

Greenwich Historical Society Newsletter

EXHIBIT

Lost Landscape Revealed



Don't miss the final weeks of our exhibit, *Lost Landscape Revealed*, Childe Hassam and The Red Mill, Cos Cob, closing March 28. Gallery appointments available online at greenwichhistory.org.

Tavern Garden Markets

This spring our markets continue with a special collection of vendors set up in our Tavern Garden. From handmade crafts and organic produce, delectable baked goods and specialty prepared foods to show-stopping arrangements from the "BYOV" flower bar, the markets make a perfect pit stop for a little shopping and an opportunity to grab lunch with a friend and enjoy the beautiful grounds at the Historical Society.

Every other Wednesday beginning May 5, 2021, through the fall.

Dear Friends,



After a blustery winter in Greenwich, our spring calendar bursts forth with all the energy and promise of the new season. While we wait with anticipation for the bulbs, vegetable seedlings and fragrant lilac blooms, Curator Maggie Dimock is putting final touches on our next exhibition, **Beautiful Work: The Art of Greenwich Gardens and Landscapes**. Don't miss the special **Members-Only Preview Days** at the end of April and the special garden-related

programming for children and adults in the months to come. More reasons to visit include the fresh spring stock in the **Museum Store** and a taste of our **Tavern Garden Markets** on Wednesdays beginning in May.



We are also excited to invite the community to a festive outdoor **Spring Fête** on May 22 for families of all ages!

Spring also brings historic preservation to mind as towns throughout the country prepare to celebrate **Preservation Month**. We are proud to shine a light on efforts to preserve places that commemorate Black history through three presentations



this spring. **Keith Stokes** will host a conversation on protecting one of the nation's oldest African American burial grounds in Newport, Rhode Island; **Teresa Vega** will lead us on her journey to understand her family history



through African American genealogy; and the **Witness Stones Project**, in conjunction with local Greenwich

schools, will join us in a public ceremony on May 27 to honor enslaved people who lived and worked at the Bush-Holley House site.

We look forward to seeing you on our campus again as the days grow longer and brighter!

Debra Mecky
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR & CEO

SPRING FÊTE
SATURDAY, MAY 22, 2021
SAVE THE DATE!

CELEBRATE WITH A SPECIAL OUTDOOR GARDEN PARTY FOR FAMILIES OF ALL AGES. THE HISTORICAL SOCIETY'S GARDENS WILL BE IN BLOOM AS WE SING AND DANCE 'ROUND THE MAYPOLE ON THE GREAT LAWN, ENJOY FESTIVE FOOD AND DRINK, CARNIVAL GAMES, OUTDOOR PAINTING AND GARDEN CRAFTS. FOR DETAILS AND TICKETS, VISIT GREENWICHISTORY.ORG.

2021 Art, History and Landscape Lecture:

*The Pen and the Trowel:
Authors, Their Gardens and
Mine with Marta McDowell*

Wednesday, May 12, 2021

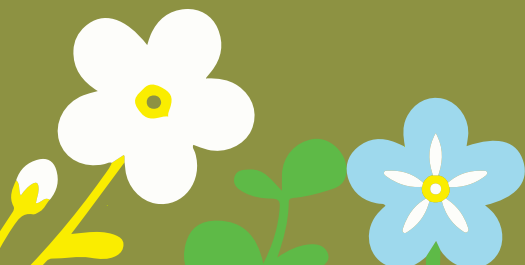
6:00 p.m.–7:00 p.m. via Zoom

Members: \$10 | Non-members: \$15



Emily Dickinson once described herself as “a lunatic on bulbs.” For the past 30 years Marta McDowell, author and teacher of landscape history and horticulture at the New York Botanical Garden, has been occupied (preoccupied?) with writers who garden. Researching their horticultural interests has changed her planting beds as well as her bookshelves. Starting with Mark Twain and connecting to authors ranging from Dickinson to Emerson, Harriet Beecher Stowe to Beatrix Potter, as well as literary and artistic personalities connected with the Cos Cob art colony, McDowell will explore the writing-gardening connection in their gardens and her own. This lecture is made possible by the David R.A. Wierdsma Fund.

