Visions Of The Santa Fe Landscape

Last June, past and present NAOP trustees gathered in Santa Fe, New Mexico for a Trustee training seminar titled "Visions of the Santa Fe Landscape," expertly arranged by Carolyn and Don Etter. In a remarkable four days the group was transported back and forth through time—from primal contacts of sound, sight, and space during a nightwalk with the "ancient ones" at Bandelier National Monument, to the shock of present-day multi-ethnic dilemmas facing a city slipping out of the control of its historic boundaries because of its highly desirable natural setting and vibrant cultural life. The seminar was an opportunity to experience in marvelous microcosm the issues facing every NAOP member who struggles to protect and promote their physical heritage and yet accommodate the needs of the modern marketplace.

For nearly four centuries, Santa Fe has been the capital of a "Land of Enchantment," the civic center of the Southwest, a place called the "City Different." The landscape here is made of sage and chamisa, piñon and plains cottonwood, sacred mountains, blue skies and white clouds. It is a landscape of sandy arroyos and of dramatic canyons where scarce water is carefully husbanded. It is a landscape of unfamiliar ceremonies and shapes, of intense sunsets and intense feelings, of the old and of the new.

Grand buildings have been designed and set amidst this landscape, but they are decidedly unlike the Biltmore estate. There are churchyard gardens, but they are not perennial borders in the English style. There are splendid civic gathering places, but they mirror neither St. Louis' Forest Park nor Denver's Civic Center.

Of course this place is part of America. But the landscape here embodies different images, a different mix of values and attitudes toward the land than are familiar in the rest of North America. This landscape embodies design principles that surprise, astonish, and delight as well as patterns of use that serve more than a fast-food culture.

The conventional wisdom is that there are three cultural layers in Santa Fe, that Santa Fe looks like it does because of its Native American, Spanish, and Anglo heritages. But the truth is much, much more complex.

The spirit of the Anasazi—the ancient ones—hovers over the entire Southwest. They built elegant stone apartments to capture both sun and shade, ceremonial rotundas to mark the solstice, and found the few perpetual sources of water that punctuate the arid land. At sites like Bandelier they built planned communities—without fences, for the land did not belong to them, they belonged to the land.

Today, the pueblo peoples of the Rio Grande valley follow in the footsteps of the Anasazi. At the center of their lives are magnificent ceremonial plazas that were designed centuries ago—each on axis with the mountain peaks, punctuated with a kiva, and home to an adobe church.

After the Anasazi, los conquistadores came into this land to seek (continued on page 2)
Santa Fe (continued)
gold and to save souls. And they settled here, building a palace, las casas reales, for their royal governor. Philip II prescribed the town design, to be laid out around a plaza of defined dimensions. Inside their houses of adobe were portales, fireplaces, folk art, and little gardens.

In the middle of the 19th century, this place was invaded by Anglos—peddlers came via the Santa Fe trail and soldiers via Bent’s Fort. These Anglos brought their touch to Santa Fe in the form of Greek revival windows, brick dentil coping, and unending white picket fences.

Perhaps more important, the Yankee brush was green. They built their homes to look out upon front yards and green grass, with a shady cover of street trees throughout the city.

In the decade prior to World War I, Santa Fe counted a population of some 5,000 souls. It was then that the shape of 20th century Santa Fe was dictated by a small group of ricos, artists, and entrepreneurs. They consulted experts around the world, including Frederick Law Olmsted, Jr., and they made no small plans.

The city’s ancient streets were to be preserved, its mantle of green nurtured with new parks, boulevards, and playgrounds, and the Santa Fe River was to become an emerald Paseo del Rio. In an effort to recreate a romantic Pueblo-Iberian past that never existed, only buildings in the “Santa Fe Style” were to be permitted. In the following years everything in view was translated into the Santa Fe Style.

At the same time, fine studios, galleries, and museums were established; crumbling 18th century churches were restored; fabulous art markets and festivals were organized, and the city itself was made into a sculpture garden. The result was very charming, engaging, “cultural,” and appealing.

So charming, engaging, and appealing that, in the last 25 years, the city has been “discovered.” This discovery was followed by yet another invasion—and controversy has followed that invasion.

