

# The Preserve Observer



*Friends of the Rockefeller State Park Preserve Magazine Vol. XXIV Spring 2010*



## Olmsted Influences For Plantings at Rockwood Hall

By *Barbara Wilson, ASLA, R.L.A.*

*IQ Landscape Architects, P.C.*

IQ Landscape, P.C. was contracted in 2008-2009, by the Rockefeller State Park Preserve with funding from Dr. Lucy Waletzky to study Rockwood Hall and provide for a Landscape Management Plan. The report provided recommendations for restoring portions of the designed historic landscape of the Rockwood Hall property to the period of significance under the ownership by William Rockefeller (1886 to 1921) while enhancing its value as an accessible public park. It was determined after the study was completed that some of the original landscape features, created during William Rockefeller's ownership, remain and can be easily interpreted. The grounds survive and notably retain the magnificent views of the lower Hudson River valley, pastoral views of the open meadows and dense woodlands, remnants of designed landscape features, the complete carriage trail system, a single building



*Historic Photo of East Terrace at  
Rockwood Hall*

*(continued on page 8)*

## Daffodils Redux

By *Keith Austin*

If you thought the daffodil display at Rockwood Hall was spectacular this past Spring, then you can expect a doubling effect in Spring 2010. After planting 10,000 bulbs in 2008, this past Fall Westover Landscape Design of Tarrytown planted another 10,000 bulbs in the same general location – on the west side of the stone foundation facing the Hudson River. As before, the bulbs were provided by the Friends of the Rockefeller Preserve; the design and actual plantings were courtesy of Westover. Our thanks to both for their generosity and support.

The Spring, 2009 issue of *The Preserve Observer* included an article by Ann Acheson about the history of Rockwood Hall, including the use of daffodils in the landscape. This was part of a larger trend in the late 19th and early 20th centuries away from formal Victorian garden design, with more emphasis on naturalistic landscape expressions even if they did require considerable design skills to achieve the desired “natural” effect. The Winterthur estate is an example as are many of the gardens designed by William Robinson and Gertrude Jekyll, and Beatrix Farrand. From Ann's research of the period and Rockwood Hall, we can visualize a meadow interspersed with swaths of thousands of daffodils and numerous wildflowers, the lawns being carefully mowed by sheep, all against the backdrop of the Hudson River. William Rockefeller's home may be gone, but the

*(continued on page 10)*

## Second Annual Peony Celebration



*Photo: Patricia Frank*

**Thursday, May 13, 2010**

**5:30pm – 8:30 pm**

**Visitor Center**

**Rockefeller State Park Preserve**

*(See story on next page.)*

### **Please Read And Please Act**

If you have been outside, you have seen the devastation the last two storms of winter have wreaked on our Preserve. If you have been listening to the news you know how deeply all aspects of the State budget have been cut. While we urge the Governor to re-instate the miniscule amount of \$11.3 million to the budget to keep all parks open, we are also asking you to give generously to the Friends this year to help us maintain our wonderful Preserve. Thank you for your generosity in this hard time. We want the Preserve to be ready for you when you are ready to enjoy it.

Clare Pierson  
President, Friends of the  
Rockefeller State Park Preserve

*(Also see Clare's letter to the  
editor on Page 4.)*



## The Second Annual Spring Peony Celebration

*By Herbert Hadad*

On Thursday, May 13 from 5:30 p.m. to 8:30 p.m. the Friends of the Rockefeller State Park Preserve are hosting a fund-raising event for the second time that will celebrate the blooming of the well-known Japanese peonies. There will be a cocktail reception, flower arrangements from local garden clubs, and an art exhibition and sale called "Bountiful Blooms." To get more information, please consult our web site, [www.friendsrock.org](http://www.friendsrock.org). Ticket price begins at \$100. And the rain date will be Friday, May 14, 2010.

Some visitors are not familiar with how these beautiful flowers came to grace our park. When the tragedy of September 11th occurred, a town in Shimane Prefecture, Japan wanted to express a gesture of healing and solidarity towards the United States. Therefore, they sent the Rockefeller State Park Preserve and the Brooklyn Botanic Garden a gift of 500 peonies each from Yatsuka Cho. The peony is the signature flower from this area and is considered Japan's "most noble of flowers."

