

Urbs in Horto – City in a Garden: Jens Jensen Reconsidered

- An inspiring grassroots symposium, June 12-14, 2009 -

“To shut out nature from man’s whole life is to shut out the inspiration of noble and humanitarian things.”

Jens Jensen
Siftings

At the turn of the twentieth century, Danish immigrant Jens Jensen was at the center of a group of progressive organic designers and architects, civic planners, artists, writers, naturalists, social reformers, scientists, businessmen and politicians who were inspired by the natural prairie landscape of Chicago and the surrounding region. They believed in the spirit of democracy, born of our native landscape, as a fundamental resource to be revered, idealized, and protected, and that it was critical for city dwellers to have opportunities to commune with nature. Today, these themes are more resonant than ever.

Co-sponsored by the Jane Addams Hull-House Museum at the University of Illinois at Chicago and the Chicago Architecture Foundation, this three-day symposium will encourage a greater understanding of this landscape legacy and the relevance of this important history today.

The symposium brings together an international group of leading experts on Jens Jensen, the Prairie School of Landscape Architecture, and today’s greening efforts in the Chicago region. Symposium highlights include a reading of the *Beauty of the Wild* dramatic masque at the Jane Addams Hull-House Museum, guided tours of the Garfield Conservatory, Columbus Park, Crab Tree Farm, Rosewood Park and Jens Jensen’s Ravinia Studio and residence, concluding with a tour of the Westchester Township History Museum and a Prairie Club inspired field walk at the Indiana Dunes State Park.

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Friday, June 12, 2009 Jens Jensen Room, Garfield Conservatory, Chicago Columbus Park Jane Addams Hull-House Museum, University of Illinois at Chicago	
9:00 a.m. - 9:15 a.m.	Welcome, Introduction, Opening Remarks
9:15 a.m. - 10:15 a.m.	Jens Jensen's Life and Contributions Lily Laursen, Dybbøl, Denmark Bob Grese, University of Michigan-Ann Arbor Bill Tishler Sr., University of Wisconsin-Madison Carol Doty, Morrison-Shearer Foundation
10:15 a.m. - 12:15 p.m.	The Prairie Spirit: A Design and Conservation Movement Moderator: Arthur Miller, Lake Forest College Julia Bachrach, Chicago Park District Elizabeth Birmingham, North Dakota State University Wendy Greenhouse, Oak Park Bob Grese, University of Michigan-Ann Arbor Christopher Vernon, University of Western Australia
12:15 p.m. – 1:15 p.m.	Lunch Break Garfield Conservatory Guided Tour
1:30 p.m. – 3:00 p.m.	To Be Announced Erica Allen, Growing Power Ken Dunn, Resource Center Lisa Lee, Jane Addams Hull-House Museum, University of Illinois at Chicago
3 p.m. - 4:30 p.m.	Columbus Park Guided Tour Julia Bachrach, Chicago Park District Bob Grese, University of Michigan-Ann Arbor
5:00 p.m. – 7:00 p.m.	Reception Jane Addams Hull-House Museum Lisa Lee, Jane Addams Hull-House Museum Mike Schneider, The Clearing Bill Tishler Sr., University of Wisconsin-Madison Jens Jensen's Relatives: Brita Bastogi, Jens Jensen, Bruce Johnson, Marnie Wirtz and <i>Beauty of the Wild</i> Dramatic Masque, Directed by Jensen Wheeler Wolfe