How much growth should be tolerated? Should views of the Sangre de Cristo mountains be left undisturbed? Are ancient streets and rural ambiance relevant? Is there enough water to maintain a sylvan city and also convert the suburban landscape into a melange of golf courses, gated condos, and retail resorts? Can the interests of rich and poor, citizen and developer, Anglo and Hispanic and Native American ever be reconciled? Can the arts survive in an adobe theme park where most artists can’t afford the rent? Will the visions and major planning efforts currently on the boards save Santa Fe?

Nothing less than the preservation, and indeed the enrichment, of a fragile landscape is at stake here. At stake is the protection of an incomparable legacy, the maintenance of Santa Fe as the “City Different,” the civic center of the Southwest, the capitol of a “Land of Enchantment.”

Using The CCA Olmsted Archive

An article contributed by the Canadian Centre for Architecture

“Viewing Olmsted: Photographs by Robert Burley, Lee Friedlander, and Geoffrey James,” the exhibition organized by the Canadian Centre for Architecture, now on tour, presents only a portion of the 940 photographs of Olmsted sites that are in the CCA collection. As a museum and study centre, the CCA welcomes researchers who wish to use the larger Olmsted archive. Before booking a flight to Montreal, however, it would be best to contact the CCA to determine if our photographs will be of use for a specific project.

The Olmsted photographs, made between 1988 and 1995, were created with the idea that they would not document, in a strict sense, some 70 Olmsted sites, but interpret the current state of the parks.

Landscape historian Cynthia Zaitz selected sites where Frederick Law Olmsted himself had substantial involvement in the project; she then helped to guide the photographers to select specific areas to explore within each park, cemetery, campus, subdivision, or private estate.

It was up to the three photographers to choose the actual points of view for their pictures. Thus, photographs in the Olmsted archive may or may not present the parks from the same vantage points as historic photographs. The number of photographs of each site varies from one, for smaller sites, to 129 for Central Park.

Each photographer brought his own point of view and artistic style to the project. Burley, a younger Canadian, the only one to work in color, was interested in the interplay of public/private space; Friedlander, an American, brought the perspective of someone with many years of experience photographing the American social landscape; and James, a Canadian born in Wales, who had photographed European gardens,
CCA Olmsted Archive (cont.)
read much of the literature on Olmsted before ever making a picture.

Overall, the presence of people in the parks is underplayed as the purpose for the CCA was to capture the sites themselves to make viewers focus on the actual design, not the activities which take place in the parks.

The CCA hopes in the future to develop a larger collection of material related to Olmsted to complement the strength of the photographic archive. While we do not yet have other substantial reserves of photographs of Olmsted parks, we do have comparative photographic material on European parks and a library with books relating to Olmsted and landscape architecture in general.

For more information on using the CCA’s Olmsted archive, please contact Louise Desy, Assistant Curator, Photographs Collection, or Gwendolyn Owens, Assistant Director, Museum Services. The CCA’s address is 1920 rue Baile, Montreal, Quebec, H3H 2S6; telephone 514-393-7000 and fax is 514-939-7020.

MEETINGS & COURSES

November 3, National Building Museum, Washington, D.C.

NEWS FROM THE REGIONS

Special News Item From NAOP Co-Chair Arleyn Levee
The Saga On The Hill
McLean Hospital, a private psychiatric care facility atop Belmont Hill where Frederick Law Olmsted spent his last years from 1897 until his death in 1903, is under threat of major development. This 240 acre site—a cottage-style core campus of approximately 40 acres surrounded by the remaining acreage of woods, meadows, rocky outcroppings, streams, and vernal pools—provides a significant area of scenically interesting open space close to Boston, at the junction of several communities: Belmont, Waltham, and Lexington, with Watertown close by.

The hospital land abuts several areas of local and Audubon conservation land as well as Beaverbrook Reservation, the first property acquired by the Metropolitan Park Commission (now the Metropolitan District Commission or MDC) to fulfill Charles Eliot’s dream of a regional park system. The surrounding green space makes the McLean site a critical component in natural systems of habitat and flyways, but also enhances its desirability for numerous development scenarios.