The present was and is meant to help the healing process in New York and the placing of Japanese flowers on American soil symbolizes the blending of two cultures and two people. The Friends accepted this generous gift and created a landscaping project around the gateway to the Preserve. The remainder of the design called for American wildflowers and native trees. Yatsuka Cho graciously sent over Japanese gardeners to plant the flowers and to teach the Preserve staff how to care for them.

The cost of the Gateway Preserve Project was originally projected at \$74,000 that was mostly underwritten thanks to the generosity of the Friends Board of Directors, the Rockefeller Family, the Japanese Chamber of Commerce and Industry of New York, Inc. and Japanese companies, as well as donors from the surrounding communities. The result is an inviting entrance that serves as a gateway to our entire peaceful Preserve.

The Preserve had always represented a public-private partnership and with the Japanese Peony project, it became a public-private international partnership that has proved very successful. Please come and enjoy the magnificent flowers! Chairwoman of this event is Kimberly K. Rockefeller, also the Vice President of the Friends Board.



## Meet Our New Board Members

**John Settembrino**

While living in Tarrytown in 1977, I was introduced to the Preserve by a fellow runner. I found the property to be very attractive from many perspectives. I have been running through the park since that time and have enjoyed the four seasons along with the flora and fauna on my early morning jaunts.

As a youngster growing up “down county” I became fascinated with the outdoors. As time went on I started participating in various activities, which introduced me to the importance of the need for open space for nurturing the human spirit. Having traveled abroad and through our own beautiful country, the Hudson Valley always held a special place in my heart.

As the Principal of my own Financial Planning firm, "Professional Financial Consultants," I interact with clients daily to assist them in planning legacies for family and charitable causes which promote the goals of philanthropy and awareness. I am the Co-chair of the Advisory Committee on Open Space in Yorktown and a member of the Board of the Westchester Bow Hunters Association. I currently belong to various conservation organizations locally, as well as nationally.

I welcome the opportunity to serve in this organization and to assist in creating a sound financial base to promote our programs for all to enjoy.

**Sharon Pickett**

Sharon Pickett grew up in Middlebury, Connecticut, graduated from Marymount College of Fordham University with a BA in Psychology and Art History and from Columbia University with an MA in Developmental Psychology. Her past careers have included art therapist,

owner of a specialty toy store and fundraiser/alumni affairs representative for Purchase College. Most recently she spent eight years as a development and communications specialist for The Nature Conservancy.

Sharon has served on the Board of Directors of the Family YMCA in Tarrytown. Currently she serves as Co-President of Federated Conservationists of Westchester, Inc. and is on the Advisory Board of Westchester Land Trust. She divides her time between Scarborough, New York, and South County, Rhode Island with her husband Paul Mazzilli,

two college-age children and too many cats. She enjoys hiking, kayaking, Yoga and cooking. She vows to hike Mt. Katahdin this summer – hold her to that.

**John Nonna**

John Nonna is serving his second term at the Westchester Board of Legislators representing District 3, which includes all or part of the towns of Greenburgh, Harrison, Mount Pleasant and North Castle and the Villages of Briarcliff Manor and Pleasantville. He has been a resident of the Town of Mount

Pleasant and Village of Pleasantville for more than 30 years. He served as mayor of Pleasantville from 1995-2003 and earlier was a village trustee and acting village justice. He began his career in public service as a law assistant to Domenick L. Gabrielli, Associate Judge of the New York Court of Appeals.

Last term, as a member of the Board's Energy and Environment committee and the Septic subcommittee, he worked to protect Westchester's environment and insure the preservation of our water quality. As a member of the Public Safety Committee, he has worked to ensure the safety and welfare of Westchester residents. John also chaired the Litigation Subcommittee which monitors all the major litigation to which the County is a party. As a practicing trial lawyer representing major businesses and pro bono clients as well, John is able to ensure that the County is receiving proper representation at reasonable fees and that the County takes the proper action in response to litigation.

John has practiced law for over 30 years in the area of dispute resolution. He has represented Fortune 500 companies in major litigation and arbitration and is a fellow of the prestigious American College of Trial Lawyers. He is also a member of the Board of Directors of the Lawyers Committee for Civil Rights under Law founded by President Kennedy in 1963. John serves as a mediator for the United States District Court and the New York State Supreme Court.

