

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.

www.njasla.org

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President's Message

by Nicholas Tufaro, ASLA

What is Landscape Architecture?

If you are as old as I, you are aware of the seemingly constant debate surrounding the definition of the nomenclature of our profession. Remember when Steve Krog asked "Is it Art?", those strident demands that it must be based only on an environmental ethic, and the painfully determined effort to expel the term from the development of Residential Site Plan Standards and restrict the profession from the State Residential Site Plan Standards Committee. And then there is the disturbing development of protracted new terminology (urban forestry, applied ecology, bioengineering, physical planning, context sensitive design, landscape engineering, feng shui, etc.) that inadvertently (we hope) parcels away very real aspects of the practice of Landscape Architecture.

Members of our recently recognized "closely allied professionals" continue to call us landscapers, apparently in a blissful ignorance of the many accomplishments of our profession officially named 102 years ago. While I have a true respect for landscapers (the installation of some of our work is solely in their hands), should we in turn call architects "carpenters", or engineers "ditch diggers"? I think not. The many considerations on the interplay of client, user, function and construct for each project are common concerns of the practice of Architecture, Civil Engineering, Planning and Landscape Architecture and are discerning issues that warrant a separation of these titles from the construction trades. Many in practice have questioned the term itself, reasoning that somehow others cannot grasp its meaning by a simple association and deduction of the two terms.

Why am I boring you with this old chestnut? Because we are at a stage nationally and locally that recognizes the need to legally define the scope of our practice to stop other licensed professionals who are restricting our practice activities. Can landscape architects present grading plans for municipal approval in this state? NO! Can landscape architects prepare stormwater management plans for individual sites or in a regional context in our state. NO! Can a landscape architect prepare a soil erosion and sedimentation control plan in this state? NO! Can a landscape architect prepare details for approval under his/her own signature in New Jersey? NO! Can a landscape architect affirm the law of gravity, which allows water to run downhill, in a public meeting in New Jersey? Not without a written opinion from an engineer! Yet, these activities are the responsibilities of landscape architects in many other states throughout the nation.

Here and now, the New Jersey chapter is proceeding with an analysis of the strategy needed to change this situation and expand the legal practice scope of landscape architects to allow our full contribution to the future landscape and community character of this state. We need to do this for the profession to survive in the changing marketplace of land use development decisions. And we will desperately need your support and assistance as we map out the route through the maze of regulatory and professional challenges that will arise through these actions.

This is not the time to stay at your desk and ignore NJASLA. Now, more than ever, your actions on behalf of your profession will shape the nature and future of landscape architecture in New Jersey.

NJASLA Calendar of Events

September

12 NJASLA Executive Committee Meeting at Mapleton Nursery in Kingston. 6:00 p.m. tour of the Nursery by Bill Flemer. 7:00 p.m. EXCOM Meeting.

29 Retirement Party for Connie and John Webster 4:00 - 7:00 PM. Log Cabin, The Rutgers Gardens. \$35 per person includes appetizer, dinner, beverages and gift contribution. Reservations required by September 13, 2002. Send check payable to "L.A. Service Fund" to: Department of Landscape Architecture, 93 Lipman Drive - Blake Hall, New Brunswick, NJ 08901 Questions? Call Pam Stewart at 732.932.9317

October

10 Afternoon Presentation at Princeton University by Lee Gilman of Bartlett Tree. Program can be found at www.njasla.org.

10 NJASLA Executive Committee Meeting at 7:00 p.m. in Blake Hall Jury Room, Cook Douglas Campus, Rutgers University, New Brunswick.

18 RU Alumni Reception National ASLA Meeting - San Jose, California. 8:00 - 10:00 PM. Parkside Hall (adjacent to Civic Center)

Position Statement

David Glynn Roberts, AICP/PP, CLA

As a past Second Vice President (1992-94) of NJASLA, I have experience with the inner workings of the Chapter's Executive Committee. During my term as Second Vice President, I was responsible for developing the outreach and public relations efforts of the Chapter, with one of the primary objectives being an increase in the public awareness and appreciation for our profession. Our Public Relations Committee was responsible for publishing the first Membership Directory, developing the Chapter's first Public Relations Strategic Plan, developing a Speakers Bureau and participating as speakers at high school career days. As next year's President Elect and the following year's President, I would like to try to revitalize those outreach efforts.

