



WASLA Newsletter

Washington Chapter American Society of Landscape Architects

In This Issue

[Landscape Architecture
Month Activities](#)

[2009 WASLA Conference](#)

[Partnership Thriving](#)

[Compost Applications in
Landscape Design](#)

[LARE Preparatory Courses](#)

[Invitation from ACI](#)

[Career Fair](#)

[Sinclair Inlet Charrette
Update](#)

[Bicycle Boulevard
Fundamentals](#)

[Children, Youth &
Environments Fact Sheets](#)

MARCH 2009

Messages

WASLA LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTURE MONTH ACTIVITIES

WASLA is holding three activities in April as part of Landscape Architecture Month:

1. The WASLA Annual Conference (Engaging Change: A Green(er) Perspective on April 3-4, 2009 - see article below;
2. The Sinclair Inlet Charrette on April 24-25, 2009 - see article below; and
3. A demonstration Japanese Maple garden project with South Puget Sound Community College some time in April.

Events Calendar

March 20

[Emerging Professionals Happy
Hour Series](#)

April 3

[WASLA 2009 Conference](#)

April 17

[Emerging Professionals Happy
Hour Series](#)

May 15

[Emerging Professionals Happy
Hour Series](#)

May 20

2009 WASLA CONFERENCE - KEYNOTE SPEAKER ANNOUNCED

[BC Land Summit](#)

June 19

[Emerging Professionals Happy Hour Series](#)

August 21

[Emerging Professionals Happy Hour Series](#)

September 18

[Emerging Professionals Happy Hour Series](#)

October 16

[Emerging Professionals Happy Hour Series](#)

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Engaging Change: A Green(er) Perspective

WASLA Annual Conference

Friday April 3, 2008

8 am - 5 pm

We are very pleased to announce that **Alex Steffen** is presenting this year's keynote address. Steffen is the editor of *Worldchanging: A User's Guide for the 21st Century* (2006), and is the Executive Editor and Co-Founder of Worldchanging. Worldchanging is "a media organization that comprises a global network of independent journalists, designers and thinkers covering the world's most intelligent solutions to today's problems. Worldchanging has brought awareness to innovative responses to concerns like refugee aid and renewable energy, and to cutting-edge solutions for improving building, city planning, transportation, communication and quality of life. By connecting thoughtful people with the boldest new ideas, they have earned a devoted following: a recent Nielsen study named them the second-largest sustainability website on the planet." For more information regarding Worldchanging and Alex Steffen please visit [www.worldchanging.com](#).

With one month left until the 2009 WASLA Conference, Engaging Change: A Green(er) Perspective, your conference committee is wrapping up final planning and preparing for a day of interesting lectures and presentations on the latest developments in our field. For registration and additional information about the schedule, please visit the [conference page](#) on our website. Registration closes on Tuesday, March 31.

We are looking forward to the 2009 WASLA Annual Conference and excited to see you all at the Northwest Rooms on April 3. If you have any questions please contact the conference co-chairs Kari Stiles at Kstiles@jonesandjones.com or Kellye Hilde at khilde@triadassoc.com.

WASLA/NPS-RTCA PARTNERSHIP THRIVING AFTER 10 YEARS

For the past 10 years, the Washington Chapter of ASLA (WASLA) and the National Park Service Rivers, Trails and Conservation Assistance Program (NPS-RTCA) have had a unique and influential collaborative partnership that has helped communities throughout the state improve their physical and cultural environments.

The partnership, established in 1998 through a formal agreement and renewed twice since, enables WASLA to provide "pro bono" services, typically through design charrettes, to selected NPS-RTCA community-based conservation and recreation projects. NPS-RTCA is a program of the National Park Service that grants technical planning assistance to communities, agencies and non-profit organizations on community projects that conserve natural and cultural resources and provide recreational opportunities. The partnership pairs the organizational and planning skills of NPS-RTCA with the technical design skills of WASLA's landscape architects. The Chapter has integrated the partnership into its community service program, and volunteering members always talk about the rewards of service, the pleasure of working with peers and mentoring landscape architecture students, and the value for increasing the visibility of our profession. The success of the partnership in Washington State served as a model for the subsequent national NPS and ASLA partnership signed in 2000.

