

# New Jersey ASLA Today

Supporting landscape architects in their professional endeavors

Volume 7 • Issue 10 • December 2002

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

[www.njasla.org](http://www.njasla.org)

*President*

**Joseph D. Perello**  
[jperello@achoordepalma.com](mailto:jperello@achoordepalma.com)

*President Elect*

**David G. Roberts**  
[dgrab@aol.com](mailto:dgrab@aol.com)

*1st Vice President*

**Jay Petrongolo**  
[jay\\_petro@hotmail.com](mailto:jay_petro@hotmail.com)

*2nd Vice President*

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[julie@rcn.com](mailto:julie@rcn.com)

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[jerryalewisassoc@aol.com](mailto:jerryalewisassoc@aol.com)

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[olmstead3@aol.com](mailto:olmstead3@aol.com)

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[ntufaro@earthlink.net](mailto:ntufaro@earthlink.net)

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[jpcarman1@comcast.net](mailto:jpcarman1@comcast.net)

*Legal Counsel*

**Larry Powers**  
[lpp@hillwallack.com](mailto:lpp@hillwallack.com)

*Management & Governmental Affairs*

**Joseph A. Simonetta**  
[jsimonetta@hsbgnet.com](mailto:jsimonetta@hsbgnet.com)

*Newsletter Editor*

**Nicholas Tufaro**  
[ntufaro@earthlink.net](mailto:ntufaro@earthlink.net)

[www.njasla.org](http://www.njasla.org)

## President's Message

By Joe Perello, ASLA

The Holiday Season is fast approaching, and in the spirit of Thanksgiving I would like to whole-heartedly thank the more than 100 supporters of NJASLA that attended the Thanksgiving Statehouse Breakfast in Trenton on Monday, November 25th. Without your attendance and commitment to this event, it would not have been possible! Special thanks to those that organized the event, especially Nick Tufaro, ASLA, Immediate Past President, Mark Anderson, ASLA, Chair of the Legislative Affairs Committee, and Joseph Simonetta, of HSBG, our Association Management Consultant.

The Statehouse Breakfast is a perfect example of our chapter members' interest and importance of continued involvement in NJASLA events. But it doesn't stop here folks; there are plenty of upcoming exciting events on the horizon! Check out our Calendar of Events on our website, [www.njasla.org](http://www.njasla.org), and you'll see what we mean.

For starters, the educational and social mega-event of the chapter, the NJASLA Annual Meeting and Exposition, is fast approaching! This year's program has some new and exciting events, like a "Special Tribute to a Most Honorable and Respected Professional in NJASLA". From what I've heard, this unforgettable event will be in a "roast" format... more to come on this from the Annual Meeting Committee!

The Annual Meeting also has a lineup of superior speakers, including Mike Lin, Ken Druse, Tod Marder, Sue Hershkowitz-Coore, Michael VanValkenburgh, and many more to come. Be sure to register early and take advantage of discounted registration rates, while at the same time passing along some of those savings to sponsor/support the attendance of LA students at the Annual Meeting. That's right, please read the registration form and consider checking off one of the little boxes and making a contribution to help support LA student involvement at our Chapter's premiere event of the year! Contributions made by the attendees will be part of the NJASLA's donation to the LA program at Cook College, Rutgers University, for student attendance and participation at this year's Annual Meeting. Let's do what we can to help support our future NJASLA members and colleagues in the profession!

In other NJASLA news, our website will soon be expanded and will offer additional features and opportunities! Brad Meumann, our Website Committee Chair, is working out the details and indicates that more information is "COMING SOON" to a PC near you!

The organization of both new and existing NJASLA Committees is ongoing, and we're looking for input and participation by YOU, our members, friends and supporters! So consider one of the many committees that spark your interest, and contact our NJASLA headquarters for additional information.

Wishing you and your loved ones a Healthy and Peaceful Holiday Season!

### ENVIRONMENTAL RESOLUTIONS, INC. ENGINEERS • SCIENTISTS • PLANNERS



Our firm is seeking a Landscape Architect to enhance the firms, planning, and design and construction management capabilities. We are a progressive group of professionals dedicated to client service. Our company is growing and we have recently expanded into a new Burlington County office in Mount Laurel, New Jersey.

