

W I N T E R 2 0 1 1

# Bending Sticks

The Patrick Dougherty Documentary Film Project

## Hello Again!

This is the third issue of the *Bending Sticks* Documentary Film Newsletter. We are here to keep you posted on all things relating to the film and let you know how you can help to realize this incredible project!



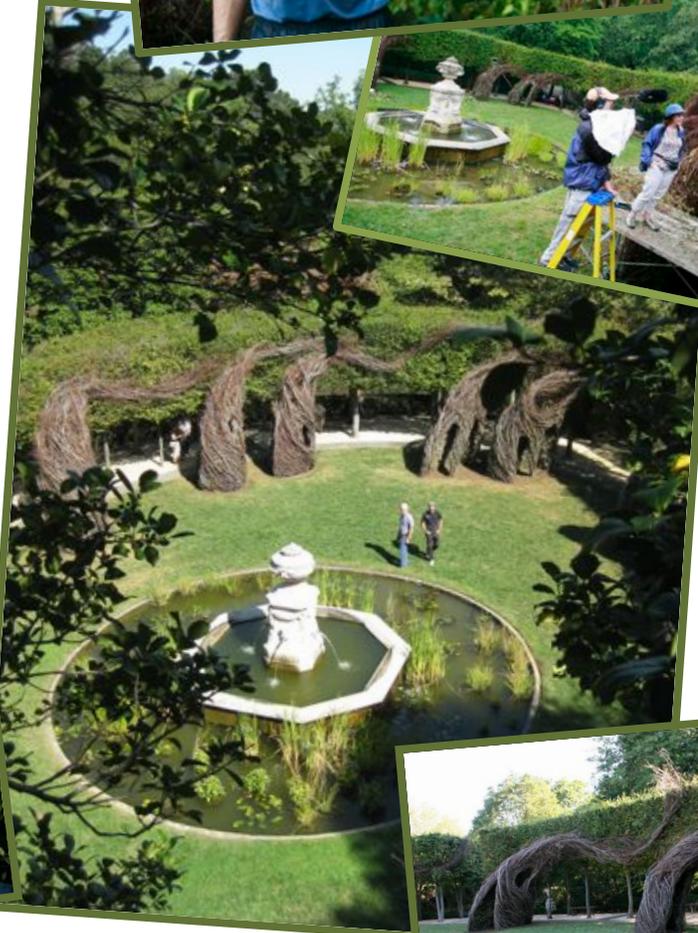
The Ellipse in the center of the beautiful Dumbarton Oaks gardens in Washington, DC is the site of Patrick's wonderful *Easy Rider* Sculpture. After Patrick shared his excitement about this project in the "most beautiful place he'd ever seen" and urged the film team to include this installation in the documentary, Kenny and Penelope were able to make three trips to DC to cover the fifth and final installation to be included in *Bending Sticks*. Volunteers from as far away as London helped create the fifteen "running figures" which rise up from the ground into the pleached hornbeam aerial hedge - catching a ride as they chase each other around the Ellipse. Kenny and Penelope documented the creation of the three week installation and Keith Nye put up a protected time lapse camera to capture the process - shooting a photograph every 90 seconds for three weeks. On the final day of the project, Steadicam operator Sheila Smith joined the crew to shoot stunning motion shots in and around this huge 360 degree sculpture. See next page for additional photographs.



Photos this page by Walter Howell, Zan Maddox, and Frank Konhaus

# *DUMBARTON OAKS!*

Photos by Walter Howell, Penelope Maunsell, and Frank Konhaus



# PATRICK GETS PRESS WORTHY OF A ROCK STAR!



After a giant three page article in the New York Times, a mention in the famed September Issue of Vogue and a plug for his book in People Magazine, the blogosphere is abuzz with Patrick news!

**The New York Times**  
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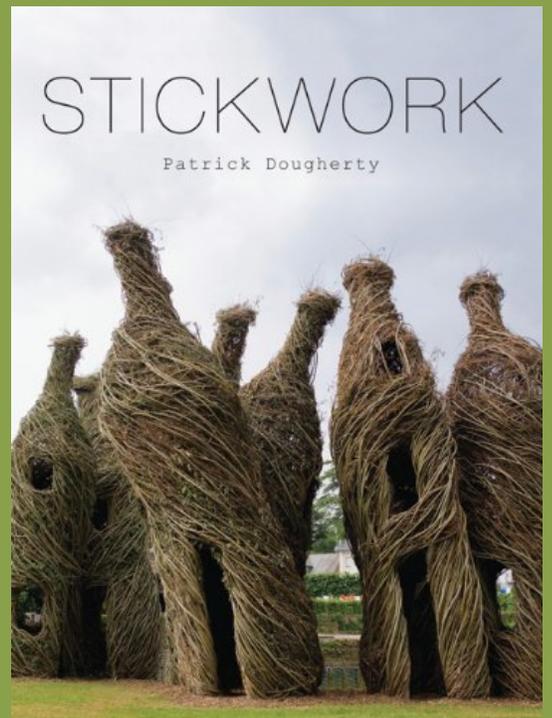
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Signed copies are available at Patrick's website:  
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your favorite bookseller.