Register for events:
greenwichhistory.org/events



Upcoming Events

God’s Little Acre with Keith Stokes

Tuesday, March 16, 2021, 6:00 p.m.–7:00 p.m. via Zoom

Members: \$10 | Non-members: \$15



Cemeteries are largely seen as final resting places—an end. But God’s Little Acre, a Colonial African Burying Ground in Newport, Rhode Island, is a starting point for a rich cultural tapestry that is Newport’s African and African American history. Dating back to 1705, the historic site contains the remains of men, women and children directly connected through the African Diaspora to West Africa.

Don’t miss this special opportunity to hear award-winning national treasure Keith Stokes, a descendant of family buried at God’s Little Acre, who will lead us in discussion of the colonial African community in Newport; modern preservation, restoration and research; and most importantly, how African heritage and history can be reclaimed and interpreted for today’s audiences.

Hangroot: The Early Native and African Presence in Greenwich with Teresa Vega

Tuesday, April 20, 2021, 6:00 p.m.–7:00 p.m. via Zoom

Members: \$10 | Non-members: \$15



Join us for a local look at the Early Native and African American experience in Greenwich with genealogist, researcher and historian Teresa Vega. Focusing on the rise and decline of the Hangroot community of Greenwich, a former African American neighborhood once located in the Round Hill Road area where her ancestors lived for generations, and efforts made to save a “Colored Cemetery” in the Byram section of Greenwich, Ms. Vega brings a fresh perspective on the African American experience in

Greenwich, with a focus on preservation and genealogical research.

Witness Stones Placement Ceremony

Thursday, May 27, 2021, 1:00 p.m.

Free to the community



**Witness
STONES
Project™**

This spring marks the culmination of our first collaboration with the Witness Stones Project, in conjunction with local schools and the local community. The Witness Stones Project seeks to restore the history and honor the humanity and contributions of the enslaved individuals who helped build our community, starting with the 15 enslaved people that records show lived and worked at the Bush-Holley House site in Cos Cob in the 18th and 19th centuries.

Save the date for a public ceremony on May 27 here on our site in Cos Cob as our education staff, public officials, students from Sacred Heart and Greenwich Academy, and community members come together to install the commemorative bronze Witness Stones bearing the names of Cull, Candice, Patience and Hester. These plaques will serve as a permanent public reminder of lives lived in bondage in our community.

We welcome the Greenwich community to be part of this exciting new project. Please contact Heather Lodge, hlodge@greenwichhistory.org, for more information or to take part in future Witness Stones programming.

Important Fundraising Events

These annual fundraising events help underwrite the Historical Society's free and accessible programs for local schools and support our mission through exhibits and public programs in the arts and historic preservation.

HISTORY IN THE MAKING



On June 8, 2021, the Historical Society will present the History in the Making Award to Barbara

and Ray Dalio at a dinner in their honor at the Belle Haven Club. Businessman and philanthropist David Rubenstein will interview the Dalios in an intimate "fireside chat," and Indra Nooyi, former chairman and CEO of PepsiCo, will present the award in recognition of the Dalios' philanthropic commitment to advancing public education in Connecticut. Details and sponsorship opportunities are available at greenwichhistory.org/history-in-the-making.



Art & History Camp 2021

For more information and registration, find us online at www.greenwichhistory.org/art-and-history-camp.

April Break Children's Programming

Impressionist Painting for Children with Dmitri Wright

Tuesday, April 13, and Thursday, April 15, 2021, 10:00 a.m.–11:00 a.m.
instruction in the Vanderbilt Education Center

Members: \$75 | Non-Members: \$100 | Ages 10–14 recommended



Under the direction of Master Impressionist Instructor Dmitri Wright, students will learn how to create their own Impressionist painting in the style of Childe Hassam's *The Red Mill, Cos Cob*. Wright will demonstrate his approachable step-by-step painting method, using a basic Impressionist painting technique beginning with foundation drawing, middle-stage flat design underpainting and concluding illustrative and expressive brushstrokes. The beauty of *The Red Mill, Cos Cob* inspires us to celebrate the splendid legacy of Childe Hassam and all the artists of the Cos Cob art colony. One hour of instruction with additional supervised time for painting.

The Power Is Yours!

Tuesday, April 13, 2021, 1:00 p.m.–3:00 p.m., Ages 10–12, Members: \$15 | Non-Members: \$25

This workshop teaches young "planeteers" about being stewards of the land. Create a water filter and learn about David Bush's colonial waterwheel, make a compost jar and construct seed bombs that help our native pollinators. In the context of our own local history, we'll learn how modern concepts of caring for soil, recycling and water management are part of a long tradition in our community.

