birch, bayberry, dwarf sumac, hickory, and alder. In addition, Manning designed the grounds of Hopedale High School—which Fletcher Steele, then an associate in his office, managed as one of his first projects. Manning's roster of Hopedale commissions includes several private estates in addition to those for Dutcher and Draper, and the town cemetery as well.

Before the new research proved otherwise, it was widely held by town historians that Manning first came to Hopedale as a representative of the Olmsted firm. But I had discovered that Manning listed the town as a client in 1890—one year before Hopedale was listed in the Olmsted records. (Manning appears to have been working independently of the firm, even during his employment there.) As the lead designer on an 1891 Hopedale project for Olmsted, Olmsted & Eliot, Manning clearly won the confidence of the client—the town continued to hire him after he left the firm in 1896 to found his own Boston-based practice.

We are enthusiastic about these discoveries and the forthcoming LALH publication on Manning, which has the potential to bring them to the attention of a wide readership. Just as the name Frederick Law Olmsted has become familiar to many Americans, the names of other visionary planners and designers of the late nineteenth and early twentieth centuries are beginning to gain wider recognition. Increased familiarity of these figures, coupled with deeper understanding of their work, we believe, will continue to inspire preservation of the landscape designs they created.

ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

LALH Board of Trustees

John Franklin Miller, PRESIDENT
Grosse Pointe Farms, Mich.
Michael Jefcoat, VICE-PRESIDENT
Laurel, Miss.
Charles D. Warren, TREASURER
New York, N.Y.
Ann D. Wilhite, CLERK
Ann Arbor, Mich.
Ethan Carr, FASLA, Charlottesville, Va.
John K. Notz Jr., Chicago, Ill.
Elizabeth Barlow Rogers,
New York, N.Y.
Natalie W. Shivers, AIA, Princeton, N.J.
Nancy R. Turner, New York, N.Y.
Mark Zelonis, Indianapolis, Ind.
Emerita: Nesta Spink, Ann Arbor,
Mich.

LALH Advisers

George W. Curry, FASLA
Professor, State University of
New York, Syracuse
Julius Gy. Fábos, FASLA
Professor emeritus, University of
Massachusetts Amherst
Keith N. Morgan, Boston University
Daniel J. Nadenicek, ASLA
Cornelia Hahn Oberlander,
Vancouver, B.C., Canada
Witold Rybczynski
University of Pennsylvania
Robert A. M. Stern
Yale University
David C. Streatfield, AIA
University of Washington
William H. Tishler, FASLA
University of Wisconsin
Suzanne L. Turner, ASLA
Professor emerita, Louisiana
State University
James Anthony van Sweden, FASLA
Washington, D.C.

ASLA Centennial Reprint Series Selection Committee

Charles A. Birnbaum, FASLA
National Park Service
Catherine Howett, FASLA
Professor emerita, University of
Georgia
Marion Pressley, FASLA
Pressley Associates, Cambridge,
Mass., FASLA
David C. Streatfield, AIA
University of Washington

LALH Consulting Committee

Carol Betsch, Amherst, Mass.
Dean Cardasis, FASLA, Amherst, Mass.
Linda Florio, New York, N.Y.
Julia Gavia, Somerville, Mass.
Barbara Shear, New York, N.Y.
Colin Thomson, New York, N.Y.
Molly Turner, Brooklyn, N.Y.
Bruce Wilcox, Amherst, Mass.
LALH Board of Trustees, ex-officio

LALH Donors

2006 through March 2007

Benefactors (\$5,000 and above)

Furthermore Publishing Grants Program – J. M. Kaplan Fund
Graceland Cemetery Trustees
Mr. and Mrs. Michael Jefcoat
Mr. and Mrs. Michael Jefcoat,
in honor of Nancy R. Turner
Mr. and Mrs. Michael Jefcoat,
in honor of Carol Betsch

Mr. and Mrs. Michael Jefcoat,
in honor of Robin Karson
Mr. and Mrs. Michael Jefcoat,
in honor of Robin Karson and
Nancy R. Turner
Viburnum Trilobum Fund–
New York Community Trust
Proprietors of the Cemetery of
Mount Auburn
Elizabeth Barlow Rogers
Nancy R. Turner
Mr. and Mrs. Clayton Wilhite

Patrons (\$1,000–\$4,999)

Mr. and Mrs. Michael Jefcoat,
in honor of Reid Bertone-Johnson
Mr. and Mrs. Michael Jefcoat,
in honor of Charles D. Warren
Ms. Janine Luke, Fidelity Charitable
Gift Fund
Mary Carter McConnell
John Franklin Miller
Peter L. Newton
Frances A. Numrich
Patricia O'Donnell, FASLA
Heritage Landscapes
Mrs. Peter G. Smith, in honor of
Nancy R. Turner
James Turner and Deirdre Delaney,
Blackhawk Fund–Calvert Foundation
Sally Turner, Aurora-Viburnum
Foundation–California
Community Foundation
Charles D. Warren

Sponsors (\$500–\$999)