To date, NPS-RTCA and WASLA have collaborated on eight design charrettes across the state, including two recent interstate events with the Oregon and Idaho/Montana Chapters of ASLA (Castle Rock/Lexington and Beacon Hill in Spokane respectively). The ninth charrette, addressing trail options, shoreline restoration and water quality on Sinclair Inlet near Bremerton, is scheduled for April 2009 in celebration of Landscape Architecture Month (see separate article).

Don Benson, ASLA, AICP, WASLA Trustee

EDITOR'S NOTE

If you would like to contribute to the WASLA Monthly Newsletter please send inquiries to Jocelyn Freilingner at jocelynlf@mac.com.

Announcements

Ron Alexander

Landscape architects face increasing challenges in designing project sites which are both aesthetically pleasing and cost-effective. Further, new requirements and regulation on these designs have also come to the forefront in the past decade. These new criteria and pressures require landscape architects to consider necessary stormwater management requirements of the site, reducing water consumption (irrigation), public health issues (reducing pesticide use), and climate change challenges - just to name a few. An unlikely tool - **compost** - has emerged as a key instrument in meeting these challenges. Best practices for compost use are even now being incorporated into the ASLA's Sustainable Sites criteria, can be found in regional "best management practices," new state and local stormwater codes, and federal water quality guidelines.

The use of compost can provide many benefits. It improves the physical, chemical and biological properties of the soil and the media to which it is blended. Uniquely, compost can improve sandy Washington soils, by increasing their water holding capacity and nutrient holding ability, as well as fine textured soils, by increasing pore spacing and reducing bulk density. Also, since the Washington Department of Agriculture allows for composts to disclose their nutrient content to end uses, without being registered as a fertilizer, this data is readily available to landscape architects. With this data, LAs will find it appropriate to modify their fertility recommendations within their plant installation specifications.

Although most landscape architects are very familiar with the use of compost in planting bed and turf installation, uses of perhaps greater functional and environmental importance are expanding (e.g., topsoil manufacturing, erosion and sediment control) in the Northwest and will be discussed in detail in the next two articles in this series. These higher tech uses are the ones that have found their way into local stormwater BMP's and ASLA's proposed Sustainable Sites (and LEED) criteria.

For additional information on compost and compost use, come to the WASLA Conference session entitled: Soil Strategies for Site Restoration and Green Roofs or go to the following web links:

[Washington Organic Recycling Council \(WORC\)](#)
[Building Soils](#)
[Soils for Salmon](#)
[Sustainable Sites](#)

Author Ron Alexander is a horticulturist with 25 years of

experience working with compost and other organic recycled products. He has authored the *Field Guide to Compost Use*, *Landscape Architecture Specifications for Compost Utilization*, and *AASHTO Compost Use in Erosion Control Specifications*. For more information, visit www.alexassoc.net.

This article was developed by the Washington Organic Recycling Council, and partially funded by a grant from the Washington Department of Ecology. While these materials were reviewed for grant consistency, this does not necessarily constitute endorsement by the Department of Ecology.

LARE PREPARATORY COURSES

Freeman & Jewell Landscape Architecture is once again offering their popular series of preparatory courses for candidates taking the Landscape Architect Registration Examination. These courses have attracted students from all over California as well as eight other western states and British Columbia.

Review the [brochure](#) for descriptions of two review courses for the Landscape Architect Registration Examination that are being offered during April and May in Northern California.

For additional information, contact Ray Freeman, Principal, Freeman & Jewell Landscape Architecture at rayfreeman3@comcast.net

AMERICAN CONCRETE INSTITUTE MEETING April 8, 2009

The American Concrete Institute invites landscape architects to attend their monthly meeting on the evening of April 8 at the Embassy Suites located in Tukwila (15920 W. Valley Highway) from 6:00 p.m. to 8:30 p.m. for a presentation by Bruce Dees, FASLA and others, on the subject of pervious concrete use on one of Bruce's projects, the Lacey Thurston Athletic complex. Bruce's project makes extensive use of pervious concrete surfaces for pedestrian areas and for stormwater mitigation. The meeting format is "meet and greet" 1/2 hr. session with no host beverages starting around 6:00 p.m., followed by dinner and a 30-45 minute presentation, ending with a question/answer period from about 7:00 to 8:30 p.m. The dinner is \$45.