In addition to the conservation concerns regarding this parcel, there are significant preservation issues at risk with regard to Olmsted, architecture, and the history of psychiatric care. This site, originally 114 acres, was selected by Frederick Law Olmsted in 1872 at the request of the Trustees of the Massachusetts General Hospital because their then-existing facility on an estate in Somerville was no longer adequate in size or in an appropriately therapeutic setting to meet medical needs.

Olmsted acted as consultant to the landscape engineer, Joseph Curtis, and architect, Carl Fehmer, over the next two decades. The 1893 plan reflected Olmsted’s ideas for several buildings and patient houses “set well apart and disposed in a picturesque village-like way” fronting around a “common lawn or ornamental court” (FLO to Charles Dalton, Nov. 5, 1875) connected by a curvilinear system of roads which wound among the trees and over the irregular slopes.

This property was declared Register Eligible as a district in 1989 by the Massachusetts Historical Commission, though a full nomination was never pursued. Its architectural and historical significance stems not only by association with the premier landscape and architectural firms of the 19th century, but also for the Hospital’s innovative international role in the history of psychiatric treatment.

However, changes in psychiatric practice and the new economics of managed health care have left much of the campus empty, and the “parent” hospital, Massachusetts General—now its new consolidated guise as Partners Healthcare—states that it maintains a substantial debt to be retired. In early 1996 the Hospital gave indications that it might leave its Belmont locale, which caused great consternation in the community about the potential resultant economic dislocations. In the ensuing negotiations, McLean agreed to remain in Belmont if it could pursue devolution of much of its campus and surrounds for development purposes.

Although the McLean land is private property and the institution is (continued on page 4)
November 1997, Arnold Arboretum, Jamaica Plain, Massachusetts
The Arnold Arboretum will offer a course on “Placing Charles Eliot: The Man Behind the Monograph” on November 5, and a course on “Introduction to Historic Landscape Preservation” by Charles Pepper, Manager of the Olmsted Center for Landscape Preservation and Eliot Foulds, Historical Landscape Architect on November 6 and 13. Contact: Arnold Arboretum of Harvard University at (617) 524-1718.

November 7-10, Atlanta, Georgia
The American Society of Landscape Architects will hold its Annual Meeting, incorporating the Historic Landscape Preservation Symposium into the overall meeting. Some highlights include: a Mobile Workshop by NAOP Vice President Lucy Lawless which follows the “Olmsted thread” across Atlanta beginning in Druid Hills; a session on the North Carolina Arboretum, an as-yet unrealized part of Olmsted’s design of the Biltmore Estate; and the interaction of sculpture and horticulture at the historic Olmsted Brothers-designed Oldfields Estate in Indianapolis (taught by past NAOP Trustee Patricia O’Donnell and current NAOP Trustee Chuck Gavers).

Other sessions include preserving Baltimore’s legacy of historic parks for the 21st century, taught by Patricia O’Donnell; and the restoration of Olmsted’s Prospect Park in New York. Contact: American Society of Landscape Architects at (202) 898-2444.

November, Phoenix, Arizona
The National Preservation Institute will hold seminars on “Integrating Cultural Resource and Environmental Compliance” on November 17-18, and another on “Contracting for Cultural Resources Tasks” on November 19-20. Contact: National Preservation Institute at (703) 765-0100 or on the Web at www.npi.org.

A preview of the Institute’s 1998 courses shows the following courses to be offered: “Planning, Design, and non-profit, as in any long term relationship there are numerous strands of political, social, and economic entanglements between the town and the Hospital.

Over the years, the Hospital has generously allowed town residents to walk its wooded trails, resulting in a growing group of “proprietary” conservationists who will defend this open space. Zoned as single family private residential, tax and zoning concessions to the Hospital over the years by the town has given the latter certain controls. For McLean to realize the revenues it hopes for would require a significant development scheme beyond these single family homes.

The Belmont Selectmen responded to this situation by appointing a special Task Force to explore the options with help from hired professional consultants. Partners Healthcare also has a team of professionals—developers, architects, landscape architects, traffic planners, engineers, etc.—to design the site for maximum profit.

