

1-2013

## LandMarks, Fall 2012/Winter 2013

Geoffrey Bates  
*Governors State University*

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# Inside LandMarks

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- Iron Pour Jamboree
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- Programs and Events



## Wind Waves enters the collection

**Wind Waves**, a 2010 work by Mexico's Yvonne Domenge, has become the latest addition to the permanent collection of Governors State University's Nathan Manilow Sculpture Park. The 10-foot diameter steel sculpture was created for **Interconnected: The Sculptures of Yvonne Domenge**, an exhibition which occupied Chicago's Millennium Park Boeing Galleries from April 2011 until October 2012. Funding for fabrication of Wind Waves was supplied by Millennium Park, Inc. and CONACULTA, the fine arts agency of the Mexican government. The artist has graciously donated the piece to the Nathan Manilow Sculpture Park.

"The arrival of Yvonne's Wind Waves is a signal event for the NMSP," said Director and Curator Geoffrey Bates, "and the response has been universally positive. The piece emanates a barely-contained energy – effectively communicating not only the interest in organic growth which pervades her oeuvre but, in many ways, Yvonne's infectious, exuberant personality." Domenge is the third woman to be represented in the permanent collection and the first artist of Hispanic heritage.

Variations on the sphere and its internal organization are stand-ins for Domenge's unabashed fascination with "the underlying order and beauty in all things." She has written that her work, "strives to represent an underlying pattern in what may seem outwardly chaotic, to find a unity in what we perceive as opposites, to find harmony in apparent dissonance."

Yvonne Domenge was born in Mexico City in 1946. She studied at the Outremont School in Montreal, Canada, at the Corcoran School of Art, Washington D.C. and in Mexico City.

Over the last 39 years she has had more than 43 solo exhibitions and more than 170 group exhibitions in cities across Mexico, the United States, Canada, China, and Europe including the Musee du Louvre, Paris.

Her work can be found in the permanent collections of 23 museums and organizations across Mexico. She lives and works in Mexico City. More information about the artist and her sculpture can be found at [www.domenge.com](http://www.domenge.com).



**Wind Waves** 2010  
Yvonne Domenge  
welded steel  
Gift of the artist



## ReMarks

This issue of LandMarks marks the 5th year of the newsletter's publication. We have you, our readers and supporters, to thank for both its positive reception and the subsequent outpouring of encouragement for Governors State University's Nathan Manilow Sculpture Park (NMSP) over the past ½ decade.

How far we have come became apparent as I recently conducted research for an informal PowerPoint presentation. In 2007, there was the collection – significant and something to be proud of, to be sure – but little else. Since then, with broad support from university departments and President Elaine P. Maimon, the park has grown into a regionally recognized venue for visual culture with events designed to heighten visitors' awareness of art and nature.

A few statistics reveal much about our recent past. In 2006 the park hosted a single event, albeit an important one, announcing the conservation of several significant works and the installation of a series of commissions guided by then President Dr. Stuart Fagan and his wife, Dr. Ora Simcha-Fagan. Since 2008 we have presented 39 events, special trips, or activities – nearly 10 per year. We've added two works to the permanent collection and conserved several others. Local media has recognized our accomplishments with regular coverage in a variety of newspapers. Three separate articles featuring the NMSP have been published in Sculpture Magazine, an internationally recognized publication focused on the medium of sculpture.

During the November board meeting, we thanked members whose efforts helped deliver the organization to its current position and who were departing: Arthur Bourgeois, retired Chair of GSU's Fine Arts area and noted Ethnological Art Historian; and Bob Emser, internationally recognized sculptor and founder of Chicago Sculpture International – the first satellite membership group of the International Sculpture Center.

Two other departing members of the NMSP board were also thanked. Josephine Ferguson, a founder of the Brauer Museum of Art at Valparaiso University, provided guidance to the fledgling board and then championed the formation of the Pathfinders, our membership organization. As board President, Susan Ormsby's solid leadership over the past five years provided imaginative vision with a steady hand.

A new set of officers was elected to lead the board into the park's 35th year: Jacqueline Lewis will serve as President, Elizabeth Kelley as Vice-President, and Debra Hooks will conduct the business of the Secretary of the board. I'm looking forward to working with them as we explore new and exciting initiatives.