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<p>Saturday, June 13, 2009 *transportation is provided between locations Crab Tree Farm Kenilworth Historical Society Mahoney Park and Farm Highland Park Historical Society Rosewood Park and Beach Jens Jensen's Ravinia Studio and Residence Ravinia School Kent Wonnell House May T. Watts Nature Park Jens Jensen Park</p>	
<p>8 a.m. – 11: 20 a.m.</p>	<p>Crab Tree Farm -Limited Reservation for first 40 people- *For guests visiting Crab Tree Farm, we will meet at 8 am for the UIC Bus at Kenilworth Historical Society located at 415 Kenilworth Ave., Kenilworth, IL 60043. The tour will promptly begin at 9 am and concludes at 11 am. We will leave by 11:20 am to return to the Kenilworth Historical Society for lunch and presentations.</p>
<p>12:00 p.m. – 12: 30 p.m.</p>	<p>Welcome and Lunch Carol Schulz, Kenilworth Historical Society</p>
<p>12:30 p.m. – 1:15 p.m.</p>	<p>Designing Landscapes for Children Dennis Brosseau, Ravinia School Peter Nause, Glenwood Children's Park Samuel Dennis Jr., University of Wisconsin-Madison</p>
<p>1:30 p.m. - 2:00 p.m.</p>	<p>Mahoney Park and Farm Julia Bachrach, Chicago Park District Bob Grese, University of Michigan-Ann Arbor</p>
<p>2:00 p.m. – 4:30 p.m.</p>	<p>Guided Walking Tours Highland Park Historical Society, Rosewood Park and Beach, Jens Jensen's Ravinia Studio and Residence, Ravinia School, Kent Wonnell House, May T. Watts Nature Park, Jens Jensen Park Julia Bachrach, Chicago Park District Dennis Brosseau, Ravinia School Bob Grese, University of Michigan-Ann Arbor Bruce Johnson, Jens Jensen's Grandson Elliott Miller, Highland Park Historical Society Bill Tishler Sr., University of Wisconsin-Madison Christopher Vernon, University of Western Australia</p>

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5:00 p.m. – 6:00 p.m.	<p>Book Signing and Conversation with Authors</p> <p>Julia Bachrach, Chicago Park District Bob Grese, University of Michigan-Ann Arbor Bill Tishler Sr., University of Wisconsin-Madison Christopher Vernon, University of Western Australia</p>
<p>Sunday, June 14, 2009 Westchester Township History Museum Indiana Dunes State Park</p>	
11:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m.	<p>Westchester Township History Museum Welcome and Guided Tours</p> <p>Jane Walsh Brown, Westchester Township History Museum</p>
12:00 p.m. – 12:30 p.m.	Lunch
12:30 pm. – 1:00 p.m.	<p>Jens Jensen in Indiana</p> <p>Bernie Dahl, Purdue University Bill Tishler Sr., University of Wisconsin-Madison</p>
2:00 p.m. – 4:00 p.m.	<p>Indiana Dunes State Park Prairie Club Inspired Field Walk and Closing Remarks</p> <p>Brad Bumgardner, Indiana Dunes State Park Bob Grese, University of Michigan-Ann Arbor Bill Tishler Sr., University of Wisconsin-Madison Christopher Vernon, University of Western Australia Jensen Wheeler Wolfe, Jensen's Great Granddaughter</p>
<p>*Special Notes:</p> <p>Please wear comfortable clothes and walking shoes; bring rain or shine gear if needed, including sun block, hats, insect spray or umbrellas. We will be meeting directly at the starting location for each day, and will provide transportation when needed in between locations for guided tours. Parking for the Jane Addams Hull-House Museum is directly across the street for \$6-12. Parking for the Indiana Dunes State Park is \$5 in state, \$10 out of state, and buses \$2 per person. Free street parking at the Garfield Conservatory and Kenilworth Historical Society.</p> <p>Garfield Park Conservatory: 300 N. Central Park Ave. Chicago, IL 60624-1996 (312) 746-5100 Jane Addams Hull-House Museum: 800 S. Halsted, Chicago, IL 60607 (312) 413-5353 Kenilworth Historical Society: 415 Kenilworth Ave., Kenilworth, IL 60043 (847) 251-2565 Westchester Township History Museum: 700 W. Porter Ave., Chesterton, IN (219) 983-9715 Nature Center, Indiana Dunes State Park: 1600 N 25 E, Chesterton, IN 46304 (219) 926-1390</p>	

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Speaker Bios and Acknowledgements

Julia Bachrach

Julia Sniderman Bachrach is the historian and preservationist for the Chicago Park District. She received a Bachelor's Degree in American Culture Studies from Roger Williams University in Bristol, Rhode Island, and a Master's Degree in Landscape Architecture from the University of Wisconsin-Madison. She is the author of two books, *The City in a Garden: A Photographic History of Chicago's Parks* and *Inspired by Nature: The Garfield Park Conservatory and Chicago's West Side*, co authored with Jo Ann Nathan. Ms. Bachrach has also contributed to many other publications including the *Oxford Companion to Gardens*. She has curated numerous exhibitions including *A Force of Nature: The Life and Work of Jens Jensen* at the Chicago Cultural Center in 2002. In 2008, she received a national Stewardship Excellence Award by the Cultural Landscape Foundation.

