Hello all!

Well, what a busy time it’s been since we met at the University of Georgia in Athens for our 29th Annual Meeting: seems just like yesterday. Eric MacDonald and I, as co-editors of the Proceedings of that Annual Meeting, have been working with the authors to finalize their documents and will be publishing the proceedings both electronically and hard copy with the Clemson University Digital Press. If all goes well, it will be completed by March; information will be forthcoming on how others can access copies.

The Board met in October in the beautiful surroundings of Kansas City, Missouri. Check out the website (www.ahlp.org) for some photos! By all accounts those ‘first timers’ were totally impressed by its wonderful parkway/boulevard system and the design details – particularly in the Plaza – and who could forget that famous KC barbecue? Many thanks to John Zvonar, my right hand guy, for chairing the meeting, and especially to Carol Grove who organized the weekend, an excellent prelude to our gathering in St. Louis in 2009!

And speaking of future meetings, your Board has decided to convene for a special meeting in Washington D.C., to be hosted by Nancy Brown, this coming March. This exercise will be something of a continuation of the dialogue that began in Charleston, S.C. in 2003 and will focus on the Alliance’s mission: who we are, where we are going.

Planning continues for the Montreal 2008 conference; see VP John Zvonar’s article later on in the newsletter. We have altered our traditional spring meeting slot to the autumn, in order to coincide with the Association for Preservation Technology’s conference slated for that time. The fall colors of Montreal will be ablaze as the location of one of Olmsted’s most famous works, Mount Royal Park, welcomes us to celebrate our 30th anniversary. That’s right: 30 years ago the Alliance was founded by a forward-thinking quartet who saw the need for an organization dedicated to the protection of our landscape legacies. Come and raise a glass to what we’ve accomplished and to what the next 30 years will bring!

Mark your calendars now for the week of 13 October 2008 in Montreal, Quebe! The Alliance will once again touch down in Canada, and this time, in the exotic city on the St. Lawrence River.

Montreal boasts many opportunities to learn and to exchange experiences in a challenging urban environment. Witness firsthand its early 19th century industrialization through a tour of the Lachine Canal. Witness its blossoming as a cosmopolitan city which culminated in Expo 67, the city’s international ‘coming out’ party.

Charles McLaughlin calls Mount Royal Park (inaugurated in 1876) one of Frederick Law Olmsted’s seven most important works: we’ll simply call it his most important Canadian work. Passionate enthusiasts from the City of Montreal and the Friends of the Mountain will speak on how they are managing the challenges of development pressures in and around the mountain.

And, Saint Laurent Boulevard, the ‘Main’ as it is known locally, provides a laboratory on how to handle linear corridors comprised of an array of cultural groups while designated as a national historic site. And let’s not forget the great shopping streets of St. Denis and Sainte Catherine or ‘Old Montreal,’ as European as you’ll find in North America!

Abstracts will be invited for papers describing projects that demonstrate an interdisciplinary approach to the assessment and management of historic urban landscapes, including parks, gardens, squares, vernacular – but not ‘ordinary’ – neighbourhoods, districts, industrial sites, and transportation corridors. Strong consideration will be given to those submissions demonstrating a viable approach to acknowledging and addressing heritage values within a multiplicity of past layers (evolution), how this is communicated to the general public, and ideally how it is expressed and reinforced in legislation.

The Alliance will be celebrating its 30th anniversary in 2008, so all the more reason to participate. We will be looking at where we’ve been and, more importantly, where we are going.

Montréal is truly an experience: old world charm, French joie de vivre and a modern style all its own. Hope you can make it!

