

# Sweet Auburn

Winter 1993/94

*The Newsletter of the Friends of Mount Auburn*

## Mount Auburn's Master Plan and Its Implementation

*By William C. Clendaniel*

*For the last four years, many of us on the staff and Board of Trustees, together with our planning consultants, have been hard at work creating a master plan for the Cemetery's grounds. The Trustees have accepted its principles, and the Plan is now available to the public. (See last page for ordering information.) I would like to share with you something of the master planning process, its results and the work we have already done to implement some of the recommendations. Things are happening at Mount Auburn, and we are excited about our future directions.*

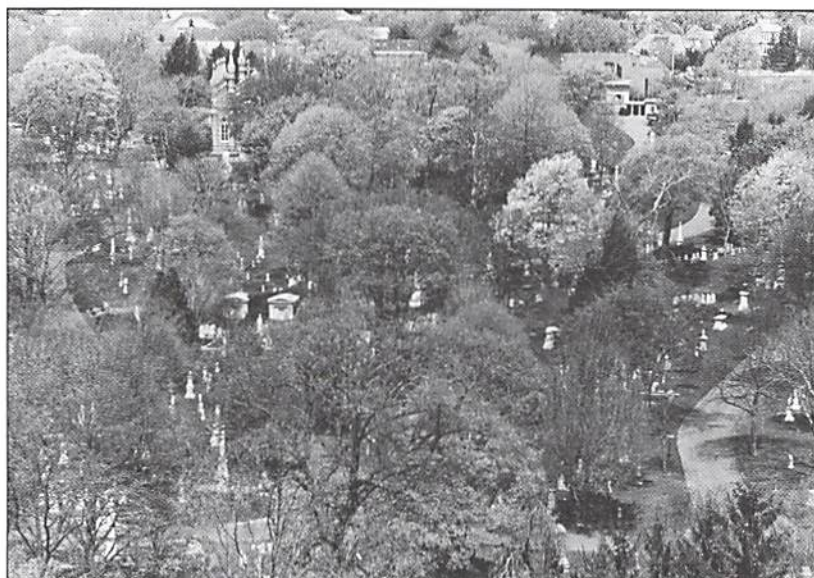
First of all the Trustees spent some time considering what the essential mission of the Corporation should be. After discussions with leading cemetery executives and many others from various disciplines, we wrote a Mission Statement. Next, and most importantly, in February 1990 we selected The Halvorson Company, Inc., of Boston to be the Cemetery's planning and design consultant. Landscape architects Craig C. Halvorson, president, and Elizabeth Vizza, associate, worked on all aspects of the Master Plan with senior members of Mount Auburn's staff and a Trustee planning committee, as well as several subconsultants.

As reported in the Spring, 1991 issue of *Sweet Auburn*, we surveyed over 700 visitors during 1990 to find out what was on their minds. Then, in early 1991, detailed aerial photographs of the Cemetery were taken to create a complete and computerized topographic, structural and horticultural picture of the site.



*Mount Auburn's challenge is to respect its heritage and landscape while serving today's needs and preparing for its future.*

*View from Washington Tower toward Bigelow Chapel and the Front Gate, 1992.*



Gordon Abbott, Jr.  
William C. Clendaniel  
Herbert W. Pratt  
*Trustees*

Janet L. Heywood  
*Editor and  
Director of Programs*

Kathleen D. Leslie  
*Archivist/Librarian*



An inventory of trees, shrubs, structures, water bodies and infrastructure was taken. The planning team then analyzed the landscape character and history of the grounds. After much discussion among the Trustees, staff and consultants, a general statement of principles was adopted in early 1993. The planners then wrote and designed the detailed Master Plan document which sets out general guidelines and many recommendations for carrying them out.