Fairy House Workshop

Wednesday, April 14, 2021, 1:00 p.m.–3:00 p.m., Ages 8–10, Members: \$15 | Non-Members: \$25

Young designers will learn lore surrounding a fairy's home—from the ancient Japanese Urashima Taro to the Victorian English Goblin Market to the Hudson Valley's own revolutionary Rip Van Winkle—all while building a fairy house for their own home garden. Designing and building with an array of natural and recycled materials, we will consider questions like *What makes an ideal fairy roof? How do I build a window? How many chairs does a fairy need?*—all of which will test their creativity, ingenuity and the laws of physics and fairy magic!

What Will My Garden Grow?

Thursday, April 15, 2021, 1:00 p.m.–2:30 p.m., Ages 6–8 Members: \$15 | Non-Members: \$25

Curious young historians will learn how to harvest seeds, what plants require to grow and why plants are an important part of our landscape and environment. Collecting seeds, planting a tray of garden vegetables, and pickling squash and cucumbers, students will learn traditional colonial methods that children would have used to support family food production from field to table. This class offers a perfect introduction to the joys (and work!) of gardening—past and present.

Come explore Connecticut's colonial history and Cos Cob's art colony through games, crafts and hands-on fun. Creative minds will spend time in our historic gardens and (air-conditioned!) barn, exploring their surroundings using art, science and old-fashioned ingenuity under the guidance of professional educators and artists. Space is limited! Early bird pricing is available through April 1.

Elementary Camps:

Grades 2–5, 9:30 a.m.–2:30 p.m.

History Camp:

July 26–30

Art Camp:

August 2–6

Middle School Camps:

Grades 6–8, 9:30 a.m.–2:30 p.m.

History Camp:

July 12–16

Art Camp:

July 19–23

HOLIDAY CLOSINGS

April 4, May 31

OFFICE, MUSEUM STORE AND CAFÉ

Monday–Friday, 9:00 a.m.–5:00 p.m.
Saturday and Sunday, noon–4:00 p.m.

MUSEUM GALLERIES

Wednesday–Sunday, noon–4:00 p.m.
by appointment

BUSH-HOLLEY HOUSE

Temporarily closed. Please call or
check the website for updates.

LIBRARY AND ARCHIVES

By appointment

ADMISSION

\$10 adults, \$8 seniors, \$7 group rate

FREE: Youth under 18, members, active military/
Blue Star and free for all the first Wednesday of
every month.

Visit all 21 museums on the Connecticut Art Trail
for \$25. Buy a passport at the museum lobby desk
or at ctarttrail.org.

Beautiful Work: *The Art of Greenwich Gardens & Landscapes*



May 1–September 5, 2021

Member Preview Days: Wednesday–Friday, April 28–30

Cultivated for generations by farmers and agricultural laborers, in the closing years of the 19th century many of Greenwich's planting fields and wood lots were transformed into extravagantly designed gardens by wealthy New Yorkers seeking "The Country Life" away from the city. Looking to Europe for inspiration, Greenwich estate owners commissioned opulent English, Italian and French-inspired

garden designs from titans of American landscape design, among them the Olmsted Brothers, Marian Cruger Coffin, Warren Manning, Bryant Fleming and Ellen Biddle Shipman.

Meanwhile, a reawakening interest in the Colonial Revival, a proliferation of popular magazines devoted to gardening and abounding interest in gardening and horticultural societies led to the cultivation of casually exuberant backyard gardens. In Cos Cob, the Holley family's flower and vegetable gardens were a fixture of the landscape and provided food and flowers for the table where boarding artists, writers and other cultural figures who made up the Cos Cob art colony gathered.

The Greenwich Historical Society's museum and archival collections, a rich source for sumptuous landscape design drawings from estate gardens, books and other publications on gardening and horticulture, and artworks and artifacts inspired by the garden, form the centerpiece of this upcoming exhibition celebrating the ambition, industry and joyful delight found in Greenwich gardens. The exhibition will be accompanied by outdoor adult and family programs set amid our historic garden museum site, including a series of Tavern Garden Markets and summer Concerts on the Lawn.

Image Credit: Walter A. Fitch (1861-1910) *View of the Garden*, ca. 1900. Pastel on paper. Greenwich Historical Society, Gift of Ruth Fitch Mason.