



WASLA Newsletter

Washington Chapter American Society of Landscape Architects

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FEBRUARY 2008

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NATIONAL LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTURE MONTH

Don Benson, ASLA, WASLA Trustee

There are at least three upcoming events or efforts related to Landscape Architecture Month in April that I would like to mention to the WASLA membership. I am also going to report these events or efforts to ASLA National to highlight WASLA activity in the upcoming months.

1. The Federal Bureau of Labor Statistics has projected that the demand for landscape architecture services will grow by approximately 16 percent by the year 2016, making the profession the fastest growing of all the design professions. Almost half of all landscape architecture firms added staff positions in 2007 and many firm principals are stating that they are concerned about the lack of qualified candidates. In order to meet the future demand, we need to increase the number of graduates from landscape architecture programs by at least 6 percent each year. Although we have done some reaching out in the past, we need to do more. Therefore, we need to make a concerted effort to reach out to K-12 students during the next few months (and years). I am calling for volunteers, particularly those with kids in K-12 schools, to go into the classrooms and educate students about the profession. There are a variety of "tool kits" available to make presentations-our WASLA CIP-funded education brochure ca. 2003, a landscape architecture coloring book produced by the North Carolina chapter, and a power point presentation produced by ASLA National, among others. Let's get into the schools as soon as possible to make these presentations and help "grow the profession."

2. WASLA is proposing to renew our partnership with the



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[Sitelines](http://www.sitelines.com)



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National Park Service-Rivers, Trails, and Conservation Service Program (NPS-RTCA) in April. Through this partnership, which has served as a national model for the ASLA National NPS-RTCA Memorandum of Understanding and is now in its 10th year, WASLA and NPS-RTCA have conducted eight design charrettes in communities around Washington State. We renewed the partnership in 2003 and now it is time to renew it again.

3. Tentatively, WASLA and NPS-RTCA are interested in scheduling our 9th collaborative charrette in the Spokane area, probably in mid-October. This is an early heads-up to professionals and students to think about participating in this worthy effort. More details will be provided in the months ahead as the planning proceeds.

Please contact me if there are questions and if you are interested in participating in the above. Thanks!

Don Benson, ASLA, AICP
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2011 ASLA NATIONAL MEETING-SEATTLE

Don Benson, ASLA, WASLA Trustee

As many of you know, Seattle has been selected to host the 2011 ASLA Annual Meeting. As interim chair for the 2011 Annual Meeting Planning by the host chapter (WASLA), I want to solicit interest (volunteers) from the Chapter membership to help begin the planning. The host chapter is mainly responsible for two efforts: 1.) developing a complete tour and field session recommendation by 2010 (up to 12-20 high quality tours/field sessions) and 2.) staffing the host chapter information booth. I would like to recruit a chair and co-chair, as well as other volunteers, for the two committees (the tour/field session committee, and the host chapter information booth committee). Please contact me if you are interested. Thanks!

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WASLA PROFESSIONAL AWARDS UPDATE

The jury has made their choices, the anticipation builds, and the waiting continues...

This has been an outstanding effort by all participants who have submitted their work. The level of excellence associated with the work and the fine quality of the presentations will be an inspiration to all of us planning to attend the awards celebration. Once again, WASLA appreciates all of the landscape architects who submitted entries for this competition.

Special thanks to our far-flung and distinguished jury of Laurie D. Olin, General Design lead juror, Marta Fray, Residential Design lead juror, Fritz Steiner, Planning and Analysis lead juror, and Adam Regn Arvidson, Research and Communication lead juror. More information about the jurors is available on the website.

The Awards Celebration takes place on Thursday evening, March 27, 2008 at the Burke Museum. This will be a great opportunity to mingle with our colleagues, view some of the latest and best work by our state's landscape architects, and take an active part in celebrating our profession. At the Awards Celebration, all of the presentation boards will be displayed. Attendees will review the projects and cast their vote for the People's Choice award. Registration will be available soon on the WASLA website.

WASLA extends its thanks to Pacific Earth Works and Electrical Representatives West, who are the program sponsors for the 2008 Professional Awards.

Announcements

UP BY ROOTS - A LECTURE ON CREATING HEALTHY SOILS AND TREES IN THE BUILT ENVIRONMENT BY JAMES URBAN, FASLA

February 27, 2008
6:00 - 8:00pm
Center of Urban Horticulture

Up by Roots by James Urban, FASLA, is new book, published by the ISA Books (in press), written primarily for landscape architects, who design urban spaces, specify, oversee, and manage tree plantings and their related soil issues. The lecture will explain the approaches to urban tree and soil problems and solutions including the new Silva Cell system.

James Urban, FASLA specializes in the design of trees and soils in urban spaces. He has written and lectured extensively

on the subject of urban tree planting and has been responsible for the introduction of many innovations including most of the current standards relating to urban tree plantings. He was instrumental in the development of structural cells and structural planting soils for use under sidewalk pavements, micro root paths, and macro soil trench techniques. James urban is credited with helping to re-awaken the profession of landscape architecture to the skills required to successfully plant trees in difficult urban soils.

TEAM COMMITMENT, LASTING SUCCESS

HBB is pleased to announce the promotions of Ryan Lambert and Patricia Lenssen to Associates.