He has a BA degree from Princeton University and a JD degree from New York University Law School where he was elected to the Order of the Coif, the national legal honor society. John was born and raised in the Bronx. John was a member of the 1972 and 1980 U.S. Olympic Teams in fencing and was a medalist in the 1979 Pan American Games. As a member of the 1980 Olympic team, he received the Congressional Medal of Achievement. He is married to Jean and they are parents of four children, Elizabeth, Caroline, Marianne and Timothy.

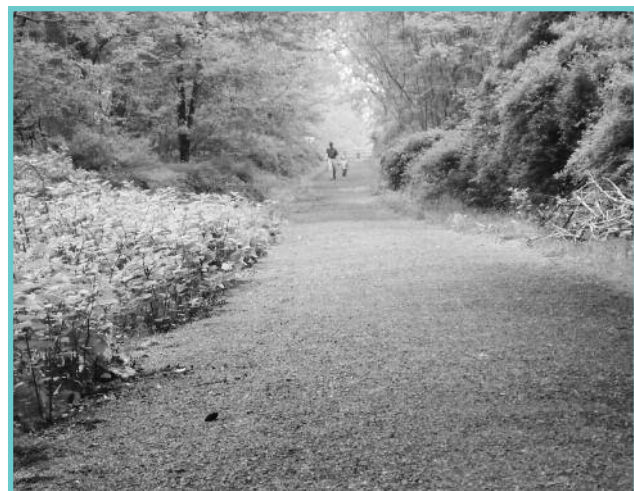
*The following Letter to the Editor appeared in the Journal News on February 5, 2010:*

**State parks need the public's support  
Re "Parks shouldn't be prime targets," Jan. 29 editorial**

Your editorial (Jan. 29) on the financial burden on all and possible closing of some parks in the New York state park system could not have been more eloquent – “in many communities, the parks are the last refuge for the hurried and harried, green spaces unspoiled by our usual roster of worries and complaints, convenient reminders that the flora and fauna press on, and that we do, too.” Friends groups that support the parks cannot solve the problem alone but they can make a dramatic difference. The Friends of the Rockefeller State Park Preserve are dedicated to keeping that park as pristine and inviting as it is now. Its board members contribute considerable sums, but they need the financial help and the moral support of the park-going public to be truly effective. This is true, of course, of friends groups across the state. We urge park lovers to redouble their efforts – through contributions and volunteering – to keep our beautiful sanctuary protected from the ravages of budget cuts and staff reductions.

**Clare M. Pierson, Pocantico Hills**

*The writer is president, Friends of the Rockefeller State Park Preserve*



**2<sup>ND</sup> ANNUAL  
ROCKEFELLER STATE PARK 10K**

Sleepy Hollow, NY

June 12, 2010 • 9:00 a.m.



- Register only at [www.active.com](http://www.active.com)
- Limited to 500 participants
- Race Day Entry only if field limit has not been reached
- \$35 race fee
- Spectacular Venue
- Unique award categories
- Amphitheatre style finish along the Hudson River
- Come for the Adventure – not a PR

The challenging and scenic race course will start and finish in the Rockwood Hall area overlooking the Hudson River. The race will cover portions of the Old Croton Aqueduct and Pocantico Hill trails.

*Race proceeds benefit the trails of the Rockefeller State Park Preserve.*

## From the Friends President

By Clare M. Pierson

Dear Friends and Neighbors, Happy Spring!

We are all hoping that 2010 will be a better year than 2009 for so many reasons, and I believe it will, but as I type this, we are just coming out from under two major storms: one that dumped two feet of snow on us, and the next that blew down any trees that weren't broken off by the first. So the good times haven't started yet.

But they will. We have several events planned this year to raise funds for the Preserve. If you have been listening to the news you know what kind of shape the New York State budget is in, so our work is even more important. The Preserve cannot rely on funds coming from the state this year, or really for the foreseeable future. One way to help is to attend these fun and exciting fundraising events. I hope you can come to them all.

May 13th is the Peony Reception, which takes place at the Visitor Center in the Preserve. This is the one that we get all dressed up for (I am going to advocate for hats on the ladies this year), admire the peonies in full bloom, and have a glass of champagne. Kimberly Rockefeller has generously agreed to chair this event, and we will have for sale some beautiful pieces donated by the local gardening clubs. There will be a lovely show in the art gallery called Bountiful Blooms. Contact us at [friends@friendsrock.org](mailto:friends@friendsrock.org) for ticket information. We had a great time last year, please join us.