My PowerPoint ended with a statement which I would like to share -

*In the end, this organization is not about us, our events, or money, although all of those are critically important to its future. With our involvement, with **your** involvement, we represent by proxy, the hopes and aspirations, the **visions** of the artists who have committed their attention and work to the park. It is their legacy for generations to come that we work to uphold.*

It is an exciting time to be part of the Nathan Manilow Sculpture Park and Governors State University. If you want to get involved call or e-mail me. We'll find a place for **YOU!**

See you in the park –

Cordially,

Geoffrey Bates  
Director and Curator

### Governors State University's Nathan Manilow Sculpture Park Board

Geoffrey Bates, Director and Curator

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Hours: Dawn until Dusk every day

Admission: Free admission to park, some activities have fees.

LandMarks is printed once a year, distributed digitally 2 times a year.  
Please make sure we have your current, correct email address.

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Please direct questions or comments to Geoffrey Bates, Director and Curator

On cover: Carts&Cocktails visits Jene Highstein's **Flying Saucer** (1977)  
Photo: Dan Kemp for Larry Burrows Photography

Top of page: **Frame** (2005), Richard Rezac

Bottom of page: **Icarus** (1975), Charles Ginnever

Photo credit above right: Susan Bates

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# LandMarks

## Join Pathfinders Online

Become a Pathfinder and invest in the growth of our programming, conserving our artworks, and community outreach. Over the past year, Pathfinder support has helped fund a variety of initiatives implemented by the Nathan Manilow Sculpture Park. It assisted in the presentation of Reclaim the Prairie! our first prairie landscape restoration event. We created a new map and directory table outside the Hall of Governors for our growing number of visitors to enjoy. Pathfinder memberships helped us conserve Bruce Nauman's **House Divided**.

*As a Pathfinder, you make a difference in how our visitors experience the park.*

*Please visit the website, select **Support the Park**, and click on **Become a Pathfinder**.*



## Pathfinders (November 1, 2011 – December 1, 2012)

### **Visionary \$10,000 +** BMO Harris Bank

### **Collector's Circle** **\$5,000 - \$9,999** Bimba Manufacturing Company Illinois Arts Council

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Other sponsorships and recognition opportunities are available. Please contact Geoffrey Bates, Director and Curator to inquire:  
**708.534.4848; gbates@govst.edu.**

Gifts at any level are greatly appreciated. Your tax deductible donation will be used to support events, in the conservation of artworks, and to develop public awareness of the **Nathan Manilow Sculpture Park**, its collection, and its programming.

Photo credit, above: Geoff Bates

# Carts & Cocktails

The generous sponsorship of BMO Harris Bank made it possible for nearly 120 guests and volunteers to gather on a sun-washed September afternoon and celebrate the park and the presence of Martin Puryear's **Bodark Arc**. Created 30 years ago, his poetic landscape-based artwork continues to provide a haven for reflection within the Governors State University campus.

Michael Darling, James W. Alsdorf Curator at Chicago's Museum of Contemporary Art spoke eloquently about Puryear and his impact on contemporary sculpture.

*"Over the years he . . . developed a sensibility of unerring proportions that also can only issue from his hand," Darling commented, "The shapes he builds to these perfect proportions and details trigger the mind and the heart, referencing in oblique ways things we know from the world. Sometimes these are tools or architectural structures, other times body parts and other organic forms, but they never sit still in one's perception."*

Guests soon boarded chauffeur-driven golf carts and explored the collection, pausing first at Jene Highstein's **Flying Saucer** and then Puryear's **Bodark Arc**.

The group enjoyed sparkling wine and other beverages during their visit to the Puryear work while Director Geoff Bates provided insight into the sculptor's process of creation by reading a statement by Martin Puryear which the artist had prepared especially for the afternoon, excerpted below:

*"So I conceived of a long path beginning at one end of a long row of Osage Orange trees and which moved in a giant semicircular arc through the fields, over a lake (via a curving wooden footbridge) through a cattail marsh, until it reached the opposite end of the hedgerow. Finally, I cleared a path beneath the arching branches of the Osage Orange trees to make a kind of tunnel connecting the two ends of the circling path. In the center, where you'd imagine the fixed point of the giant compass which would have traced the huge arc, I placed a little bronze chair where you could sit and survey the extraordinary landscape you'd just traversed."*

After experiencing Puryear's orchestration of space, guests agreed with Darling that the synthesis of art and landscape combined to create a sculpture which resonates within the viewer long after their visit.

