

LaGasse Medal Nominations (Landscape Architect Category)
C/o Carolyn Mitchell, Honors and Awards Coordinator
American Society of Landscape Architects
636 Eye Street, NW
Washington, DC 20001

RE: Nomination of Stuart Weinreb for the LaGasse Medal

Dear Trustees:

We are writing to enthusiastically nominate Stuart Weinreb for the 2013 LaGasse Medal. For more than 30 years, Stuart Weinreb has provided, to use the words of the LaGasse Medal purpose, “notable contributions to the management and conservancy of natural resources and/or public landscapes.”

First, let us provide a bit of background on Stuart. He graduated from the City College of New York in 1973 and then obtained a Masters in Landscape Architecture from SUNY College of Environmental Science and Forestry in 1979. Stuart worked for two landscape architecture firms in Syracuse before joining the Architects Collaborative in Cambridge and working as an independent consultant in Landscape Architecture in the early 1980s. From 1984 to 2001 and then again from 2002 to 2003, Stuart worked on a variety of projects in the Massachusetts state parks system through the state Department of Environmental Management (DEM), Division of Resource Conservation. (DEM is now the state Department of Conservation and Recreation.) Stuart also spent a brief period working internationally for Sasaki Associates. He joined the Massachusetts Audubon Society (Mass Audubon) as its Director of Capital Assets and Planning in 2003, a position he still occupies ten years later.

Stuart worked on park planning projects throughout many Massachusetts communities during his time at the DEM. He helped to plan and design the visitor experience within the context of significant cultural and natural landscapes at various state parks and reservations including the iconic Walden Pond Reservation, the Pilgrim Memorial State Park (which surrounds Plymouth Rock), the magnificent wild areas at Mount Greylock Reservation in the Berkshires, Mount Wachusett State Reservation in central Massachusetts, and Spectacle Island in the Boston Harbor National Recreation Area. At DEM, Stuart was responsible for the supervision of six project managers charged with the planning, design, permitting and coordination of DEM’s largest and most complex capital projects. He was also responsible for incorporating sustainable design elements and features into the agency’s projects -- an important aspect of Stuart’s work, given his central role with numerous projects involving the construction or renovation of buildings as well as landscape design and improvements.

Since coming to Mass Audubon in 2003, Stu has continued to work on both bricks-and-mortar and major landscape scale projects. He has also had a lead role in designing visitor amenities at several newly-established wildlife sanctuaries in his decade with this non-profit conservation organization. Mass Audubon, the largest private conservation land owner in the state, protects 35,000 acres distributed across 90 cities and towns throughout the Commonwealth of Massachusetts. Its more than 150 buildings are primarily used to support and sustain its environmental education priorities which are intended to inspire and engage visitors and program participants to explore and protect the natural communities throughout New England. In doing so, Mass Audubon’s buildings and exhibits serve as critical gateways, classrooms and interpretive centers.

Stuart's work has been essential in ensuring that Mass Audubon's buildings, whether old or new construction, blend seamlessly into the natural landscape, while fulfilling key educational, conservation and advocacy priorities. In many ways, these facilities are intended as teaching "platforms" themselves, as often reflected in a wide array of sustainable as well as universal accessible building features. Given the mix of building types, ages and locations --- from the Cape and Islands, to urban centers in Boston and Worcester and across the Commonwealth to the Berkshires --- an awareness and sensitivity to multiple and often complex design considerations are wonderful attributes of Stuart's successful role at Mass Audubon.

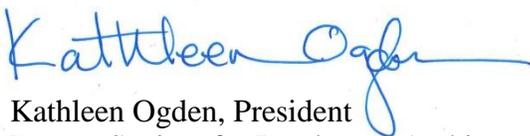
One of the hallmarks of Stuart's time at Mass Audubon has been an increased emphasis on sustainability. Stu oversaw the design and construction of the first LEED-certified building at Mass Audubon, the Wellfleet Bay Nature Center which earned a LEED Platinum certification. He is currently working on Mass Audubon's first effort to build a net-zero structure, the Farm Life Center at Drumlin Farm. Stuart similarly emphasizes sustainability when designing landscape features, utilizing native plant materials and locally-available building materials whenever possible. Stuart recently completed a three-month sabbatical focused on developing sustainability principles and guidelines for Mass Audubon's capital facility projects, whether new construction or renovation and including the associated landscape design.

