



# WASLA Newsletter

Washington Chapter American Society of Landscape Architects

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### MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT

#### Christopher Overdorf, WASLA President

I love landscape architecture. I absolutely believe in our purpose and the benefits we all provide to the health of our landscapes and communities. Unfortunately, a strong majority of the public does not recognize the benefits of our profession nor realize the difference between our profession and the landscape industry.

We have to become more engaged as a group of professionals. The licensure bill failed to make it through the last legislative session because there is still that incorrect perception that landscape architects and landscapers are synonymous. When WASLA testified during the last legislative session, we were outnumbered 2:1 by members of WSNLA, WALP and APLD. If you believe that landscape designers are qualified to design public spaces then you should continue to do nothing. If you don't believe this, then do something about it. If the licensure bill is to pass in next year's session then we need to come together as a group, change the perception that people have about our profession, exchange ideas, debate and become more active in the issues that affect our profession.

How can you help? Let us know what legislative efforts and initiatives are important to you. Let us know what volunteer activities you are involved with and how the chapter can help you. WASLA wants to publicize your efforts and let decision

**April 18**  
[AIA/WASLA Happy Hour](#)

**April 24**  
[Urban Sustainability Workshop](#)

**April 25**  
[LARE Prep Course](#)

**May 8**  
[Economics, Sustainability & Historic Preservation](#)

**May 9**  
[LARE Prep Course](#)

**May 14**  
[Restroom Design for Crime Prevention](#)

**May 16**  
[AIA/WASLA Happy Hour](#)

**June 20**  
[AIA/WASLA Happy Hour](#)

**June 27**  
[AIA/WASLA Happy Hour](#)

**July 18**  
[AIA/WASLA Happy Hour](#)

**August 15**  
[AIA/WASLA Happy Hour](#)

**September 19**  
[AIA/WASLA Happy Hour](#)

**October 17**  
[AIA/WASLA Happy Hour](#)

makers know the impact landscape architects are having on our communities. Respond to the Advocacy Alerts from both ASLA and WASLA. Join the Governmental Affairs committee and help shape the priorities for WASLA. Please contact Curtis LaPierre [curtis.lapierre@otak.com](mailto:curtis.lapierre@otak.com) for more information about the Governmental Affairs Committee.

We also need to actively debate and exchange ideas. Open dialogue is the only way of exploring the roots of the many crises that face our communities and our profession. Let WASLA know your opinion. Is there an issue that you believe landscape architects should be rallying around? We are inviting chapter members to submit op-eds that will be published in the chapter's e-newsletter and on the website. We need to hear your thoughts, ideas and issues that are important to you. If you have an idea for an op-ed, please send a 1-page word document to [khilde@triadassociates.net](mailto:khilde@triadassociates.net).

Finally, congratulations to the recipients of the 2008 WASLA Professional Awards. Your award-winning work helps to actively demonstrate the difference between landscape architecture and the landscape industry. WASLA has an extensive public relations & publicity program in place to market your talents to a wide audience.

### Op-Ed: LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTURAL OPINIONS AND EDITORIALS

Is there something you need to get off your chest? Is there an issue that you think chapter members should know about and rally around? Let us know your thoughts & opinions. Email a 1-page word document to [khilde@triadassociates.net](mailto:khilde@triadassociates.net).

### Our Sponsors



[Cascade Recreation](#)



[Pacific Earth Works](#)



[Sitalines](#)

### Committee Reports and Public Relations

### NATIONAL LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTURE MONTH

**Don Benson, ASLA, Chapter Trustee**  
**Keith Bates, ASLA, Member at Large, Western Washington**

WASLA is celebrating and noting three main events for Landscape Architecture Month (April). Please join WASLA in acknowledging these events on behalf of the Landscape Architecture profession. Contact Don Benson, Trustee, at 206-438-2027 or [don\\_benson@urscorp.com](mailto:don_benson@urscorp.com) if there are any questions.

**WASLA Celebrates Renewal of 10-Year Partnership with National Park Service Rivers, Trails and Conservation**



Click here to find out about sponsoring this newsletter.