For more information on Montreal, please visit: www.tourisme-montreal.org.
Call For Papers
Designing The Parks
A conference in two parts examining the design of buildings and landscapes in regional, state, and national parks. Sponsored by the University of Virginia, the Golden Gate National Parks Conservancy, and the National Park Service.
• Designing the Parks, Part 2: The Present and Future of Park Planning and Design, San Francisco, California (Fall 2008).
This conference will meet for three days in Charlottesville, Virginia (May 20-22, 2008). A three day work session in San Francisco will follow in the fall of 2008. In Charlottesville the meeting will be hosted by the University of Virginia and the papers presented will address the history of the planning and design of regional, state, and national parks. The San Francisco meeting, which will be held at the Golden Gate National Recreation Area, will explore current issues and future trends in park planning and design, building on the research presented at the Charlottesville meeting.
Interested scholars, scientists, park professionals, and design practitioners are invited to submit paper abstracts of no more than 300 words for the Charlottesville meeting of Designing the Parks by January 7, 2008. For the complete article and details visit the Alliance website at www.ahlp.org.

Call For Papers
A Critical Examination Of Preservation & Sustainability
The Sixth National Forum on Historic Preservation Practice will be held in March, 2009 at Goucher College, Baltimore, Maryland.
Historic preservation practice in the United States has become complex, professional, and inclusive, while reflecting an increasingly mainstreamed and popular public ethos. This has, in turn, focused the attention of some preservationists far beyond traditional concerns for preserving individual historic buildings, landscapes and neighborhoods, to grappling with ways to integrate preservation with land use and transportation planning, smart growth, and management of resources; in short, seeking ways to make historic preservation a central part of the growing discussion of developing sustainable practices.

This series of National Forums, co-sponsored by a consortium of 11 graduate historic preservation programs, has focused on the changing perspectives of historic preservation practice in the United States. The Sixth National Forum on Historic Preservation Practice, to be held at Goucher College, March 2009, will explore the challenges that preservation faces in becoming a critical component of the national debate about sustainability. The Forum is interested in receiving electronic or hard copy abstracts between 300 and 500 words which must be submitted no later than January 31, 2008. For the complete article and details visit the Alliance website at www.ahlp.org.

Landslide 2008 - Marvels of Modernism
Do you know of a Modernist residential property that is in the path of progress? Perhaps a Post-War park or plaza that is scheduled for renovation? Or an abstract or geometric landscape design that is worth saving for future generations to study and take inspiration from?

The Cultural Landscape Foundation (TCLF) and Garden Design magazine are teaming up to call for nominations for the 2008 Landslide program – Marvels of Modernism. TCLF, established in 1998, is the only not-for-profit foundation in America dedicated to increasing the public’s awareness of the important legacy of our cultural landscapes and helping to save them for the future. Since its inception in 2003, the Landslide initiative has spotlighted significant public and private landscapes at risk, and this year’s theme will again do so by calling attention to our diverse and unique Post-War garden and landscape heritage.

Charles Birnbaum, TCLF President, says, “Shifting American tastes have, for the past two decades, resulted in the demise and demolition of many of our most innovative and cherished Post-War designs – but, thankfully, today Modern design is having a renaissance and this thematic list will shed light on this formerly forgotten collection.”

The deadline is in April. For further information visit http://www.tclf.org/landslide/2008.
Creating a Broader HALS Network

The establishment of the Historic American Landscapes Survey (HALS) in 2000 was like Kris Kringle receiving mountains of mail in Miracle on 34th Street. The U.S. Government finally recognized historic landscapes as legitimate siblings of historic buildings and structures in the NPS family of Heritage Documentation Programs. Suddenly, all of those buildings and structures floating in large format black and white photos with no visible means of support were poised to leap from the page in vibrant Technicolor with an entourage of plants and ponds, a network of roads and paths, and vistas stretching to the horizon. In our dreams, maybe.

Using HALS

Now that we have HALS, what is it that we do have? Another compliance tool for documenting historic properties before the road goes through? Only if we let it be. HALS has the potential to raise awareness of historic landscapes, provide baseline information for their management, and leverage significant funding for their preservation.