Both at DEM and Mass Audubon, Stuart has had to work with tight budgets, multiple priorities, lengthy and complicated regulatory processes, often conflicting or competing visions about project goals and outcomes, and the challenge of balancing current human needs and desires while respecting a site's important natural and cultural resource features. He has worked with staff, volunteers, municipal officials, abutters, consultants, and other interested parties to achieve successful projects throughout the state. At Mass Audubon, Stuart generally has ten to twelve projects underway at any given time with several in construction phase and others in the early master site planning phase. Nonetheless, he manages to juggle multiple projects successfully and achieve results at each of Mass Audubon's nineteen nature centers (and many of the 34 unstaffed properties), providing attractive and accessible facilities and landscaped areas to welcome the 450,000 annual wildlife sanctuary visitors and program participants.

With his work at DEM and Mass Audubon, he has assisted both a major public agency and a large non-profit organization in protecting, enhancing, and managing natural and cultural resources for public benefit and enjoyment. In these professional capacities, his contributions have been numerous and varied. Mass Audubon's tagline, "protecting the nature of Massachusetts for wildlife and people," exemplifies what Stuart has done for the past three decades. We believe that he would be a worthy recipient of the LaGasse Medal.

Thank you for your consideration of our nomination of Stuart Weinreb for the LaGasse Medal. Please let us know if you have questions or need additional information.

Sincerely,



Kathleen Ogden, President
Boston Society for Landscape Architects

LaGasse Medal Nominations
ASLA Board of Trustees
c/o Carolyn Mitchell
636 Eye Street, NW
Washington, DC 20001-3736

re: Endorsement of Stuart Weinreb, LaGasse Medal 2013

Dear Trustees:

I am delighted to recommend Stuart Weinreb for the 2013 LaGasse Medal. His career-long commitment to the stewardship of our shared natural resources is exemplary and fully aligned with the spirit and purposes of the Medal. In his capacity as the Director of Capital Assets and Planning at the Massachusetts Audubon Society and in a stellar career with the Commonwealth of Massachusetts Department of Environmental Management, Stu has successfully engaged with energy and singular purpose one of the most important issues of our time: the reversal of environmental degradation and protection of the natural environment. By example, and through his leadership in addressing the challenge of fashioning a livable landscape, Stu has been and continues to be a force for public good.

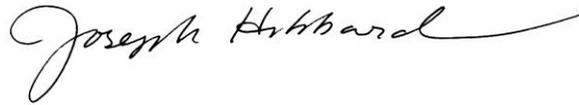
I have known Stu since 1978 when he was one of my graduate students at the State University of New York, College of Environmental Science and Forestry. Stu possessed a natural, unpretentious sense of purpose and an ethical view of the environment that distinguished him then and continues to define him today. After his student years, Stu and I remained professionally close as his career at the Massachusetts Department of Environmental Management matured during the 1980's and 90's. His work at DEM is some of the most significant public open space work done in the State during this time. His landscape restoration and public facilities work at the Walden Pond Reservation is beautiful in its simplicity, understatement and sensitivity to the layered complexity of the site. The project is a reassuring reminder that we can do things right environmentally. It is a timely signal that there is hope for our relationship with the natural world. Stu's patience, attention detail and ability to maintain key landscape ideas through an inclusive public process made this project a reality that now touches the lives of thousands of visitors every year, and serves as a tangible statement that ecological recovery is an available option. In this project, and others like it Stu was instrumental in realizing at DEM, the design is a source of interest and pleasure for its patterns of natural beauty, aspects of ecological systems, and matters of human concern.

In the past ten years I have worked as a consulting landscape architect for the Massachusetts Audubon Society and have had the opportunity to observe Stu's thinking and work together with him on many of the Society's sanctuary properties, including the Society's flagship sanctuary at Drumlin Farm. Stu's activities exemplify the formula of "thinking globally and acting locally". He is a sensitive listener attuned to the needs of stakeholders, while simultaneously representing broader strategic concerns related to sustainability and the wise use of resources. Through his work, which includes supervising the planning for the Society's fifty sanctuary properties, he regularly makes decisions that enhance the public's access to and enjoyment of the natural environment. He is an outspoken and effective advocate for a balanced approach to public use and environmental protection of precious natural resources. He is a life-long learner who

maintains currency in the science, politics and design of the environment. Professional skill and a sense of responsibility to society and are agreeably blended in him.