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## Assistance Program (NPS-RTCA)

WASLA is in the process of signing a new Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) with the NPS-RTCA celebrating 10 years of this trend-setting partnership. The MOU is being signed by Chris Overdorf, Chapter President and Don Benson, Chapter Trustee on behalf of WASLA and Rory Westberg, Deputy Regional Director on behalf of NPS. The MOU initially signed in 1998 was renewed previously in 2003. The partnership has served as a national model for the ASLA National NPS-RTCA MOU signed several years ago. Under the partnership, NPS will have several opportunities to announce this 10-year milestone and promote another decade of collaboration and will keep WASLA informed about upcoming announcements. WASLA and NPS-RTCA have conducted 7 design charrettes for communities around the State. In addition to benefitting the communities, these events have dramatically increased the visibility of the landscape architecture profession throughout the State. The most recent charrette, conducted in the Castle Rock area in the fall of 2007, was a joint event with the Oregon Chapter of ASLA.

## WASLA/ NPS-RTCA Plans Charrette for Spokane Beacon Hill Area in October 2008

Planning is underway for another WASLA/NPS-RTCA charrette for the Beacon Hill area of Spokane to be held either on the 17th and 18th or the 24th and 25th of October, 2008. Beacon Hill is the last undeveloped ridgeline in the Spokane area. It is an incredible piece of open space, valued for its views, character, proximity to Spokane neighborhoods, and great trail system. The Beacon Hill Trail network is a premiere regional destination for non-motorized trail users. The Fat Tire Trail Riders Club, the lead local group working with WASLA and NPS-RTCA, is leading the effort to formalize, recognize, and preserve the trail system. Recruiting of interested professionals and students on both sides of the state will start soon, so keep the event and dates in mind. It is hoped that members of the Idaho/Montana Chapter of ASLA and University of Idaho students will be able to join WASLA at the event. There will be more expanded charrette articles appearing in upcoming WASLA newsletters.

## Presenting to Future Landscape Architects - A Call for Action

Landscape Architecture month brings all of us an entire month to celebrate our profession and the enjoyment we receive when we craft our art throughout our neighborhoods and communities. ASLA National has identified the need for Landscape Architects across the nation and the perfect time to promote our profession is during the spring season. This year, let's use the months of April and May as a time to give back to the profession and your community by presenting the Landscape Architecture field to classes at K-12 schools

Landscape Architects on both sides of the state are visiting schools (K-12) this month and next to educate students about Landscape Architecture and the possibility of a career in the profession. This process will continue throughout 2008 and into 2009 and beyond. The visitations, in conjunction with a call to action from Perry Howard, ASLA National President, are in response to an upcoming shortage noted by the Federal Bureau of Labor Statistics stating that the demand for Landscape Architecture services will grow by approximately 16% by the year 2016. The profession also needs to increase the number of graduates from Landscape Architecture by about 6% per year in order to meet future demand (as many firm principals can attest to in their quest for qualified candidates to join their firms).

Focusing on K-12 schools helps make contact with young minds to broaden the awareness of what we do. Residential, commercial, parks, urban, governmental, zoos, visioning, designing, and planning; it is a great feeling to excite students with the understanding of what is Landscape Architecture.

The National ASLA website offers many tools and presentations to assist us when presenting Landscape Architecture; go to the Career pull down menu and click on the Career Discovery link on the ASLA website to find the tools to help you present the profession that we love.

WASLA is asking you present to one or two schools or class groups in your neighborhood. Download the Career Discovery Powerpoint from the ASLA website to help start your presentation in the right direction. Use this and other tools to craft a presentation focusing on your audience and what excites you personally about Landscape Architecture.

In addition to the three above-noted events, WASLA and NPS-RTCA are in the very preliminary planning stages for a charrette to be held in Kitsap County to look at trail and recreational opportunities along the highway corridor from Gorst to Bremerton. This event will probably be held during the Spring (April) of 2009 (stay tuned).

**PROFESSIONALS MENTOR STUDENTS AT  
UW PORTFOLIO REVIEW DAY**

On April 12 six professionals met with students at the University of Washington to help students learn how to put together resumes, cover letters and portfolios. The participants described what is sought, showed their own portfolios, and then reviewed the students' mock-ups. Many thanks to:

Carrie Culp, Highridge Corporation  
Dean Koontz, Hough Beck & Baird Inc.  
Wilma Stordahl, GGLO  
Andriana Ekahastuti, Weisman Design Group  
Mark Vysoky, City of Sammamish Parks and Recreation  
David Rehfeld, BCRA

