

New Jersey ASLA Today

Supporting landscape architects in their professional endeavors

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including creating a sense of place and protecting natural systems through innovative planning and design.

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President's Message

by Carl Hintz, ASLA

Next year, landscape architects will be celebrating national Landscape Architecture Week. The effort is designed to make the public aware of our accomplishments, as well as educate them about the profession. The week of April 20-28, 2002, will be a chance for you to toot your own horn, or point to others whose planning and design efforts represent the high qualities our profession.

At the Montreal conference, "how to" guides will be distributed to the chapters and members on ways to publicize our endeavors. This will be an agenda item for our chapter over the ensuing months. The Political Action Committee, chaired by Henry Arnold, is preparing a leaflet of representative projects that explain landscape architecture to State legislators and the public. If you have ideas about that or projects in mind, please forward them to Henry (harnold106@aol.com), members of the executive committee of the NJ Chapter or our management consultant.

On a related note, LAND Online will be featuring the works of Roger Wells, a member of the New Jersey Chapter, and former President. We applaud Roger on his accomplishments.

NJ Educational Video

by Jack Carman, ASLA

The National ASLA Web Site now features the NJASLA Video "Putting A New Spin On The Earth". The video was created a few years back for middle school students to teach them about the career of Landscape Architecture. The video was reformatted by Callie Lasch (the original producer of the video) to be played on the ASLA web page. The site directs the student or other interested party to "Discover a Career in Landscape Architecture" (ASLA Online now includes the streaming video option of RealPlayer to view the condensed New Jersey chapter video. Stream the video using RealPlayer <http://www.asla.org/nonmembers/recruitment/recruitment.html>.)

Be sure to check it out. And, if you need a copy of the video, get in touch with the Chapter office in Trenton or e-mail me at jpcarman@waterw.com.

Octoberfest Regional Social

by Nancy Bauman, ASLA

It's time to join your fellow landscape architects for the annual social at Triumph Brewery in Princeton. The happy-hour social is scheduled for Thursday, October 25th. The Chapter will purchase the appetizers; you'll only have to buy your beverages. So mark your calendar!

Executive Committee Meeting

The next NJASLA Executive Committee meeting will be held on Thursday, September 6, at 7:00 p.m. at the Clarke Caton Hintz offices in West Trenton. Please RSVP your attendance, and if you need directions, via e-mail to Carl Hintz at chintz@cchnj.com. The Board meeting will be preceded by an Annual Meeting Committee meeting at 6:00 p.m.

Golf Outing Reminder

By Joseph Perello, ASLA

The NJASLA Golf Outing date & location has been revised to be held on Monday September 17, 2001, at Mine Brook Golf Club, in Hackettstown, NJ. Registration is due on or BEFORE 9/10/01. Early registration fees are available if registered by 9/3/01. Sponsorship Opportunities and Golf Registrations are still available, but are filling up quick! Call Vicky at 609-393-7500 with any questions.

Help Wanted

Vollmer Associates LLP, a leading New York City based multidisciplinary design firm, is seeking a **Senior Landscape Architect** for its headquarters in Manhattan. This position requires at least 10 years of experience managing the design of streetscape, highway and park projects. Experience working with DOT and NYC Department of Parks and Recreation would be beneficial. AutoCAD and MicroStation proficiency a plus. Excellent design and communication skills required. We offer a competitive salary with excellent benefits.

Please send resumes with salary requirements to: Vollmer Associates LLP, Colleen F. Veltri, 50 West 23rd Street, New York, NY 10010 Fax: (212)366-5629 EOE M/F/H/V Email: cveltri@vollmer.com

NJASLA 2002 Annual Meeting

By Julie Blank, ASLA

Our next Annual Meeting will be held February 10-12, 2002, at the Trump Taj Mahal Hotel in Atlantic City, NJ. The theme is "Water", a timely and important issue in NJ. The schedule is filled with experienced Landscape Architects and interesting experts who will focus on environmental, ecological, and design issues and opportunities. The seminar topics include river restorations, watershed issues, small pond design and elaborate fountains, wetlands and native plants, as well as GIS models and landscape lighting.