Countess Brita Bastogi

Countess Brita Bastogi is a grandniece of Jens Jensen. She worked for the last 15 years before retiring as Vice-Director in an international development NGO in Brussels, Belgium. She presently lives in Rungsted, Denmark and is active in solidarity work.

Elizabeth Birmingham

Elizabeth Birmingham (Betsy) is an associate professor of English at North Dakota State University, where she teaches professional writing and gender studies classes. Her own research focuses on the history of women in architecture, particularly the work and reception of Marion Mahony Griffin, a Jens Jensen contemporary. She is presently working with a team at NDSU to administer an ADVANCE institutional transformation grant from the National Science Foundation—a grant that has as its purpose to recruit, retain, and advance women in academia.

Dennis Brosseau

The magic of nature was instilled deep in my soul as a young child! I grew up among the coniferous forests, pristine lakes, and the beaches of the Strait of Georgia on the west coast of British Columbia, just north of Vancouver. I've carried this love of all things natural for five decades now. I strive to share the beauty of nature, and our duty to conserve it, with my elementary students at Ravinia School in Highland Park, IL, where I am a third grade teacher. Presently, we steward May T. Watts woods, a Park District of Highland Park parcel adjacent to our schoolyard. We maintain, study, and enjoy a large butterfly garden, and grow plants for both areas in our greenhouse. We spend time reading, writing, and reflecting in a newly constructed Jens Jensen council ring directly out the school's front entrance.

Brad Bumgardner

Brad Bumgardner is the park Interpretive Naturalist for the Department of Natural Resources, Indiana Dunes State Park. Brad received his Bachelor's Degree in Natural Resources and Environmental Education from Purdue University. Two hobbies of strong interest for Brad at the Indiana Dunes include Ornithology and early park history. Brad is a licensed bird bander and helps with migration research along the dunes. Brad also has studied extensively the early history of what is now the Indiana Dunes State Park, from early French Fur Traders, Native American Indian camps, and even Civil War guard towers.

Bernie Dahl

Bernie Dahl is an Associate Professor of Landscape Architecture and former chair of the program

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at Purdue University. He is currently the coordinator of the cooperative education program in landscape architecture.

Bernie's interest in Jensen stretches back to early student inspirations in his works in Chicago, to his many visits to the Clearing and to his musings about Jensens' relationship to the Prairie Club. Bernie's interest reaches forward to his current students and introducing them to the Jensen's work and to the possibilities of renewal and restoration.

Bernie is more of a fan than a scholar of Jensen, but his Scandinavian blood and his love of native plants and natural landscapes keeps him searching for more knowledge and inspiration in the work of a great Dane.

Samuel Dennis Jr.

Samuel Dennis Jr, PhD, ASLA, is a geographer and a registered landscape architect. His research and practice focus on the social dimensions of environmental design in general and on people's experience of health and place in particular. Sam's recent collaborative work includes learning landscapes for young children, neighborhood planning with urban teens and community recreation and food environment assessments with several Native American tribes in Wisconsin. He is currently assistant professor in the Department of Landscape Architecture at the University of Wisconsin – Madison, with affiliate appointments in Environmental Studies, Family Medicine and Urban and Regional Planning.

Carol Doty

Carol Doty first came under the influence of May Theilgaard Watts through classes at the Morton Arboretum in the 1950s; later she was on the Arboretum staff for 35 years, retiring in 1998. Her interest in Jens Jensen began about 1970, when she and Mary Moulton started the Jensen archive at the Arboretum's Sterling Morton Library. At that time she researched and wrote about "Beauty of the Wild," Kenneth Sawyer Goodman's dramatic masque which Jensen commissioned in 1913 for his new organization, The Friends of Our Native Landscape. This led Carol to The Clearing, where she has been active with the Friends of The Clearing since 1972. Currently she is Board Chair of the Morrison-Shearer Foundation in Northbrook, Illinois. Its mission is to perpetuate the artistic legacy of two of Jensen's close friends, photographer Helen Balfour Morrison and dancer-choreographer Sybil Shearer, and to support new creativity in the arts.