## PEACEFUL VALLEY PARKS DESIGN CHARRETTE

### **Craig Anderson, ASLA, Member at Large Eastern Washington**

Spokane area Landscape Architects led an emotionally charged 3-day design charrette for the Peaceful Valley neighborhood over the last weekend of March. This low- and middle-income neighborhood is located a 5-minute walk from downtown Spokane right along the Spokane River. Considered "quirky" by many, the neighborhood has strong background from the "hippie" generation and is very interested in the sustainability of their neighborhood's residents, parks, and natural setting along the river. After facing increasing development pressure over the last several years, the neighborhood has begun to "fight back" against large condo developments and high-income housing. The parks charrette was conceived as a possible catalyst for the neighborhood to begin protecting their natural setting and peaceful nature of the neighborhood.

The charrette was held in the cramped quarters of the PV community building, with four teams leading design efforts on separate areas of the neighborhood including three established parks and community connections/gateways. The landscape architects had a tremendous number of ideas contributed as residents moved from group to group giving their own opinions and options to each design area. Each group developed several options and sketches from the input of the residents. An open house was held in an adjacent resident's garage with each group presenting their design options to a large gathering of PV residents, community members, and City officials.

Lessons learned:

- Identify any overall goals, especially the more esoteric

goals, before design begins

- Always think back to those goals as you move your group through the design process
- Use an outside (non-LA or non-designing LA) facilitator to keep things moving in a timely manner.
- A shorter design process (2-day) charrette can accomplish much.

"We can't thank you and your crew of L.A.'s enough. Your level of professionalism and compassion for our neighborhoods interests was unbelievable." - Matthew Phillipy, Chairman - Peaceful Valley Neighborhood Group

Special thanks to the following for their support of the Peaceful Valley Charrette:

Craig Andersen  
Tim Gavin  
Angie Feser  
Wil Sinclair  
Ken Van Voorhis  
Mike Terrell



Angie Feser leads a group of Peaceful Valley residents through the design process to renovate their neighborhood parks.

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## Announcements

## CONGRATULATIONS 2008 WASLA PROFESSIONAL AWARD WINNERS

Congratulations to the 2008 WASLA Professional Award winners. For more information and the jury's comments please visit the WASLA website at <http://www.wasla.org/awardsprof08.htm>

### 1. General Design

- **Honor Award**

GCH formerly Belt Collins / Chambers Bay Golf Course and Soundview Trial

- **Merit Award**

Gustafson Guthrie Nichol / Robert and Arlene Kogod Courtyard at the Donald Reynolds Center, Smithsonian Institution

Gustafson Guthrie Nichol Ltd. And Swift Company LLC / Seattle City Hall

Mayer/Reed / The Rain Garden of the Oregon Convention Center Expansion

- **Special Mention for Sustainability**

Site Workshop / Kitsap County Administration Building

- **Special Mention for Social Response**

GGLO / Greenbridge Parks and Trails

- **Special Mention for Architecture/Landscape Architecture Collaboration**

Mithun with Catherine Anderson / Januik Winery

### 2. Residential Design

- **Merit Award**

Triad Associates / Danielson Grove

### 3. Planning and Analysis

- **Honor Award**

Site Workshop / Village at Galisteo Basin Preserve in Santa Fe

- **Merit Award**

Portico Group / The Atlanta Beltline Arboretum

### 4. Research and Communications

- **Merit Award**

The Berger Partnership / Water Management Strategies

### 5. Works in Process

- **Merit Award**

Charles Anderson Landscape Architecture /

## Anchorage Museum Expansion

### **Peoples Choice**

Triad Associates / Danielson Grove

Many thanks to our Program Sponsors for the 2008 Awards Program, Pacific Earthworks and Electrical Representatives West.

### **LAST CHANCE TO SPONSOR AWARDS SUMMARY**

The chapter is preparing a handsome Summary of the WASLA Professional Awards. This full-color document will highlight the winners of this year's awards contest and the achievements of our profession. There are still a few openings for Summary Sponsors. The sponsorship fee is \$500, for which sponsors receive a quarter-page advertisement in the Summary and the gratitude of their colleagues. Telephone or email Ann Macfarlane at the chapter office right away if this is of interest to you.