June 12th will be the Centaur Race, which takes place at Rockwood Hall. It is a 10k race that is being run by Andy



Photo: Herbert Hadad

Kimerling, race director for the Westchester Track Club. The race runs a beautiful course through Rockwood and is one of only two run in the Preserve every year, so don't miss it. Sleepy Hollow High school will be there in force to man (or boy and girl) the various volunteer positions needed to run a race like this, as well as, a team from New York Life. We appreciate this help and their long association with the Preserve. This is a beautiful time of year to be at Rockwood Hall.

The last two events are our annual Autumn Pace, scheduled for October 17 (the third Sunday in October) and the third annual Rocky's 5k that is beautifully organized by Stella Medina, and will be scheduled for the Fall.

I understand there are also a couple of dates set aside for Preserve clean-ups that have spontaneously come up and I know all of you who love the Park will be there to keep it clean and welcoming. See you soon at the Preserve!

### Board of Directors

#### Friends of the Rockefeller State Park Preserve

Clare M. Pierson, President

Kimberly K. Rockefeller, Vice President

M. Evelyn Hadad, Secretary

Carol M. Lyden, Treasurer

Thomas A. Capossela

Benjamin H. Cheever

George Gumina

Herbert Hadad

Patricia Jones

John N. Manuele

John Nonna

Sharon Pickett

John Settembrino

Donald W. Stever

## From the Preserve Manager

By Alix Schnee

As we get ready to go to press we are optimistic that the New State Senate and State Assembly will have found funds that prevent the closing of our State Parks and Historic Sites. We hope that it is so as those of us who work for Parks know how vital our resources are — not only as a source of recreation but also as a way of assuaging troubled souls during times of anxiety and stress. We also augment school curriculum in a variety of areas but especially American history and science. These attributes are but some of the reasons why during the Great Depression state parks remained open.

For our part, we have been quite busy this past quarter; significantly with two exciting events. The first, on February 24th was a design study of IQ Landscape Architect's *Cultural Landscape & Management Report for Rockwood Hall, 2009* and the second to initiate the creation of an Invasive Species Management Plan for the Preserve.

IQ Landscape, P.C. was contracted in 2008-2009 by the Preserve with funding from Dr. Lucy Waletzky to study Rockwood Hall and provide for a Management Plan. The Charette enabled IQ to present their recommendations for restoring portions of the designed historic landscape of the Rockwood Hall property to the period of significance under the ownership by William Rockefeller (1886 to 1921) while enhancing its value as an accessible public park. The participants who included Dr. Lucy Waletzky, Chair of New York State Council; Wint Aldrich, Deputy Commissioner for Parks and Recreation; Clare Pierson, President of the Friends of Rockefeller State Park Preserve; amongst others, provided valuable feedback resulting in priorities of action and development.

It was gratifying to know that some of the recommendations are already being addressed by the Preserve. With lively attendee participation, the result was the identification of priorities as a way of structuring an action plan. It is understood these priorities will be developed as a result of issues of safety, discussions with the State and Friends, and budgetary constraints.

One major concern was the impact of invasive plants in detracting from the original landscape. This is an issue that is currently being addressed in three ways: a deer management program which operates in conjunction with Westchester County and the Westchester Bow Hunters; a deer enclosure in which invasive plants have been removed and been replaced by native plants; and most recently through the initiation of an Invasive Species Management Plan. This latter project has been spurred on by the Bill Shore Memorial Fund, in particular John Mickleson and Bob O'Brien, Invasive Species Control Field Director for NY State Parks.

On March 24 a charette was held to develop an Invasive Species Master Plan with a focus on Rockwood Hall. Concomitantly, issues germane to the greater part of the Preserve were also addressed. Participants included representatives of David Rockefeller's farm Hudson Pines, the Cornell Extension Program, IQ Landscape Architects, and volunteers who are extremely active in invasives removal and familiar with Rockwood Hall. It is exciting to realize that we are well on the way to developing this important plan, which will make the Preserve eligible for future funding as well as provide a coherent approach to invasives removal and the many volunteers who seek to assist us with this critical concern.