As important as public awareness and improved outreach is to the Chapter's future, the ongoing efforts to work towards upgrading our licensure from a title act to a practice act would be a priority of mine. As president of the New Jersey Chapter of the American Planning Association from 1994 to 1998, I actively participated with the Coalition of Design Professionals and believe that we need to work constructively with the other licensed design professionals in New Jersey in order to negotiate a practice act that they will not oppose. Such legislation exists in many other states without any appreciable limitations on the areas of professional practice of land surveyors, engineers and architects. The best resource we have to get this message out is the experience from other states that can be marshaled by national ASLA through our Trustee.

Finally, NJASLA has a national reputation for its Annual Meeting and its ability to provide for the continuing education needs of its members. I believe it may be time again to survey the membership for its opinion as to what services they feel are missing or inadequate and to revise the Chapter's Strategic Plan to address those opinions.

Steve Strom Selected As 2002 ASLA Fellow

The New Jersey Chapter Executive Committee is extremely pleased to report that its nomination of Professor Steve Strom for Fellow status in the ASLA was successful, and that Steve will be inducted as "FELLOW, ASLA" at the Investiture Dinner at the upcoming National ASLA Meetings at San Jose in October.

Steve joins four other New Jersey Chapter Members in receiving this prestigious national recognition, namely: Lou Miceli, Roger Wells, Henry Arnold, and Roy H. DeBoer.

Steve graduated from Rutgers in 1970 and went on to the University of Massachusetts for his MLA degree. He worked at the office of Vreeland and Guerriero in NYC from 1972-76, when he joined the faculty of landscape architecture at the University of Wisconsin. He came to Rutgers in 1980. Landscape Architecture became an independent department in 1987, and Steve was named as the first Department Chair, and he still serves in that capacity.

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NJASLA Golf Outing

The NJASLA Annual Golf Outing is Thursday, September 19, 2002 and will be held at "Heron Glen Golf Course." This is Hunterdon County's first golf course which just opened this year.

For a registration form, go to www.njasla.org, or for more information contact: Carl Hintz (chintz@cchnj.com) at 609-883-8383; or Joe Perello (jperello@schoordepalma.com) at 732-577-9000.

Help Wanted

Landscape Architect / Project Manager Position Available

Cording Landscape Design, an aggressive design / build firm based in Northern New Jersey, is seeking a Landscape Architect / Project Manager. Our company focus is high-end residential landscape projects with an emphasis on site work and masonry construction. The ideal candidate will possess excellent communication skills, a BLA from an accredited institution, and have a firm grasp on small-scale design, site work practices, masonry construction, plant material, and AUTOCAD. Candidate responsibilities include assisting with design, budget development, client relations as well as project scheduling, layout and supervision. Our fast paced firm offers benefits, 401-K, excellent salary, and opportunity for growth. Education requirements: BLA preferred.

Please contact Beth Pellegrini or Ron Cording of Cording Landscape Design, 226 N. Franklin Turnpike, Ramsey, NJ 07446. Phone: 201-825-9296. Fax: 201-825-8945.

Steve Strom - 2002 ASLA Fellow Continued From Previous Page

Steve has been the recipient of a number of awards for teaching excellence, and professional excellence and contributions. His research accomplishments and scholarly/creative activity are noteworthy, particularly in light of the fact that he carries a full-time teaching load while administrating the Program. The Department's Study Abroad Programs, and student exchange programs with Germany and Switzerland are the result of his leadership and initiative.

His greatest contribution to our field is his co-authorship of probably the leading technical textbook in our field, titled *Site Engineering for Landscape Architects*. Steve collaborated with Kurt Nathan, a retired faculty member from the Department of Agricultural Engineering. The book has been widely and enthusiastically received, and has gone through three editions, with the fourth in progress, each including improvements over the earlier editions. A total of over 16,000 copies have been sold, and the book has been adopted as a textbook in over 80 institutions. It is currently being translated for publication in two foreign languages.

