

10 January 2007

Dear Jo,

2006 was a productive year for Friends of Fred Smith, and I'd like to share some achievements and developments with the FoFS Advisory Board.

- Honorary advisory board member and true friend of Fred Smith, Robert Amft, is donating his extensive collection of photo-documentation of the Wisconsin Concrete Park to Friends of Fred Smith. Bob's photos are outstanding, representing some of the finest vintage documentation of the site, prior to major changes that began in 1977. This collection includes many exhibit-quality, mounted black & white enlargements, as well as black & white prints and color slides. Vintage photos are invaluable tools for site conservation, and this gift will significantly enhance the FoFS archive. Thank you, Bob!
- Established in 2006 (with generous gifts from the RDK Foundation), the Friends of Fred Smith Endowment Fund is now close to \$25,000.00. Through the Endowment Fund, FoFS is developing a solid financial future, and the Fund solidifies our goal to preserve the art of Fred Smith in perpetuity.
- 2006 grants and donations came from Kohler Foundation, Inc., RDK Foundation, AnnMarie Foundation, Plum Creek Foundation, ProSoCo, Price Electric Cooperative, Countryside Artists, and Fred Scruton. We extend sincere thanks to all contributors.
- The Smith family transferred the copyright to Fred Smith's work to FoFS. With this gift, we take on the responsibility to manage copyright usage, and to promote appropriate dissemination of images of the art of Fred Smith. We hope to involve the Smith family more closely and meaningfully in FoFS activities and are pleased that Joan Wimme, Fred Smith's granddaughter, has agreed to serve on the Board of Directors.
- Kohler Company has generously donated fixtures for the bathroom in the FoFS Studio. The Studio has been used for workshops, meetings, and performances by FoFS and other area organizations. As Price County's newest facility (at by far the most sensational location!), the Wisconsin Concrete Park now serves the community more fully.
- FoFS is making headway with fund raising. It has been a goal to broaden our sources of funding and to grow beyond dependence on our (much appreciated) regular donors. To this end, FoFS hired Trish Kempkes as Communications and Development Coordinator in September. Trish is researching grants and foundations and preparing and submitting proposals.
- The summer art series workshops and the annual celebration were both successful, and the FoFS website is now online - <http://www.friendsoffredsmith.org/>.

We've made strides in the preservation of the Wisconsin Concrete Park sculptures and landscape. We finally reached a plateau, where annual emergency projects have been replaced with planned and prioritized projects (knock on concrete!), and we're on target with our long-range plan for site conservation. Each season we treat a single sculpture or tableau requiring extensive treatment, while stabilizing sculptures in need, and continuing cleaning, smaller repairs, and maintenance. Enclosed is a CD-ROM with a

10 January 2007

Dear Jo,

2006 was a productive year for Friends of Park Smith, and I'd like to share some achievements and developments with the FORS Advisory Board.

Historically advisory board members and the friend of Park Smith, Robert Andri, is donating his extensive collection of photo-documentation of the Wisconsin Concrete Park to Friends of Park Smith. Bob's photos are outstanding, representing some of the finest vintage documentation of the site prior to major changes that began in 1977. This collection includes many extra-ordinary, and not black & white, vintage photographs as well as black & white prints and color slides. Vintage photos are invaluable tools for site conservation, and the gift will significantly enhance the FORS archive. Thank you, Bob!

Established in 2006 with generous gifts from the BOK Foundation, the Friends of Park Smith Endowment Fund is now close to \$250,000. Through the Endowment Fund, FORS is developing a solid financial future, and the fund solidifies our goal to preserve the art of Fred Smith in perpetuity.

2006 grants and donations came from Kober Foundation, Inc., BOK Foundation, Annular Foundation, Plum Creek Foundation, and Park Smith's Corporate Foundation. The Smith family transferred the copyright to Fred Smith's work to FORS. With this

gift, we take on the responsibility to manage copyright usage, and to provide appropriate dissemination of images of the art of Fred Smith. We hope to involve the Smith family more closely and meaningfully in FORS activities and are pleased that Joan Wilmms, Fred Smith's granddaughter, has agreed to serve on the board of Directors.