We are interested in an individual with a degree in Landscape Architecture and a CAD/design program background. This person will aid in the development of park and recreation projects from concept through ribbon cutting. In addition, a primary function will be the review of development plans for municipal clients.

Our firm is seeking a motivated individual interested in emerging into a new area of the business and enabling this section to develop.

Send resume to: Environmental Resolutions, Inc., 525 Fellowship Road, Suite 300, Mount Laurel, New Jersey 08054-3415, attn. Gerre Hatch, EOE.

## NJASLA Calendar of Events

### December

**Friday, December 6, New Jersey American Planners Association Annual Conference & Awards** at the Hyatt Hotel, New Brunswick, NJ. Details for registration can be found at [www.njapa.org](http://www.njapa.org)

**Wednesday, Dec. 11, 6:30 – 9:00 PM - ANJEC : Costs of Sprawl**  
Washington, Gloucester  
email [info@anjec.org](mailto:info@anjec.org)

**Tuesday, December 12, 7:00 PM, NJASLA Executive Committee Meeting** At Hill Wallack, Princeton.  
Email [jperello@schoordepalma.com](mailto:jperello@schoordepalma.com)

### January

**Wednesday, January 8, 6:30 PM, - Professional Engineers Society of Mercer County -Bill Rawlyk of Delaware and Raritan Greenway, Inc. - Land Preservation, At**  
Merlino's Waterfront, 1140 River Road, Trenton. \$25 dinner reservation (nonrefundable)  
Contact [dhutchinson@arorapc.com](mailto:dhutchinson@arorapc.com)

**Tuesday, January 14, 7:00 PM, NJASLA Executive Committee Meeting** At Hill Wallack, Princeton.  
Email [jperello@schoordepalma.com](mailto:jperello@schoordepalma.com)

### February

**2003 NJASLA Annual Meeting New Jersey's Premier Landscape Architecture Regional Convention and Trade Show**, February 9th - 11th at the Trump Taj Mahal Casino Resort, Atlantic City, NJ.

## Trustee's Report

By Jack Carman, NJASLA

As Trustee on the NJ Chapter, I am impressed with all that our national Association is involved in to move our profession forward into this new era. The fall Trustee meeting was held prior to the Annual Meeting in San Jose, CA. Many of the issues relate to policy and direction of the association. I have highlighted a few of the topics that were presented and discussed over the course of the two-day meeting:

- ❖ Government Affairs Director Cara Welch and others reported on the success of the recent security design symposium, follow-up activities underway, and on support from partners and sponsors for holding another symposium.
- ❖ Executive VP, Nancy Somerville, recapped the results of the Board's midyear priority-setting and program review session, and compared priority and program effectiveness ratings provided by the board, chapter presidents, and staff, noting differences and similarities. The results confirmed the high priority of public relations/awareness and the need for additional attention/resources committed to this area. The program effectiveness ratings also confirmed the need for enhancing the functioning of the Professional Interest Groups and for developing an effective career discovery program. The Board discussed the results and provided input on the process.
- ❖ Constitution and Bylaws Committee Chair Don Leslie briefed the board on the work the committee has done to revise the ASLA Constitution and Bylaws. It has been nearly 20 years since the documents have undergone significant review and revision. Review and comment on the revisions will take place through February 2003, with BOT action scheduled for the midyear meeting. The model chapter constitution and bylaws will be updated following BOT approval of the national documents. (NJ will be revising the Chapters by-laws upon completion by nationals review).
- ❖ Leadership Training Committee Chair, Tom Dunbar, reported that the second train-the-trainer session would be held during the San Jose meeting, and that a training session is scheduled for the New Jersey Annual Meeting in Feb. 2003! The goal of the committee is to reach young professionals and students through the training process. (Mark your calendars to attend!)
- ❖ At midyear, the Member Services Committee was charged with reviewing chapter formation guidelines and recommending action on the chapter formation moratorium. The committee recommended lifting the ban on new chapter formation but revising the Bylaws to disallow formation of new chapters within states that currently have chapters. The Board approved the proposed Bylaws revision and rescinded the moratorium on new chapter formation.
- ❖ Finance VP, Ed Curtin, presented the revised FY03 budget and FY04 draft budgets, which were structured to return a total of \$600,000 to the reserves. The remainder of the FY02 operating deficit, between \$300,000 and \$400,000, will be made up in FY05 and FY06. The Board discussed the revised FY02 and draft FY04 budgets and approved them as presented.
- ❖ Finance Committee Actions. The Board approved the committee's proposal for a change from fiscal year to calendar year, effective January 1, 2007.
- ❖ ASLA Library and Education Advocacy Fund (LEAF) Chair, Len Hopper, presented the LEAF mission statement and priorities. Top priorities are the Professional Practice Library; a study of the economic impact of the profession; the 2003 national landscape architects' salary survey; LA Kids, a career discovery program; and the ASLA Online archive. The voting members discussed the priorities, provided input on how they can be accomplished, and identified potential revenue/funding sources. A check-off for voluntary contributions to LEAF will be included on the ASLA dues invoices beginning in January 2003.

