



Title Picture: Forest Park and the Connecticut River, © A.W. Knowles, 1907

## **The Commonwealth Around Us: Interpreting Our Spaces and Places**

*A Conference for Massachusetts History Organizations*

**Keynote Speaker: Brian Donahue**

“History and Conservation of the Massachusetts Landscape”

Monday, June 6, 2005

9:00 am – 3:00 pm

The Trustees of Reservations Doyle Conservation Center  
Leominster, MA

*Sponsored by the Massachusetts Foundation for the Humanities and  
the University of Massachusetts-Amherst Program in Public History*

9:00 – 9:30 Registration and coffee

9:30 – 9:45 Welcome

Ellen K. Rothman, Associate Director, Massachusetts Foundation for the Humanities  
Marla R. Miller, Director, University of Massachusetts-Amherst Program in Public History

**Bay State Legacy Award Presentation** For many years, the Bay State Historical League presented the John F. Ayer Award in recognition of an individual’s contributions to the interpretation and presentation of Massachusetts history. After 101 years of service, the BSHL dissolved on January 1, 2005. We are delighted to honor the BSHL and continue the Ayer Award tradition by presenting the first Bay State Legacy Award to Jack Tager, Professor Emeritus of History at the University of Massachusetts-Amherst. During his 40-year career, Professor Tager introduced hundreds of students to the delights of Massachusetts history. He is the author of *Massachusetts at a Glance: A User’s Guide to the Bay State* (2004), *Boston Riots: Three Centuries of Social Violence* (2001) and co-author with Richard Wilkie of the *Historical Atlas of Massachusetts* (1991) and with Richard D. Brown of *Massachusetts: A Concise History* (2000). Professor David Glassberg, Professor of History at the University of Massachusetts-Amherst, will present the award.

9:45 – 10:45 Keynote Address: Brian Donahue

Brian Donahue “**History and Conservation of the Massachusetts Landscape**”

The landscape of Massachusetts has undergone remarkable historical change. This talk will explore these changes, the natural and cultural forces that drove them, and how they are reflected in what we see around us today.

Brian Donahue is the author of *The Great Meadow: Farmers and the Land in Colonial Concord* (2004) and *Reclaiming the Commons: Community Farming and Forestry in a New England Town* (1999). Associate Professor of American Environmental Studies on the Jack Meyerhoff Foundation at Brandeis University, he teaches courses on environmental issues, environmental history, and sustainable farming and forestry. He co-founded and for 12 years directed Land’s Sake, a non-profit community farm in Weston.

10:45 - 11:00 Break

11:00 - 12:15 Concurrent Sessions

1 A. ***Inside and Out: Interpreting Your Entire Site***

Extending the interpretation of a historic house beyond the exterior walls can be a challenge. Case studies will explore how to incorporate an historic site's surroundings into the visitor experience through interpretation, events, and educational programs.

- David Moore, Site Manager, Gropius House, Historic New England
- Joanne Myers, Director of Education, Fruitlands Museum
- Staff, Emily Dickinson Museum

1 B. ***Preserving the Landscape with the Community Preservation Act***

The Community Preservation Act (CPA) is a new tool to help Massachusetts communities preserve open space and historic sites, and create affordable housing and recreational facilities. Panelists will discuss what the CPA is, how it is implemented, and how it can be used to acquire and preserve historic buildings and landscapes. Case studies of CPA-funded projects will provide insight into how to make the CPA work for your organization.

- David Olson, Director, Newton History Museum
- Dorrie Pizella, Executive Director, The Community Preservation Coalition

12:15 - 1:00 Lunch (provided)

1:00 - 2:15 Concurrent Sessions

2 A. ***Documenting the Changing Landscape***

The Massachusetts landscape is continuing to undergo rapid transformation. Panelists will discuss how historical organizations are documenting these changes in their communities through innovative programs.

- Cheryl Beredo, New England Environmental History Initiative, Massachusetts Historical Society
- Mary Gillespie, From Cambridge Farms to Farms of Lexington, Lexington Historical Society
- Maggie Holtzberg, Boston Central Artery "Big Dig" Oral History Project, Folk Arts & Heritage Program Manager, Massachusetts Cultural Council
- Jeff Singleton, Montague Oral History Project, Boston College

2 B. ***Interpreting Public Spaces***

Public venues such as parks, cemeteries, and waterways offer opportunities for interpreting the landscape in innovative ways. Panelists will discuss programs they have developed for conserving, preserving, and interpreting public spaces.

- Janet Heywood, Vice President of Interpretive Programs, Mount Auburn Cemetery
- Staff, Lowell Parks and Conservation Trust
- Staff, Preservation Worcester

2:30 – 3:00 Tour of the Doyle Conservation Center (optional)

Completed in June 2004, the Doyle Conservation Center is a "green" building, designed by specialists in environmental design, with landscaping provided by a company known for its strong ecological solutions for managing native landscapes.

This conference is made possible with support from the Massachusetts Foundation for the Humanities and the University of Massachusetts-Amherst Public History Program. For more information or for a downloadable registration form, please visit <http://www.mfh.org> or <http://www.umass.edu/history/ph/index.html>.

**Directions to  
The Trustees of Reservations, Doyle Conservation Center  
464 Abbott Avenue, Leominster, MA  
978-537-5835 <http://www.thetrustees.org>**

Take Rt. 2 to Exit 31A and turn right onto Route 12 South. At the first set of traffic lights, turn right onto Lindell Avenue. Follow Lindell Avenue for 0.75 mi. and then take your first right onto Abbott Ave. The Doyle Conservation Center will be on your left.

The Mission of The Trustees of Reservations is “to preserve, for public use and enjoyment, properties of exceptional scenic, historic and ecological value in Massachusetts.” Since 1891, The Trustees of Reservations has been saving the Massachusetts landscape for people to enjoy. Their work has protected more than 53,000 acres across the state, caring for over 23,000 acres on 95 reservations. They are a nonprofit organization supported by 40,500 members.

---

***The Commonwealth Around Us: Interpreting Our Spaces and Places*  
Registration Form for June 6, 2005.**

Name \_\_\_\_\_  
Organization \_\_\_\_\_  
Address \_\_\_\_\_ City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_  
Phone \_\_\_\_\_ Email \_\_\_\_\_

Please check the sessions you will attend.  
Sessions will be filled on a first-come, first-served basis.  
*Please note: no confirmations will be sent.*

**Morning Sessions (choose one)**

**11:00 - 12:15**

- 1A) \_\_\_ Inside and Out: Interpreting the Entire Site  
1B) \_\_\_ Preserving the Landscape with the CPA

**Afternoon Sessions (choose one)**

**1:00 - 2:15**

- 2A) \_\_\_ Documenting the Changing Landscape  
2B) \_\_\_ Interpreting Public Spaces

**2:30 p.m. (optional)**

\_\_\_ Tour of the Doyle Conservation Center (pre-registration required)

Registration Fee includes morning refreshments and box lunch (vegetarian option available).

**Registration Deadline: Wednesday, June 1, 2005**

Registration Fee.....\$40.00.....\$ \_\_\_\_\_  
Registration Fee for UMass students (include copy of student ID) .....\$25.00.....\$ \_\_\_\_\_  
**TOTAL ENCLOSED**.....\$ \_\_\_\_\_

Make checks payable to the Massachusetts Foundation for the Humanities and mail to: *The Commonwealth Around Us*, Massachusetts Foundation for the Humanities, 66 Bridge Street, Northampton, MA 01060. Registration fees cannot be refunded; however, you may send another person in your place. Questions? Call 617-923-1678.