Normally a politically quiescent and not preservation-minded community, Belmont groups are slowly galvanizing into action as the town becomes aware of the considerable loss and various impacts that any development of the scale suggested would have. Most significant among these groups is the McLean Open Space Alliance which coalesced in the spring of 1997, attracting a continually growing mixture of preservation, conservation, growth management, planning, and other interests, representing citizenry and organizations beyond the simple bounds of the town. Its grass roots activism is spurring the somewhat conservative Task Force to a more energetic level of educated responses. Additionally, Historic Massachusetts, the state-wide preservation organization which now includes the former Massachusetts Association for Olmsted Parks, has selected the McLean campus as one of its Ten Most Endangered Properties for 1997.

EASTERN

The once elegant Old North Cemetery, where Frederick Law Olmsted rests in the Olmsted family vault, is in a state of disarray. Up to 20 percent of the headstones are broken or overturned, and park workers are unable to keep up with grounds maintenance on the cemetery’s meager budget. Through the efforts of NAOP and Ashley Olmsted, volunteer landscape architects worked to make the cemetery more presentable for Memorial Day Weekend. On May 29, the Connecticut Chapter of the American Society of Landscape Architects presented its 1997 Frederick Law Olmsted Award to U.S. Senator Joseph Lieberman at the Olmsted gravesite. Lieberman was honored for his efforts to clean Long Island Sound, protect coastal areas, and preserve historic sites.

D.C., Washington. The Mall.
In August, the National Capital Planning Commission joined the Commission on Fine Arts in rejecting the controversial design for the World War II memorial. Members of both commissions agree
Implementation for Historic Landscapes"; and "Public Participation and Dispute Resolution in Historic Preservation."

EXHIBITS

Through November 23, 1997
Wellesley College
and
February 7-April 29, 1998
Field Museum of Natural History
Chicago, IL
"Viewing Olmsted: Photographs by Robert Burley, Lee Friedlander, and Geoffrey James" shows the photographers’ interpretations of Olmsted-designed landscapes as they look today. Organized by the Canadian Centre for Architecture.

June 4, 1997-January 11, 1998
National Building Museum
Washington, D.C.
"Lying Lightly On The Land: Building America’s National Park Roads and Parkways" traces the development of roads and parkways in America’s national parks using artworks, historic photographs, design models, and more. Demonstrates how engineers and designers build park roads to frame the landscape and shape visitor experience, while considering the impact of construction on the environment.

CALL FOR SUBMISSIONS

The National Center for Preservation Technology and Training announces its 1998 Preservation Technology and Training Grants in historic preservation. The Center is a National Park Service initiative to advance the practice of historic preservation in the fields of archeology, architecture, landscape architecture, materials conservation, and interpretation. All proposals that seek to develop and distribute preservation skills and technologies for the identification, that the design overwhelms its proposed site, which sits between the Lincoln Memorial and the Washington Monument. "There is no substitute for the power of open space," said Rep. Earl Blumenauer (D-Ore.). The Planning Commission told the designer to use water and landscape elements instead of columns and berms.

All Hallows Guild, the non-profit association that supports the Washington National Cathedral, received a complete collection of correspondence, instructions, and drawings developed by the Olmsted Landscape firm during Frederick Law Olmsted Jr.’s tenure as Cathedral landscape architect during 1907-1927. This donation was made possible by NAOP and, in particular, Jim Olmsted.

The draft Improvement Plan for Baxter Boulevard, a significant landscape and roadway conceptualized by Olmsted, Olmsted and Elliot in 1895, has been completed. The roadway and park are adjacent to the Back Cove, a 660 acre tidal basin that is the geographic center of the city. James Phinney Baxter, the city’s mayor in 1893, hired the Olmsted firm to develop the scenic drive and improve the health and sanitation of the Back Cove tidal basin, which served as the outfall for sewer lines. In 1905, the Olmsted Brothers developed a General Plan for Portland’s Park System and revised the Back Cove plan from the original Olmsted concept. The new plan will be reviewed by the planning committee and several municipal boards before being finalized and forwarded to the City Council for adoption. Eleanor Ames, an NAOP member and past Trustee, served as the project’s landscape historian.

