



WASLA Newsletter

Washington Chapter American Society of Landscape Architects

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August 3

[Comprehensive Bicycle and](#)

JUNE 2008

Committee Reports and Public Relations

WASLA TRUSTEE REPORT

MID-YEAR MEETING, Washington, D.C.
Don Benson, ASLA, AICP WASLA Trustee

Programs and Operations Summary

1. Executive Office

Focus of ASLA in 2008 included participation in the following:

- Sustainable Sites Initiative
- Green Roof Research and Education(Green Roof Education Program for Middle School Students launched and ASLA received two awards for education and advocacy programs)
- Development of Landscape Architecture Continuing Education System
- Growing the Profession
- Leadership Development Seminars
- Additional Funding for Public Relations and Government Affairs
- Based on input from Board of Trustees and Chapter Presidents, strategic priorities are: visibility/public relations; laws and regulations; licensure; critical/emerging practice areas; career discovery

2. Finance and Building

-Reserves are \$3.6 million as of February, or 33% of FY 2008 operating expenses. Actual Revenue in 2007 was approx. \$3.98 million, Actual Expenses was approx. \$3.43 million.

[Pedestrian Design and Planning](#)

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

September 13
[FSOP Walking Tours 2008](#)

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

October 11
[FSOP Walking Tours 2008](#)

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

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Expenses rising because of economy and fuel costs.
-ASLA Audit Committee met with Auditor to discuss 2007 audit results. Some changes recommended by auditor.
-2008-2010 Operating Budget approved
-Dues not keeping pace with inflation. Dues will be raised \$10 in 2009 and \$13 in 2010. \$7 increase for students in 2009. Surcharge of \$20 for Mexico and Canada members and \$40 for other International members

3. Government Affairs

-Focus on Historic American Landscape Survey legislative funding(HALS)
-Promotion of two climate change bills(one in Senate and one in House)
-Promotion of Energy Conservation Through Trees Act (introduced in House)
-Promotion of Green Energy Education Act(introduced in House)
-Other support for National Mall Planning in Washington, D.C.; Support for Complete Streets bill(introduced in House)
-ASLA Statement of Climate Change was issued in 1st Quarter. Focus on sustainability issues.
-Licensure progress made in Washington, Wisconsin, Illinois, New Jersey and Michigan. Currently 49 states with licensure laws(41 practice acts and 8 title acts)

4. Membership

-Membership in 1st quarter experienced a slight decrease from late 2007, but is up about 9.3% over 1st quarter in 2007.
-Leadership training held in Chicago in February(22 chapters represented). Will be held in Seattle in early June.

5. Publishing and Resource Development

-Landscape Architecture Magazine(LAM) circulation rose 3% in the 1st quarter. Advertising and sales increased, sustainable production practices adopted. LAM editors pressing ahead with their goal of ensuring LAM helps grow the body of knowledge of the profession.

-2008 Annual Meeting in Philadelphia will offer 21% more continuing education hours than 2007 meeting. Space added to EXPO floor plan, so 2008 meeting will have largest space in ASLA history

-Professional Awards jury selected 30 projects to receive awards. Council of Fellows jury selected 20 new members. Trustees approved ASLA special awards, to be announced later. 2007 ASLA honorary memberships will be bestowed on several individuals in Philadelphia(including Mayor Greg Nickles of Seattle).

-ASLA participated in three trade shows in 1st quarter with a combined attendance of over 100,000.

6. Education and Academic Affairs

-Council on Education(COE) is continuing to address capacity of landscape architecture programs and will survey schools on type of landscape architecture degrees available and future plans(Note: I am on this committee and would welcome any

input or questions).

- Development of Landscape Architecture Continuing Education system has continued and a soft launch of the system occurred this Spring. ASLA also provides input to AIA system.
- Landscape Architecture Accreditation Board is working on revising the accreditation standards.

7. Information and Professional Practice

- ASLA recently released the 2008 Standard and Standard Short Form Contract for Professional Services for use and review. Will be available for purchase soon, if not already available.
- Sustainable Sites Initiative(SSI) subcommittee worked on defining performance benchmarks for sustainability using ecosystem services as an organizing principle. Goal may be eventually to include recommendations as part of updated LEED Certification program. SSI includes soils, vegetation, materials, hydrology, and human health and well being components.
- Continued strong demand for Landscape Technical Information Series and continued growth in Professional Practice Networks
- Minor amendments to public policy statements: Public Participation(amended); Transgenic Plants; Livable Communities(amended)
- Minor amendment(wording) to By-Laws(governing rules and procedures)

8. Public Relations and Communications

- ASLA continued to have increased media coverage. Through 1st quarter, staff coordinated and secured stories about ASLA reaching an audience of over 65 million people.
- National Landscape Architecture Month(April) included multiple press releases, a news clip featuring Eddie George, ASLA, promoting profession, to play on MTV, ESPN and BET networks. Over 50 local chapter events held around the country(including WASLA).
- Land On-Line experienced a 5% growth in subscribers. "The Dirt" continued in its popularity. Website is being redesigned and reorganized for easier use.