Finally, the caravan stopped at the Solo Exhibition Series presentation **Upside Down, Kneeling** by United Kingdom artist Sophie Ryder. The piece provided witty counterpoint to the afternoon's selection. The group then retired to the tent, where an extensive selection of sweets and coffee encouraged continued fellowship.

**Make sure you mark Saturday, September 21, 2013 now on your calendar for next year's Carts & Cocktails – more details can be found on page 11 under Programs and Events.**

Carts & Cocktails was presented by **BMO**  **Harris Bank**

Many thanks to all of our Carts & Cocktails sponsors: Bimba Manufacturing Company, Franciscan St. James Health, AAA Rental Systems, Leona Calvin, Debra Hooks, Elizabeth Kelley & Terrence Karpowicz, Jacqueline Lewis, The Music Connection, The Village of Olympia Fields.

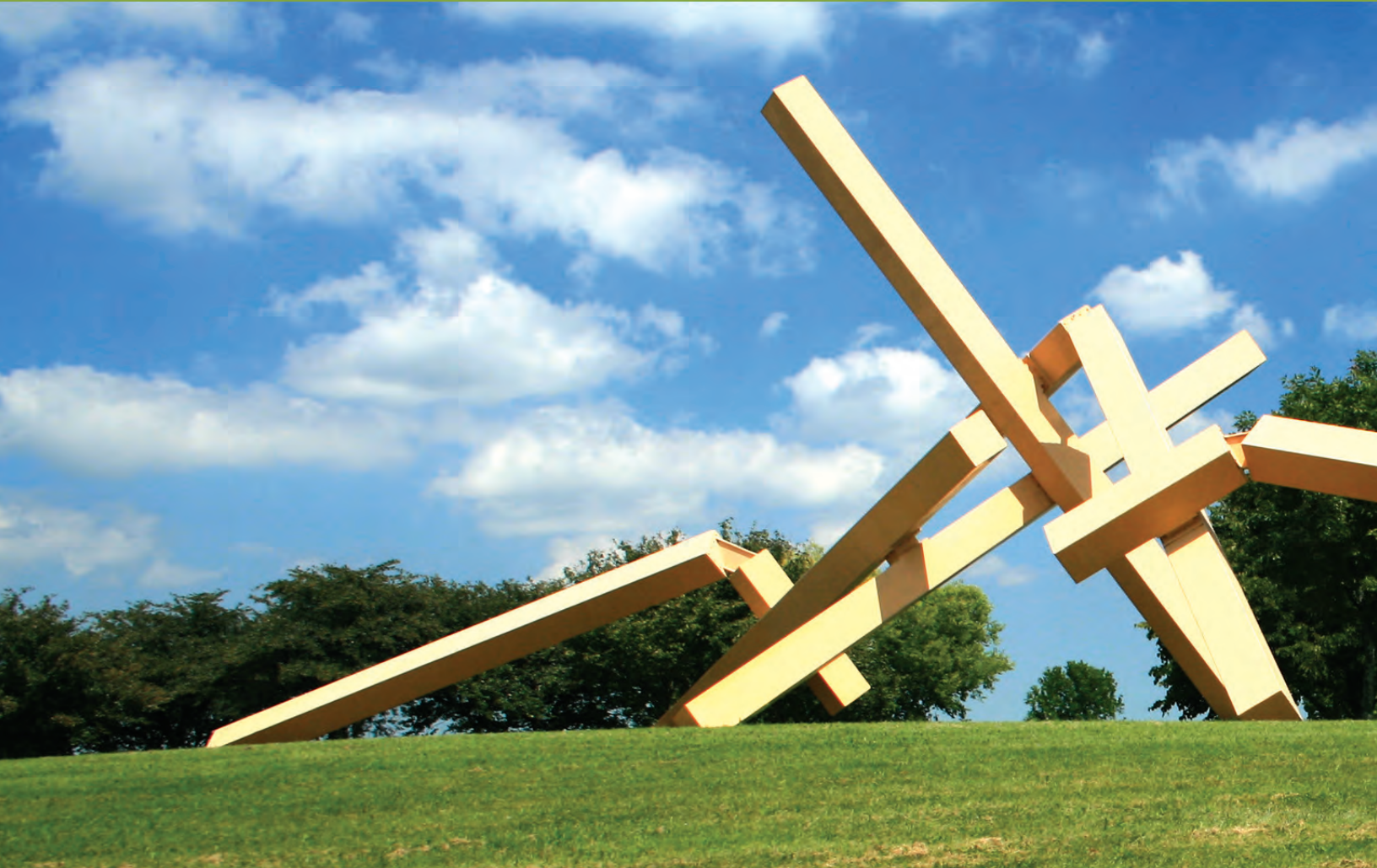
**1.** (L-R) Jeanna Bridges, Market President for BMO Harris Bank joined park director Geoff Bates and GSU President Elaine P. Maimon for a quick photo-op. **2.** Susan Ormsby (second from left), immediate past-president of the NMSP Board, introduces fellow board members to the crowd. **3.** (L-R) Karen and Jeff Ketchen, James Parker, and Gregg Hertzlieb ponder elements of Sophie Ryder's *Upside Down, Kneeling*. **4.** Michael Darling and Geoff Bates pause on their way back to their cart. **5.** (L-R) Jennifer Armstrong, Susan H. Ormsby, and Lisa Sampson enjoyed the chance to catch up with one another before the tour. **6.** (L-R) Charles Winer, Jennifer Armstrong, and Patrick and Susan H. Ormsby linger near Puryear's bronze chair as Jeff Stevenson, Director for GSU's Visual Arts Gallery, interprets elements of *Bodark Arc*.

