



Greening communities by design!

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Community Outreach Group for Landscape Design hosts 2005 Project Showcase

Landscape design volunteer organization celebrates community garden projects at North Easton's historic Oakes Ames Memorial Hall

BOSTON, September 26, 2005 – The Community Outreach Group for Landscape Design (COGdesign), a non-profit service organization of landscape design professionals and students, invites the public to its 2005 Design Showcase. "Easton: Touring Richardson, Olmsted, Steele, and New Visions" will be held on Saturday, October 22 from 12:15 PM to 4:00 PM at North Easton's historic Oakes Ames Memorial Hall. The event includes an exhibit of community landscape design projects, a walking tour of North Easton's historic buildings and gardens with local docents, and a reading by North Easton resident Chet Raymo from his acclaimed book, "The Path: A One-Mile Walk Through the Universe."

This year's Showcase will be held at the Oakes Ames Memorial Hall, a Henry Hobson Richardson/Fredrick Law Olmsted architectural masterpiece rarely open to the public. COGdesign organizers have developed an interpretive walking tour of North Easton's Historic District, including stops at several Richardson-designed buildings, Olmsted landscapes, and a newly restored Fletcher Steele-designed private garden. Local historians will be on site ready to point out architectural and garden details and share local history and lore.



Special guest Chet Raymo will set the scene for tour-goers. Raymo, a former Boston Globe columnist and nationally recognized science writer, has lived in North Easton and taught at Stonehill College for nearly forty years. His observations while on his daily walk through North Easton's meadows and woods connects the local to the global and the microscopic to the galactic with a scientist's curiosity, a historian's respect for the past, and a child's capacity for wonder.

This annual event gives COGdesign volunteers an opportunity to share their passion with the public. At the Oakes Ames Memorial Hall, COG's designers will exhibit recently-completed community landscape projects. Community activists will be on hand to provide "the face, hands, and heart" behind each community greening project. Guests are also invited to visit a COGdesign work-in-progress at the Children's Museum in Easton.

"This is a rare chance to enjoy treasured buildings and gardens in the company of volunteers dedicated to making our world a lovelier and healthier place," said COGdesign Executive Director Lucia Droby. "We look forward to meeting neighbors, exploring new project ideas, and showing how community – designer collaborations can yield beautiful results."

Light refreshments will be offered during the afternoon. Admission is \$40 in advance; \$45 at the door. The invitation can be found on www.cogdesign.org. Proceeds from the event will be used to support community greening projects.

The **Community Outreach Group for Landscape Design (COGdesign)** is a non-profit service organization of professional and student landscape designers, landscape architects, architects, and greenspace advocates dedicated to bringing quality landscape design services to under-funded community organizations and neighborhood groups. COG designers work pro bono in exchange for the experience and satisfaction of contributing to the community landscape.

COGdesign clients have included schools, churches, neighborhood parks, friends' groups, municipal agencies, affordable housing developments, historic sites, and community gardens. COGdesign acts as a facilitator between these community organizations and landscape designers who are looking for professional development opportunities and community-based field experience. Clients benefit from the innovative and creative work of COG's designers.

For more information about **COGdesign**, please call 781-642-6662 or visit www.cogdesign.org

