

Preface

On April 20-23, 1995, in honor of the centennial of the Biltmore estate—Frederick Law Olmsted, Sr.'s last, and perhaps greatest achievement—over two hundred attendees were gathered in Asheville, North Carolina to continue a discussion on balancing nature and culture in historic landscapes.

The sold-out conference, which received base funding from the National Park Service Cultural Resource Training Initiative, was co-sponsored by the National Association for Olmsted Parks (NAOP), the National Park Service (NPS) and the US Forest Service (USFS), was attended by a broad variety of natural and cultural resource specialists that included managers, historians, interpreters, archaeologists, arborists, horticulturists, biologists, geographers, curators, landscape architects, architects, engineers, planners, park rangers, maintenance professionals, community activists, professors and students.

By the end of three days it became clear that a deeper understanding was necessary between those professionals that preserve significant cultural resources and those who conserve natural resources. The conference included six presentations in the form of six plenary keynotes and thematic breakout sessions. The full papers from the breakout sessions will be included in a complete proceedings publication later this year, and address specific topics of landscape management, rural/vernacular landscapes, corridor landscapes, vegetation, forestry and ethnographic landscapes.

These first six plenary papers offered a variety of perspectives on nature and culture, yet they are also representative of a variety of related issues that repeatedly arose throughout the conference. These concerns included a desire to understand the relationship between people and the land, past and present; an integration between design, planning, and management both historically and today; tools for interpretation and intervention; and, shifting anthropological, ecological and cultural values. The plenary papers that follow include: *The Twentieth Century Landscape Park* by Ethan Carr, Landscape Historian, NPS-Park Historic Architecture Division, Washington, D.C.; *Moving Toward the Middle in a World of Extremes* by Robert Z. Melnick, FASLA, Dean, Department of Architecture and Allied Arts, University of Oregon, Eugene, Oregon; *Can "Ecosystem Management" Manage Cultural Landscapes? An Ecological Perspective* by Robert E. Cook, Director, Arnold Arboretum, Ja-

maica Plain, Massachusetts; *The "Balance" Between Nature and Culture* by John Dixon Hunt, Chairman, Department of Landscape Architecture and Regional Planning, Graduate School of Fine Arts, University of Pennsylvania, Philadelphia, Pennsylvania; *Master Plan for Renewing Louisville Kentucky's Olmsted Parks and Boulevards* by Rolf Sauer, ASLA, Landscape Architect, Principal & Master Plan Project Director, Andropogon Associates, Ltd., Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, and, Patricia M. O'Donnell, ASLA, APA, Principal, LANDSCAPES, Westport, Connecticut and Charlotte, Vermont. This publication concludes with a collection of all abstracts.

Finally, we would like to recognize the contributions of several colleagues and organizations, without whose outstanding commitments this publication would not be possible. We are especially grateful to Phyllis Knowles, NAOP administrator; Lucy Lawliss and Brian Morris, NPS historical landscape architects; and, Steve E. Hendricks, USFS landscape architect for their extraordinary support, as well as Lina Confresi who provided editorial support for this publication. We are also grateful to the George Wright Society, who have not only helped us tremendously with the conference outreach, but provided all of the technical support to make this publication possible.

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