## 100+ Landscape Architects Impress Trenton at "Thanksgiving" Statehouse Breakfast and Awards Exhibit

On Monday morning, November 25, Landscape Architects from throughout the state descended upon the Trenton Statehouse to support the profession in the first NJASLA Legislative Breakfast. Senate and Assembly members networked with our members and a strong contingent of students and faculty from the Rutgers University, Cook College Department of Landscape Architecture over pastries, coffee and an assortment of juices prior to attending meetings of various Statehouse Committees. Several vendors in the land development industry also attended to support the profession. The event attracted approximately thirty legislators and their aides.

In the busy hallway display areas of the Statehouse, presentation boards of the NJASLA Design Awards program were exhibited and over 200 landscape architecture brochures (ASLA and NJASLA-PAC) were distributed to legislators over the week.

The program was intentionally simplified to allow an informal introduction of our professionals to the social/lobbying workings of the Statehouse. A "talking points" index card was distributed to members giving some vital statistics about the legislators that confirmed their attendance in advance and Committees in session that day. In the room hosting the event, a "looped" PowerPoint presentation of the Awards (prepared by Joseph Perello, NJASLA President 2002) provided a visual review of the scope of our work in New Jersey. Julia M. Lent, the Manager of State Government Affairs for the American Society of Landscape Architects, represented a national perspective. Ms. Lent presented a short report on the progress of the "51 by 2010" effort for nationwide practice

licensure of Landscape Architects, with a graphic board expressing the USA state-by-state situation. Rounding out the program, "Certificate of Appreciation" plaques were presented to Senators John O. Bennett and Peter J. Inverso, co-sponsors of our successful revision to the Building Services Act (Closely Allied Professional).

Joseph Simonetta, our chief administrative officer and lobbying consultant, stated that our event was extremely successful in effectively providing the legislators with the impression of Landscape Architects as an informed and concerned force within the land development

industry and a professional constituency that deserves more attention.

All those that took time out from their busy schedules to participate in this important first step toward a stronger presence for Landscape Architecture in New Jersey are to be congratulated and heartily thanked. While the Executive Committee and our support staff provided the framework for the event, it was a success due to the efforts of those attending and presenting Landscape Architects as professionals deeply concerned with the future of the Garden State.

## You'll Kick Yourself If You Miss This One!

### 2003 NJASLA Annual Meeting

New Jersey's Premier Landscape Architecture Regional Convention and Trade Show, February 9th - 11th at the Trump Taj Mahal Casino Resort, Atlantic City, NJ.

- Are you interested in learning how to master free hand drawing – sign up for the Mike Lin Graphic Design workshop...
- Do you desire to improve your management capabilities – then attend the Thomas Dunbar/William T. Eubanks III - Leadership Development workshop...
- Would you like to develop a better understanding of construction detailing – do not miss Nicholas Dines keynote address...

...and so much more!

Programs and registration forms coming out shortly - look for them in your mailbox... or visit the web at [www.njasla.org](http://www.njasla.org).