Wendy Greenhouse

An independent art historian in Chicago, Wendy Greenhouse specializes in American art with a particular focus on the history of art in Chicago. Greenhouse earned her doctorate at Yale University and served as Curator of Paintings and Sculpture at the Chicago Historical Society from 1988 to 1991. She has lectured widely and taught at numerous area institutions as well as Temple University Japan. She was a curator for the Chicago Historical Society's exhibitions on Chicago artists Archibald J. Motley Jr. and Herman Menzel, and also helped organize the Terra Museum of American Art's 2004 exhibition "Chicago Modern, 1893-1945: Pursuit of the New." Her publications include catalogues of the Union League Club of Chicago art collection, the Powell and Barbara Bridges Collection of Chicago paintings, and the Frank Dudley exhibition at the Brauer Museum, Valparaiso University in 2007.

Bob Grese

Bob serves as the Director of the University of Michigan's Matthaei Botanical Gardens and Nichols Arboretum and teaches landscape architecture in the School of Natural Resources and Environment. He is a strong advocate of ecologically-based design and has researched the work of early landscape architects who advocated such an approach to design, especially the work of O.C. Simonds and Jens Jensen who worked throughout the Midwest and were known for the "Prairie style" of landscape gardening. Bob is the author of *Jens Jensen: Maker of Natural Parks*

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and Gardens and wrote the introductory essay for republishing O. C. Simonds's book *Landscape Gardening*.

Jens Jensen

Jens Jensen entered the field of ecological restoration in 2004 after receiving a B.S. in Landscape Architecture Natural Resources and Cartography from the University of Wisconsin-Madison. He has experience in wildlife management and research along with restoration ecology and landscape design and planning. He has had the opportunity to work on public and private ecological restoration projects ranging in size from ¼ acre up to 1000 acres. Jens also enjoys speaking and educating people about the principles and benefits of ecological restoration.

Lily Laursen

Lily Laursen has been a librarian at the Sønderborg and Dybbøl Library since 1975, and is a volunteer of the Local Historical Archive in Sønderborg where she is responsible for the Dybbøl Section. Lily first learned about Jens Jensen in 1985 when people from The Clearing visited Sønderborg/Dybbøl, with Claire and Dorothy Johnson as guides.

Arthur H. Miller

Arthur Miller is the Archivist and Librarian for Special Collections, Donnelley and Lee Library/LIT, Lake Forest College in Lake Forest, Illinois. He graduated from the University of Chicago with a library degree and received a Ph.D. in English from Northwestern University. He is a past President of the Lake Forest Preservation Foundation. He is a co-author of *Classic Country Estates of Lake Forest: Architecture and Landscape Design 1856-1940*, *Walter Frazier and Raftery, Orr & Fairbank Architects: Houses of Chicago's North Shore, 1924-1970* and has written various articles published in North Shore periodicals. Related presentations include Sotheby's and Carpenter's Hall, Philadelphia.

Elliott Miller

Elliott Miller is the Acting President of the Board of the Highland Park Historical Society. Elliott Miller has a keen interest in local history. He has a Masters Degree in Humanities from the University of Chicago. Mr. Miller is a retired Chair of the Highland Park Historic Preservation Commission, past Board member and Newsletter Editor of *The Friends of Jens Jensen*, and has given presentations and created exhibits that celebrate the history of Highland Park and the work of Jens Jensen. Mr. Miller's current exhibit, "The Landscape of Highland Park," is currently on display at the Highland Park Historical Society Museum.

Peter Nause

Peter Nause is a landscape architect practicing in Madison, Wisconsin. In the 1970's he had been working seasonally between Wisconsin landscaping jobs, Utah ski-bumming and long-distance cross-country bicycle tours until taking a class at The Clearing in Ellison Bay, Wisconsin which prompted changes that eventually led to studying landscape architecture at the University of Wisconsin. Stonework and ecological restoration have been a strong focus over the last 20 years of his experience. He is co-chair of the Parks Committee for the Dudgeon-Monroe Neighborhood Association where he has been active in promoting stewardship for two historic Jensen sites, which are located within very close proximity— Glenwood Children's Park and the Kenneth Jensen Wheeler Council Ring.

John K. Notz, Jr.

