

The Eagles' Nest Art Colony

The Eagles' Nest Art Colony was started in 1898 when a group of artists associated with the Chicago Art Institute leased land on the bluff overlooking the Rock River on its east bank. This group of artists, writers, poets and musicians established summer homes there and continued to meet in summers until 1942, when the lease was terminated with the death of the last surviving original member.

Lorado Taft

Among the founding members was Lorado Taft, a 38-year-old sculptor whose works of sculpture including statues, fountains and memorial tablets are located throughout the United States. Oregon was a fortunate recipient of Taft's influence and generosity, with four of his works as part of the Oregon Sculpture Trail. The Oregon Sculpture Trail began in 1911 with the creation of the *Black Hawk Statue*, which can be viewed from Illinois Rte. 2 across the Rock River north of Oregon. Works of Taft which are also part of the Trail are his *Fish Boys* and the *Veteran's Memorial*. His maquette of *The Blind* is part of the Eagles' Nest Art Collection which can be seen at the Oregon Public Library. Taft asked his friends to display their work and donate art to this collection, which is displayed in the Gallery in the Library.

Welcome to the *Oregon Sculpture Trail*

Map Inside

Scenic Oregon:

Oregon Sculpture Trail

Oregon Park District Parks

Lowden-Miller State Forest

Many Good Restaurants

State Parks: Castle Rock, Lowden, White Pines

Bed & Breakfasts: Patchwork Inn, Pinehill Inn

Motels: Paddlewheel Inn, Chateau Lodge

Oregon Park District
www.oregonpark.org

City of Oregon
www.cityoforegon.org

Chamber of Commerce
www.oregonil.com

The Fields Project
www.fieldsproject.com



**Oregon
Sculpture Trail**

Community Art Legacy

The Community Art Legacy (CAL) was formed in 2004 by a group of Oregon citizens with the purpose of installing “ten sculptures in ten years” in the Oregon area. It was formed under the initiative of Jeff Adams, sculptor and foundry operator of inBronze Foundry in Mt. Morris.

Their guiding motivation was expressed by sculptor Lorado Taft when he said, “*The hometown is the dearest place on earth: why not make it more beautiful?*”

CAL holds a competition each year in which sculptors submit maquettes (models) of work to the theme of the Fields Project, “*bringing art and agriculture together*”. The winning sculptor receives a prize of \$2,000 and then enlarges the maquette to a “lifesize” sculpture which is then molded and cast in bronze. The sculptor also receives the molds from which additional sculptures can be cast.

Funds for this program are given and pledged by friends and members of the community over the 10 years of the program. Ownership, installation and maintenance responsibilities are assumed by the entity where the sculpture is placed. Thus, the inspiration and work of the CAL will have added 10 sculptures to the Oregon Sculpture Trail when finished.

“Ten Sculptures In Ten Years”

Oregon Sculpture Trail

(numbers correspond with those on map)

1 The statue called *Black Hawk* was by Lorado Taft, 1911, in concrete, and can be seen from Rte. 2 across the Rock River and at Lowden State Park.

2 *The Holy Family* is by David Seagrave, 1991, in Indiana Limestone. It is located at St. Mary’s Church, on N. Fourth Street.

3 *The Soldiers’ Monument*, by Lorado Taft, dedicated in 1916, is located on the Court House square. The center figure is of bronze and the two adjacent soldier statues of marble. This honors veterans from the Civil War, Spanish-American War, War of 1812, Mexican War and World War I.

4 *The Blind* is a maquette of a sculpture by Lorado Taft, located at the University of Illinois. This is representative of the *Eagles Nest Art Colony Collection*, seen at the Oregon Public Library.

5 *The Fish Boys*, at Mix Park south on Route 2 are cast in a special blend of concrete of the original bronze sculptures by Lorado Taft, 1913, which are south of Chicago Art Institute.

6 *Paths of Conviction, Footsteps of Fate*, by Oregon sculptor, Jeff Adams, 2002, is located at Mix Park. It reflects on the crossing of the paths of Lincoln and Blackhawk and the struggles in this area in 1832.

7 *From the Waters Comes My Bounty*, by Ray Kobald, 2005, is located at Kiwanis Park at the west end of the dam of the Rock River. It depicts the generosity of the life-giving waters to all things.

8 *Agriculture, Mother of Civilization*, by David Seagraves, 2006, is located at the Judicial Center, west of the Court House. She personifies the fertility of the earth and Ogle County.

9 *Cornball*, by Howard Russo, 2007, is located at the Coliseum, north of the Court House. It represents the increased global impact of corn to the world.

10 *The Bountiful Bench*, by Christina Murphy, 2008, graces the lawn of the Oregon Public Library. Inspired by the beauty of the Rock River, the woman of nature and her coverlet hold the produce and natural bounty of the area.

11 *Solar Reef*, by Andrew Langoussis, 2009, is at the top of the hill at Oregon Park West. It represents the sun, the source of all energy, and through it can be seen the Court House and Oregon.

12 *Makin’ Hay*, by Daniel Ingebritson, 2010, is at Stillman Bank, north on Rte. 2, and captures the dynamic movement of the farmer’s strokes of the scythe through the hay.

13 *Harvest Hunter*, by Matthew Donavon, 2011, depicts an owl framed by a harvest moon.

14 *John the Baptist*, by Jeff Adams, 2008, is located at Lutheran Outdoors Ministries south of Oregon on Rte. 2. John the Baptists is pointing to the One inviting us to come to the wilderness.

Two additional Sculptures are located in Mt. Morris: *Spirit of Compassion*, by Jeff Adams, at Pinecrest Grove; and *The Moulder*, by David Seagraves, at the Village Hall.



Black Hawk Statue



The Holy Family



The Soldier's Monument

Oregon Sculpture Trail



Corn Ball



The Bountiful Bench



Eagles' Nest Collection



The Fish Boys



Solar Reef



Makin' Hay



Paths of Conviction, Footsteps of Fate



From the Waters Comes My Bounty



Agriculture, Mother Of Civilization



Harvest Hunter



John the Baptist