The principal conclusion of the *Statement of Master Plan Principles* accepted by the Trustees is: "The visual character of the landscape of Mount Auburn is of paramount importance in realizing its mission as a place of 'comfort and inspiration to the bereaved and the public as a whole' . . . . It is agreed, therefore, that preservation and enhancement of the landscape will take precedence in decisions regarding cemetery development." Our historic horticultural landscape is recognized as one of our most precious resources. The Master Plan adopts the notion of "landscape character zones," each of which is important and has its own historic nature, and recognizes that the landscape includes not only vegetation but also buildings, structures and monuments, all of which must be preserved and restored to the extent possible "in accordance with the highest current standards."

The *Statement of Master Plan Principles* goes on to say that "efforts to continue the active life of the Cemetery



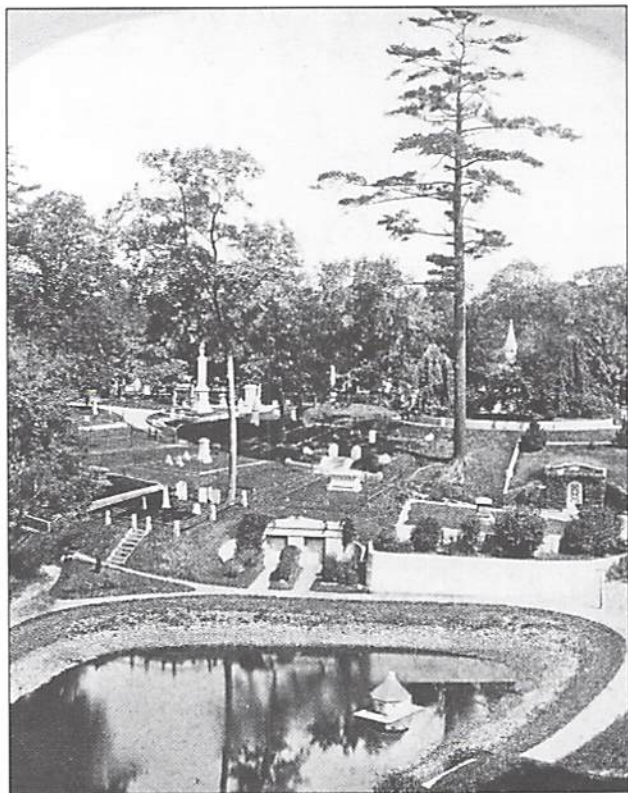
*Mount Auburn was the prototype for the rural cemetery movement of the nineteenth century. The popularity of these landscaped garden cemeteries led, in turn, to the establishment of America's public parks. Engraving by James Smillie, 1847.*

while not compromising the landscape should be actively pursued." These efforts, however, will stress "the great commemorative value of the Cemetery as a whole" and will de-emphasize individual monuments. Cremation, special memorials and other creative innovations are encouraged. In response to visitor desires, roads will be reduced in size and number; and for safety reasons a new entrance on Coolidge Avenue will be considered. The *Statement* concludes: "The multi-faceted nature of Mount Auburn should continue to be emphasized. Burial, remembrance, reflection, quiet enjoyment of nature, including wildlife, and education about and appreciation for our cultural heritage are all appropriate activities that should be encouraged. Care must be taken, however, not to lose the paramount value of tranquility."



*Preservation and enhancement  
of the landscape will take  
precedence in decisions  
regarding cemetery development.*

The quality of the work that went into the Master Plan by the Trustees and staff, the team from The Halvorson Company and the many consultants was recognized in October, 1993, by the American Society of Landscape Architects, which gave its highest award to the Plan in the category of planning. In November the *Historic Landscape Report*, prepared by Shary Page Berg as part of the Plan, received the 1993 Research Award from the Boston Society of Landscape Architects.