John Notz is a retired lawyer who, after his retirement from the practice of law in 1996, became a student, primarily, of the career of Jens Jensen and of other landscape designers in the Chicago

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area. He has published a number of papers, most of which may be found on the Chicago Literary Club's website: www.chlit.org.

Mike Schneider

Mike Schneider has been the Executive Director of The Clearing for nine years. Prior to coming to The Clearing, Mike worked as a landscape designer and consulting arborist in southeastern Wisconsin and for the University of Wisconsin-Extension. He has two degrees in horticulture from the University of Wisconsin-Madison.

William H. Tishler

William Tishler has been Professor of Landscape Architecture at the University of Wisconsin-Madison for over 40 years. His work focused on historic preservation, landscape architectural history, vernacular architecture, and preservation issues relating to historic landscapes of the Upper Midwest.

Tishler is a graduate of UW-Madison and Harvard University. He is a Fellow of the American Society of Landscape Architects, and has been a Senior Fellow in Landscape Studies at Dumbarton Oaks; an Attingham Fellow in England; and Horace Cleveland Visiting Professor at the University of Minnesota.

He has lectured widely in America, Europe and Asia, and has won numerous awards for his work, including the master plan for Old World Wisconsin, America's largest outdoor museum of rural life, and several of his publications. He has been a consultant to the National Park Service on historical landscapes and has worked on a variety of historic preservation projects. Tishler also Chaired Wisconsin's Historic Preservation Review Board and is an Advisor Emeritus of the National Trust for Historic Preservation.

Professor Tishler has been active in, and a co-founder of, the Alliance for Historic Landscape Preservation, and was founder of The Clearing Landscape Institute at the home and school of the distinguished landscape architect, Jens Jensen.

He has authored more than 170 publications, including the award-winning book *American Landscape Architecture: Designers and Places*, and *Midwestern Landscape Architecture*. His co-authored article "Conservation Pioneers: Jens Jensen and the Friends of Our Native Landscape," won the Wisconsin Historical Society's William Hesseltine Award for the best article of the year in the *Wisconsin Magazine of History*. He also recently completed the book *Wisconsin's Emerald Treasure: A History of Peninsula State Park*. Bill's documentary film *Jens Jensen: A Natural History*, has won Telly and ASLA awards, and a Crystal Award of Excellence from the National Communicator Awards Program. He was also elected to the University of Wisconsin Teaching Academy—a group of 100 of the university's best teachers and, in 1998, he received the Council of Educators in Landscape Architecture's Award for Teaching Excellence.

Christopher Vernon

Christopher Vernon is an Associate Professor in the Faculty of Architecture, Landscape and Visual Arts at the University of Western Australia. He has published and lectured widely on the landscape architecture of the Prairie School, with an emphasis on the lives and works of Walter Burley Griffin and Marion Mahony Griffin. Vernon also contributed to the documentary film on the couple, 'City of Dreams' (2000), a Gold Hugo winner in the Chicago International Television Competition. He has also served as Design Advisor to the Australian Government's National Capital Authority. Among his many publications, he wrote a new introduction to the recent reprint of Wilhelm Miller's 1915 manifesto, 'The Prairie Spirit in Landscape Gardening' and is presently completing a book on Chicago's Graceland Cemetery.

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Jensen Wheeler Wolfe

Jensen Wheeler Wolfe is a great granddaughter of Jens Jensen. She previously directed and produced performances of *Beauty of the Wild* at The Clearing in Ellison Bay, Wisconsin, sponsored by The Clearing, and at Columbus Park, sponsored by the Chicago Park District. She was a working actress, dancer and producer in Chicago, Los Angeles and New York from 1984-1996. She currently works for *Glamour* magazine, teaches yoga and is co-owner of Flying Carpet Yoga Mats. She lives with her husband and 3 year-old daughter in Hell's Kitchen, New York.

Acknowledgements

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A very special thanks to all of our guest speakers, relatives of Jens Jensen, Benjamin Thorp, Kelly Saulsberry and the staff of Jane Addams Hull-House Museum, University of Illinois at Chicago.

Web Links

Jane Addams Hull-House Museum, University of Illinois at Chicago

<http://www.uic.edu/jaddams/hull/Events/jensJensen/>

Chicago Architecture Foundation

<http://www.architecture.org/programsjune.html#reform>

Jens Jensen Legacy Project

<http://www.jensjensen.org/drupal/>