As part of the MOU establishing HALS, the American Society of Landscape Architects (ASLA) created a network of HALS Liaisons from each state. Their work is overseen by a HALS Liaisons Coordinator selected by the chair of the Historic Preservation-Professional Practice Network (HP-PPN). The state Liaisons are appointed by their respective ASLA chapter presidents, and charged with the following duties and responsibilities:

A. Lobby federal legislators for initial and ongoing Congressional funding of HALS.
B. Compile, prioritize, and update a list of local examples of historic landscapes that are threatened, highly significant, and/or highly valued.
C. Assist the Chief of HALS to compile a comprehensive national inventory of possible HALS study sites.
D. Identify one or more historic landscapes that merit complete documentation pursuant to the guidelines and coordinate such documentation as resources allow.
E. Coordinate HALS activities with the State Historic Preservation Office (SHPO).
F. Advise on the review and revision of state and local historic preservation laws and standards to include documentation of historic landscapes.
G. Educate government agencies and consultants about the use of HALS for compliance with Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act, Section 4(f) of the Transportation Department Act of 1966, and the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA).
H. Promote public awareness of the importance of historic landscapes and the use of HALS.
I. Encourage donations from local philanthropists to the HABS/HAER/HALS Foundation for supplemental private funding of HALS.

A Broader Network

Many members of the AHLP are actively promoting HALS, but we need to work with the Liaisons to create a broader network of advocates. The National Trust for Historic Preservation has lent credence to landscape preservation recently, emphasizing site and context. We need to enlist the Trust and other preservation partners like NC SHPO, and local preservation organizations and individuals in the campaign to implement and fund HALS.

To identify the HALS Liaison in your state, contact your local ASLA chapter http://www.asla.org/states/ChPr.htm or go to http://host.asla.org/groups/hppigroup/directory.htm. For more information, contact HALS Liaisons Co-Coordinators, Susan Crook at 435-773-7920/ scrookla@gmail.com, or David Driapsa at (941) 591-2321/ agarden@naples.net.

Garden Conservancy’s New Preservation Project

The Garden Conservancy, a national nonprofit garden preservation organization, has added Pearl Fryar’s Topiary Garden in Bishopville, SC to its roster of Preservation Projects.

Pearl Fryar began work on the three-acre garden in 1984 in an effort to win “Yard of the Month” for his home on the outskirts of town. The well-manicured, sculptural plant forms that comprise Fryar’s living vision of peace, love and goodwill often began as salvaged seedlings from a local nursery. Recognized by art and botanical enthusiasts, the visually whimsical garden is maintained year-round by Fryar for visitors from around the world.

“Pearl has created a garden of originality and personal expression,” says Garden Conservancy Preservation Projects Director Bill Noble, “and he uses it to inspire and educate people, especially kids, to achieve their creative potential. His work has brought new civic pride to a town that is the county seat of the poorest county in the state of South Carolina. He has brought his community together and helped to erase boundaries of race, economic background, and gender. Few gardens stake so bold a claim as to be about effecting social change. But that’s what Pearl Fryar aims to do. By helping to preserve his garden, the Garden Conservancy also aims to help Pearl continue his mission of using the garden to teach and inspire.”

Pearl Fryar sees his achievement and the world’s interest in his garden as an opportunity to make a statement about the power of “average” individuals to do great things. “I was an average student academically,” he says, “I worked 36 years in industry and made a fairly good living. But then I created this garden that’s internationally known. It demonstrates that a kid who is average academically can still make important contributions to our society. I talk about that when I give lectures. I want people to be aware of that.” A documentary about Pearl Fryar and his garden, A Man Named Pearl, had its theatrical release on August 31st in Charlotte, NC, Knoxville, TN, and Indianapolis, IN, and won an Audience Choice Award when it premiered at the Heartland Film Festival in Indianapolis in October of 2006.