Maryland, Baltimore.
The Friends of Maryland’s Olmsted Parks and Landscapes (FMOPL) received a grant from Preservation Maryland to prepare "Walking, Driving, and Historic Tour" brochures of areas including Lake Montebello, Clifton Park, and Herring Run. FMOPL sees it as the beginning of a series and a model guide to Olmsted designed open spaces and residential communities in Baltimore. One of the Olmsted-designed communities, Sudbrook Park, is working with Baltimore County to draft a Comprehensive Plan for the community; if adopted, it will become part of the County’s Master Plan and will serve as a blueprint to guide future actions and planning.

Massachusetts, Jamaica Plain. Arnold Arboretum.
On April 1 of this year, the Living Collections at the Arnold Arboretum suffered the greatest devastation since the Hurricane of 1938. A nor’easter altered the landscape by damaging more than 1,000 trees, including Japanese maples, oaks, beeches, hornbeams, and conifers. Three hundred have been marked for removal, and approximately 300 more suffered serious damage. Rebuilding the Living Collections will take months. Gifts to the Arboretum’s storm
evaluation, conservation, and interpretation of cultural resources will be considered.

To receive instructions on preparing and submitting applications, telephone NCPTT at (318) 357-3214 or find their Website at http://www.cr.nps.gov/ncptt/Proposal deadline is December 19, 1997.

The Lila Wallace-Reader’s Digest Urban Parks Institute is looking for innovative or successful examples of design, programming, management, and finance practices in urban parks and trails. Excellent examples will be publicized on the Institute’s website, Urban Parks Online, which is intended to become a resource for new ideas and knowledge about successful strategies.

To be included in this effort, or to receive the password to Urban Parks Online, please contact the Institute, located at Project for Public Spaces, Inc., by November 15. Contact: (212) 620-5660 by phone or (212) 620-3821 by fax.

NEWS FROM THE REGIONS

recovery fund can be sent to: The Arnold Arboretum, 125 Arborway, Jamaica Plain, MA 02130-3500.

New Jersey, Riverbank Park
Riverbank Park, along the Passaic River, in Essex County, Newark, New Jersey, is part of the oldest park system in the nation. Designed in 1907 and expanded in 1926 by the Olmsted Brothers, its 10.77 acres are a prime example of their ideas for providing recreation and passive green space in a densely populated urban industrial area. Today, the park is threatened with demolition by plans from the Essex County Park System to replace the existing Olmsted design with a modern, low-maintenance park. This was prompted by claims of traces of heavy metals found in soil tests by the county. The hearing to put River Bank Park on the National Historic Register took place on September 24. For more information, contact: Save The Park At Riverbank, (973) 465-0603.

New York, Buffalo.
The Buffalo Olmsted Parks Conservancy was recently invited to apply for funding from the Lila Wallace-Reader’s Digest Fund’s Urban Parks Initiative. This Initiative, which could award a grant of up to $1 million to Buffalo’s parks, is designed to increase the quality and quantity of parks in American cities and is the only national philanthropic undertaking devoted to urban parks. The Buffalo Olmsted Parks Conservancy recently moved. Its new address is: The Buffalo Olmsted Parks Conservancy, The Parkside Lodge, 84 Parkside Avenue, Buffalo, NY 14214. Phone: (716) 838-1249; website is at www.geocities.com/Heartland/7172.

New York, Brooklyn. Prospect Park.
Prospect Park continues the work of saving “Brooklyn’s Last Forest.” The Nine Million Dollar Capital Fund Drive is nearing completion, with half of the funds coming from the public sector, and half from the private sector. The almost-completed restoration of the upper portions of the watercourse have transformed it to its original splendor. Design and construction supervision is the responsibility of the Prospect Park Alliance. NAOP members can arrange for behind-the-fence tours when in the Brooklyn area. Park Director Tupper Thomas and a contingent from the Prospect Park Alliance marched in the 30th Annual West Indian Day Parade—along Olmsted’s Eastern Parkway—on Labor Day.

The Downing Park Planning Committee has completed Phases I & II of the Master Plan entitled the “Polly Project.” The project restores 9.5 acres of the 35 acre Olmsted-designed Downing Park. Phase I, completed in 1992, included excavation of a 2.5 acre pond, cobblestone edge reconstruction, and aerator installation. Phase II, completed in 1994, restored the path system, installed new lights, defined entrances, new curb, and gardens at the entrance.