*Consecration Dell during the decades when ornamental features such as swans, swan houses and gravel edging were installed at the ponds. Stereographic photo, circa 1880s, courtesy of the Society for the Preservation of New England Antiquities.*

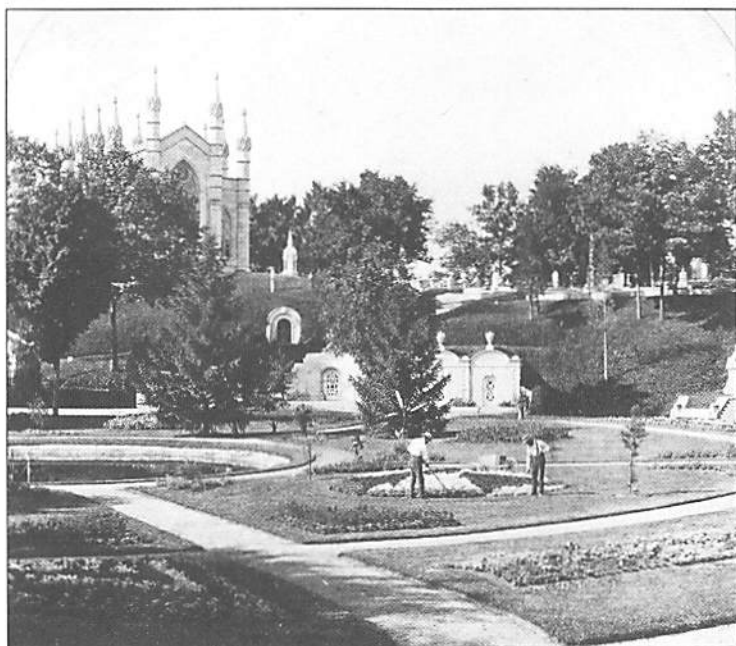
*Gardeners cultivating the extensive annual plantings at the Lawn, as Asa Gray Garden was known in the nineteenth century. Stereographic photograph, circa 1870s.*

We have lost no time in beginning to implement some of the Plan's recommendations. Numerous horticultural projects have been undertaken. The Willow Pond landscape restoration is now complete thanks to the generosity of many donors, and we have planted a number of native Eastern Massachusetts species in Consecration Dell as the first phase of the renovation of that special place. Most important of all, David P. Barnett joined us in September as Director of Horticulture. (See article on last page.) He brings us new skills that will help us grow as an historic horticultural site.

Preservation of our historic built structures has taken on a new priority. For two years our crews have been stabilizing loose monuments. Recently, the historic fence along Mount Auburn Street was refurbished as were the Family Rooms in Bigelow Chapel, the entrance to the Crematory, and the Columbarium in Story Chapel. The Service Yard underwent an extensive overhaul in 1992. Considerable repointing, cleaning and other repairs to the outside of Bigelow Chapel, Story Chapel, the Gatehouse and the Administration Building have been accomplished. With many donations from individuals, foundations and corporations, the Bulfinch memorial has been restored, and several of the iron lot fences have been repaired.

New interment space has been created in accordance with the Master Plan's guidelines, which are designed to protect the historic landscape character of the Cemetery. Ensembles of flat marker graves have been laid out along Kalmia Path in the Flats area, new gardens and inscription walls built at the southern end of Willow Pond, and some new interment space laid out in the Meadow and in the developed areas surrounding Willow Pond. New space is being prepared at Vesper Avenue. The net income from all sales continues to augment our investment funds in order to provide income for future maintenance.

*The founding vision of the landscape as a circuitous journey with passages of scenery will be preserved and strengthened. Walnut Avenue, 1992.*



The future of this wonderful Cemetery looks bright indeed. We are still accommodating families' interment needs and have identified considerable inventory for the future; we are providing increasing number of visitors with improved interpretive materials, more programs and better facilities; we are refurbishing both landscape and buildings; and the Friends has received an increasing number of contributions to help the Cemetery carry out many of these projects.