## BENDING STICKS EDIT IS WELL UNDER WAY

Hundreds of delightful hours of poring over the 40+ hours of footage have begun. Penelope has sorted and organized and talked with musicians about a score and now the first rough cut is almost two thirds completed. Patrick created a B and an S (you can imagine the comments that came from our choice of letters) out of twigs for the title. Hours have been spent transcribing interviews (and Patrick loves to talk about his work so it's a lot of hours). There's a plan that will result in a film of about 70 minutes in length. Kenny and Dorothy (Patrick's wonderful assistant) have dug through family photographs and through the extensive archives of Patrick's works of the last twenty years. Patrick was a funny looking teenager! Pictures have been scanned, put through Photoshop, resized and delivered to the edit. There's a lot of momentum here but.....

## FUND RAISING NEED IS CRITICAL

With all the positive energy swirling around this film, it is easy to forget that completion is not a foregone conclusion. We do not have enough funding to complete the editing process. Every donation gets us closer and leadership gifts of 1-10K are critically needed to assure getting this film to the big screen. **Please** consider making a generous tax deductible donation TODAY to make this film a reality. Checks should be made to Southern Documentary Fund and sent to Frank Konhaus 6301 Mimosa Drive Chapel Hill, NC 27514. We also can accept gifts of appreciated stock. Thank you very much for your support. Check out our list of wonderful donors on the following page.

## A VOLUNTEER'S PERSPECTIVE

*By Sheila Blake*

My friend Penelope called me out of the blue to tell me that she was co-directing a film about the artist Patrick Dougherty who was about to construct an installation at Dumbarton Oaks and to ask if she and the film crew could come and stay. She also strongly suggested that Peter and I volunteer to work on Patrick's piece.

The best day was the one I spent working with a young art teacher who'd been so thrilled with Patrick's piece in Brooklyn that she'd left New York at 3 am to be at Dumbarton Oaks in time to start work. That day, like the other days we worked, was hot. The work was real. A woman, further into her seventies than I, was climbing on scaffolds. Peter helped to dig 91 holes 30 inches deep into dirt and rubble for the major supports. While some of us were stripping endless leaves off endless piles of saplings, Peter and Walter (gardener at Dumbarton Oaks and one of Patrick's experienced helpers) drove out to western Maryland to gather more saplings so we could strip more leaves and weave those saplings into the framework so that they looked like they were growing out of the ground. As the work started to take shape I heard a member of the public who wandered into the site say "How did they get them to grow that way?" Visitors were first surprised, then thrilled - taking in what was happening. And they were amazed that they could meet the working artist. So a couple of weeks ago on a beautiful Sunday afternoon, Peter and I took my 103 year old Mom to the Brooklyn Botanic Gardens to see Patrick Dougherty's sculpture there. We were a merry crew - four generations. And again there were people wandering up to these strange unearthly, but of the earth structures, woven into the landscape and Peter and I were answering questions: How did this get here? How do they stay up? For the moment we were the experts. My Mom was thrilled - she can't stop talking about what a lovely, lovely day that was.



# PATRICK DOUGHERTY

## DOCUMENTARY FILM PROJECT “Bending Sticks”

### DONOR HONOR ROLL AS OF 3/1/2011

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#### **SUPER FINE IN KINDS IN KIND**

Ellen Cassilly Architect

James Baxter

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Sheila and Peter Blake

Linda and Patrick Dougherty

Rachel Lewis-Marlow

#### **Fund Raising Update**

Thanks to the generosity of our friends on this page and the hard work of Ellie Ferguson, Mindy Solie, Frank Konhaus, and Ellen Cassilly on our fund raising committee we have raised \$50,000 toward our required budget of \$114,000. We thank everyone who has helped us raise funds necessary to document five of Patrick's projects and interview him and his family. We need to build on this great support now in order to fund our post-production work.

If you are not already on this list (or if you are and would like to continue your support) will you consider supporting this important project? All donations are 100% tax deductible and we can also accept gifts of appreciated stock. Please make checks to:

**Southern Documentary Fund**  
c/o Frank Konhaus  
6301 Mimosa Drive