The newly formed Friends of Pearl Fryar’s Topiary Garden, headed by president Polly Lafitte, is engaged in a long-range planning process and fund-raising to hire a gardener to help Mr. Fryar. To learn more about Pearl Fryar and his garden, visit www.fryarstopiaries.com. Tax deductible contributions can be made to: The Garden Conservancy/Friends of Pearl Fryar’s Topiary Garden, P.O. Box 219, Cold Spring, New York 10516.
Heroes of Horticulture sites, located through the Cultural Landscape Foundation’s website (www.tclf.org), and will be showcased in an exhibition at George Eastman House International Museum of Photography and Film, opening December 1, 2007 and in the January 2008 edition of Garden Design magazine.

Landslide is a yearly designation of significant landscapes at risk of being lost. The designees are chosen from hundreds of nominations submitted from throughout the nation that highlight current issues in landscape preservation and interpretation. This year, TCLF and Garden Design have partnered with George Eastman House to produce an exhibition of original photography of the Heroes of Horticulture by internationally recognized artists on view in Rochester from December 1, 2007 through March 2, 2008, and traveling thereafter. The exhibition includes images by such celebrated photographers as Mark Klett, John Pfahl, Eli Reed, Louviere + Vanessa, and John Divola, which will also be featured in the January 2008 issue of Garden Design magazine.

Along with the Eastman House exhibit of original photography, sites across the country will host the Heroes of Horticulture signboard exhibit at or near locations associated with the different Heroes. The signboard exhibit will provide the history of each horticultural specimen, the threat, information on how to support the feature, and associated historic and current photographs of each resource.

The twenty-one sites are:

- American Sycamore Tree
- Antietam National Battlefield, Sharpsburg, MD
- Angel Oak Southern Live Oak Tree
- Johns Island, SC
- Azalea Collection
- Airlie Gardens, Wilmington, NC
- Baldcypress Grove
- Spring Grove Cemetery, Cincinnati, OH
- Banyan Tree Alleé
- Banyan Street, Boca Grande, FL
- Bamboo Collection
- Jungle Gardens, Avery Island, LA
- Bur Oak Tree
- Henry Ford Estate Fair Lane, Dearborn, MI
- Camellia Collection
- Magnolia Plantation, Charleston, SC
- Cork Oak Tree
- Santa Cruz, CA
- Desert Ironwood Tree
- Arizona-Sonora Museum, Tucson, AZ
- Elms of the National Mall
- Washington, DC
- Eucalyptus Tree
- Washington Park Arboretum, Seattle, WA
- Live Oak Tree Alleé
- Main Street, Houston, TX
- Pear Trees
- Ellwanger Garden, Rochester, NY
- Moreton Bay Fig Trees
- Rancho Los Alamitos, Long Beach, CA
- Pow-Wow Big Leaf Maple Tree
- Gladstone, OR
- Rhododendron Collection
- Greendale Cemetery, Meadville, PA
- Southern Live Oak Tree
- Baton Rouge, LA
- Tree Peony Collection
- Linwood Gardens, Pavilion, NY

For more information on the Heroes of Horticulture, including exhibit venues, visit www.tclf.org/landslide/2007.
Honorary Doctorate Granted To Susan Burke

In June 2007, Wilfrid Laurier University in Waterloo, Ontario granted an honorary doctorate to Susan Burke, Board Member of the Alliance for Historic Landscape Preservation. Susan is manager and curator of two historic sites which interpret the cultural heritage of the two founding groups who settled in the area in the early 1800's – the Pennsylvania German Mennonites from the United States and the Scots from Great Britain. This great honour recognizes her personal contribution to material culture preservation and it raises public awareness of our field of heritage conservation in general. The following is an excerpt from Susan's Convocation Address for the general and honours Arts students in which she focuses on a key attribute of heritage – Sense of Place.

Excerpt of Convocation Address by Dr. Susan MacFarlane Burke

Folktales and legends from many cultures remind us of the importance of leaving footprints and markers to document the path we have followed. Perhaps the most familiar image we can borrow to illustrate this point is from the folklore of one of our ethnic German founding cultures – the well-known tale of Hansel und Gretel. Conjure up for a moment an image of the two children, abandoned in the dark forest, disoriented, confused - their way-out unclear, their footprints obscured, their breadcrumbs consumed by hungry birds, their markers gone. Though the sub-text of this and other similar folktales is actually child abandonment, a very real social ill in the medieval period, the folk wisdom embedded in such oral tradition remains relevant even in contemporary society.