We have clarified our horticultural mission, and we have articulated anew our larger mission: "to commemorate the dead in surroundings of exceptional beauty and tranquility that provide comfort and inspiration to the bereaved and the public as a whole, and to offer comprehensive cemetery services to all faiths at a reasonable charge." After reexamining the principles and goals of our founders, we have found them as relevant and useful today as they were in 1831.

*William C. Clendaniel has been President of Mount Auburn Cemetery since 1988.*





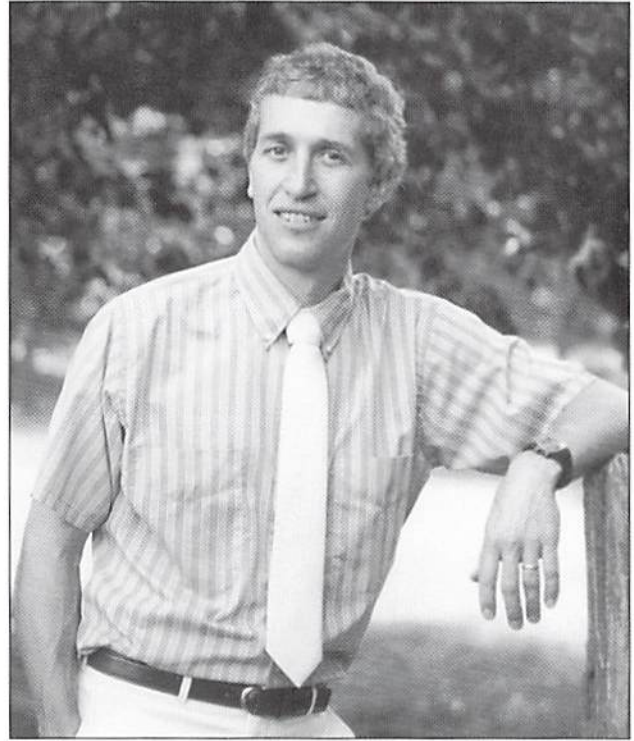
# Introducing Dave Barnett

## Director of Horticulture

David P. Barnett became Mount Auburn's first Director of Horticulture on September 1, 1993. This new position was created by the Trustees in response to the horticultural challenges set out in the Master Plan. Dave and Roger Kindred, Director of Cemetery Operations, will both report directly to President Bill Clendaniel, and each Director is responsible for his own departmental staff and budget.

For eight years Dave was Assistant Director of Planting Fields Arboretum in Oyster Bay, New York, a 400-acre historic estate now owned by the State of New York. There he was responsible for a full-time horticultural staff of fifteen, which was supplemented by seasonal and volunteer workers. Planting Fields includes many greenhouses, including a display conservatory, as well as specialty gardens and forty acres of lawns. It attracts a quarter of a million visitors a year. Among his accomplishments there were the expansion of educational programs through the use of interns, computerization of plant accession records, and establishment of a thriving volunteer program.

Dave received his Ph.D. in Ecology from the University of California, Davis in 1987 and holds a B.S. degree, summa cum laude, from the University of Connecticut and a M.S. degree in Environmental Horticulture from UC, Davis. He has also worked at Longwood Gardens in Pennsylvania and the Morton Arboretum in Illinois. He has been active in the New York Hortus Club, the Long Island Horticultural Society, the New York Chapter of the American Rhododendron Society and the American Association of Botanic Gardens and Arboreta, which he currently serves as chairman of the Grounds Management Committee. Dave, his wife Eileen and their two children, Jake and Marie, live in Boxborough.



*Dave Barnett became Mount Auburn's first Director of Horticulture on September 1, 1993.*



### Master Plan Volumes Available

The Master Plan is available for purchase in two volumes. Volume One, *Master Plan Overview and Recommendations* (184 pages, 178 illustrations, 3 fold-out maps), prepared by The Halvorson Company, costs \$35. It includes a Summary, Guiding Principles and Goals & Objectives, Recommendations and the Horticultural Mission Statement. Volume Two, *Historic Landscape Report* (96 pages, 60 illustrations, one fold-out map), written by Shary Page Berg, costs \$30. It includes a four-part historical overview, recommendations regarding landscape features and structures, and a detailed chronology of significant events in the Cemetery's history. Both prices include postage. Friends members are entitled to a \$5 discount on each volume. Please write or call the Friends of Mount Auburn if you would like a copy.