Photo credits: All photos but number 3 – Dan Kemp for Larry Burrows Photography Photo 3: Paul Uzureau



# LandMarks





## Focus on Illinois Landscape No. 5

This sprawling site-specific sculpture, has graced the Governors State University campus since it was commissioned with the assistance of the National Endowment for the Arts in 1975. Thousands of students and visitors have regarded John Henry's masterpiece work with awe and good humor. The piece will celebrate its 38th year on campus in 2013.

**Illinois Landscape No. 5** is a major work of art from a variety of standpoints. "With a span of 134 feet and incorporating 65 tons of steel, the piece is simply huge," says NMSP Director and Curator Geoffrey Bates. "But that's not why it's important. We need to be thinking in terms of what was going on in sculpture at that time."

During a recent interview, the artist revealed a little about what his ideas were as he approached the project:

*"I had been working on several ideas. Most of my pieces, large scale pieces, were horizontal pieces. I wasn't really building vertical pieces. Some of them were really, really low to the ground and you know, almost . . . Well, it was very difficult for people to grasp them as sculpture. They were these things that just crawled along the surface of the ground."*

**Illinois Landscape No. 5** rejected the unassuming presence of Minimalist works. This massive piece dances - in a very horizontal fashion - across the knoll upon which it is sited. It also represents a specific moment in the history of sculpture in the Upper Midwest. In the late 1960s the artist helped organize **Construct**, a quasi-cooperative group of sculptors who, together, almost single-handedly launched public art across the region. Their exhibition, *Eight American Sculptors*, was presented in 1968 just off Chicago's Michigan Avenue in a commandeered Pioneer Court. It served notice that sculpture in the U.S. was no "handmaiden of architecture."

The commission for Illinois Landscape No. 5 grew directly out of Henry's involvement with *Construct* and its cadre of artists who would also go on to major careers: Mark diSuvero, Richard Hunt, John Chamberlain, Charles Ginnever, Kenneth Snelson and others. John Henry's work has become an icon for the university, an immediately recognizable symbol of the dynamic relationship between the campus and its community. The artist's career blossomed after the installation of the piece. He has exhibited work across the world and is represented in numerous public and private collections in North and South America, Europe, and Asia. He currently lives and works in Chattanooga, Tennessee.

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**Photos from top down:**

**Illinois Landscape No. 5;** John Henry; painted, welded steel; Commissioned by the Nathan Manilow Sculpture Park, GSU Foundation with the assistance of the National Endowment for the Arts (Photo credit: Geoff Bates)

**Illinois Landscape No. 5** was constructed in John Henry's Ada Street studio then moved, assembled, and painted on site. In this photo, GSU Founding President Bill Engbretson (right middle-ground, 2nd from right) can be seen talking to a young Richard Hunt (in white shirt with back turned to camera). (Photo Credit: Dick Burd)

The once bright-yellow (seen here at during its most recent re-coating in 1997) has faded to a chalky French vanilla hue. (Photo Credit: Rick Bishop)





## Iron Pour Jamboree



Fire and autumn weather seem to have a primal connection. So it was during the **Iron Pour Jamboree** hosted by the Nathan Manilow Sculpture Park on Saturday, October 6. With funding supplied by the Illinois Arts Council, a state agency, and through partnerships with The School of the Art Institute of Chicago's (SAIC) Sculpture Foundry, the International Sculpture Center (ISC), and Governors State University's College of Arts and Sciences, the NMSP brought a day full of visual drama and creativity to the GSU campus.

