DENVER CONFERENCE

NAOP’s annual conference, held in Denver at the Denver Botanic Gardens on May 14 and 15, drew 169 attendees from 16 states. The attendees, half of whom came from Denver and Colorado towns and half from around the country, were divided evenly among resource managers, design professionals, and citizen leaders.

The conference, "Making a Visible Difference", focussed on how Olmsted’s vision provides a practical foundation for addressing today’s challenges. Included were seminars on practical topics ranging from conserving water to protecting tree canopies, a panel of experts from Louisville, Boston, Chicago, and Boulder discussing their diverse experiences in planning and administering Olmsted parks, as well as tours of the remarkable Denver city parks and parkways and Metro Denver Mountain Parks. The mix of such practical sessions with keynote speeches on the Olmsted vision by Olmsted Papers Editor, Charles Beveridge, and Seattle Parks Director, Holly Miller, and the premiere of the Olmsted Firm by Fairsted offered practitioners, planners, and citizens a multitude of ideas.

The success of this conference in providing practical ideas in park planning and administration for managers, designers, and citizens, who together can help "make a visible difference" in their communities, was due to the able conference coordinators, Don (NAOP board member) and Carolyn Etter, former directors of Denver Parks and Recreation Department, backed up by Susan Edwards of the Park and Recreation Department and the conference sponsors, Denver Botanic Gardens, The Park People, the Colorado Chapter of the ASLA, and Jane Silverstein Ries.

An article on the conference, "A legacy of Parks; Remembering Frederick Law Olmsted, a Landscape Design Pioneer", by the well known Denver Post columnist, Joanne Ditmer, appeared in the Denver Post on Sunday, May 24. The article succinctly described Olmsted’s philosophy, achievements, and his role in Denver’s parks, as well as their value to Denver today. Ditmer commented on the astonishing imagination of Denver’s leaders in establishing its park system both in Denver and in the mountains when the city was truly a frontier town. "It has always amazed me that when the pioneers were settling this town, with thousands of acres of open prairie around them and the Rockies beyond, that they had the foresight and dedication to establish parks within the infant city." It was that vision which served as an inspiration to all who attended the conference.
CHANGING OF THE GUARD

At the annual meeting held in Denver on May 15, officers and trustees were elected to NAOP's Board. The officers are: co-chairpersons Nicholas Quennell and Marion Pressley; Vice-Chairmen: Eloise Hirsh, Gretchen Hull, Peter Odell, Newton Levec, Sandra Sparks; Treasurer: Eric O'Brien; Assistant Treasurer: Susan Klaus; Secretary: Caroline Loughlin; Past Chairperson: Eleanor Ames.


AROUND THE COUNTRY

Baltimore

Mayor Kurt Schmoke said he considered himself a "trustee of Baltimore's Olmsted parks" and that he shared "the vision of the Friends of Maryland's Olmsted Parks and Landscapes" at the Friends' fifth annual meeting on May 20 at which the 33rd Street Corridor Plan was unveiled.

The plan for this corridor was begun in 1987 when ASLA met in Baltimore. At that time the Friends were instrumental in helping select this corridor, which runs from Wyman Park and Johns Hopkins' main campus along 33rd Street past Memorial Stadium to Clifton Park. Preliminary plan recommendations were made at the 1987 ASLA conference. Now five years later, the Friends, after enlisting a wide array of volunteers and neighborhood groups to undertake a block by block survey, have produced a detailed corridor survey. That is persistence and it appears that Mayor Schmoke appreciates that.

Buffalo

"Reckless, short-sighted, self-serving" was how Gretchen Toles, Chairman of Buffalo Friends of Olmsted Parks, described recent proposals for Front Park and the Peace Bridge area. Her concerns were heeded as the DeLeuw Cather engineering firm is seeking competent Olmsted historic landscape consultants to help redesign this important highway, bridge and park and make it a welcoming gateway to Buffalo. Several NAOP members have been asked for proposals and participation in this new design effort.

The Buffalo and Erie County Historical Society won a New York State Council on the Arts award to develop a landscape master plan for the grounds of the Society and the nearby Reinstein Center in Delaware Park. Quennell Rothschild Associates was selected to undertake this master planning effort, which will attempt to integrate the components of the site, examine historic precedents, the functions and uses of the grounds, views, approaches and entrances. Preliminary alternatives are expected in July.

ATLANTA IN 1993

Save April 1-4 for NAOP's 1993 annual conference in Atlanta. The conference will focus on Olmsted's legacy in Atlanta with special attention to its historic suburbs, now popular neighborhoods like Druid Hills, Morningside, Ansley Park, and Brookwood Hills. After many years of battling the proposed encroachment of the Olmsted designed Druid Hills suburb by the highway to the Carter Library, the role of the suburbs and a new master planning effort to protect Olmsted's important historic neighborhoods provide an appropriate topic for NAOP's 1993 conference. The theme of restoring and protecting parks as a part of neighborhood rehabilitation will be complemented by discussions of the Southern and particularly African American approaches to Olmsted and historic parks. NAOP trustees Sarah Harbaugh and Richard Groepper, and former NAOP trustee Dana White, are working on the conference.
WORKBOOKS

The third workbook, initially on the Philadelphia woodlands conference, has been broadened and will be published this summer. It is entitled, "Landscape Composition Preservation Treatments: Defining an Ethic for Designed Landscapes" and is being prepared by Charles Birnbaum, a landscape architect now working for the National Park Service.

The fourth workbook will be Charles Beveridge's "What Makes an Olmsted Park" and the fifth will be Arleyn Levee's "John Charles Olmsted: A Biographical Sketch". These workbooks will be published in the late autumn.

CALENDAR

Summer 1992
Six morning walking tours of Buffalo's Olmsted Parks ending with "hearty picnics under the trees"—sponsored by Buffalo Friends of Olmsted Parks. For information, call 716-838-1249.

Summer and Fall 1992
Six tours of New York's parks for walkers, scholars, bicyclists, urbanists, and even insomniacs (one tour at 1:30 am) organized by Friends of the Parks. For information, call 212-473-6283.

July 13-18, 1992

JULY 28-August 1, 1992
Preservation of Historic Landscapes
Course on the process and techniques of historic preservation by Robert Harvey. Contact Campbell Center for Historic Preservation Studies, PO Box 66, Mount Carmel, IL 61053 or call 815-244-1173.

August 27-29, 1992
International Historic Bridge Conference
Columbus Ohio, sponsored by the Ohio State Civil Engineering Department, Ohio Preservation Office and Ohio Historical Society. For information, write International Historic Bridge Conference, 2070 Neil Avenue, Columbus, Ohio 43210-1275.

August 1992
Historic Landscape Maintenance Workshop
Cleveland, Ohio. Contact Mary Hughes at 402-864-3426.

September 20-27, 1992
Forward to the Past Association for Preservation Technology—annual conference. For information, call 703-373-1621.

October 7-11, 1992
Fostering Appreciation for Cultural Diversity:
National Trust for Historic Preservation—annual meeting, Miami, Florida.

October 15-17, 1992
Relive the Past: Reach for the Future
National Recreation and Park Association annual conference—Cincinnati, Ohio.

October 24-25, 1992
Disaster Prevention, Response and Recovery; Principles and Procedures for Protecting and Preserving Historic/Cultural Properties and Collections, Cambridge, MA. Call Susan Schur, 617-227-8581.

November 7-10, 1992
New Horizons, New Realities
American Society of Landscape Architects
Annual Meeting, Washington, DC.

April 1-4, 1993
NAOP Annual Conference
Atlanta, Georgia.

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