Mr. Lambert's recent work includes preliminary landscape design for the Mercer Corridor in Seattle, completion of streetscape improvements for downtown Yakima and work on multiple projects for the Ports of Seattle and Everett.

Ms. Lenssen brings experience in park design and public involvement to our team and is currently completing the Park, Recreation, Open Space & Cultural Comprehensive Plan Update for the city of Edmonds, improvements to SR527 in Bothell and developing preliminary concepts for the Morgan Substation park in West Seattle.

GREENFEATHERS LLC HIRES LIVEROOF SALES REP

Bob Adams has recently been hired as the new Outside Salesman for GreenFeathers Living Roof Plants & Systems LLC, an associate of Blooming Nursery Inc. in Cornelius, Oregon. LiveRoof is an easily installed, pre-vegetated modular system for green roofs that is available through a national network of growers and certified installers. For more information on the LiveRoof system, go to www.LiveRoof.com. Bob will be representing GreenFeathers LLC and Blooming Nursery throughout Washington, Oregon, and Idaho. Bob brings his strong background in landscape design and construction to GreenFeathers, and will be marketing LiveRoof to Developers, Landscape Architects, Engineers, and contractors; assisting in specification development, LEED certification, installer certification, as well as educating local associations and committees.

HBB's success is built on a strong core of creative and responsive individuals. With offices in Seattle and Boise, we provide landscape architecture, urban design and planning services for projects throughout the Pacific Northwest region.

BUILDING SOIL FOR HEALTHY LANDSCAPES HELPS BUILDERS SUCCEED

The Washington Organic Recycling Council has launched a new website, www.BuildingSoil.org and outreach program to help builders and developers preserve and restore healthy soil on building sites.

These "soil best management practices" (BMPs) will soon be required by local governments around western Washington, as they update local codes to comply with the Department of Ecology's Stormwater Manual (which is required in the next two years by their municipal stormwater permits).

Soil BMPs include preserving site topsoil and vegetation where possible, correcting soil compaction, and amending soils that are disturbed during construction with compost. This helps preserve and restore healthy soil functions like stormwater infiltration and healthy, deep-rooted, vibrant plant growth that requires less water and chemicals.

"Home buyers around our region are increasingly demanding low-impact landscapes which are beautiful, low-maintenance, and healthy for families and our precious Northwest environment," said David McDonald of Seattle Public Utilities. "No one wants a lawn or plants that die in the first year, or take tons of water, fertilizer, and weed-killer to keep alive. Healthy soil saves builders money in quicker planting, better plant survival, and easier erosion control, and it satisfies customers in the long term."

"The good news is that these soil best practices are easy to implement, easy to sell, and will help developers and builders stay ahead of the curve on both new regulations and home buyers' growing "green" ethic."

Why build healthy soil?

- More marketable buildings and landscapes
- Better site erosion control
- Reduced need for water and chemicals
- Less stormwater runoff, better water quality
- Healthy landscapes = satisfied customers

Summary of soil best management practices:

- 1) Retain and protect native topsoil & vegetation where practical
- 2) Restore disturbed soils, to restore healthy soil functions, by:
 - stockpiling & reusing good quality site soil, or
 - tilling 2-3" of compost into poor site soils, or
 - bringing in 8" of compost-amended topsoil
- 3) Loosen compacted subsoil, if needed, by ripping to 12" depth
- 4) Mulch landscape beds after planting
- 5) Protect restored soils from erosion, or re-compaction by heavy equipment

Learn more at www.BuildingSoil.org

The Washington Organic Recycling Council unites local governments, the organics recycling industry, agriculture, forestry, scientists and citizens in "returning to the soil, the harvests from the earth."

NEW BABY LANDSCAPE ARCHITECT

WASLA would like to send a BIG CONGRATULATIONS out to Tom Early of Otak and Kelly Collins of Charles Anderson on the birth of their daughter Stella Collins (6 lbs.-14 oz. / 19-3/4").

TELL CONGRESS TO SUPPORT COMMUNITY GARDENS

Please contact your Member of Congress and urge them to support a final version of the Farm Bill that includes a program for community gardens in our nation's public schools. This year's Farm Bill, H.R. 2419, The Food and Energy Security Act of 2007, contains an amendment by Senator Bernie Sanders (D-VT) that would authorize \$10 million to establish a pilot program for community gardens in many public schools throughout the country.

The amendment would establish a grant program for public schools to develop gardens that students would plant, cultivate, and harvest. The program's focus would be to teach participating students the importance of agriculture, sound environmental farming practices, and proper nutrition. Schools would use produce from the garden to supplement the school's food program, distribute to participating student's families, or donate to a local food bank.

The American Society of Landscape Architects recognizes the importance of incorporating nature into a child's education. Allowing children to experience nature from a young age will instill in them sound environmental principles, and it will impress upon them the importance of proper land stewardship. Unfortunately, in many school districts, a lack of monetary resources deprives students of these opportunities. This amendment would give schools the resources they need to help students experience their natural environment.

H.R. 2419, passed both the House and Senate late last year. Currently, the measure is headed to conference committee, where the House and Senate will decide on the final version of the bill to send to the President for approval. Please urge your legislator to report a bill that keeps this important amendment intact.

Please contact Megan Ciarfalia at mciafalia@asla.org with questions or to follow up with your letter.