### **2008 AIA/WASLA EMERGING PROFESSIONALS**

This Friday, April 18th, Jones & Jones Architects & Landscape Architects

Come enjoy our second AIA/WASLA Happy Hour. Food and drink hosted by Jones & Jones and your WASLA President, Chris Overdorf

The first happy hour session was a great success at SiteWorkshop. Students, young professionals, interns, senior staff, management and principals all enjoyed a great evening of food and drink as SiteWorkshop showcased award winning projects. Be there at 5:30 pm on April 18th as Jones & Jones continues the series at their historic office located in Pioneer Square.

Jones & Jones Architects and Landscape Architects  
117 S. Main Street, Suite 300  
Seattle, WA 98104  
Friday, April 18th, 5:30 - 7:00 p.m.

### **LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTS FRONT AND CENTER**

Building upon the successes and imperatives of the Open Space Seattle 2100 process and as part of their work as boardmembers with the [Seattle Great City Initiative](#), Nathaniel Cormier, ASLA and Brice Maryman, ASLA have been helping to form the [Green Legacy Coalition](#), which is seeking to fund continued investments in Seattle's green infrastructure. More than just parks, this effort attempts to identify catalyst funding that promotes an urban ecosystem approach to capital improvement projects, by emphasizing multiple public green space benefits. Among the more than 25 organizations in the coalition to date are non-profits like Groundswell NW, Parks and Open Space Advocates, Feet First, Green Duwamish Watershed Alliance, Friends of Seattle's Olmsted Parks, Trust for Public Land, People for Puget Sound, Seattle Urban Forest Stakeholders, and Audubon Seattle as well as the landscape architecture firms of SvR Design, Richard Haag Associates, Mithun and AHBL. Thanks to the efforts by the coalition and particularly the staff of the [Trust for Public Land](#) and the Seattle Great City Initiative, eight members of the Seattle City Council will soon vote to empanel a new committee to identify a package of potential projects which may be included on the November 2008 ballot.

For more information, you may sign up to the Green Legacy Coalition listserv by going here: <http://groups.google.com/group/greenlegacy/subscribe?hl=en>

### **PARKS ACTION ALERT**

We are writing to ask that you contact Seattle City Council members and Mayor Greg Nickels urging them to renew the ProParks levy because it helps Seattle build and maintain green, active, and healthy communities.

With the expiration of the ProParks levy, the city council and the mayor are now weighing the benefits of putting a renewed green space funding package on the 2008 ballot. Now is a critical time to contact city council members and the mayor to express your support of a ProParks Levy on the 2008 ballot.

Seattle Great City Initiative has helped catalyzed the formation of the Green Legacy Coalition composed of over twenty five groups who support renewing the ProParks levy as an investment in Seattle's "green infrastructure." Our green infrastructure is a network of connected green spaces including parks, greenways, and streetscapes that enhance ecological function, protect Puget Sound water quality, and give Seattle's residents places to gather and play.

If we pass up this opportunity, we will miss the chance to invest in essential amenities that make Seattle a liveable city, especially as the city grows.

Please contact:

[Mayor Greg Nickels](#)

[City Councilmembers](#)

### FOOOORRRRRRE.....

The weather is warming and the sun is starting to shine. Time to get out those clubs and start swinging toward the 2008 Golf Tournament.

Plans are underway and we're coordinating with Mother Nature. Good food, good friends, good weather, and a great golf course. Keep an eye on the newsletter for upcoming announcements, date - location - prizes and more, coming soon.

Would you like be a part of planning the golf event for this year? If you have suggestions, time, or just a little bit of energy, send an email to Keith Bates - [keith.bates@otak.com](mailto:keith.bates@otak.com) Also send an email to Keith if you want to get your name on the SPONSOR or PLAYER list early.

### TACOMA LARE STUDY GROUP

If you are interested in forming a study group in the Tacoma Area for the June 2008 L.A.R.E. please contact Amy Wolfe at [amy@bradtrees.com](mailto:amy@bradtrees.com)

### URBAN SUSTAINABILITY WORKSHOP & TOUR

Urban Sustainability offers a [Public Spaces Workshop](#) with Lars Gemzoe of Gehl Architects on Thursday, April 24, and a Sustainability Tour to Vancouver and Victoria on Thursday and Friday, May 15 and 16.

### RESTROOM DESIGN FOR CRIME PREVENTION & MAINTENANCE

May 14, 2008  
Point Defiance Zoo and Aquarium.

Register online at:  
[www. wrpatoday.org/training/wrpa.htm](http://www.wrpatoday.org/training/wrpa.htm)

[Details here.](#)