Stu's career is a credit to the profession of landscape architecture, and to society at large. It is with the greatest pleasure and absence of hesitation that I recommend him to you.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Joseph Hibbard". The signature is written in a cursive style with a long, sweeping underline.

Joseph Hibbard ASLA
Principal

LaGasse Medal Nominations
Landscape Architect Category
c/o Carolyn Mitchell, Honors and Awards Coordinator
American Society of Landscape Architects
636 Eye Street, NW
Washington, DC 20001

RE: Nomination of Stuart Weinreb for the LaGasse Medal

Dear Trustees:

It is an honor for me to endorse the nomination of Stuart Weinreb for the 2013 LaGasse Medal.

I served as Chief Planner for the Massachusetts State Forest and Park System for 16 years between 1980 and 1996—a period of significant development and change for the agency, and numerous initiatives to protect the natural and outdoor recreation resources of the Commonwealth. For a dozen of those years, Stu worked for and with me in a variety of roles from project management to outdoor recreation and natural resource planning and site design.

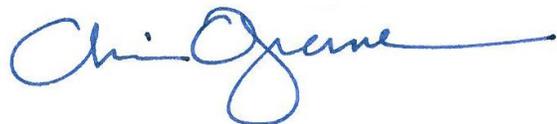
I have always been impressed with Stu's incisive intelligence, his resiliency and his friendliness. Although not listed on his job description, these qualities indeed enabled Stu to accomplish extraordinary things, while working in a big, bureaucratic organization that was both empowered and constrained by politics.

His assignments included some of the most valuable and renowned properties in the system:
Pilgrim Memorial State Park at Plymouth Rock, Mount Greylock State Reservation
(Massachusetts highest peak and oldest State Park), Spectacle Island the centerpiece of Boston
Harbor Islands State Park and Roxbury Heritage State Park.

I particularly remember Stu's commitment to the improvement of Walden Pond State Reservation, a passion he kept alive while he even when he was not working for us. Walden is perhaps the quintessential public land challenge—a public recreation site, a world-renowned historic site, at the center of a valuable and iconic natural community, served by local highways—not to mention its association with Thoreau and the genesis of the environmental movement. There have been many improvements in Walden's sustainability, ability to serve its users and protect its heritage in recent years—Stu advocated for and helped achieve many of them.

Too often, creative and intrepid professionals like Stu, who fight the fight from within public agencies, can be underappreciated. The LaGasse medal was created to recognize people like Stu. I hope you agree.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Chris Greene". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long horizontal line extending to the right from the end of the name.

Christopher M. Greene
Senior Associate
Halvorson Design Partnership, Inc.



LaGasse Medal Nominations
(Landscape Architect Category)
c/o Carolyn Mitchell, Honors and Awards Coordinator
American Society of Landscape Architects
636 Eye St., NW
Washington, DC 20001

Re: Endorsement of Stuart Weinreb for the LaGasse Medal

Dear Trustees:

I strongly endorse the nomination of Stuart Weinreb for the 2013 LaGasse Medal in the Landscape Architect category. I have known and worked with Stuart since 1986. We worked together for twelve years at the Commonwealth of Massachusetts' Department of Environmental Management where Stuart took the lead and set the standard for designing the restoration and improvements to many of the Commonwealth's important public spaces. Walden Pond, Mt. Greylock and the Boston Harbor Islands State Park were some of the most notable sites.

After a short stint working independently in the private sector and at Sasaki Associates, Inc., Stuart returned to landscape scale work by joining the staff of Mass Audubon, a statewide conservation organization. I have had the honor of working alongside Stuart again for the past nine years with Stuart as the organization's Director of Capital Assets and Planning. In this time he has applied all of his landscape architecture skills to the planning for, the restoration of and the continuing stewardship of the 34,000 acres in Mass Audubon's portfolio. At the same time, Stuart's landscape architecture skills are brought to bear on the more than 250 structures that sit in these significant cultural and important ecological landscapes. It is in these spaces, both natural and built, that Mass Audubon delivers the mission of connecting people to nature. Stuart understands that it is critically important how people perceive and achieve this connection. He tells the story of the landscape in compelling ways to create design solutions, garner support and also steward habitat resources while he works collaboratively with scientists as well as property managers and program professionals to define and implement desired outcomes.