I would like to answer a question that I have heard frequently from LA's attending our Annual Meetings; "Why Atlantic City?" Currently, Atlantic City is the only area available in NJ that has the combination of exhibitor floor space, conference/meeting space for 400+ attendees and convenient and inexpensive hotel space. Many hotels have some of those components. Many have, for example, too few and too expensive hotel rooms (\$125+). Of the hotels in Atlantic City, only the Trump Taj Mahal, Tropicana and Bally's Park Place have enough exhibit hall space. The annual meeting committee early this year reviewed a comparison chart of these three hotels. Due to some negative feedback about the Tropicana, members voted to try TrumpTaj Mahal for our next meeting, even though it will be slightly more expensive.

The committee has heard that a conference hotel may be built in Jersey City or Hoboken in the future, which the committee would surely want to try if it has all the facilities that we require. If you would like to contribute suggestions, please do so early; planning for the Annual Meetings usually begins in March, and hotel contracts must be signed early to reserve space.

In the meantime, mark your calendar for February 10-12. It's certain to be a great Annual Meeting!

NJASLA River Boat Cruise

By Joseph Perello, ASLA

The NJASLA River Boat Sight Seeing Cruise was held on Wednesday evening, July 18, 2001, aboard the River Belle in Point Pleasant Beach, NJ. More than fifty (50) attendees participated, and everyone enjoyed the perfect weather and the sights and sounds of the beautiful Manasquan River, Point Pleasant Canal and Barnegat Bay as we cruised along calm inland waters.

Thanks to all who attended, sponsored or assisted with the event! Profits from the event go toward contributions by NJASLA to the Landscape Architecture Department at Rutgers University during the year. We would like to especially thank the following sponsors for their generosity;

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Work Products In The "E" World

By Nick Tufaro, ASLA

In olden days of drafting tables and typewriters, the work products of a landscape architect project were simply a set amount of "signed and sealed" paper copies of site plans and bound specifications or reports. Today, Landscape Architects with subcontracts or partnering in large-scale projects with architects and engineers in this computer age are faced with the tasks of receiving and transmitting design products in electronic files. During the development phases of the project, base files and concept files may be sent in various formats with extensions that signify an ACTIVE DESIGN FILE (AutoCad.dwg,, Microstation.dwt, .bmp, .jpg, etc). While this is acceptable and appropriate for designs in progress and collaborative work, potential problems and missed opportunities for follow-up services can result if you are asked to provide the finished design product in this format.

The unscrupulous prime design consultant can make any changes to these files he may see fit and simply replace your title block with another without your knowledge. Any number of plan revisions or budget adjustments may call for additional "out of scope" design review that should be lucrative follow up services for your office, but instead is performed by the prime utilizing your design database. These practices can often produce an inferior landscape for the development that was not the vision expressed by your design and has not adequately addressed the construction problems that arise when unforeseen existing conditions are encountered. Today's certification laws do not protect Landscape Architects from these actions. The prime consultant may even create an unfavorable impression of your firm's capabilities by referencing you as the initial designer of the landscape plans.

Though there is no foolproof defense against a persistent attempt to copy or reuse your work, two types of controls can make an unethical consultant reconsider his/her actions. One is the filing of a federal government copyright number for each of your designs with the U.S. Copyright Office, Library of Congress, 101 Independence Avenue, S.E., Washington, D.C. 20559-6000. Information on this can be obtained by Internet search (www.loc.gov/copyright/). A copyright warning may be enough to convince your client or prime to call you back on a job and improves your appearance as a knowledgeable professional. Of course, you must consult your lawyer and consider the overlapping design disciplines that may complicate such a filing. This article is not to be considered as legal advice.

A second and complementary approach to this dilemma is to only provide PLOT FILES (AutoCad.plt, Microstation.000) or raster images of your work as the finished product. These "print out only" files cannot be altered but allow the prime to make copies of your work for contractor bids and as references for field use, a reasonable courtesy your firm may want to extend to good clients and other professionals. Again consult your legal counsel on wording of contracts.

Generally, if the prime consultant demands design files and you have not specifically agreed to provide them in your contract, insist upon additional compensation in light of the potential risks noted above and place appropriate disclaimer notes within your documents. Hopefully, Landscape Architects will continue to provide those services beyond initial design that can make your vision a working reality and positive contribution to our communities and the planet.