



MOUNT AUBURN CEMETERY

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NEWS:

**For Immediate Release**

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**William C. Clendaniel, Preservation Pioneer,  
Retires as President of Mount Auburn Cemetery**

**Watertown/Cambridge – July 1, 2008**—William C. (Bill) Clendaniel is retiring on July 1, 2008, as President of Mount Auburn Cemetery in Cambridge and Watertown, MA, after 20 years of service. During his tenure he made Mount Auburn—North America’s first landscaped cemetery—a preservation role model for historic cemeteries and natural and cultural landscapes nationwide.

He established a proactive preservation policy, saving and conserving endangered structures and monuments, and created innovative new interment landscapes that address 21<sup>st</sup>-century challenges of space limitations and environmental sustainability. Bill also expanded the Cemetery’s professional staff, increased the programming that Mount Auburn offers the public, and developed a comprehensive fundraising program to help finance these improvements.

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[www.mountauburn.org](http://www.mountauburn.org)

Mount Auburn Cemetery received numerous awards for its stewardship during Bill's presidency, including, in 2007, the National Trust for Historic Preservation's Trustee Emeritus Award for Excellence in the Stewardship of Historic Sites. Bill himself received the Gold Medal of the Massachusetts Horticultural Society in 1997 for "leadership in restoring and revitalizing one of the greatest historic landscapes in the United States."

Throughout his presidency Bill made sure that Mount Auburn shared its heritage, horticulture, and artwork with an ever-widening segment of the public as the Friends of Mount Auburn presented an average of 70 lectures, walks, and tours annually. The programming for the Cemetery's 175<sup>th</sup> Anniversary year, from June 2006 through September 2007, reached many new audiences, and Mount Auburn's new Visitors Center in Story Chapel, which officially opened on the weekend of May 3, 2008, will continue to educate the public about the Cemetery's many facets.

Prior to coming to the Cemetery, Bill served as Deputy Director of The Trustees of Reservations. He had also been Legal Counsel at the Massachusetts Coastal Zone Management Office. After retiring from Mount Auburn, Bill will continue to serve on the executive boards of the Massachusetts Historical Society and the Friends of the Public Garden. He was recently elected Treasurer of Massachusetts Historical Society and Vice President of the Friends of the Public Garden. He is also a member of the Historic Resources Committee of The Trustees of Reservations.

In honor of Bill's decades of leadership and in recognition of the importance of preservation to the future of the Cemetery, the Trustees and Friends of Mount Auburn have established the **Preservation Endowment Fund** to conserve, restore, and protect the Cemetery's collections of architecture, monuments and archives.

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## About Mount Auburn Cemetery

Mount Auburn Cemetery covers 175 acres of meadows, hills, ponds, and woods across the Charles River from Boston. It is a National Historic Landmark and a Massachusetts Audubon Society Important Bird Area. It is also an active cemetery—with space still available—and a place where people come to express their deepest and most personal emotions. Founded in 1831, it made landscape design history and inspired America’s rural cemetery movement, and, eventually, the creation of the nation’s public parks, including the Mall in Washington, D.C., and New York’s Central Park.

The entrance to the Cemetery is located on the Watertown-Cambridge border on Mt. Auburn Street, about six miles from downtown Boston and one mile west of Harvard Square. The grounds are open every day of the year from 9:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m., with extended hours during the spring, summer and fall. A wide variety of public tours and lectures take place throughout the year. More information is available by visiting [www.mountauburn.org](http://www.mountauburn.org) or calling 617-547-7105.



*Bill Clendaniel, left, with Ann Roosevelt, Vice-Chair of the Mount Auburn Cemetery Board of Trustees, retires as President of Mount Auburn Cemetery after 20 years of extraordinary service.*

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