Stuart has a deep understanding of all the resources, whether natural, cultural, historic or financial and how they are inherently interwoven to achieve a vision. It is impressive beyond words how he then uses that understanding to expertly, and with consistent good humor, facilitate a positive and conservation minded design solution. For his entire career he has used his landscape architect skills to promote habitat protection first and foremost before the program needs for any particular space. He is innovative and eager to try new technologies that will aid in this endeavor. His incredible leadership, skills, and expertise has provided the Commonwealth's many public spaces and more than 53 Mass Audubon Wildlife Sanctuaries the benefit of putting the natural systems first and creating a sustainable model that ensures habitat protection for the future and the best conservation outcome possible. It is for this kind of systematic creative thinking, thorough ecological understanding and successful design implementation that I enthusiastically support the nomination of Stuart Weinreb for the LaGasse Medal.

Sincerely,

Gail S. Yeo
Regional Director

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LaGasse Medal Nominations
(Landscape Architecture Category)
c/o Carolyn Mitchell
636 Eye Street, NW
Washington, DC 20001-3736

Re: Nomination of Stuart Weinreb, ASLA, for the LaGasse Medal

Dear Trustees:

Stuart Weinreb, Director of Capital Assets and Planning at Massachusetts Audubon Society, plays a central role in furthering the society's mission of protecting the natural environment while simultaneously encouraging an appreciation of nature and facilitating the public's access to it. His demonstrated success is predicated on his training and experience as a landscape architect; acknowledging him with the award of the LaGasse Medal would have the virtue of identifying an extremely effective practitioner and highlighting the importance to society of the landscape architect's perspective.

Stu Weinreb and I first worked together over 15 years ago when he overseeing improvements to the Walden Pond State Reservation. His was a challenging responsibility: to reconcile the need to preserve a quintessential American landscape and the site of Henry David Thoreau's one room cabin with the pressures of meeting the needs of tens of thousands of recreational visitors. He deftly handled the inevitable conflicts, working to maximize access for the greatest number of people without degrading the natural environment. He adopted as his goal not preservation or access but preservation *and* access.

The Walden Pond project was just one of the literally dozens of projects Stu Weinreb oversaw as the Acting Director for the Bureau of Project Management (Department of Environmental Management, Commonwealth of Massachusetts) during his 17 years working for the Commonwealth.

In 2003 we re-connected when he began work at the Massachusetts Audubon Society in his current capacity as Director of Capital Assets and Planning. Black River Architects has worked with Mass Audubon for 20 years and we understand how passionately the Society and staff pursue their dual role as protector of nature and facilitator of access to the natural environment. Stu Weinreb quickly and seamlessly became a proponent of the Society's mission.

Equally important, as a trained landscape architect he brought new perspective and insights to the position. For instance, he is able to articulate the society's facility needs in terms that architects and other design professionals find thoroughly and usefully provocative. He also has the training and ability to identify good design and is able to articulate to his co-workers how good design can further

*We collaborate with our clients
to create buildings that represent a good value, respect the environment,
lift the spirits of daily users and visitors and make organizations more effective and dynamic*

the Society's mission. As an architect I am particularly impressed with how his advocacy for specific design solutions has improved the appearance and utility of the Society's recent projects.

The position of Director of Capital Assets and Planning is often the axis around which many conflicting needs and goals swirl. Budgetary, regulatory, policy, programmatic and functional requirements are rarely entirely aligned and it requires someone with a design background and an appreciation for operational realities to find a solution that all parties can accept. I have observed Stu Weinreb do just that on numerous occasions.

Stu Weinreb has been more than a facilitator. On his own initiative, he spent his recent sabbatical investigating the strategies other large institutions are employing to reduce energy consumption and solid waste. He is currently converting his findings into guidelines for the Society's existing, renovated and new buildings. Because Mass Audubon Society is a model of responsible environmental behavior for many individuals, his efforts to elevate the Society's standards in these two areas will have a profound effect on the built environment for years to come.

In his role as the Director of Capital Assets and Planning for a significant conservation organization with the mission of "protecting the nature of Massachusetts for people and wildlife," Stuart Weinreb is actively fulfilling the principles espoused by Alfred B LaGasse. Stuart Weinreb would be a worthy and exemplary recipient of the LaGasse Medal and I recommend him most highly.

Respectfully,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Arch Horst", with a long horizontal line extending to the right.

Arch Horst, AIA