Meanwhile, the sun is shining. But we really got socked by the last Nor'easter. At one point it was reported that there were 103 trees down on 13 Bridges Trail! It has taken us weeks to get over this one. Sometimes nature's way can be tough medicine indeed. On the brighter side, Clare Pierson keeps on top of what we need in the way of Friends' support and in seeking new funding sources for the Preserve. Our dedicated volunteers including Lou Accurso, Laurie Towle, Keith Austin, Bill Crosby, Charles Keller and Amy Alcott keep us smiling through their extraordinary support and good humor. While our resources have been reduced, the extra energy they supply ensures our ability to get ready for spring. This means the renewal of Empire Passports, Equestrian Permits and Fishing Licenses. The streams will be stocked with trout on April 20th. Our new fishermen, being trained to cast a line in the 2010 Eddie Keegan Spring Fly-Fishing School, will be ready.

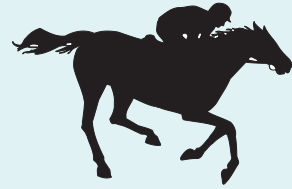
Finally, we have reactivated Guide by Cell. A \$5 fee benefits the Natural Heritage Trust and includes 24 hours of usage. A map is being developed, watch for medallions in Rockwood Hall, on the Old Croton Aqueduct, and including the other parts of the Preserve including Eagle Hill, Witches Spring, Spook Rock and the area surrounding the Visitor Center and Swan Lake. The fee enables unlimited usage throughout the Preserve.

And remember, May 16, from 10-3pm is 2010 Family Fishing Day!





Photo: Herbert Hadad



## SAVE THE DATE

FRIENDS 9<sup>TH</sup> ANNUAL  
 AUTUMN COUNTRY PACE  
 & LUNCHEON  
 SUNDAY, OCTOBER 17, 2010  
*at Rockwood Hall*  
*Overlooking the Magnificent*  
*Hudson River!*  
 Rain or Shine!

Trophies & Ribbons for all divisions. Divisions include Pleasure, Hunt, Western and Junior. Advanced registration and payment is required. Registration forms will be made available at [www.friendsrock.org](http://www.friendsrock.org) beginning September. Rider entries close October 12th, or when Pace is full.

*Non-riders are welcome, too!*

Enjoy a beautiful day at Rockwood Hall overlooking the magnificent Hudson River with friends & great food!

Equestrian Permits are available at the Park Offices. Call (914) 631-1470.

*All proceeds from this event underwrite carriage road maintenance.*



Westchester Horse Council  
 e-mail: [zyzgy80@aol.com](mailto:zyzgy80@aol.com)  
[www.westchesterhorsecouncil.org](http://www.westchesterhorsecouncil.org)

### *Rockefeller State Park Preserve Staff*

- Alix Schnee, Preserve Manager*
- Laurence Gill, Preserve Office Manager*
- Richard Nelson, Preserve Naturalist*
- Tony Procopowicz, Park and Rec. Aide #7*
- Laura Buonanno, Park and Rec. Aide*

### *Contact Station Personnel:*

- Charles Bunt*
- Tony Corda*

## Rockwood Hall *(continued from page 1)*

and some remnant structures (ie. stone walls, steps). Part of the historic research included delving into the Olmsted Archives and Collections to determine what influence Frederick Law Olmsted had at Rockwood Hall. Following is a summary of the findings in regards to the plantings.

Rockwood Hall was the summer home and property of William. Upon purchase of the former William Henry Aspinwall estate in 1886, the property consisted of approximately 200 acres. Rockefeller gradually added to this and the estate eventually grew to more than 1,000 acres. Extensive development of the property was undertaken during his ownership with the addition of landscape amenities, plantings, gardens, terraces, buildings and drives.

### **Olmsted Firm Brief History:**

The Olmsted Firm was begun in 1872 by Frederick Law Olmsted (F.L.O.) and called F.L. Olmsted and Company continued until 1893. Upon the death of partner Henry Sargent Codman, the firm was renamed as Olmsted, Olmsted & Eliot. This group continued until till the death of one of the partner, Charles Eliot in 1897. F.L.O. stopped working on private residences in 1893 and then retired from the firm altogether in 1895. F.L.O. turned the firm over to his partners and sons, John Charles Olmsted and Frederick Law Olmsted, Jr., who ran the firm as the Olmsted Brothers until 1950. The Firm had an impressive work load and was instrumental in shaping the landscape of America. Between 1857 and 1950 the firm had approximately 5500 projects, of these 900 were private estates. F.L.O.'s concepts for landscape design was that he believed that scenery could have a powerful psychological effect on people. The power of the scenery could be achieved in landscape design by subordination of all elements to the creation of a single effect. There was to be no specimen planting or introduction of works of architecture and sculpture to

be viewed for their individual beauty. Plantings and landscape design were to be a simple and an organic plan, he carefully separated different activities and different styles of plantings.