*Dave Barnett points out features seen from Mount Auburn's Washington Tower to visiting students from a nearby Cambridge school in October, 1993.*



## Roger Kindred Receives MHS Gold Medal

The Massachusetts Horticultural Society (MHS) bestows medals to individuals for eminent horticultural accomplishments. At the 1993 MHS patrons dinner in October, Mount Auburn's Director of Cemetery Operations Roger Kindred received the MHS Gold Medal for "his skill in horticulture and arboriculture, maintaining the highest standards at Mount Auburn Cemetery." Visitors who delight in the beauty of Mount Auburn's well-maintained grounds are often astonished at how few workers tend the trees and plants and maintain the grounds. The efficient, yet aesthetically pleasing, horticultural management practices developed over the last two decades at the Cemetery owe much to Roger's devoted care and ingenuity. Congratulations, Roger, on this well-deserved award!

## Corporate Sponsors

The Friends of Mount Auburn Cemetery gratefully thanks the following companies that supported the Friends as Corporate Sponsors during 1993 and 1994. We appreciate your assistance and encouragement.



Air Cooled Engines & Supply  
Ann Beha Associates  
Bardon Trimount, Inc.  
Dr. Antonio Boschetti  
Choate, Hall & Stewart  
Coolidge Hardware, Inc.  
Custom Air Trays  
DeAngelis Iron Works, Inc.  
Fiduciary Trust Company  
GCS Service  
The Halvorson Company, Inc.  
H.H. Hawkins & Sons Company  
Larchmont Engineering  
Long Distance Tire  
Matthews International Corporation  
Morgan Wheelock, Inc.  
Orlando Greenhouse Sales, Inc.  
The Pentad Corporation  
Peter J. Rotteveel Export  
Schumacher Landscaping, Inc.  
Specialized Management Services  
Storer Damon & Lund Insurance  
Weston Nurseries

An Invitation to Join  
The Friends of Mount Auburn Cemetery  
Please enroll me as a member.

\_\_\_ Individual \$20  
\_\_\_ Household \$30  
\_\_\_ Contributor/Organization \$60  
\_\_\_ Donor \$100  
\_\_\_ Senior Citizen/Student \$15  
\_\_\_ Other \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Enclosed is my check for \$ \_\_\_\_\_ payable to  
*Friends of Mount Auburn Cemetery.*

\_\_\_\_\_  
Name (please print)