Footprints. In today’s world, footprints have taken on new significance, one with ecological and global implications. Currently it is the footprints we leave on the environment which are of greatest concern, as we all strive to build a culture of sustainability for the future that will lessen our impact on the natural landscape. This initiative is of great relevance to Canadians since we as a nation feel a strong connection to the natural environment; our geography and climate determine our lifestyles, influence our moods and challenge our adaptability. They fascinate our writers and inspire our artists. Clearly, then, the natural environment is an essential element in defining our national sense of place.

Professionals working in the field of natural landscape preservation in Canada understand that a gentler footprint is critical to the survival of this, our most valued, most envied of non-renewable resources. Working every day in historic landscapes and places of natural beauty, we recognize the risks we take in making our national treasures accessible to the public through cultural tourism and recreation. We understand the importance of this burgeoning industry yet fear the consequences if economic development is allowed to advance unchecked. Daily we are confronted by this cultural balancing act, attempting to accommodate the unrelenting demand, while at the same time, mitigating in the landscape, the impact of ever-increasing footprints – our visitors, and our own.

Footprints have yet another meaning for cultural landscape historians, urban geographers, anthropologists, folklorists and among many others, museum professionals like myself who are committed to the preservation of built heritage and material culture. The footprints of our studies are the human patterns impressed through time, upon the contours of the natural environment. They include the path systems that followed the features of the land, worn bare by those first moccasin feet, but also the roadways that superseded them frequently preserving the course of the very tracks they replaced. Our footprints include highways and railways, bridges and monuments, skyscrapers and shopping malls, indeed all the constructions that man has contributed to his natural milieu. Buildings do have footprints as those of you who have studied architecture will certainly know.

The combination of natural and man-made features in the landscape define, at any given time, the essential character of a place. It is the depth and richness of this cultural landscape, however, which foster the authentic human engagement – the personal attachment - that gives a place special meaning and resonance.

The notion of place and the strong “sense of place” some landscapes are said to embody is an elusive phenomenon. My most recent exposure to it involved curating an exhibition for which quilt artists were challenged to interpret the theme “Constructions” in their work. We were expecting depictions of buildings, streetscapes, landmarks but all, to a person, attempted to capture something much less concrete – imprints, impressions, perceptions.

Their attempts have allowed me to examine more closely personal responses to place and to attempt to define it. For some artists, special places brought back remembrances of things past, nostalgia for a simpler time. Some felt places were repositories of collective memory and family stories. Some valued them for the linkages and connections they provided, bringing people together who otherwise led separate lives and could feel disconnected and adrift. Places that offered safety and contentment pervaded the quilters’ work frequently juxtaposed with the anxiety and dislocation - the mental gridlock - one experiences in impersonal, urban landscapes… Quilters frequently included landmarks in their work, structures that dominated and defined their communities but more importantly, marked their personal place – their comfort zone – their “home place”. These places whether weathered family farmhouses, or humble out-port shanties were markers that oriented them – rooted them - spoke to them of comfort, warmth, constancy, belonging. Clearly social relationships shared the built and natural environments in these quilters’ perception of place.

Asked about your personal “home place” I am sure each one of you would arrive at a different response. My place, at least for the past 27 years has been Waterloo Region, a place located in the watershed of the Grand River, culturally unique in all Ontario. Interestingly, the Grand contributes to the cityscape in Cambridge, though it is conspicuously absent in Kitchener and Waterloo. Its absence, however, dominates the history of urban development here, since lack of water prompted the early introduction of steam technology, making possible the growth of family-run industries and heralding the unprecedented prosperity Berliners…that is Kitchenerites …enjoyed at the turn of the last century. Today it is reflected in the wonderful legacy of industrial buildings that punctuate our neighborhoods and distinguish our urban landscapes, serving also as prominent markers and points of reference as we travel from place to place in our twin cities.