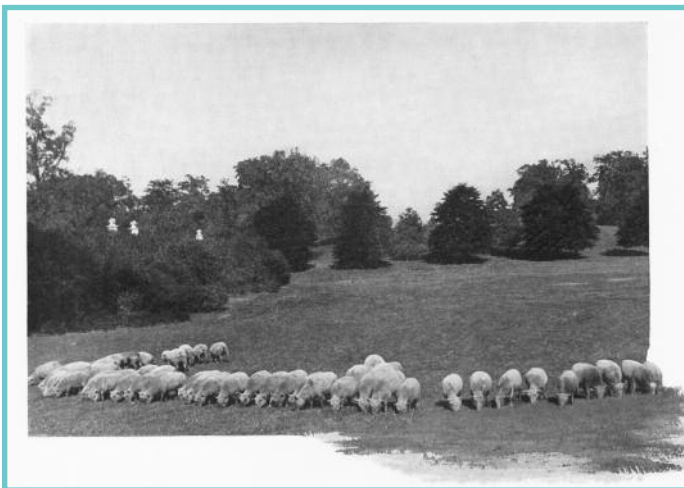
### **Olmsted Influences at Rockwood:**

The property was developed over the ownership by William Rockefeller to have in total 26 acres of lawns and gardens. The remainder of the property was woodlands and meadows. The Olmsted Firm was hired in 1887 to coordinate the efforts of Wm. Rockefeller to create a magnificent estate property. William was in direct contact with the offices of F.L. Olmsted & Co. of Brookline, Massachusetts from 1887 to 1895. The Olmsted Firm consulted on the planting, grading, removals and development of the landscape. Throughout that period, several items were discussed and/or implemented on the estate. John C. Olmsted, Warren H. Manning and William S. Manning were instrumental in coordinating the plantings with the property staff which included: Peter Draney (gardener from 1889-1890), B.M. Hawk (1895), and Mr. Turner (1895). William Rockefeller took a direct interest in the design of the property and wrote many letters to the Olmsted Firm describing what he wanted to see as well as providing approvals of their designs and planting concepts. He additionally requested providing for more ornamental and screen plantings property wide. Copies of the handwritten and typed correspondences between Wm. Rockefeller and the Olmsted Firm are contained in the Library of Congress collection. IQ reviewed a majority of the collection and files.

The formal plantings created during William's ownership included a walled formal garden, expanded orchard, plant nursery, manicured lawn areas, and a vegetable garden. The front of the mansion had a formal garden 150 feet long by 60 feet wide. There was a two-acre cutting garden. The vegetable garden was three and three quarter acres and was surrounded by a decorative brick wall. Down the center of the vegetable garden was a wooden pergola covered with roses. Four acres were used as a nursery for rare and unusual trees and shrubs that were purchased by either William directly or the Olmsted Firm on his behalf. A two and one half acre man-made lake was created from some on-site springs. The outlet created a brook which ran a half a mile down to the Hudson River.

“Rockefeller spared no expense in this undertaking as he imported stone masons from Scotland, master wood carvers from Switzerland, gardeners from England, oriental horticulturists from Japan and he also employed the best artists and craftsmen America had to offer” .

The Olmsted Firm began designs and installation of the plantings on the estate beginning in the spring of 1888. Work progressed over the next seven years to include installation of



*Historic photo Rockwood Hall lawn easterly of Main House*

*(continued next page)*

*(continued from previous page)*

screen plantings along Broadway, ornamental plantings beds down the slopes on the river side of the main house, plantings along the drives to the main house, plantings in the terraces by the main house, plantings along the drives near to the new stable, expansion of the vegetable garden and rose garden, addition of numerous trees in the woodlands and property wide, transplanting of large trees, bulb plantings, shrub mass plantings, and aquatics in and around the pond.

Some detailed descriptions from the Library of Congress correspondence collection show how the plantings developed. In the spring of 1888, plantings of California privet and Rhododendrons were completed. Work continued through the summer of 1888 on studies of the south and west terraces at Rockwood Hall and the design of the balustrade of the east terrace.