Mr. and Mrs. Michael Jefcoat,
in honor of Nancy R. Turner
Mr. and Mrs. Robert B. Lindsay Jr.,
Rochester Area Community
Foundation, in honor of
Nancy R. Turner
John Franklin Miller, in honor of
Nancy R. Turner
John K. Notz Jr., Vanguard
Charitable Endowment Program
James F. Olmsted
Frederic C. Rich
Judith Helm Robinson,
Robinson & Associates, Inc.
Karen Royce
Burton S. Sperber, FASLA
Karl VanDevender and Ann
Patchett, in honor of Davis
Drinkwater, M.D.
Victor J. Walker, FASLA
Carol J. H. Yetken

Sustainers (\$250–\$499)

Thomas N. Armstrong III
Annaliese Bischoff
Mrs. John Broome
Jill Ker Conway
Mrs. James Cooke III
Lucy Day
Tom Hunter, ASLA
Nicholas and Maureen Katican
Deborah S. Kern
The Kresge Foundation
Robert and Christine Letella
Mrs. William G. Low Jr.
Dennis C. McGlade, ASLA
Mary Eugenia Myer, in memory of
George Manning
Mr. and Mrs. Thomas P. Peardon
Brian Pinnola
Nicholas Thaw
Mr. Mish Tworowski, in honor of
Mr. and Mrs. Michael Jefcoat
Joseph W. Tyree
Mary and John Wight
Mark Zelonis

Friends (\$100–\$249)

Arnold Alanen, ASLA, and
Lynn Bjorkman
Eleanor and Charlton Ames
Nina Antonetti
Dr. and Mrs. Walter F. Ballinger II
Carol Betsch
Joanne W. Blokker
Carol Booth and Linda Fidnick
Terrence Boyle
Ian and Sally Bund
Charles Burnham, ASLA
Jay Cantor
Charles W. Cares
Margaret Carpenter
Mrs. B. Caulkins Clark
William C. Clendaniel
George W. Curry, FASLA
Frederica Cushman
Tanya Cushman
John Danzer
Robert Dash
Paula Deitz
Marjorie Denzin Stewig
James C. Differding
James Doenges, ASLA
Ruah Donnelly
Royce Earnest
Alan Emmet
Elizabeth S. Eustis
Florence Everts, ASLA
Julius Gy. Fábos, FASLA
Linda Florio
William L. Flournoy Jr.
Elisabeth French
Charles T. Gleaves
Liz Goodfellow
Patty Gorman-Bishop and
David Bishop
Marlea A. Graham
Ann Granbery, ASLA
Carol Grove
Nancy Lyons Hannick, ASLA
Robert and Maurine Hausser
W. David Heller, ASLA
Ron Herman
Elizabeth Hodder
Mrs. David Hoel
Grant and Siobhan Holcomb
Barbara Holdridge
Judy M. Horton
Mr. and Mrs. Joseph L. Hudson Jr.
Kevin and Cheryl Hurley
Peter Jessop, Integrity Development
and Construction, Inc.
Linda L. Jewell, FASLA
Mrs. Niels W. Johnsen
Richard T. Johnson
Pat Kaplan
Susan L. Klaus
Susanne Stamm Knisley
William Kornegay
Steven R. Krog, ASLA
Mrs. Henry M. Kuhlman
Annetta H. Kushner
Henri J. LeClerc
Jonathan Lippincott and
Chris Thompson
Caroline K. Loughlin
Mrs. Joseph H. McGee
Diane McGuire and Barbara Watson
Kathleen M. Metz
Hugh C. Miller, FAIA
Lynden B. Miller
Baker Morrow
Darwina L. Neal, FASLA
Flora May W. Nyland
Kirk J. Olney, ASLA, in memory of
Jot D. Carpenter, FASLA
Denise Otis
Mrs. Jane Blaffer Owen

Thomas M. Paine
Mr. and Mrs. Joseph Panella
Dr. and Mrs. W. Scott Peterson
Jon A. Peterson
Stephen Plunkard, FASLA
Jon Powell, ASLA, and Jeri Deneen
John W. Rae Jr.
Mrs. Clara T. Rankin
Joseph and Robin Reed
Mrs. Ewing W. Reilly
James B. Ricci
Helen E. Rollins
John A. Rosenberger, LA
Adrian Scott
Pamela Seager, Rancho Los Alamitos
Paul Allen Smith
Diane T. Spencer
Mrs. Anne Felton Spencer
Nesta and Walter Spink
Robert A. M. Stern Architects
Edward D. Stone Jr., ASLA
David C. Streatfield
Mrs. Samuel R. Sutphin
Rodney Swink, FASLA
Prof. George B. Tatum
Mrs. Katherine S. Taylor
William L. Thames
Joel E. Tomlin III
Mrs. Richard Turner
Herbert W. Vaughan
Jeannette G. Walker
Lucy Ireland Weller
Isabel Wheat
Rolla J. Wilhite, ASLA
Charles Wilkinson

Supporters (\$50–\$99)

