



good neighbors

LANDSCAPE DESIGN & COMMUNITY BUILDING

Frederick Law Olmsted
National Historic Site

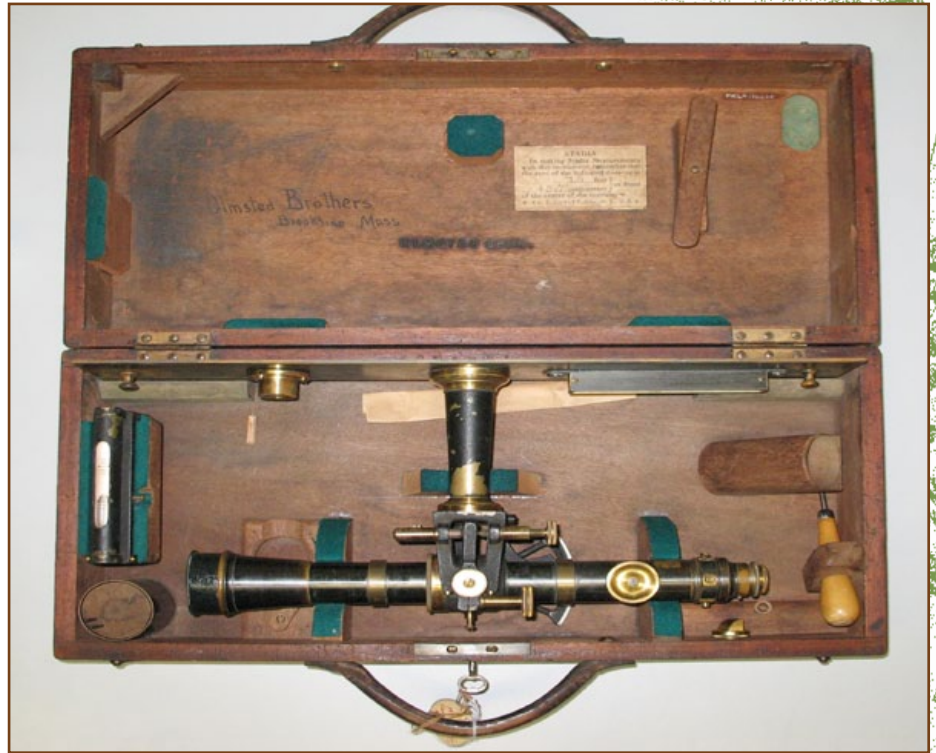


Boston Society of Landscape Architects Supports *Good Neighbors: Landscape Design & Community Building*

This fall, through generous funding secured by BSLA through the ASLA Chapter Initiatives Program, Olmsted National Historic Site was able to complete the “Tools of the Trade” component of Good Neighbors, which introduces students to tools used in the early 20th century design process and prepares them for the Fairsted design office experience. The centerpiece of “Tools of the Trade” is a finely crafted wooden box filled with reproduction design tools waiting to be handled!

Last winter, after months of research, planning and consultation with Boston woodworkers, the park set in motion a plan to produce 15 wooden boxes inspired by a c. 1910 stadia box in Olmsted Museum Collection. Student Conservation Association interns Adrienne Sharigian and Sam Valentine identified tools in the collection to reproduce for the activity and drew up drawings and specifications. With BSLA funding, the park purchased domestic walnut to make the boxes. Through a woodworkers blog, Adrienne located a high school class to construct ten boxes. Students toured the Fairsted design office, studied the original stadia box, and learned how the box fit into the Good Neighbors experience. The project took off and in early June students presented the park with ten beautiful boxes. A National Park Service woodworking team constructed the five remaining boxes and handled finish work for all of the boxes.

The boxes are now outfitted with an assortment of tools, including plumb bobs, eraser shields, plant hardiness index cards, pencil pointers, and canteens. This spring boxes will arrive in 3rd grade