In 1889, correspondence indicates that barberries were delivered and planted at Rockwood Hall under the direction of the Olmsted Firm to form a hedge. The next year, a letter to J. C. Olmsted from H. Sargent Codman indicates that W. H. Manning was on site directing work for the property. Part of the work that was also underway was marking the trees on site and planting of shrubs along the retaining wall by the lawn. The forestry work included thinning of trees. Warren H. Manning and his brother, William S. Manning were both involved in monitoring plantings, tree work and construction activities spending numerous days on the property providing guidance to crews and Rockefeller staff.

Correspondences back and forth between William Rockefeller and F.L. Olmsted & Co. from 1891 indicate how the Olmsted Firm helped design and install plantings on the property.

“Please go ahead and order the trees and shrubs to screen Pony Road, south end of lawn, to screen stable and engine house, raised bed back of tennis court, and planting edges of Pony Road about ledge in woods. The remaining two aquatics for pond and waterside and thorny hedgerow along wire fence and railroad bank will not decide upon at the moment...”

A large planting was installed along Broadway in that year to create a dense mass of trees which was to provide a spectacular fall foliage display. A planting plan from April, 1890 shows plantings below the new western terrace, along the entry drive and below the east terrace walls.

The firm adds to this planting and shows more extensive shrub planting borders below and around the western terrace at the main house. In the fall of 1891, they installed bulbs in the Rhododendron terrace garden which were laid out by William S. Manning. They also installed screening at the back of the engine house under the direction of Mr. Manning. Other plantings were added to the west side of the stable

where they removed the sod around the existing shrubs and trees to make way for the new plantings. Orders were placed for fall installation for the Broadway border plantation, border of pond and vicinity, along Phelps line, raised border back of tennis court, near the spring, additions about terraces, shrubs and herbaceous plants, to screen stable on north side, aquatics for pond, and to screen new road from house approach. Also the Olmsted Firm requested that they order the plants for the old-fashioned garden.



*Historic photo from porte cochere of Rockwood Hall looking towards East Terrace and lawn*

In the spring of 1892 they proposed to install plantings along the barbed wire fence by the railroad embankment, screen the Pony Road at the south end of the lawn from approach and house, add aquatics for the pond and waterways, screen the stable and engine house, install raised bed with low evergreens at the back of the tennis court, and add plantings at the edge of pony road by ledge in the woods

The job reports from site visit in by W. H. Manning and W.S. Manning from April 12, 1892, to November 16, 1895, in the Library of Congress Archives indicate that planting progressed and continued on many areas of the property. Yuccas were planted in the spring of 1892 in the bed along the back edge of the lawn tennis court terrace. In May of 1892 J. C. Olmsted visited the property and made recommendations to remove many trees to create better views along the entrance drives. He also provided comments on the plantings that were completed and how best to improve the design. By June 1892 flowering ornamentals were being planting in the terrace gardens on the west side of the house.



Daffodils (continued from page 1)

spectacular setting, once again with its daffodils is still there to be enjoyed.

We are indebted to Westover for another project. We all have observed – or suffered through – the long construction of the new rest room facility by the parking lot at the Rockefeller State Park Visitor Center. Westover is also contributing the design, installation and maintenance of seasonal plantings and displays in the large planter in front of the building. Our thanks again to them.



Photo: Herbert Hadad



*Gallery Schedule at a Glance*

**April 2 – May 7**

**AERIAL LANDSCAPES**

Colorful Paintings by Toni Silber-Delerive

*Reception: April 3, 1:00 - 3:30 p.m.*

**May 13 – June 27**

**BOUNTIFUL BLOOMS**

Paintings and photographs

An exhibition honoring the gift of hundreds of Tree Peonies donated by the Shimane Prefecture of Japan commemorating the victims of September 11, 2001.

Dale Payson, Carol Greiff Lagstein, Bonnie Sakoff, Patricia Frank, Rhoda Holzer, Elinor-Stecker Orel and Jignasha Leonardo

*Reception: May 16, 1:00 - 3:30 p.m.*

**July 2 – August 1**

**HORSES, CARRIAGES, DOGS**

Paintings and photographs

*Reception: July 11, 1:00 - 3:30 p.m.*

**August 6 – September 12**

**COMMON BIRDS IN DECLINE**

Bird portraits created by members of the Guild of Natural Science Illustrators, an International group promoting art in the service of science educating the public.

