

## Board of Directors of Friends of Fairsted, 2008

**CAROLINE LOUGHLIN, FOF PRESIDENT**, is an active board member of the National Association for Olmsted Parks and an editor of the new edition of *The Master List of Design Projects of the Olmsted Firm 1857 – 1979*.

**PAT SUHRCKE, FOF TREASURER AND FOUNDING PRESIDENT OF FOF**, is Director of Cambridge Forum, one of public radio's longest running public affairs programs.

**JEAN STRINGHAM, FOF CLERK**, is a community activist and landscape photographer and is President of the Trustees of the Brookline Historical Society.

**DAVID ENGLAND, FOF VICE PRESIDENT, PROJECTS**, is past Chair of the Brookline Preservation Commission and has been a volunteer at several national parks, including Acadia.

**BETSY SHURE GROSS, FOF VICE PRESIDENT, BOARD DEVELOPMENT**, is a retired executive of Massachusetts Office of Energy and Environmental Affairs, a founding member of National Association for Olmsted Parks and Historic Massachusetts, Inc. (now Preservation MASS) and a long time advocate for restoration of the Emerald Necklace.

**ARLEYN A. LEEVEE, FOF VICE PRESIDENT, PROGRAMS**, is a landscape historian and preservation consultant specializing in the work of the Olmsted Brothers, and is on the board of The Cultural Landscape Foundation, a Trustee for Historic New England and on the Emerald Necklace Maintenance and Management Oversight Committee.

**HENRY LUKAS, FOF VICE PRESIDENT, DEVELOPMENT**, is a retired high school principal who is currently Education Director at the Spellman Museum of Stamps & Postal History at Regis College in Weston, MA.

**FRANCES SHEDD-FISHER, FOF VICE PRESIDENT, COMMUNICATIONS**, is a retired institutional investments executive and portfolio manager, community activist, and long time advocate for restoration of the Emerald Necklace.

**VERONICA N. NANAGAS-DEVON** has lived in the Fairsted neighborhood for the last 30 years, and is a volunteer at Olmsted NHS. She is a retired physician, previously Associate Chief of the Department of Anesthesiology at the Boston Veterans Administration Medical Center, and Clinical Assistant Professor at Tufts-New England Medical Center and Boston University School of Medicine.

**JOHN F. FURLONG, MLA**, Harvard Graduate School of Design, is former director, Landscape Institute, Arnold Arboretum of Harvard University and recipient of numerous honors and awards.

**ALLAN GALPER**, an attorney specializing in corporate, securities and banking matters, serves as a Trustee of the Robert Treat Paine Historical Trust and was instrumental in saving the historic Henry Hobson Richardson house in Brookline, Massachusetts.

**MIRIAM G. JOST** is a career health care project manager with an interest in the preservation of public open spaces for active and passive recreation.

**PATRICE KISH**, Director of the Office of Cultural Resources for the Massachusetts Department of Conservation and Recreation, has devoted the past 20 years to the restoration of the Emerald Necklace, while implementing many award-winning historic preservation programs.

**CAROL WINKLER** is a retired college history instructor and writer and a long time volunteer at Olmsted National Historic Site.

### Friends of Fairsted 2008 Board

Standing, L to R, Jean Stringham, Allan Galper, Miriam Jost, David England, Carol Winkler, Henry Lukas, Ronni Devon, Patrice Kish, (former Board member Lena Martikainen). Seated, L to R, Betsy Shure Gross, Pat Suhrcke, Caroline Loughlin, Frances Shedd-Fisher. Not in photo, John Furlong and Arleyn Levee. Photo by Jean Stringham.



# Friends of Fairsted

*Advancing the mission of the Frederick Law Olmsted National Historic Site*

## Newsletter

Fall 2008

### Outlook Bright for Good Neighbors Education Program

A principal goal of Friends of Fairsted is to serve as a funding source for worthy Olmsted NHS programs as a way to enrich the site's ability to serve diverse constituencies. Among the programs the Friends and the site staff are collaborating on is Good Neighbors Landscape Design and Community Building, a curriculum-based education program that focuses on the art, science, history and civics of landscape design. Good Neighbors is expected to be launched in fall 2009 and once fully implemented will reach 600 third grade students in Boston and Brookline. Later the program is expected to be replicated in other communities.

Good Neighbors includes three inter-disciplinary learning experiences: First, classroom activities introduce students to Frederick Law Olmsted and the role of parks and green space in urban communities. Next, on a field trip to Fairsted (Olmsted NHS), students visit the design office to solve an authentic 1890's park design problem, explore the restored gardens and grounds to experience the connections between the art and science of landscape design, and work in teams to design a model landscape

that addresses the varied needs and interests of people in the community. Finally, back in the classroom, students apply their new understanding of the relationship between landscape and commu-

nity by visiting an Olmsted park in their own neighborhood, visiting a contemporary landscape architecture firm, or writing a letter to a local official about a park near their home or school.

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### Friends of Fairsted presents new Olmsted Projects Master List to City of Boston



In photo, left to right, Toni Pollak, Boston Commissioner of Parks and Recreation; Ruth Kowal, Acting President, Boston Public Library; Myra Harrison, Superintendent, Frederick Law Olmsted National Historic Site; Thomas M. Menino, Mayor, City of Boston; Caroline Loughlin, President, Friends of Fairsted; Pat Suhrcke, Treasurer, Friends of Fairsted; Lee Farrow Cook, Site Manager, Frederick Law Olmsted National Historic Site; Rob Consalvo, Boston City Councilman, District 5, Boston resident Pat Suhrcke's home district.

