Hometown: Sykesville, Maryland

Being passionate about history and landscapes, Tim Barrett felt that CED was the right choice to gain valuable hands-on experience, with the opportunity to work on cultural landscape sites with national significance. Click the “for more information” button below to read more.

Tim Barrett’s interests in history and nature led him to believe that work with cultural landscapes was a perfect convergence of his passions, and obtaining a graduate degree would let him take the next steps in his career. He was particularly interested in finding programs where cultural landscapes were emphasized, and some of his colleagues and advisers encouraged him to look at UGA’s College of Environment & Design (CED). One of the largest draws for Barrett was the opportunity to participate as a graduate assistant in the work of the Cultural Landscapes Lab (CLL) program at CED.

CED has played an instrumental role in the evolving discipline of cultural landscape management, and the College is building upon this legacy by establishing a research laboratory that will provide learning and research opportunities for students, faculty, and professional practitioners. The CLL is structured around long-term partnerships with the stewards of nationally-significant cultural landscapes. With a research focus on heritage conservation and sustainability, work is currently underway at three sites: Wormsloe Plantation, Isle of Hope, Georgia; Stratford Hall Plantation, Westmoreland County, Virginia; and Hyde Farm, Marietta, Georgia. At each site collaborators are working to carefully investigate, design, and implement a plan to ensure effective long-term management of these remarkable resources. To read more about the CLL, please click here.

Barrett began his work with CED’s CLL in the summer of 2010, living on-site at Stratford Hall. Since then, he has been responsible for assisting in coordination of Lab related research activities. For example, the Lab is exploring how the usage of new technologies (primarily GIS/GPS/remote sensing) can be used to document existing conditions as well as changes in
the landscape over time. Barrett feels that this hands-on experience in addition to his historic preservation coursework has added critical tools to his repertoire – ones that will make him more marketable to future employers.

The opportunity to work on sites that have tremendous national significance is a resource not many individuals are afforded while still in the midst of their studies, and Barrett considers himself fortunate to be working with a great team of graduate students, faculty, and professionals at CED. He admires the MHP faculty’s tremendous expertise in their areas of interest and their commitment to each student’s education and advancement. Barrett also feels fortunate to be surrounded by so many talented individuals in the CED student body who share his passions of history and landscape.

Barrett holds a Bachelor of Science degree in Natural Resources Conservation from Virginia Tech, with minors in history and forestry. While an undergraduate, he had the opportunity to work as a Historical Landscape Architect Intern with the U.S. National Park Service (NPS), primarily on U.S. battlefields. His primary contribution was to assist in researching and writing a cultural landscape inventory for a then recently acquired farmstead at Antietam National Battlefield.

Following his graduation from Virginia Tech, Barrett was employed by the Maryland Office of The Conservation Fund, a national land conservation non-profit organization. In his three and half year tenure at the Conservation Fund, he had two focuses. The first was outreach and advocacy to build partnerships for the Captain John Smith Chesapeake National Historic Trail, America’s first National Historic Water Trail. This 3,000-mile water trail was permanently designated in 2006 by Congress, who charged the NPS as its coordinating agency. His second focus was the support of real estate staff members with historical research and scouting on land conservation projects, including the acquisition of the “last great holdings” of the Jesuit Order in Southern Maryland. This acquisition was the largest land conservation project in Maryland state history at $56 million dollars, and protected some of the state’s most historically significant sites – which had been under continuous ownership by the Catholic Church since first purchased with tobacco in 1634.

In addition to his professional credentials, from 2008-2009, Barrett served on the Planning Committee for the 40th Anniversary of the National Trails System, and on the Leadership Committee of the Partnership for the National Trails System. He is also published as co-author of a National Geographic Society map titled, “Treasured Landscapes of the Chesapeake Bay.” The map was a special release in response to President Obama’s 2009 Chesapeake Bay Executive Order which, among other important measures, called for the identification of the Chesapeake Bay’s historical and cultural landscapes.