



## INFORMATION July 18, 2015

### PICK UP STICKS

**Purpose:** To create an evolving visual and sound buffer that integrates growing plant life and manmade components. The project will enhance privacy and quality of life from the time of planting (May 2015) to maturity of 300 saplings and 100 trellis plants on the Heroncrest property. It will be erected in stages.

**Concept and viewing:** **PICK UP STICKS** uses common materials and basic assembly methods that allow for future deconstruction by sections in response to the growth of the saplings. Salvaged, repurposed and reusable materials are not considered by definition "ugly"; transforming perceptions that commonplace, practical or inexpensive things are ugly is a function of art. **PICK UP STICKS** is designed to be viewed from Heroncrest house. (Viewing from the southern side is not planned at this time.) The 5-acre pasture will be integrated into the overall design with a mown curving path that unites Heroncrest house with **PICK UP STICKS**.

**Description:** A fabric "wall" set 36 feet inside the Heroncrest property line near the young plantings and trellis unifies the design. Fabric panels (5ft.8 in. x 50 ft. each; mounted 3 deep and 5 wide; totaling 17 ft. in height x 250 ft. in length) are supported on 6x6 in. wooden posts. The panels are light-weight weatherproof mesh, bound and finished with large grommets. A deep green color was selected for its affinity to the forest canopy in full leaf. Areas of contrasting and analogous colors applied to the fabric suggest variations of sunlight and shadow in foliage. Colorful linear materials and objects anticipate the visual motion and rhythm of growth. These are secured to the supporting posts and interwoven to develop a 3-dimensional canopy of form, space and light extending in front of and above the fabric background. Materials can include branches (painted or wrapped in fabric), fencing materials (wire and/or wooden, with patterns like chain link and picket), rope, cable, found-materials and contrasting fabrics.

**Artist's Note:** When I was small my dad gave me his set of Pick-up-sticks; slender cylinders of wood, pointed and dipped in paint, a different color for each stick. Playing was tricky, using the unpainted stick to flick one at a time from the pile without disturbing the others. When I started drawings for the Heroncrest project, and the idea of weaving a canopy of colorful lines emerged, I thought of Pick-up-sticks. Their basic appeal stays strong, even in the face of putting it all together again after the huffing and puffing is over (to borrow from the Little Pig whose house was made of sticks!) and of present challenges of doing it gracefully, without disturbing the growing trees, the privacy we are seeking to regain, and the healing of the neighborhood in the long view. **PICK UP STICKS** will stand in for the forest canopy and evolve collaterally with the sapling forest. Like the child's game, the project is simple, intentional, colorful, regenerative and playful. On many levels, this is about making something from nothing—picking up the sticks and exploring new outlooks, new views.

—Margaret Sunday