Ethan D. Aleya Jr., ASLA
Dorothy H. Baldini
Morton J. Baum, ASLA
Shary Page Berg
Bruce Boody, ASLA
Florence Boogaerts
Morton K. Brussel, in memory of
Charles C. McLaughlin
Stafford Buckley
Brian Carey
Ethan Carr, FASLA
Mrs. Charles Carroll IV
Richard Cheek
Hope Cushing
Dr. and Mrs. Gilbert Daniels
M. Elen Deming
Mario S. DePillis Sr.
Mr. and Mrs. John C. Eliason
Virginia B. Fox
Esley Hamilton
Kate Hartnett
Mrs. Nathan V. Hendricks III
Jan Hoffman
Sandra Hoffmann
Heidi Hohmann, ASLA
Catherine Howett, FASLA
David P. Jackson
Mr. and Mrs. Michael Jefcoat,
in honor of Jeannette Walker
Russell O. Jones, ASLA
Steven Kelley and Arla Carmichael
Patrick W. Kidd
Donald O. Lamport
Ann Leone
Frank Liggett
Dr. David Mactye
Judith K. Major
Dr. and Mrs. James McCarthy
Mrs. Walter McRae
Adele Meehan
C. W. Eliot Paine
Beatrice A. Pask
Kristin and Stephen Pategas

Leila and Bob Peck
Dr. G. Porter Perham
Pfizer Foundation
Carol Pope
Marion Pressley, FASLA
Mr. and Mrs. Nicholas Quennell
Joel and Marilyn Ray
Mr. and Mrs. Douglas Roby Jr.
Millard F. Rogers Jr.
Mrs. George Rublee
Mrs. Walter Schamu
Judith Seslowe
Barbara Shear
Joseph Peter Spang
Steve Sperotto
E. Jeffrey Stann
Barry Starke, FASLA
Margaret D. Sullivan
Robert P. Surabian
Suzanne Sweek
Mr. and Mrs. Mario Valmarana
Gay E. Vincent-Canal
Judith H. Whitney-Terry,
in memory of Harry F. Howard
John H. Whitworth Jr.
Dr. and Mrs. James Yoch Jr.
Lloyd Zuckerberg

Members (\$35–\$49)

Richard Bergmann
Peg Bors
Jeanne Walker Bourland
Bruce H. Boysen
Nona Carmichael
Judith Chatfield
Craig Churchward
Susan Cohen, ASLA
Pamela Collins
Matthew Copp
John E. Cutler, FASLA
Angela Dye
Edward P. Edinger
Ms. Elsbeth T. Falk
Susan Faulkner
Rudy Favretti, FASLA
Ann Floyd
B. K. Godwin III
John Gordon
Bradford M. Greene, FASLA
Isabelle Greene
John M. Groff
Charles W. Harris, FASLA
Robert Hetzler
Harley P. Holden
Steven Hopfenberg, ASLA
IBM International Foundation
Tullio Inglese, AIA
Dr. Richard L. Ingraham
David Jensen
Robert Johnson
Ben Land
Deborah A. Lawrence
Gary Lyons
Joan Marks
Mimi Mather
Susan Gerbi McIlwain
Julie A. McKeon
Carolyn A. McLean
Brada Melerault
Edward Olinger, ASLA
Mrs. Eben Pyne
Sarah Beinecke Richardson and
Craig Richardson
Robert and Jean Robinson
Wolfgang Rosenberg
Eleanor Rutledge
Colgate and Lalla Searle
Natalie W. Shivers, AIA
Linda Skaar
Joanna L. Tilghman

Featured in this issue of *View*:

- ✦ *Mission 66: Modernism and the National Park Dilemma*, Ethan Carr's new book exploring the influence of modernism on landscape design and park planning
- ✦ Renewing the Katrina-ravaged Shipman landscape at Longue Vue; Warren Manning's design for Wilcox Park; three local preservation heroes
- ✦ Frank Waugh's *Book of Landscape Gardening* (1926), the latest volume in the ASLA Centennial Reprint Series
- ✦ LALH celebrates fifteen years: adventures in publishing, scholarship, and preservation advocacy
- ✦ Manning's plan for a utopian-settlement-turned-company-town, Hopedale, Massachusetts



***A Genius for Place* Visits Nashville**

A Genius for Place: American Landscapes of the Country Place Era travels to Cheekwood Botanical Garden & Museum of Art in Nashville, Tennessee, October 10 through December 30. The exhibition features new photographs by Carol Betsch and a historical narrative by Robin Karson that analyzes the design significance of seven American country places and their landscape architects. A book with the same title is slated for publication early December. Both the book and the traveling exhibition interpret the featured places “as significant American works of art,” Karson says.

Cheekwood was the 1932 estate of the Cheek family, creators of Maxwell House coffee. It was designed by Bryant Fleming (1847–1946), formerly an assistant to Warren Manning, who is featured in *A Genius for Place*. For more information about the event, call Cheekwood at (615) 356-8000 or visit www.cheekwood.org. For information about hosting *A Genius for Place*, call LALH at (413) 549-4860.

VIEW

Library of American Landscape History
P.O. Box 1323
Amherst, MA 01004-1323

NON-PROFIT
ORGANIZATION
U.S. POSTAGE
PAID
MILFORD, CT
PERMIT NO. 80

LALH

*Celebrating
Fifteen Years*