*Reception: August 8, 1:00 - 3:30 p.m.*

**September 17 – October 31**

**COLOR FIELDS**

Paintings by Sally Urban Silberberg

*Reception: September 19, 1:00 - 3:30 p.m.*

**November – December**

**HOLIDAY SALE OF FINE ART PRINTS**

## Kopilak's Preserve Exhibit Reviewed

By Sharon Pickett

Even on a bleak, rain-soaked day (with the only light being from the gallery's skylights due to a power failure) G G Kopilak's oils were truly "Landscape Reflections". I had first viewed the exhibit (curated by Audrey Leeds) at the gallery in the Preserve when my husband suggested we hike from our home in Scarborough to view the exhibit's opening. He called it a rousing ramble, I called it a strenuous slog, but we managed to make it to the February opening reception of GG's exhibition of 18 oil paintings (4 diptychs and 1 triptych) and were immediately delighted.



The serene yet sometimes foreboding landscapes were inspired by GG's travels and work in such places as Italy, Scotland and Ireland, as well as the time she spent as an artist in residency at Maine's Acadia National Park in September of 2009. GG told me that her work was inspired by place – not a photographic capture but more a representation of the light, mood, essence and spirit of her surroundings.

Not all of GG's work is landscapes. She also produces still life, portraits and conceptual works. But it was the landscapes that fascinated me at the Preserve gallery. When I asked GG what was the biggest



challenge exhibiting her work in the Preserve gallery she immediately responded, "The round walls!"

When I revisited the gallery, after a record snowfall, near record rains and winds – no electricity in the gallery and Preserve office – Preserve Manager Alix Schnee very kindly agreed to open the gallery (closed due to weather conditions) so that I could get another look. Suddenly there we were in the gallery, with no lighting other than the bit trying to stream in from the skylights, and yet the exhibit seemed to radiate light. A true testament to the artist's vision.

By the time you read this, GG Kopliak's landscapes will have departed the gallery, to be replaced with Toni Silber-Deliverie's exhibit "Aerial Landscapes" an exploration of landscape paintings in oil and acrylic. This exhibit will run from April 2 to May 7. Be sure to visit this or any of the summer exhibits. You will be glad you did!



Gallery Hours: Daily 9:00 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.  
125 Phelps Way, Pleasantville, NY  
Parking \$6.00 Per Vehicle • Information 631-1470 x0

### Reaching the Friends

Friends of the Rockefeller State Park Preserve  
P.O. Box 8444 • Sleepy Hollow, NY 10591  
(914) 762-0209

E-mail: [Friends@friendsrock.org](mailto:Friends@friendsrock.org)  
Website: [www.friendsrock.org](http://www.friendsrock.org)

### The Preserve Observer

Editors: Evelyn Hadad, Herbert Hadad  
Letters and submissions are invited.  
Please contact us c/o the Friends.



## The Preserve Observer

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P.O. Box 8444  
Sleepy Hollow, New York 10591  
www.friendsrock.org

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### GO GREEN!

If you no longer wish to have the Preserve Observer mailed  
or would prefer having it e-mailed, please call or e-mail us.

### *Here is a Message Albany Must Hear*

Please write an e-mail or write on the Facebook page of Governor David A. Paterson ([www.facebook.com/GovernorPaterson](http://www.facebook.com/GovernorPaterson)) asking him to support the Senate and Assembly resolutions to restore all money to the New York parks.

*The message to Governor Paterson is:*

Your FY2010-11 Executive Budget proposal calls for reducing parks operations by \$11 million, which would require us to close 88 state parks and historic sites. You subsequently proposed that \$5 million of EPF funding be allocated for parks operating costs to reduce that impact, which would reduce the number of closings and leave 55 parks and sites opened.

Both the Senate and Assembly budget resolutions passed in late March propose to restore the full \$11 million to prevent “any” park closings, which we heartily support.

However, because there is a late budget, Parks do not have either the funding or the authorization to open even the 55 parks and historic sites. The on-the-ground impact is that the Parks Department is not hiring lifeguards and seasonal workers; bathrooms are not available; grass is not being mowed; they are unable to order chlorine and other chemicals for pools, etc.

Parks can hobble through until late April; but if they do not have the authorization to begin summer plans and hiring by then, lifeguards and seasonal workers will accept other jobs and it will be very difficult to function beyond that date for the summer operating season at the 55 facilities. *We need you to act now!*