On September 16, 2008 Friends of Fairsted presented a copy of the second edition of *The Master List of Design Projects of the Olmsted Firm 1857-1979* to the Mayor of Boston for the collection of the Boston Public Library. The new illustrated color edition of *The Master List*, published by National Association for Olmsted Parks and NPS, Frederick Law Olmsted NHS, contains new information and evocative essays by renowned scholars. Photo by Jean Stringham.

## Fairsted Closed for Construction

Construction at Fairsted, Frederick Law Olmsted NHS, continues. The current contract with Consigli, Inc., provides for extensive safety upgrades including a new intrusion alarm system, plus new fire detection and fire suppression systems. A new drainage and sewer system will carry storm water away from the historic structures and their collections. There is new 3-phase electrical service serving the complex, and now placed underground. Consigli's work on the house and the design offices is nearing completion.

The work on the barn, which will become an education center for youngsters, is about 50% complete. This includes a new concrete floor

with radiant heating, new bathrooms and utility work, and rehabilitation of the carpentry shop for gallery space.

Because of construction cost increases, it was necessary to reduce the scope of the project, which led to contract modifications and contributed to regrettable delays in construction. After Consigli completes the current contract, there will be several work items remaining which will be handled either under new contracts or by park staff. The current estimate for completion and re-occupancy is 2010. In the meantime, the Olmsted archives remain open at an off-site location.



See Olmsted website  
[www.nps.gov/frla/](http://www.nps.gov/frla/)  
for additional  
information on the  
construction.

Entrance to Fairsted, currently closed for construction.

## Olmsted Research Guide Online

For more than fifty years, the Olmsted collections have been separated physically, with some at Fairsted and some at the Library of Congress. The Olmsted Research Guide Online (ORGO) is an index that combines these Olmsted job-related documents.

ORGO (<http://www.rediscover.com/olmsted>) contains two searchable databases: the Master List of Projects (which shows information about each project, such as job number, location, dates of plans), and the Archival Records (which shows a list of all the documents connected with a job). Both are searchable using various key words, including type of project and location. Almost all job-related records at the Library of Congress are now included while work continues on the collections at Fairsted. The ORGO database now contains all data about the Fairsted collections that can be entered by someone who is not in physical proximity to the collections.

We encourage all Friends of Fairsted to have some fun playing at this website. There is a wealth of information available there.

ORGO is a joint project of the National Association for Olmsted Parks and the National Park Service with initial funding from the National Center for Preservation Technology and Training of the National Park Service.

## FoF Board Members Visit Acadia

Members of the Friends of Fairsted (FoF) Board traveled to Acadia National Park in Maine last fall to meet with Diana McDowell, Director of Finance and Administration of Friends of Acadia, and Sheridan Steele, Superintendent of Acadia National Park. Myra Harrison, Superintendent of Olmsted, Kennedy and Longfellow national historic sites joined the meetings.

Discussions centered on the Friends of Acadia (FoA) organizational and development history and the Friends' relationship to Acadia National Park. The purpose of the visit was for Friends of Fairsted, formed in 2005, to gain insight from an established national park friends group on how best to serve our mission. Subjects discussed with Ms. McDowell covered operations, fundraising, project selection, communications, the whole gamut of how to run a successful support group for a government sponsored entity.

FoA was formed in 1986 as a volunteer group, but by 1994 had undertaken to raise funds to

restore Acadia's carriage roads.

The organization now manages or funds multiple projects each year and operates with a full time staff of nine employees, an additional nine seasonal volunteers and an annual operating budget of about \$1 million. In addition, the group has undertaken to assist Acadia in a major acquisition project that would not have been possible without the funds the Friends were able to quickly raise.

While FoA is an independent entity, according to both Ms. McDowell and Superintendent Steele, the division of labor between the park's paid staff and the Friends is jointly determined by the two entities in a close and collaborative relationship. Superintendent Steele indicated the Friends have quickly become an essential element in Acadia's ability to meet constituent needs. FoF Board members came away from the meetings with a strong sense that the FoA model provides excellent guidance for Friends of National Park sites.



**Members of Friends of Fairsted Board meeting with Diana McDowell, Director of Finance and Administration of Friends of Acadia.**

L to R, Pat Suhrcke, Caroline Loughlin, Myra Harrison, Superintendent of Olmsted, Kennedy and Longfellow national historic sites, Diana McDowell, Frances Shedd-Fisher, Carol Winkler. Photo by Frances Shedd-Fisher.

## Outlook Bright for Good Neighbors Education Program

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Pilot activities to date include testing and evaluating with students, including field trips to two contemporary landscape architecture firms, Stantec, Inc., and Pressley Associates, Inc. The engagement and enthusiasm of students from the three classrooms that participated convinced educators of the value of the program. One young student even developed a complete plan for a playground, which he presented to the landscape architects at Pressley Associates.

Good Neighbors was chosen as a signature project in the National Park Service Centennial Challenge program. As funding becomes available leading up to the 2016 NPS 100th anniversary, Good Neighbors will be eligible to compete for these national matching grants. In addition, the project received more than \$34,000 in special federal grants for pilot activities in 2008. The Friends helped Olmsted NHS claim a \$17,000 matching grant as part of this package. Another grant from the American Society of Landscape Architects enabled the Boston chapter of ASLA to adopt Good Neighbors as part of their professional outreach programming. Funds and matching in-kind contributions will assist with research and with development of field trip experiences.

Plans for the coming year include piloting additional components of the Good Neighbors curriculum. The rehabilitated barn at Olmsted NHS will eventually serve as the permanent base for this field trip experience.

### Join Friends of Fairsted

*Advancing the mission of the Frederick Law Olmsted National Historic Site*

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

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Mail contribution to: Friends of Fairsted  
99 Warren Street  
Brookline, MA 02445

Web: [www.FriendsofFairsted.org](http://www.FriendsofFairsted.org)

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