Join us in congratulating Steve for being selected "Fellow", and thank him for his leadership of the Department, his mentoring of many hundreds of young professionals, and his positive approach and unlimited energy that have inspired many of us to bigger and better things. He is truly deserves the honor of becoming a "Fellow in the Class of 2002".

Fall 2002 Workshop

The Successful Use of Woody Plants in Built Environments

Realizing a successful landscape design depends on retained trees surviving the construction process with strong vitality and the establishment of new plantings. The field of Arboriculture offers opportunities to improve on the results of efforts to green our built environments.

This program will introduce insightful strategies in the use of woody plants. Resources to assist quality control and improve consistency will be provided so your projects can benefit from updated standards (Best Management Practices.)

Instructors: Lee M. Gilman, Dr. Neil Hendrickson, and James W. Consolloy are all New Jersey Certified Tree Experts (NJCTE.) Lee was designated Arborist of the Year in 1997 by the Arborists Association of New Jersey and is active with various industry groups. Neil is a scientist for the Bartlett Tree Research Laboratories heading up support for the Northeastern United States. Jim is the Director of Grounds at Princeton University overseeing the care of its historic landscapes and rapid development.

A registration form and schedule can be found at www.njasla.org. For more information, please contact NJASLA Headquarters at: 609-393-7500.



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From The Home Office At CLARB

Written By, Gil Berry

Submitted By, Jack Carman

Top 10 List Of Why It's Fun To Grade Exams

10. *Free summer trip to a really hot place.*
9. *All the candy you can eat.*
8. *A chance to leave reality and live in LARE land for a few days.*
7. *The FOOD! Breakfast and mid morning snack!!*
6. *Great family vacation opportunity without having to spend all day with the spouse and kids.*
5. *The FOOD! Lunch (guess the mystery meat contest) and mid afternoon snack!!*
4. *A chance to be judged against other graders. No pressure here!!*
3. *Ego booster, how smart you are compared to dumb candidates.*
2. *Excellent opportunity to pre-test exam problems.*
1. *Really nifty pencil gift.*

Seriously...

I feel it's really important to be a part of the process. Grading the exam allows me to be a part of the process and keeps me in touch with the state of the profession. You can see what the future of the profession may look like and have an opportunity to be a part of the process that shapes it. I also find grading to be a great learning experience.

The grading sessions allow enough social time to network with other landscape architects from across the nation and Canada. To find out what the issues are in various areas and how the issues you deal with compare to those of others. How they solve their issues compared to how you solve yours.

I would encourage everyone to volunteer his or her time to attend and participate in a grading session. It really is an enlightening, fun experience. It is an excellent opportunity to be a part of the process that shapes our profession and establishes the high standard of competence necessary to protect the health, safety and welfare of the public and the protection of our natural and built environment.

2003 Design Awards Call For Entries **Stuart D. Appel, CLA, ASLA** A Few Changes

The NJASLA 2003 Call for Entries will be getting an earlier start this year. In an effort to give entrants and organizers more time, the entry forms and Awards Program information will be available on the NJASLA Website, www.njasla.org, by mid-September. **The submission deadline is Monday, November 18, 2002.** The Jury will be held on December 10, 2002, with award notices to all submitting to be received by the end of December.

This new schedule will give participants about two months to prepare PowerPoint submissions, and will give award winners, and our calligrapher, more than a month to prepare presentation boards and award certificates.

We are also taking the "show on the road". Our jury this year will be comprised of a multi-disciplinary panel of about six Boston based colleagues, and will be organized by Gary R. Hildebrand, FASLA, and Sarah Vance.

Gary R. Hildebrand, FASLA, is a principal in the Landscape Architectural firm of Reed Hildebrand Associates, and an adjunct Associate Professor of Landscape Architecture at Harvard. He is a recipient of the Rome Prize Fellowship in Landscape Architecture, has authored more than a dozen books, book reviews and articles, and has been the recipient of design awards from the ASLA, the Boston Society of Landscape Architects, the American Institute of Graphic Arts, and the National Endowment for the Arts.