\_\_\_\_\_  
Address

\_\_\_\_\_  
City/State/ZIP

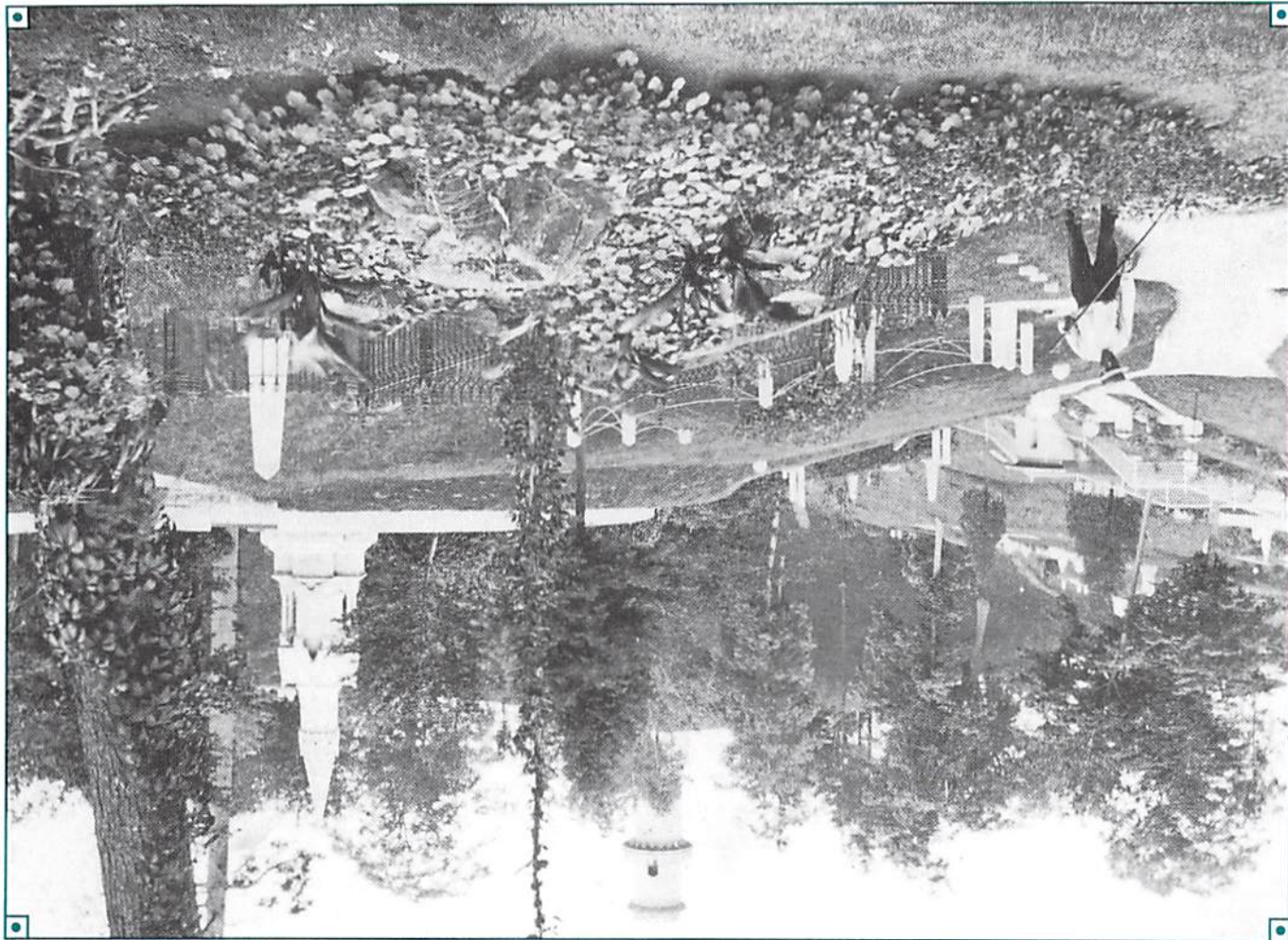
**Friends of Mount Auburn Cemetery**  
580 Mount Auburn Street, Cambridge, MA 02138  
Telephone 617-864-9646

## Bulfinch Monument Restored

The memorial to famous architect Charles Bulfinch (1763-1844) has been restored. The central urn, probably a Robert Adam design imported from England by Bulfinch in the 18th century, was removed from its pedestal in 1990 as unsafe. After restoration funds were raised, the urn was cleaned, repaired and remounted on the rebuilt pedestal in October 1993. We thank the many foundations and individuals who contributed to the cost of this preservation treatment. This April marks the 150th anniversary of Bulfinch's death, and we invite you to make a pilgrimage to his grave on Bellwort Path to pay respect to his memory and celebrate the restoration of this historic treasure.







Friends of Mount Auburn  
Mount Auburn Cemetery  
580 Mount Auburn Street  
Cambridge, MA 02138

Tel 617-864-9646



FRIENDS OF  
MOUNT AUBURN CEMETERY

Winter 1993/94