Kober Company has generously donated funds for the bathroom in the FORS Studio. The studio has been used for workshops, art classes, and performances by FORS and other area organizations. As Park County's newest facility, we do the most seasonal location, the Wisconsin Concrete Park, now serves the community more fully.

FORS is making headway with fund raising. It has been a goal to broaden our sources of funding and to grow beyond dependence on our initial supporters (individual donors). To this end, FORS held their 10th Anniversary Commemorative and Development Committee in September. That is resulting grant and foundation and preparing and submitting proposals.

The summer art and workshops and the annual celebration were all successful, and the FORS website is now online - <http://www.parksmith.org>.

We've made strides in the preservation of the Wisconsin Concrete Park sculptures and landscape. We finally reached a plateau where annual emergency projects have been replaced with planned and planned projects (black & white, and we're on target with our long-range plan for site conservation). Each season we treat eight sculptures at various regular intervals, while staking sculptures in need, and continuing cleaning, electrical repairs, and maintenance. Enclosed is a CD-ROM with a

presentation on the summer 2006 conservation project that can be viewed in PowerPoint, Keynote, or PDF format.

We're currently planning the 2007 conservation project, to include:

- Complete restoration of the Iwo Jima plaque,
- Restoration of Smith's Nativity Scene plaques, reinstallation of plaques on the Bandstand tableau,
- Restoration of all wood elements and repainting of all metal elements,
- Structural stabilization of figures in the Silent Spot, Farming with Horses, Double Wedding, and Chiann and Photographer tableaux, and other figures, as needed,
- Restoration of horns and antlers,
- Continuing major surface cleaning, based on product research and implementation in 2006,
- Relocation and conservation of the Indian Posts (incorrectly positioned when relocated in 1979),
- Miscellaneous maintenance and repairs.

The expenses for the project outlined above will be in the range of \$50,000.00. We're pleased to acknowledge generous advance support from Kohler Foundation, Inc. FoFS is applying for a grant from the Wisconsin Arts Board, and is researching other funding sources. As usual, we'll tailor the project according to funds we're able to raise. And, as usual, we humbly seek the support of our Advisory Board members and will *gratefully appreciate* your contribution to the preservation of the Wisconsin Concrete Park.

This year we remember two important friends: Murry Rinehart and Seymour Rosen (brief obituaries enclosed). During his tenure as bartender at Smith's Rock Garden Tavern, Murry brought the site to life through his spirited stories. SPACES founder and FoFS Advisory Board member Seymour Rosen is a legendary figure in the preservation of art environments worldwide. We will honor Seymour's wish to have some of his remains scattered at the Wisconsin Concrete Park in 2007. I invite you to consider making a gift in memory of Murry Rinehart and/or Seymour Rosen, both of whom were ardent supporters of efforts to preserve the Wisconsin Concrete Park.

On behalf of the Board of Directors, I thank you for continuing to lend your name and support to Friends of Fred Smith. I'll keep you all posted as we move forward in 2007.

With warmest regards,



Lisa Stone  
Chair, Conservation Committee

## ***In memoriam***

### **Murry J. Rinehart**

**September 25, 1924 - December 12, 2005**

Murry Rinehart was the proud owner of Fred Smith's Rock Garden Tavern from about 1977 to 1982. He was an enthusiastic supporter of the Wisconsin Concrete Park, especially during the project to conserve the site after the windstorm of 1977. When he sold the tavern and moved to the Adams/Friendship area, Murry donated two original Woodpecker sculptures by Fred Smith to the permanent collection of the Milwaukee Art Museum. A memorial celebration was held for Murry on May 13, in Janesville. Murry will be remembered for his wry wit, infectious sense of humor, and for being a true Friend of Fred Smith.