Sarah Vance is a Landscape Architect in Boston and former Art Director for Space Maker Press. Having received her MLA from Harvard, she has worked for Peter Walker and Partners, the office of Martha Schwartz and freelanced as an exhibit designer. Sarah has taught Landscape Architecture at Harvard, Radcliffe and the Rhode Island School of Design, and has served as a Juror for ASLA National in 1994, 1995 and 2002.

It is our goal to make the 2003 NJASLA Design Awards process and the caliber of the jury worthy of your work. We hope you will find the changes we have made attractive, and will submit early and often.

1st VP and/or Newsletter Editor Needed! **Elaine Walker, ASLA**

In the very near future, I will be re-locating to the West Coast. There is a year remaining in my term as First Vice President. According to the bylaws, Nick can appoint a replacement for the balance of my tenure. This is a wonderful opportunity for any of you that are interested in sharing your ideas and energy with the Chapter. As you know, volunteers are precious commodity and your time would be greatly valued by many. Please contact any Board member (listed on the first page of this newsletter) and consider contributing to the Chapter!

We also need to find a replacement for the newsletter editor. Certainly, this can be the same person that volunteers for the VP position; however, it would be a great opportunity for another Chapter Member to step forward as newsletter editor. This person would become a member at large of the EXCOM so that they would attend the monthly Board meetings. I always found that this is where I gathered many ideas for newsletter articles. The qualities of the ideal editor would be organization, commitment to a timeline, and the willingness to be a "friendly pest"! The position of newsletter editor is not too time consuming. Basically I keep a list in my computer of upcoming articles. I then use that list to issue a "copy due" message to the various authors, which I send out about one week prior to the copy deadline. From there, I use the "friendly pest" method of getting copy from our occasionally delinquent authors! After Thom Rouse at HSBG puts the initial draft together, I review the issue and forward any changes to Thom. Again, please consider sharing your energy with the Chapter! Please e-mail any Board member or me for further information.

My best wishes are with each of you and with the Chapter as a whole in continuing to move forward and achieving our goals. Thank you for many wonderful experiences!



ASLA

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The Steep Slopes Protection Act

by Nicholas Tufaro, ASLA

The Steep Slopes Protection Act, a bill that would set design standards for steep slopes into a model ordinance with mandatory adoption from municipalities, is now under review in the Senate Environment Committee (Bill S630, search the Web for New Jersey Legislature, Bills 2002-2003 to read the text). The bill includes the establishment of a committee to prepare this model ordinance that would also have powers to review and deny alternate ordinances brought forward by municipalities. The proposed committee members now include representation from the New Jersey Society of Municipal Engineers and the State Planning Commission, but no other design professionals (such as a representative of the NJASLA).

This bill was brought to the attention of the Ex Com by members concerned with the negative impacts that would result from new restrictions to development of slopes of 10%+ and specific permitting for any development in areas of slopes of 25%+. Concerns were also voiced that existing land use and soil erosion and sedimentation control regulations already call for municipal and regional review of these situations. For example, the Ten Towns Committee of the Great Swamp Watershed has encouraged the adoption of a model steep slope ordinance in a package of environmental ordinances (See Website http://www.ten-towns.org/Model_ordinances.htm#Steep). Our inquiry to the NJ League of Municipalities revealed opposition from this group on the basis of rejection of mandatory municipal adoption as required in the bill.

2003 Election

by Carl Hintz, ASLA

You will soon receive election material for 2003. The NJASLA Executive Committee is pleased to present very qualified and experienced people for you to choose from to help lead this Chapter into the future. Committee positions include President-Elect, 2nd Vice President and Treasurer.

The return date on the ballot is incorrect. Ballots must be returned by September 13, 2002

Please review the information and **return the ballot by September 13, 2002**. Thank you for voting and consider getting involved yourself! Call up and talk to any Executive Committee member. We need your help!



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