Students and faculty from GSU's sculpture area worked shoulder-to-shoulder with SAIC students during the entire day in the shadow of Henri Etienne-Martin's cast bronze **Lanleff Demeure No. 4**, just south of the main campus.



As darkness fell, guests arrived from the International Sculpture Center's Chicago-based annual conference to enjoy the closing reception for the Visual Arts Gallery's *Ways of Making: Sculpture*. They viewed work by Juan Angel Chavez, Barbara Cooper, Bob Emser, and Vivian Visser and were treated to an "Iron Pour Spectacle" performed by Boston-based artists Marjee Levine and Dan Kendall.

GSU grad students Dave Gribbins and Andy Palmer were part of it all. "Being allowed to participate in all stages of the performance pour was a priceless experience for these guys," said Mike Hart, GSU's instructor of sculpture. "They experienced art in exciting new ways – as intense teamwork, with everyone working toward a common goal, and then as performance." The groups' combined effort resulted in more than 25 "scratch" and large-scale SAIC student molds being poured, plus a dramatic outdoor presentation. "The day's success was a product of exceptional teamwork," Hart said.



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1. Dusk heralded the dramatic Iron Pour Performance by Dan Kendall and Marcy Levine which paid homage to the 141st anniversary of the Great Chicago Fire. 2. Carolyn Ottmers, Chair of the SAIC Sculpture Area, provided detailed instructions to the crews who would be carrying out the afternoon's activities. 3. Dave Gribbins and Andy Palmer, GSU grad students, assisted Dan Kendall and Marcy Levine in the construction of materials and their performance. 4. SAIC students pour molten iron into the 12 x 12 inch scratch molds. 5. Linda Peterson, NMSP Docent, designs her scratch mold. 6. After sundown, Ottmers poured large 'doughnut' molds of iron, making for dramatic visuals. 7. The iron cools surprisingly quickly. 8. *Instant art!* Just add molten iron... 9. Dan Kendall 10. GSU Administrator Dr. Linda Uzureau and her husband Paul (an NMSP board member) reflect on work by Barbara Cooper and Bob Emser, respectively, during the closing reception at the Visual Arts Gallery. Photo Credits: 1, 2, 4, 5, 7, 8, 9 - Michael E. Smith Photography; 3 - Geoff Bates; 6 - Paul Uzureau; 10 - Sherri Denault



## Vocal Volunteer

by Myisha Meeks

I have the pleasure of overlooking James Brenner's **Passage** from my office and over the years I've developed my own ideas of what the piece represents. Though simple in form, it's endlessly fascinating and I've found that my interpretation changes based on my personal situation, the time of day, or weather conditions.

I was introduced to the **Nathan Manilow Sculpture Park** in 2008 as a new GSU employee. Its presence on the campus was so strong that I could not help but become interested. Here were artworks - enormous in scale but tucked away in secluded areas peeking just beyond the prairie grasses. Each piece was uniquely situated. They provided a bread-crumbs experience that connected one with another and, when followed, created an artistic and intellectual journey. My experience of the NMSP is why I now value encounters with public art and understand how it can be used collaboratively to build a conduit to community pride and culture.

Each person who visits sees the park differently and each leaves enriched in some personal way by this cultural resource. As for me, I am a Pathfinder, and will continue to support the NMSP, not just because it serves a public good, but because it has served me as a great addition to my life.



## Reclaim the Prairie! sows seed of prairie restoration

Nearly two-dozen volunteers gathered on a gusty November Sunday for the first annual Reclaim the Prairie! event. Simple in execution yet profound in its implication, the event focuses on restoring the rolling landscape in which the NMSP sits to a native, prairie state. Kevin Barto, GSU's Superintendent of Buildings and Grounds, started the event with comments on the "why" of prairie restoration. He provided examples of the stark difference in temperature on a summer's morning between reaches of barren asphalt, turf grass lawns, and prairie grassland, demonstrating a 35 degree swing between the extremes.