And speaking of travel, I am sure that some of you have come from outside the Region today so I know you can relate to the navigational challenges that are posed by our interesting road system here. In describing my “home place”, then, I would have to include the unique footprint impressed on our natural environment by the surveyors of the German Land Company formed by the first Pennsylvania-German Mennonite settlers. These German surveyors, informed by their own cultural traditions, respected the natural contours of the land, and hence eschewed the British grid system. This particularly distinctive imprint
on our County has left us forever directionally challenged, proscribing that we travel east and west on King Street in Kitchener and north and south in Waterloo…and that we continue to get lost on our rural routes since in Waterloo County everyone knows that you can’t take three right turns and end up back where you started.

When many think of special places they first consider built heritage and historic landmarks such as the Schneider Haus and the wee Scottish cottage we also operate in Cambridge. Fortunately, the private sector and institutions that now include our universities have taken up the challenge of preserving historic buildings, the memories and values they embody, and the special places they occupy, rejuvenating industrial and civic buildings in our inner cities, for example, and reinventing them for condos and classrooms.

But for me, it is the ethnicity of our community’s roots that has kept me intellectually challenged and literally kept me here in this place. And it is not so much in the architecture that the culture finds expression since the Germans built largely in the English style. Instead, it is manifested in their vernacular arts - their folk arts - and most robustly, in their folkways: their language – that curious verdeutschte English we hear at the markets……their food customs – the schmeckable food which Edna Staebler taught us to love and which is becoming increasingly difficult to find in our local restaurants….and it is expressed through their religious and social institutions and in their pervasive Geistlichkeit – their spirituality. These intangible footprints are perhaps the most illusive and vulnerable of all.

Should we care about place? Jane Jacobs the well-respected urban planner thinks so. She warns in her most recent book that there may be a Dark Age Ahead. As the cultural landscape becomes more densely inhabited, the economic and social forces that shape it are more complex, change is more rapid, layers proliferate and abrupt spatial discontinuities can result. Humans become disoriented and their stabilizing experience of place is often lost …..shades of the predicament of Hansel and Gretel……. Jacobs predicts that if trends continue, North Americans will soon live in a placeless commercial world of shopping malls and theme parks – anonymous, suburban “edge-cities”. It is the culture of the automobile that is causing American communities to die, she asserts. An invasive human footprint indeed!

Should you care about place? Well…..a healthy sense of place is clearly critical to the well-being of individuals, of neighborhoods and of whole communities; it is associated with history, identity, collective memory, safety, stability, belonging, comfort. Place can and should encourage social interaction and foster social relations. A strong sense of place can center young adventurers such as you, inspiring in you the confidence, courage and heart to extend the boundaries of knowledge, exploit opportunity, and to fully maximize your personal potentials……to make a few meaningful, generational footprints of your own.

So make tracks but remember! Respect the authentic places we have fought to preserve for your emotional well-being and quality of life. And remember to leave behind footprints and markers of your own to remind you of where you have come … and…. to make your own unique contribution to our rich, layered legacy of place for those who follow behind. Machs Gut!

News from the Members

Mary Paolano Hoerner, BA, MA, JD, has developed workshops for teachers on teaching with cultural landscapes. She has given programs for the Western Ohio OEA, Central Ohio OEA, and most recently at Wittenberg University. The programs were developed with the support of Ohio Chapter, ASLA. The programs have been well-received, and additional workshops for teachers are planned for 2008.

Hugh C. Miller, FAIA, Hon. ASLA, is the 2007 recipient of the James Marston Fitch Preservation Education Lifetime Achievement Award from the National Council of Preservation Education. Hugh began teaching historic preservation in 1970 at the Middle East Technical University in Ankara, Turkey. While employed full time by the National Park Service (NPS) as an architect/planner, he organized and presented NPS training programs for managers, professionals and trades mechanics in architectural conservation, landscape preservation and cultural resource management subjects. At the same time he was presenting courses, seminars and workshops at universities and preservation organizations in the U.S. and internationally.