### **Seymour Rosen**

**February 10, 1935 – September 25, 2006**

"There is something out there...." These are the opening words Seymour Rosen wrote to inaugurate the first SPACES newsletter, published in 1982. The essay continued: "Most environments represent a lifetime of work by people who are now in old age. They are the result of individual vision rather than formal training. They are art as an expression of personal joy." Aware of the significance and vulnerability of folk art environments, Rosen founded SPACES (Saving and Preserving Arts and Cultural Environments) in 1978. His passion for art environments began with his involvement with the preservation of Simon (Sam) Rodia's Watts Towers in Los Angeles. Many art environments exist today—have been saved, documented, preserved, and are recognized and respected—in large part due to Rosen's vision, his love, and his dogged determination that art environments be recognized as a significant art form of our time. Rosen served as an advisory board member of Friends of Fred Smith.

## Friends of Fred Smith Advisory Board

### Honorary advisory board members

#### **Ruth deYoung Kohler**

Leader in the preservation of art environments; responsible for the recognition of the Wisconsin Concrete Park in 1976, initiated early preservation efforts, supporter of ongoing preservation efforts.

#### **Robert Amft**

Artist and photographer, friend of Fred Smith's, made extensive vintage documentation of the site, Chicago.

### Advisory board members

#### **Arnold Alanen**

Chair, Department of Landscape Architecture and Historic Preservation, University of Wisconsin-Madison.

#### **Russell Bowman**

Former director, Milwaukee Art Museum; Principal, Russell Bowman Art Advisory, Chicago.

#### **Jim Draeger**

Architectural Historian, Historic Preservation Division, State Historical Society of Wisconsin.

#### **John Hachmeister**

Co-Director, Garden of Eden, Lucas, Kansas, Member, Board of Directors, Garden of Eden, Inc., Associate Professor of Art, University of Kansas, Lawrence, KS.

#### **Michael D. Hall**

Artist, curator, writer, critic, advocate for the preservation of art environments, Hamtramck, MI.

#### **Jo Farb Hernandez**

Director, SPACES, Director, Natalie and James Thompson Art Gallery, School of Art and Design, San Jose State University. Principal, Curatorial and Museum Management Services. Writer, advocate for the preservation of art environments, San Jose, CA.

#### **Don Howlett**

Preservation Services, Inc., former FoFS board member, FoFS Conservation Committee, and has worked on site preservation at the WCP since 1977.

#### **Jeanne Lambin**

Field Representative, National Trust for Historic Preservation, Midwest Office, Mineral Point, WI.

#### **Ruth Lull**

Secretary, Wisconsin Arts Board, artist, Ashland, WI.

## **Friends of Fred Smith Advisory Board**

### **John Maizels**

Publisher, Raw Vision Magazine, London, UK.

### **Holly Metz**

Writer, advocate for the preservation of art environments, Hoboken, NJ.

### **Doug Moquin**

Founding President of Friends of Fred Smith, Moquin enlivened the board with his excellent leadership skills and vision for the organization, Phillips, WI.

### **Anton Rajer**

Conservator, former FoFS board member, FoFS Conservation Committee member, Madison, WI.

### **Robert A. Roth**

President, Chicago Reader, Incorporated, founder and board member, Intuit: the Center for Intuitive and Outsider Art, Chicago.

### **Jill Smith**

Former FoFS board member and FoFS Conservation Committee member; WCP conservation technician from 1987 – 1998, Appleton, WI.

### **Christine Style**

Professor and Chair of the Art Department, University of Wisconsin-Green Bay.

### **Susanne Theis**

Executive Director, The Orange Show Center for Visionary Art, Houston, TX.

### **Erik Wesienburger**

Artist, former FoFS board and Conservation Committee member, East Portland, ME.

### **Jim Zanzi**

Professor, Department of Sculpture, The School of the Art Institute of Chicago; friend of Fred Smith's, made extensive vintage documentation of the site, Spring Lake, WI.

### ***In Memoriam***

#### **Seymour Rosen**

Founder and Director, Saving and Preserving Arts and Cultural Environments (SPACES), Los Angeles, CA.