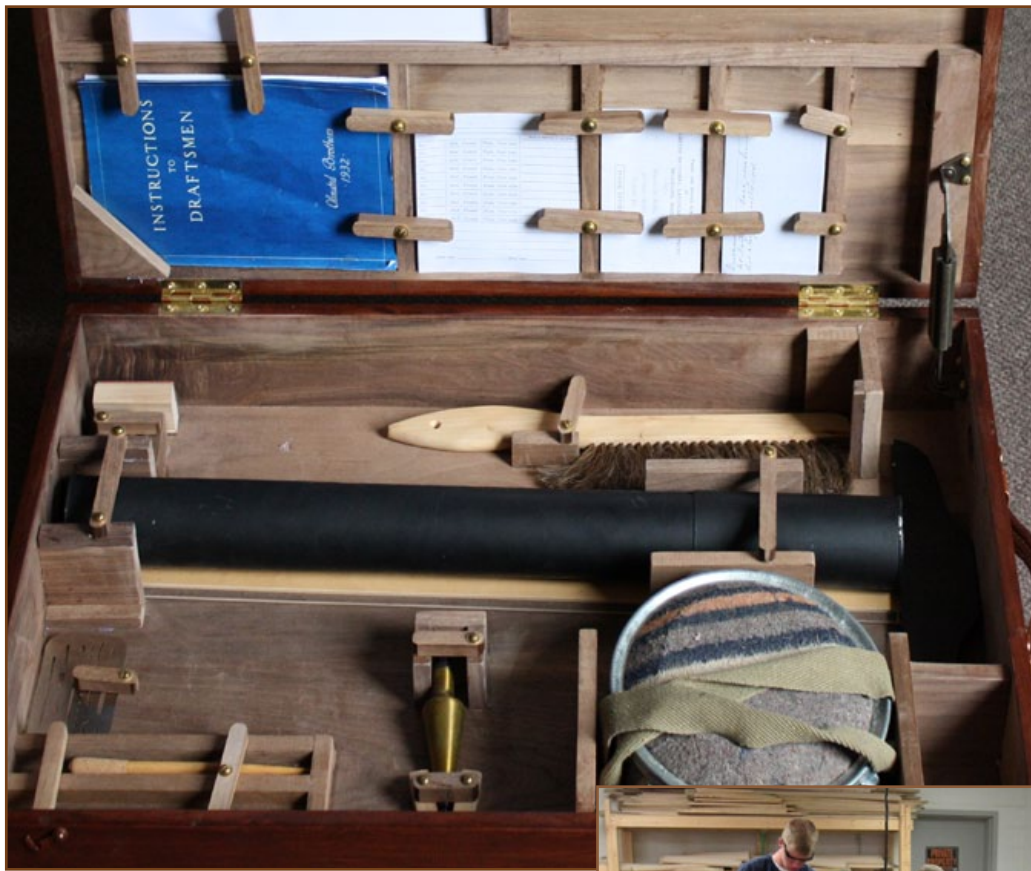


classrooms with lab sheets, measuring tapes, and a guiding question: What is this tool and how do you think it fits into the c. 1900 design process? Students will develop their hypotheses, but will have to wait until they come to Fairsted to see the authentic tools in context and find out if their hypotheses were right!

Above: The inspiration for design and construction of the boxes that house design tools used in “Tools of the Trade” was a circa 1910 stadia box from the Olmsted Museum Collection. Photo by Sam Valentine. Courtesy of the NPS, Olmsted NHS.

Right: Third-grade students study a mystery tool during the Good Neighbors “Tools of the Trade” pre-visit activity. Photo by Matt Griffing. Courtesy of the NPS, Olmsted NHS.

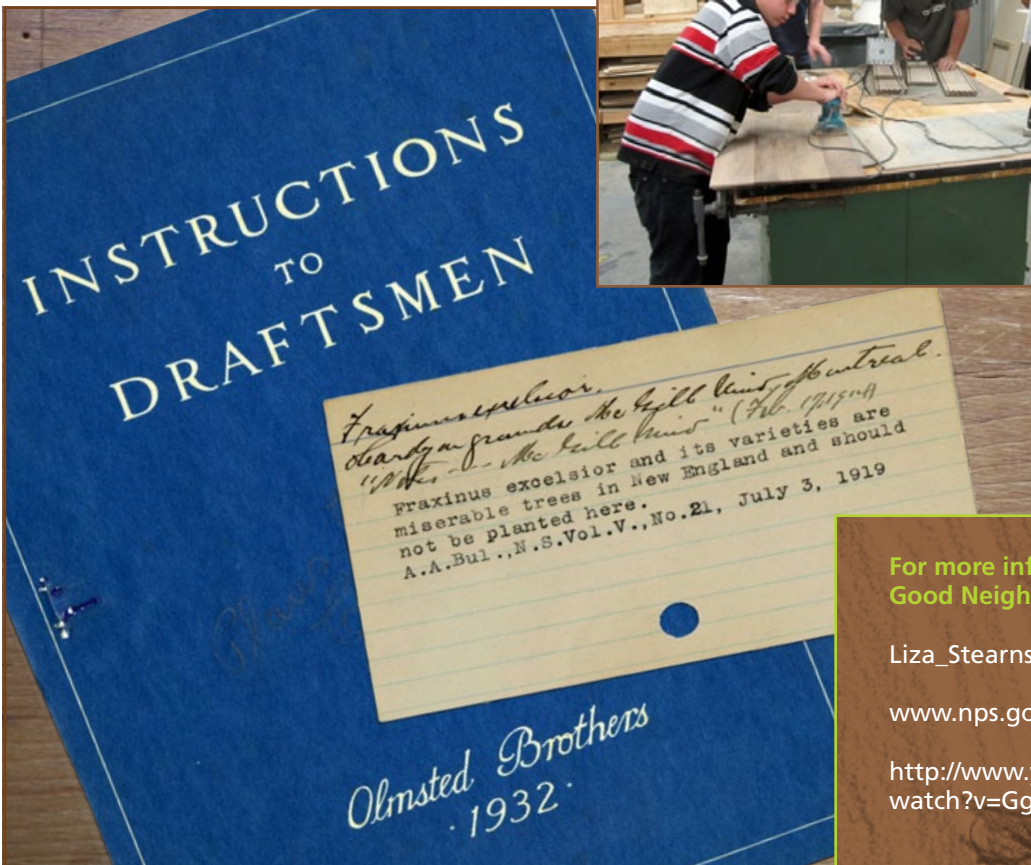




Upper left: Design history comes to life when 3rd graders open the "Tools of the Trade" mystery box filled with facsimile tools based on items in the Olmsted Museum Collection. Photo by Adrienne Sharigian. Courtesy of the NPS, Olmsted NHS.

Middle: High School students from Woodstock Academy (CT) construct boxes (featured left) modeled after a c. 1910 stadia box in the Olmsted Museum Collection. Photo by Keith Landin.

Lower left: Two of fifteen items from the Olmsted Museum Collection featured in "Tools of the Trade."



For more information on
Good Neighbors:

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www.nps.gov/frla

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=GglkdDpx1yY>