The attractive setting of Cold Spring Harbor Laboratory, where nature meets knowledge, has long impressed its many visitors. The magnificent trees, historic architecture, captivating sculptures and splendid vistas of the harbor offer a retreat from the city, a refuge from the hustle and bustle of Long Island, and a sanctuary for researchers to conduct the best science in the world.

The Laboratory’s landscapes are the focus of a beautiful new book, *Grounds for Knowledge*, written by historic preservationist and tree enthusiast Liz Watson, who has lived in various homes along Bungtown Road for nearly four decades with her husband, Jim, and two children.

*Grounds for Knowledge* is an inspiring journey through the campuses of Cold Spring Harbor Laboratory, a trip to its buildings both historic and new, and to the striking landscape and vegetation that surrounds them. The book’s first five chapters cover all parts of the main campus, which extends along the western shore of Cold Spring Harbor in the Incorporated Village of Laurel Hollow. Three subsequent chapters cover the nearby campuses in Woodbury, Lloyd Harbor and Cold Spring Harbor village.

The book’s grand tour of Laboratory property includes a brief history of each building, the common and scientific names of the surrounding woody trees and shrubs, and descriptions of sculptures, plantings and water features, as well as detailed maps that invite first-hand exploration. Even readers who are familiar with the grounds — perhaps those readers most of all — will learn of new sights to see. For instance, they will learn of the “Bungtown Botanical Garden,” which was recently established through the Public Gardens Association of America on the main campus thanks to Watson’s initial efforts, as well as ongoing work by Laboratory staff, neighbors and professional horticulturists.

The book’s appendices contain building and bird checklists, a guide to the seasonal changes of vegetation, and recommended strolls through the Laboratory, certain to enhance the experience of casual visitors and campus regulars alike.

Elizabeth Watson takes tremendous pride in the grounds of the Laboratory, as does Peter Stahl, the Laboratory’s director of facilities, whose stunning photography graces the pages of this full-color book.

Jessica Toner


Landscape photography by Peter Stahl

©2008, Cold Spring Harbor Laboratory Press

208 pp., illus., maps, appendices, bibliography, index

Hardcover, $29, ISBN 978-087969799-0

[http://www.cshlpress.com/link/grounds.htm](http://www.cshlpress.com/link/grounds.htm)

[Editor’s Note: For a schedule and details about the walking tours, see [http://events.cshl.edu/tours.htm](http://events.cshl.edu/tours.htm)]