- **The American Landscape** - Christian Zapatka. Covering a wide range of subjects, including Frederick Law Olmsted’s city parks, which “planned to provide both literal and metaphorical oases in the middle of dense urban zones; and the creation of national parks such as Yellowstone and Yosemite. Princeton Architectural. ISBN 1-56898-093-0; pb $35.

- **Olmsted In The Pacific Northwest: Private Estates and Residential Communities 1873-1959** - Catherine Joy Johnson. Johnson, a past NAOP Trustee, presents an 80-page inventory and assessment of all 197 known Olmsted landscape projects for the private sector in Oregon, Washington, Idaho, and British Columbia. Available from publisher: Friends of Seattle’s Olmsted Parks, P.O. Box 9884, Seattle, WA 98109-0884; $19.95 plus tax and shipping for a total of $21.59. Also at Eastern National Book Store, Olmsted National Historic Site, Brookline, MA.


- **A Yellowstone Album** - Marsha Karle, Managing Editor. A collection of historic photographs of Yellowstone National Park, with commentary by Lee H. Whittlesey, park historian, and other staff members. Roberts Rinehart. $29.95.

- **Searching For Yellowstone: Ecology and Wonder in the Last Wilderness** - Paul Schullery. The author, who has served as park ranger, historian, and administrator, gives a thought-provoking sense of Yellowstone as a corner-

### NEWS FROM THE REGIONS

In 1997, the committee undertook total restoration of the 1934 shelter house to turn it into the Planning Committee offices, tourist center, concession, and restrooms. The committee also constructed an informational kiosk at the park entrance.

**New York, New York City. Central Park.**

New York Mayor Rudolph Giuliani plans to give the Central Park Conservancy a 10-year contract to officially maintain the park. The conservancy, which since 1980 has made vast improvements to the park and thus drawn millions more visitors each year, will receive up to $4 million per year in additional funds for park projects. The conservancy has raised more than $100 million in donations over the last 17 years to fund restoration projects, including its recent $18.2 million restoration of the Great Lawn.

**SOUTHEASTERN**

**Georgia, Atlanta. Druid Hills.**

The Master Plan for Restoration and Rehabilitation of the linear park in Druid Hills has been adopted by the City of Atlanta and DeKalb County. The park was designed in 1893 by Frederick Law Olmsted as the main public space in Joel Hurt’s “ideal residential suburb.” The master planning process began in August 1995. TEA funds of $750,000 for implementation of the master plan became available in July. Work on the first implementation project will begin soon under the aegis of the Olmsted Linear Park Alliance (OLPA), the entity developed for that purpose as well as for continuing care of the park.

**MIDWESTERN**

**Illinois, Riverside.**

The landmark village of Riverside, which boasts an Olmsted landscape design, has an ongoing tree and shrub planting program that was begun by the Frederick Law Olmsted Society of Riverside in 1982. Some of the Society’s current activities are targeted at relieving erosion at the river banks to retard flooding, and to remove undesirable invasive plants. The Society recently petitioned the Village Board to save a six-foot segment of cobblestones in Harrington Park, which had been covered by pavement but was uncovered during reconstruction this summer. The Society would like to mark the site with a plaque explaining the importance of the cobblestone curb and gutter as a part of Olmsted’s total landscape design in 1868.

**Missouri, Kansas City. Penn Valley Park.**

In September 1996, the Kansas City Board of Parks and Recreation Commissioners were presented a Master Plan for the Liberty Memorial and Liberty Memorial Museum in Penn Valley Park. The plan includes the restoration/rehabilitation of historic landscapes designed by George F. Kessler, Frederick Law Olmsted, and the Olmsted Brothers. The Olmsted National Historic Site


- **Public Sculpture and the Civic Ideal in New York City, 1890-1930** - Michele H. Bogart. An investigation of the origins of the professional sculptural community and the civic ideals that the sculptors made into tangible forms. MIT Press. ISBN 1-56098-766-9; pb $27.50.

**Articles**


**Brochures**

- A brochure on Martin Luther King, Jr. Park includes the history of the park and explains FLO’s original 1871 design. Contact: Buffalo Olmsted Parks Conservancy at (716) 838-1249.

