

The History of the Historic Preservation-Professional Interest Group Award of Recognition

The Historic Preservation-Professional Interest Group established a special Award of Recognition in 1993. The award recognizes the contribution of the “unsung hero”, the individual who has made a significant contribution to heritage landscape conservation in the region where the ASLA Annual Meeting is held. The award has since evolved to include its presentation at the HP-PIG Annual Reception. This provides the opportunity of raising the profile of our group within the larger ASLA organization as well as within the host community.

The main criterion for the selection of the successful recipient is that the recipient has made a significant contribution to the advancement of landscape preservation education and interpretation through scholarly work, or through the hands-on landscape preservation of a specific landscape.

Past recipients include a range of academics, private practitioners, and public service individuals who have all contributed to and expanded the horizons of historic landscape preservation.

The following chronology expresses the rich history of the award and its recipients:

1993 Alfred Caldwell, a significant pioneer and protégé of Jens Jensen, presented at the Garfield Park Conservatory designed by Jensen in 1907 in Chicago. Chair Charles Birnbaum

1994 George Tatum, architectural and landscape historian whose 1950 graduate thesis on Downing was one of the first in-depth endeavors, later retired to Old Lyme, CT. (The conference was held in San Antonio). Chair Elizabeth Brabec

1995 The Honorable John. F. Seiberling, presented in Cleveland at the LAF dinner, for his support in congress of environmental and heritage legislation. Chair Mary Hughes

1996 Pamela Seager, presented in Los Angeles for her work in leading the effort to recognize the role of interpretation in preservation planning and for the cultural exclusivity emphasized in the interpretive program of Rancho Los Alamitos in Long Beach, California. Chair Scott Mehaffey

1997 Georgia State Historic Preservation Office represented by Mark Edwards, director, Historic Preservation Division of the Georgia Department of Natural Resources and long-time staff member Richard Cloues, presented in Atlanta, for their exceptional attention to historic landscapes which made them outstanding among SHPOs. Chair Ann Blair

1998 Elizabeth Potter, presented in Portland, for her work at the Oregon State Historic Preservation Office where prior to her retirement she was instrumental in having heritage landscapes added to the National Register. She also assisted in the preparation of the National Register Bulletin on Cemeteries. Chair Spencer Tunnell

1999 Arleyn and Newt Levee, presented in Boston, for their longstanding scholarly work on New England landscapes and on the Olmsted and Olmsted Brothers firms. They were involved in the founding of the Massachusetts Association of Olmsted Parks, which later became the National Association of Olmsted Parks. Chair, Susan Dolan

2000 John Karel, presented in St. Louis, for his work with the Board of Commissioners and the Friends of Tower Grove Park on the research, master plan and rehabilitation of Tower Grove Park, a National Historic Landmark and an outstanding example of a late Victorian urban park. Chair Cari Goetcheus

2001 Les Amis de la Montagne, presented in Montreal, Canada, Nov. 29, 2001 at Les Amis Board of Governors Meeting. (The ASLA Annual Meeting was canceled because of the tragic events of September 11, 2001.) This group has for the past 15 years raised public awareness and support for the rehabilitation and restoration of Mont Royal which contains remnants of the Olmsted park master plan and the work of many others including Frederick G. Todd, a significant early Canadian landscape architect. Chair Wendy Shearer

2005 Richard Nehrling, Principal advocate for preserving Florida’s pioneer experimental subtropical gardens created by his great-grandfather Dr. Henry Nehrling between 1885 and 1929, presented in Fort Lauderdale, Florida, HP-PPN Member Breakfast. Chair David Driapsa.

This chronology has been prepared by Past Chair Wendy Shearer, CSLA, ASLA, a private practitioner in Guelph, and updated by David Driapsa, ASLA, CLARB, of Naples, Florida.