Lobby Day

I met with the offices of Senators Patty Murray and Maria Cantwell and Representative Jim McDermott on ASLA Lobby Day(May 8). The offices were receptive to and supportive of ASLA initiatives, including HALS funding, the Climate Change Bills(Senate and House), the Energy Conservation Through Trees Act(House), and the Green Energy Education Act(House-Senate has companion bill that extends act to include support of green buildings on campuses).

New Vice-Presidents Elected

VP Information and Professional Practice-Gary Brown
VP Finance-Pamela Blough

VP Membership-Brian Daugherty
President-Elect (being voted on)
President Elect Candidates: Gary Scott, Robert Tilson

If there are any questions about the report summary, please contact me. Thanks!

2008 WASLA/WRPA GOLF TOURNAMENT

Washington Recreation and Park Association
and
American Society of Landscape Architects
Washington Chapter
join hands again to host the 2008 Golf Tournament at the
WASLA 2008 Honor Award Winning Venue

Chambers Bay Golf Course

host to the 2010 Amateur and
2015 U.S. Open Championships

Friday, October 10, 2008
9:00 am Tee Off
more information coming soon

Food, Fun, and a WORLD CLASS Round of Golf!

Please contact Keith Bates keith.bates@otak.com for
sponsorship information.

WASLA/NPS-RTCA CHARRETTE FOR SPOKANE BEACON HILL AREA - OCTOBER 2008

Planning is continuing for the WASLA/NPS-RTCA charrette to be held on the 24th and 25th of October. We have an opportunity to collaborate with the Idaho/Montana Chapter of ASLA on this event. WASLA would welcome your participation. Please contact me Don Benson at 206-438-2027 (don_benson@urscorp.com) or Craig Anderson at 509-242-1000 (craig@storhaug.com).

BEACON HILL TRAIL NETWORK - HELP PLAN THE TRAIL SYSTEM: SURVEY & DESIGN WORKSHOP

The Beacon Hill Trail system is still an undiscovered treasure for many Spokane residents. The Fat Tire Trail Riders Club is leading an effort to formalize the Beacon Hill Trail Network, a mix of public and private ownership, for enjoyment for generations to come. Your input is needed to help with the planning for this trail system. Please follow the link below to answer a few questions and let your voice be heard! The questionnaire should only take five to ten minutes.

<http://www.surveymonkey.com/BeaconHill>

Your feedback through this survey will be one piece of information that designers will be using in a workshop planned for the fall. A Beacon Hill Trail Connections "Charrette" (a fancy name for a design workshop) will take place at October 24-25, 2008. The charrette will focus on producing creative solutions for linking the Beacon Hill to local schools, city bike routes, neighborhood parks, Centennial Trail and other community treasures. It will also find ways to improve access and use of the trails. A Community Open House showcasing the design work, will follow on Saturday evening, October 25.

For the Beacon Hill workshop, the Fat Tire Trail Riders Club is teaming up with the City of Spokane Parks and Recreation Department, Spokane County, Avista, private landowners, developers, the National Park Service, the American Society of Landscape Architects, International Mountain Biking Association, the Mountaineers, Wheelsport East, Wintersport, Inland Northwest Trails Coalition, Spokane County Regional Health District, Minnehaha Neighborhood Council, REI, Mountain Gear and a diverse group of local experts to design ways to make better connections between this unique trail system and the Spokane community.

The Beacon Hill design workshop will be the eighth Community Design Charrette in a unique partnership between the National Park Service Rivers & Trails Program and the Washington Chapter of the American Society of Landscape Architects. NPS Rivers & Trails has been providing technical assistance to the Beacon Hill Trail Group for the past 1.5 years. Landscape architects lend their expertise pro-bono, providing a huge design boost to these grass-roots community planning efforts. Previous charrettes have all resulted in positive results that turned good ideas into action including the recent I-90 pedestrian overpass, an outcome of the charrette hosted by Liberty Lake. Other charrettes have been in Seattle's International District, Skagit County, Moses Lake, Wenatchee, Black Diamond, and Kelso. This year the Idaho/Montana Chapter has committed to join the Washington Chapter to provide assistance and designers to the Beacon Hill Trail workshop, making this a multi-state venture.

Would like to get involved? Help is needed in planning and participation of the charrette workshop, please contact Penny

Schwyn, at mtb@fttrc.org for more details.

