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## **Inaugural Observance of Frederick Law Olmsted Day Scheduled for April 26th**

**New Haven, CT, April 5, 2006** — The Inaugural Observance of Frederick Law Olmsted Day in Connecticut, in honor of its native son, will be held April 26th at the Mark Twain House and Museum in Hartford. The full-day conference will feature nationally known scholar Charles Beveridge, series editor of *The Frederick Law Olmsted Papers*, who will bring to life Olmsted's Connecticut years through lecture and slides. Olmsted, widely considered the founder of landscape architecture, was born in Hartford on April 26, 1822 and is buried in the city's Old North Cemetery.

Other presenters will include Tupper Thomas, Prospect Park Administrator/President of the Prospect Park Alliance, Brooklyn, NY, whose topic will be "How I learned to Love Olmsted *and Save Prospect Park.*" Landscape Architect Faye Harwell will present "Olmsted Parks in the 21st Century: What You Need To Know." Rudy Favretti, FASLA, will talk on "Olmsted in Hartford" preceding an afternoon Hartford bus tour that will include the first known sculpture of Olmsted, created by Italian Bruno Zevi and dedicated in May 2005 at the Institute of Living where Olmsted and Calvert Vaux created a park-like setting on its grounds. The tour will also include Old North Cemetery.

The conference will focus on Olmsted's early life in Connecticut that instilled his love of its countryside, the enduring legacy of his ideas, landscape designs still treasured today, and the importance of their preservation. State legislation last year (S.B. 794) created April 26th as Frederick Law Olmsted Day in Connecticut. Thanks to the enthusiasm and dedicated work of the bill's author, State Senator Bill Finch (Bridgeport), the bill passed both houses of the legislature on unanimous votes, and was signed into law by Governor M. Jodi Rell on July 1, 2005. Senator Finch stated, "Perhaps no Connecticut native has impacted the United States in such a pervasive and dramatic fashion as Frederick Law Olmsted."

Sponsors of the conference are the Connecticut Olmsted Heritage Alliance and the Connecticut Chapter of the American Society of Landscape Architects. April is being celebrated across the country as National Landscape Architecture Month by the American Society of Landscape Architects and its 15,000 members.

Registration for the Olmsted conference can be made online using a credit card at [www.ctasla.org](http://www.ctasla.org). For further information or to register by mail, please contact Norma Williams at [www.ctolmsted.org](http://www.ctolmsted.org) or (203) 431-5866. The fee for the program, which includes lunch and the bus tour, is \$60.

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