Since 1996, Hugh has been teaching preservation technology and supervising thesis at the Masters of Arts in Historic Preservation Program at Goucher College.

Upcoming Events

April 11-13, 2008 Southern Garden History Society Annual Conference: High Cotton and Tall Columns, Athens, Georgia. High Cotton & Tall Columns will explore the influence of cotton on the architecture, gardens and landscapes of middle Georgia. A local tour will include several antebellum Greek Revival homes and The State Botanical Garden of Georgia. Also included in the meeting will be a tour to nearby Madison which largely escaped the ravages of the Civil War. Sunday’s optional tour will be to Milledgeville, the original capital of Georgia, and will include the old Governor’s Mansion which has undergone extensive renovation. For more information visit www.southerngardenhistory.org.

June 15-17, 2008 Historic Landscape Institute: Preserving Jefferson’s Gardens and Landscapes, Virginia. The Historic Landscape Institute will offer students an introduction to the fields of landscape history, garden restoration, and historical horticulture by using the landscapes designed by Thomas Jefferson at Monticello and the University of Virginia as case studies and outdoor classrooms. Participants will engage in instruction 40 hours per week, with the bulk of that time spent on site. Occasional strenuous activity will be required in the gardens. Weekends are free for individual travel or participation in optional activities in and around the Charlottesville area. Tuition cost is $800 for the two-week course; housing is available in dormitory rooms designed by Thomas Jefferson on the Lawn at the University of Virginia. For additional information, please contact Mary Hughes at 434-924-6020 or mwh21@virginia.edu.

June 23-27, 2008 2008 APGA Annual Conference: The Big Picture, Pasadena, California. You think you know California. Everybody does. The movies and the top forty and the tabloids tell us so. But we want to show you another California. So, in addition to a little Hollywood, we want to stimulate your thinking and expand your horizons. Connect the quotidian with the quantum, the purely imaginary and the very, very real. See your own part of the world with new eyes. Come to California and go home changed. Visit www.publicgardens.org for more information.
Robin Karson’s long-awaited book, *A Genius for Place: American Landscapes of the Country Place Era*, is slated for publication in early December by the University of Massachusetts Press. *A Genius for Place* will be the fifth title released by LALH in 2007, capping the organization’s fifteenth anniversary year.

In this beautifully illustrated volume, Karson traces the development of a distinctly American style of landscape design through an analysis of seven country places created by some of the nation’s most talented landscape practitioners—from the naturalistic wild gardens of Warren Manning to the mysterious “Prairie style” landscapes of Jens Jensen to the proto-modernist gardens of Fletcher Steele. Analyzing these designs in context with one another and against the backdrop of the professional and cultural currents that shaped larger projects—such as parks, campuses, and planned communities—Karson creates a rich and comprehensive picture of the artistic achievements of the period. Handsome black-and-white images by landscape photographer Carol Betsch illuminate the transporting spirit of these country places today, while hundreds of drawings, plans, and historical photographs bring the past to life.

2007 VIEW Available Online
Download the annual LALH magazine at www.lalh.org/view.html.

**Olmsted Site Book Published**
Please note that the book, *The Olmsted National Historic Site and the Growth of Historic Landscape Preservation*, which was mentioned in our summer newsletter and written by David Grayson Allen has been published.

*Inspired by Nature: The Garfield Park Conservatory and Chicago’s West Side* by Julia S. Bachrach* and Jo Ann Nathan*. (Garfield Park Conservatory Alliance, November 2007) 160 pages, paper, 978-0-9794125-0-9, $25.00 US.