Gathering was easy, satisfying, work, particularly with afternoon temperatures in the mid-60s. Soon, it was time to distribute the harvest of yellow cornflower, autumn aster, milkweed, and Indian and switchgrass seed.

Planting took place in an expansive area near Mark diSuvero's **Yes! for Lady Day** which had been cleared by Facilities Development and Management (FDM) maintenance laborers several days in advance. Gusty winds aided the rapid distribution of the group's harvest. Rewarded with a sense of accomplishment, everyone returned to the cafeteria where they enjoyed pumpkin cake and hot mulled cider while FDM Director David Stone offered comments about GSU's windmill.

Come next April, keep your eyes peeled for exciting new growth along the area between Crawford Avenue and diSuvero's artwork - and plan to join us next October when we Reclaim the Prairie!

Photo at left: Myisha Meeks's window overlooks James Brenner's 1988 work **Passage**. (Photo credit: Geoff Bates)

Photo below: Biology grad student Jim Ternig "reclaims the prairie" near Jene Highstein's **Flying Saucer** while Jill Stanley and Kevin Barto discuss harvesting goldenrod. (Photo credit: Cheri Garey)





## Programs and Events

Governors State University's **Nathan Manilow Sculpture Park** hosts an ongoing series of activities and events throughout the year designed so that guests will experience our art and landscape in new and unexpected ways. Take a look at what we're offering and make time to join us for one or more of our programs.

### Annual Winter Walk and Chili Dinner

**Saturday, January 26, 2013**

2 to 5 p.m.

Meet in the Hall of Governors, D-Wing

**FREE**

20° or below for the high temp of the day will cancel.

Blow off some cabin fever and join us for what has become a tradition at the **Nathan Manilow Sculpture Park**. Director and Curator Geoff Bates will lead the tour of artworks, including Yvonne Domenge's **Wind Waves**. The park is quiet and the sculpture stands in stark contrast to the snow. Board member Leona Calvin and her husband George will provide us with a dinner featuring George's delicious chili when we return to the building. **Reservations are required (limit of 35) – contact 708.534.3084 to make your reservation. Deadline for reservations for this free event is Friday, January 18.**



### Kids, Colors, and Kites

**Saturday, May 18, 2013**

1 to 4 p.m.

Along the lake path, north of E-Wing

\$8 per kite

**For Families**

Flying a kite for the first time is like taking your first steps. It provides an incomparable sense of personal accomplishment and independence. Do you know a kid? Insist they join you at Kids, Colors, and Kites. Buy 'em a kite, watch 'em decorate it, and then feel the warmth inside as they tug on 50 feet of string, visibly thrilled.

And remember . . . kites are 3-dimensional objects that fly.  
**No reservations necessary.**



## Carts & Cocktails

**Saturday, September 21, 2013**

3 to 6 p.m.

\$100 per person

For reservations contact Gina Ragland at **708.235.7559**

Maybe you've had 'something else to do' for the past 2 years . . . Buy your seat now for the best cocktail party of 2013! Our third edition of this highly anticipated event will have all the expected fun – lakeside cocktail party, chauffeured golf cart tour of the **Nathan Manilow Sculpture Park**, remarkable art, and fabulous fellowship — plus some surprises! Because of our format, tickets are limited to 120 seats, so make sure to get your's early. Sponsorships at a variety of levels are available – contact Jackie Small (**708.235.2188** or **jsmall@govst.edu**) for more information.

### Reclaim the Prairie!

**Sunday, October 27, 2013**

1 to 4 p.m.

Meet in the Cafeteria Annex, D-Wing

**For Families**

\$5 Adults, \$3 Children

Check out the article on the opposite page of LandMarks if you're wondering what Reclaim the Prairie! is all about. Kids will learn about prairie restoration, receive themed coloring materials and crayons, and enjoy a sense of accomplishment while helping our planet. Adults will enjoy learning how to identify, harvest, and sow prairie flora. If you can pick a flower and rub it between your fingers, *you can DO this!*

**Reservations requested – contact 708.534.4486 to make your reservation.**





... the nature of sculpture

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# LandMarks

The newsletter for the Nathan Manilow Sculpture Park