WASLA/NPS-RTCA CHARRETTE FOR KITSAP COUNTY AREA - APRIL 2009

As noted in last month's newsletter, another partnership charrette is being planned for April 2009. This event is in the very preliminary stage and will involve trail planning and investigation of other recreational opportunities along the Gorst to Bremerton highway corridor. So far, the US Navy and the State Department of Transportation are very supportive of the initial planning efforts. WASLA would also welcome your participation in this event. More information to come in future newsletters. Please contact Don Benson at 206-438-2027 don_benson@urscorp.com.

WASHINGTON STATE COMPOST EDUCATION

The Washington Organic Recycling Council (WORC) has initiated a project entitled: Washington State Compost Market Expansion and Education Project (Project), which has been funded through a Washington Department of Ecology Public Participation Grant. The project is intended to expand compost markets, encourage greater organics recycling, and educate the public about the environmental benefits of using compost - with the goal being to enhance ground and surface water quality.

The project scope of work includes:

- Developing a series of compost end use tools;
- Educating the public (professional and non-professional end users) about the environmental and economic benefits of using compost; and
- Providing educational opportunities in conjunction with WORC that will be focused on two of the most promising and environmentally beneficial compost applications (erosion control and topsoil manufacturing) and their relationship to air, soil and water quality.

As part of this effort, WORC and its contractor (R. Alexander Associates, Inc.) are engaging with WASLA to provide technical information and assistance. Several events will be scheduled in the region, and with a variety of organizations, including WASLA members. In fact, Mr. Alexander will be in the Seattle area during the week of July 14th, holding educational events with regional Builders organizations, pertaining to related local soil ordinances and compost BMP's. As such, he is interested in completing some 1 hour (free) training events with WASLA members. The subject matter would be the following (but could also be customized):

Using Commercial Compost in Turf Management, Soil Manufacture and Erosion/Sediment Control
Compost is a well known tool to Northwest landscapers. However, changing weather patterns, ordinances/regulation, and customer requirements have made compost an even more valuable tool. The use of compost in blanket, berm and sock applications for erosion/sediment control has stormed the nation, and is even utilized by the Washington State DOT. Further, the use of compost to manufacture horticultural grade soils both 'in' and 'ex-situ' has important economic and environmental impacts for Washington landscapers. Finally, various techniques to use compost in plant and turf establishment and maintenance applications has been shown to create more sustainable landscapes and superior results.

Any companies interested in hosting such an event should contact R. Alexander Associates, Ron Alexander directly (919-367-8350, alexassoc@earthlink.net) at your earliest possible convenience. Mr. Alexander is a horticulturist with almost 25 years of experience working with compost and other organic recycled products, and has authored many national landscape architecture specifications.

Announcements

BE THE FIRST TO KNOW

Join Washington Department of Licensing landscape architecture section listserv. The listserv informs subscribers about upcoming Board meetings and the minutes available

<http://listserv.wa.gov/cgi-bin/wa?A0=LANDSCAPE-ARCHITECTS>

SEATTLE GREAT CITY INITIATIVE FIRST ANNUAL BLOCK PARTY

Please join Seattle Great City Initiative as we celebrate our progress this year, honor our amazing volunteers, and embrace summer in Seattle as a community! Festivities will include live music, drinks, a delicious Tutta Bella pizza and of course, good company. In the spirit of our work, teams are invited to participate in a fun street transformation competition to transform ordinary parking spaces into innovative, sustainable, and inviting places for people. Come judge the results, learn more about Great City, and enjoy the party; new faces are always welcome!

Date: July 17

Time: 5-8 pm

Place: South Lake Union Discovery Center and John St. between 9th and Westlake

Who: Everyone - volunteers, families, students, business leaders, community advocates, environmentalists

What: A party to celebrate Seattle Great City Initiative work and thank our volunteers for their amazing work

Number of People: 100-300

Planned Activities include:

- Food and Drink from local companies
- Local musicians
- An "Urban Design Corner" featuring great locally designed sustainability projects.
- Exhibitors on alternative energy and transportation choices
- And, the "Streets for People" competition - see how local teams compete to transform a section of John Street into an inviting places for people, and help choose the winner.

Join us, meet new people, learn, eat drink and enjoy, and most of all - be inspired to help build a Great City for all of us.

AWARD WINNERS HONORED

Check out the June 18, 2008, issue of the *Daily Journal of Commerce*. Within you will find a 2-page spread featuring the 2008 WASLA Awards winners. Congratulations, landscape architects!

HAPPY HOUR THIS FRIDAY AT MURASE

Friday, June 20th - Murase Associates

Come enjoy our AIA/WASLA Happy Hour
Food and Drink hosted by Murase

The happy hour series has been a great success!

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