## Wanted: Movers And Shakers

NJASLA needs volunteers for the following Programs and Committees in 2003 programs:

1. Legislative Affairs Committee
2. Annual Meeting Committee
3. Chapter Initiatives Program Committee
4. Budget Planning Committee
5. NLAW Events Committee
6. Golf Outing Committee
7. Election Nominations Committee
8. Website Committee
9. Coalition of Design Professionals
10. Parks & Open Space Preservation Committee
11. Social Events Committee
12. Public Relations Committee
13. Membership Recruitment Committee
14. NJASLA Calendar and Art Book Project

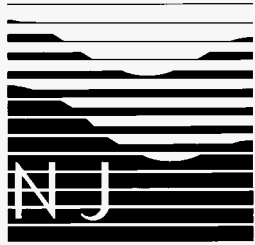
### VOLUNTEER TODAY!!!!

Each Committee can only survive if members participate and determine to make a difference and help shape the character of the Chapter. As the year unfolds, we shall highlight the activities of these committees.

Contributors and those wishing to assist in NJASLA Committees and Programs or just generally get involved are strongly encouraged to contact any ExCom member or NJASLA headquarters ASAP. VOLUNTEER TODAY!!!



ASLA



ASLA

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Acting Newsletter Editor  
**Nicholas Tufaro**

Editorial Offices:  
**196 West State Street  
Trenton, New Jersey 08608  
Phone: 609.393.7500  
Fax: 609.393.9891**

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## New Jersey Shade Tree Federation Holds 77th Annual Meeting At cape May (Part 1 of 2) By Jeffrey A. Tandul, CLA, ASLA

The New Jersey Shade Tree Federation (NJSTF) held its Annual Meeting and Conference October 18, 19, & 20, 2002, in Cape May New Jersey. The NJSTF membership includes Shade Tree Commissioners arborists and others interested in trees and their care.

The number of attendees has grown steadily in the 17 years I have been attending meetings as Chairman of the Linden, NJ, Shade Tree Commission.

A partial summary of the presentations at this year's meeting follows below.:

**"Water and Soil Relationships"** (Dr. Stephanie Murphy, Coordinator Rutgers Soil Testing Lab)

Dr. Murphy discussed the concept of soil moisture and its availability to plants. Of particular interest was the behavior of water in non-uniform soils. Laboratory and field demonstrations have shown how plants and sod grown in sandy soils can dry out to the wilt point when planted in clay or other than sandy soil types. Water tends to be pulled toward finer texture soils (e.g. clay) from coarser textured soils (i.e. sand). This can be a critical consideration relative to plant source selection and designing and maintaining sustainable landscapes. Soil compaction was also investigated. Soil compaction reduces volume of air-filled pores and increases soil strength, a desirable condition for paving and other construction. However, soil compaction can exacerbate drainage problems and increase anaerobic conditions. Leaching and denitrification can occur in anaerobic conditions eventually leading to plant mortality.. Murphy also discussed various ecological strategies that plants utilize to combat drought conditions

**"Monroe Tree Protection Ordinance"** (Jerome J. Convery, Attorney At Law, Gregory M. Hurley, NJ CTE, Marguerite A. Schaffer, Attorney At Law

The Monroe Tree Protection Ordinance utilized the East Brunswick Tree Protection Ordinance as a base starting point. The Town of Monroe was sued by the NJ Builder's Association, and fortunately, the court "dismissed the case with prejudice". Originally, the ordinance was incorporated into Monroe's Land Use Ordinance. The Monroe ordinance originally created a Conservation Officer to enforce the ordinance and the Planning Administrator would issue permits for tree removals.

The NJ Builder's Association's Lawsuit stated that these positions and powers are not part of the NJ State Municipal Land Use Law (MLUL). As a matter of law, the State MLUL supercedes any local ordinances. Monroe attempted to compel developers to plant trees offsite in the event that they could not comply with replacement onsite. This would be considered an offsite improvement and under the law, this is considered an "Exaction". The layman's definition of an exaction is when a township attempts to get something from a developer they are not entitled to under the law. A typical example would be a township that states to a developer they may build, if they build a new firehouse for the municipality at the other end of town.

Fortunately, Judge Wolfsan (Middlesex County), who heard the case, is very well versed in the MLUL. He assigned a "Master" (expert) to review the case. An experienced planner was also assigned to mediate between the developer and Monroe. Several changes were recommended to be applied to the ordinance:

1. Tree removal ordinance should not be under the Land Use Ordinance, but moved into the general code of police powers for the town. Regulation and preservation of trees is a legitimate power under the General Police Power in NJ State Law.