- A brochure on the West River Memorial Park’s Olmsted Brothers design is available from the New Haven, Connecticut Park System. Contact: New Haven Park System at (203) 946-6071.

**NEWS FROM THE REGIONS**

Collection contains 210 plans dating from 1923-34, two folders of plant lists, and a collection of 74 photographs pertaining to the Liberty Memorial. The design team hopes to revive many of the memorial’s original design elements, as funding permits.

**NORTHEASTERN**

**Washington, Seattle. Volunteer Park Water Tower.**

On September 20, the Friends of Seattle’s Olmsted Parks hosted the opening of the Olmsted Interpretive Exhibit at the Volunteer Park Water Tower. Six permanent enamel-on-steel panels, hung around the center of the tower’s observation level, give background on the Olmsted Firm and the history of Seattle’s 37 Olmsted parks and parkways. The exhibit, designed and coordinated by NAOP Trustee Jerry Arbes and Anne Knight, contains historic park reports, news clippings, maps, drawings, and photographs. The tower was built in 1906, at the suggestion of John C. Olmsted, to capture the distant views afforded by the park’s location on one of the highest hills in the city. This permanent exhibit is open daily from 10:00 a.m. until dusk.

**MILESTONES**

The Ames Family, headed by past NAOP Trustee Oliver Ames, were honored by Historic Massachusetts, Inc. (HMI) at the 1997 Historic Massachusetts’ Preservation Awards for their leadership in building the community of North Easton. The Ames accepted their Frederick Law Olmsted Award on May 7 from HMI Board Chair and past NAOP Trustee Betsy Shure Gross.

Many NAOP members also share their talents with HMI, including: HMI Board of Directors - Betsy Shure Gross, Board Chair; William C. Clendaniel, Vice Chair; Marion Pressley; Arleyn Levee. HMI Board of Advisors - Eleanor G. Ames; Shary Page Berg; Charles Beveridge.

**LETTER TO THE EDITOR**

To the Editor:

I appreciated your note on my book [Asphalt Nation: How the Automobile Took Over America And How We Can Take It Back] in the summer issue. However, in terms of Olmsted readers, the real issue is its unusual coverage of the history of early planning by the Olmsted Brothers and other landscape architects.

Perhaps you might find a way of mentioning this or stressing what I feel is a discussion of the issue of our times and landscape—how the automobile has overrun our nation’s parks, open space, etc. and how to stop it.

Thanks,

Jane Holtz Kay
THANK YOU

NAOP is grateful to all its contributors. The following have renewed their memberships for NAOP's fiscal year 1997-1998 at or above the Donor Level after April 15, 1997:

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Piedmont Park Conservancy, Atlanta GA
Riverside Historical Commission, Riverside IL

OLMSTED PAPERS FUND
Susan L. Klaus, Washington D.C.

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Please send (number) copies of the following National Association for Olmsted Parks WORKBOOK SERIES. Postage and handling are included. (See other side to order.) (Qty.)

Volume 3, Creating Central Park $42.00
Volume 4, Defending the Union, The Civil War and the U.S. Sanitary Commission $48.00
Volume 5, California Frontier $42.00
Volume 6, The Years of Olmsted, Vaux & Company $42.00

Additional Books
The New Urban Landscape, The Redefinition of City Form in Nineteenth-Century America by David Schuyler, p.b. $12.95
Master List of Design Projects of the Olmsted Firm, 1857-1950 $17.00
Frederick Law Olmsted: Designing the American Landscape by Charles E. Beveridge and Paul Rocheleau List price: $70; available to NAOP members for $49.50 plus $4.95 handling
Balancing Natural and Cultural Issues in the Preservation of Historic Landscapes: Selected Papers from the National Association for Olmsted Parks Conference edited by Charles A. Birnbaum and Sandra L. Tallant $6.95

Supplementary Series
Volume 1, The Papers of Frederick Law Olmsted: Writings on Public Parks, Parkways, and Park Systems edited by Charles E. Beveridge and Carolyn F. Hoffman List price: $49.95; available to NAOP members for $42 including tax and handling