One of the nation’s most stunning and intriguing botanical havens, the Garfield Park Conservatory will celebrate its one-hundredth anniversary in 2008. Often referred to as “landscape art under glass,” Jens Jensen’s revolutionary design is a poetic interpretation of his beloved Midwestern landscape as it was in prehistoric times. The tropical plantings, water features, and stonework were in shocking contrast to the showy displays of typical Victorian hothouses, and his Conservatory quickly became one of the region’s most captivating attractions.

The Conservatory also is at the center of a larger story: how nature, urban design, and horticulture helped to shape one of Chicago’s most interesting neighborhoods. As early as the 1870s, architect and engineer William Le Baron Jenney began the verdant tradition of Chicago’s West Side by designing its seminal park and boulevard system. Today gardening and the greening movement are a catalyst for reviving this vital part of Chicago.

Published in honor of the centennial, *Inspired by Nature* blossoms into a living history that looks to the future, and covers everything from the history of the conservatory and Garfield Park to the revival of the surrounding community. Along with historical essays, archival photography and plans, as well as contemporary color photography by Brook Collins, *Inspired by Nature* also features vignettes by Chicago Public School students, who write about their experiences as members of the Garfield Park Community. A reflection of the passionate interest and partnerships behind the Garfield Park revival, as well as a celebration of nature’s important role in people’s lives, *Inspired by Nature* is an essential publication for anyone with an interest in Chicago history, urban parks and communities, and the botanic splendor of the Garfield Park Conservatory.

**The Authentic Garden: Five Principles For Cultivating A Sense Of Place** by Claire E. Sawyers. (Timber Press, December 2007) 288 pages, 300 color photos, Hardcover, 978-0-88192-831-0, $34.95 US.

What makes a garden “authentic”? For American gardeners, this question can be vexing. Because America is a comparatively young nation, it hasn’t had much time to develop an indigenous garden style. Gardeners have therefore tended to turn to other national traditions—such as Italy’s, Japan’s, or England’s—for inspiration. The unhappy result of this piecemeal stylistic borrowing has been the creation of gardens that bear no relationship to local landscapes and history, and that have no connection with our daily lives.

Claire Sawyers, director of the Scott Arboretum of Swarthmore College since 1990, shows how this tendency can be reversed: how we can create gardens that are both deeply rooted in their surroundings and deeply satisfying to their creators and owners. Drawing on her knowledge of a vast array of American and foreign gardens, she identifies five principles that help instill a sense of authenticity:

1. Capture the sense of place
2. Derive beauty from function
3. Use humble or indigenous materials
4. Marry the inside to the outside
5. Involve the visitor

Practical and inspiring, *The Authentic Garden* will enable the reader to make a garden that is true to a specific time, place, and culture; to capture and reflect an authentic spirit so that the garden, in turn, will nurture the spirit of those who cherish and dwell in it.
Application for Membership

The Alliance for Historic Landscape Preservation

Membership is open to individuals and organizations with a commitment to landscape preservation. Complete this form and return it with a check payable to Alliance for Historic Landscape Preservation, c/o Sherda K. Williams, 118 S. Pleasant St., Stockton, KS 67669.

Membership Information (as you would like it to appear in the directory)
- New Member
- Renewal

Name

Organization

Address

City  State/Province  Zip

Phone  Fax  E-mail

- Individual $30/$35 CAN
- Student $15/$17 CAN
- Library $25/$30 CAN (receives newsletter/mailings; not eligible for full benefits)
- Institutional $75/$85 CAN (full benefits for 3 members who share 1 mailing at the same address)

Current Projects/Interests
(10 words or less for directory)

☐ Check here if you do not want your name to appear in the directory

About the Alliance

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

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

Alliance News

Susan West Editor
630-548-0091
slayton@juno.com

Julia Bachrach Co-editor
312-742-4698; 312-742-5347 fax
julia.bachrach@chicagoparkdistrict.com

Front and back cover illustrations courtesy of Massachusetts Horticultural Society Library, from J.C. London’s Arboretum et Fructicetum Britannicum (1838)