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2. No discrimination can be made for existing single family home owners compared to developers. The same fees and penalties must apply to all equally.
3. An exemption was built into the ordinance, stating that five (5) trees could be legally removed per year without permit, fee or replacement. (Originally, this only applied to single family homeowners)
4. A "sparse land" provision was eliminated from the ordinance. This related to the size and number of trees to be replaced. This would be handled during the planning and site plan application process.
5. A tree escrow fund would be created for sites where there would be no room for tree replacement in post development. It was set up as an "option" system (this is critical). Developers would have the option to replace trees on site, or pay funds into an escrow account for tree planting elsewhere. The Developer could also option to plant trees elsewhere in the municipality.

The ordinance also set up a "Schedule of Comparable Tree Value" and a built in appeal process that would end with the City Council. The Ordinance was grafted into the Site Plan Ordinance to prevent conflicts with the planning and site approval process. The Conservation Officer makes recommendations to the Planning Board on tree replacement for applicants, however, the Planning Board has the final say.

The dismissal of the case with prejudice after the mediation process is indicative of the strength of the ordinance. This process and form of Tree Protection Ordinance should be a model for other towns in New Jersey.

**"Mapping NJ Trees—Communities Using G.I.S"** (Kevin Heatley, Mid-Atlantic Regional Manager ACRT, INC. Environmental Specialist Hughesville, PA)

Most Landscape Architects practicing in the computer age, know that GIS stands for

Geographical Information System. This presentation discussed how GIS could be used effectively for managing urban forests. The data gathered provided output on species survival and location. Tree mortality could be tracked and evaluated to determine if new tree plantings were keeping pace with dying trees. Some other benefits of this type of mapping include, maintenance tracking, reducing liability, identify trends and relationships, public education and most importantly, planning for a "sustainable canopy cover"

The first step is to map the landscape utilizing GPS (Global Positioning System) and handheld tablet computers. GPS data should be at the "sub-meter" level. Tablet computers are recommended over so called "palm type devices" because they can be plugged in at the office and utilized for a main desktop computer. This type of "Geo-reference mapping is very effective because it can be tied into regional, national and international data bases.

Uses for GPS include mapping of ornamental under-story, riparian woodland buffers, invasive species, insect and disease assessment and individual trees.

The next step is to record the information into a data base or multiple data bases. This information gathered will allow the identification of trees that are assets or liabilities. Information and data such as DBH (diameter breast height), maintenance category (e.g. Hazardous, healthy, pruning required, etc.) tree lawn width, sidewalk condition, presence of utilities, proximity of buildings to road (for street tree plantings) can be stored and evaluated. Obviously, this whole system can be tied into other municipal data bases identifying everything from catch basins to fire hydrants, etc.

A working history can be established for trees that will aid in potential litigation on so called hazardous trees or trees that blow down unexpectedly. Data can be used to generate work orders and rotational prun-

ing lists (e.g. 5, 8, 10 years), aid in proper plant selection. Data can now also be tied into AutoCAD, becoming a powerful tool for public works operations and maintenance facilities.

Some may run into opposition from those out there who are not computer literate, however, this system should allow a proactive approach to management of urban forests and other municipal facilities. As the speaker stated humorously, "Progress only happens one funeral at a time".

The NJ Shade Tree Federation is a valuable resource to those interested in planting and care of our trees and urban forests. For additional information or to become a member, contact Bill Porter at the New Jersey Shade Tree Federation, Blake Hall, 93 Lipman Drive, New Brunswick, NJ 08901, (732)-246-3210). The presentations will be printed nearly verbatim in their monthly periodical, "The Shade Tree" over the next year.

Part 2 of this article will contain a summary of the following presentations:

**"No Net Loss Legislation"** (David Johnson, NJ State Forester

**"Bacterial Leaf Scorch"** (Pam Tappen, NJ State Forester & Dr. Ann Brooks Gould Extension)

**"Protecting Trees During Home Construction"** (Dr. T. Davis Sydnor, Professor of Urban Forestry, School of Natural Resources, The Ohio State University)



24 Columbia Road  
Suite 260  
Somerville, NJ 08876

Phone: (908) 707-0300  
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