The ACI mission is to educate professionals and the public on concrete issues and this meeting will help give their members some perspective on how Landscape Architects can and do use concrete materials. If the meeting is successful, ACI is

interested in perhaps making this an annual joint meeting between WASLA and ACI.

Please contact Andrew Marks, P.E, at andrew.marks@comcast.net or 253-590-6937 (mobile) for further information and/or RSVP to Sarah Patterson, Washington Concrete, at s.patterson@washingtonconcrete.org if you are interested in attending.

INTERDISCIPLINARY CAREER FAIR **April 22, 2009**

College of Built Environments, University of Washington, Seattle

Connect your firm with a valuable pool of student talent! The UW chapter of ASLA is organizing this year's career fair together with the AIAS chapter, and also expects attendance from students in the Urban Design & Planning and Construction Management programs. Regardless of whether you're actively hiring at present, this fair is a great way to make contact with a range of potential candidates for future positions and internships, and to make your firm better known at these exemplary professional academic programs.

Complete information and registration forms are available from cbecareerfair@u.washington.edu

WASLA/NPS-RTCA CHARRETTE UPDATE **April 24-25, 2009**

Sinclair Inlet (Gorst to Missouri Gate) Concept Plan

WASLA and the National Park Service Rivers Trails and Conservation Assistance Program (NPS-RTCA) are finalizing planning for the design charrette to be held at the Norm Dicks Government Center in Bremerton, Washington (short walk from the Bremerton Ferry Terminal).

The charrette is focused on the Sinclair Inlet between Gorst and Bremerton and will consist of 4 teams. Team 1 will be a Rail to Trail team looking at a multi-use trail along a railway corridor with connectivity to Belfair/Port Orchard on one end and Bremerton on the other. Team 2 will be a Shoreline Restoration Team looking at opportunities to save a shoreline area along the route including restoration of natural resources. Team 3 will be a Cultural/Interpretive Team that looks at highlighting cultural resources, natural elements etc. Team 4 will focus on Surface Water Management to address non-point and point source pollution as well as other water quality issues. We hope to have two LA co-captains for each teams as well as other LA and LA student participation.

Food will be provided and lodging (either with a host family or a motel) will be provided for Friday night (April 24). The charrette activities will start on Friday afternoon with a site visit followed by dinner and other orientation activities in the evening. Saturday (April 25) will be devoted to the charrette with a presentation to the public on early Saturday evening.

This event is being held in conjunction with Landscape Architecture Month (see article below). Landscape Architects, designers and others are encouraged to participate. Please contact Don Benson, ASLA, AICP, WASLA Trustee, at 206-438-2027 or don_benson@urscorp.com if you are interested in participating. We are still looking for a few more volunteers. Thank you.

BICYCLE BOULEVARD FUNDAMENTALS

May 14, 2009

The Initiative for Bicycle and Pedestrian Innovation at Portland State University is organizing a professional development workshop for May 14, 2009. The workshop, entitled Bicycle Boulevard Fundamentals, is a one day course intended for urban and transportation planners, landscape architects, designers, engineers, advocates and others involved with bikeway planning and design. It will include both classroom time (on the Portland State University campus), as well as a field tour of several bicycle boulevards within the inner Portland area.

Bicycle boulevards are low-speed, low-volume bikeways that are becoming increasingly popular in communities seeking to enhance their bicycle network and boost ridership. This course will cover the fundamentals of bicycle boulevard planning and design process through lecture, discussion, in-class exercises and a field tour. Examples of successful bicycle boulevards from Portland and other communities will be highlighted during the day.

The course will be taught by Mia Birk, principal at Alta Planning + Design, and Rob Burchfield, City Traffic Engineer for the Portland Bureau of Transportation.

Information about the course can also be found on the web: <http://www.ibpi.usp.pdx.edu/bikeboulevard.php>. The full flier and registration form can be downloaded at <http://www.ibpi.usp.pdx.edu/media/bike%20boulevard%20course.pdf>. Registration for the course is \$295, and the registration deadline is May 7, 2009.

Please visit <http://www.ibpi.usp.pdx.edu/media/Spring%20Courses%20Flier.pdf> to see IBPI's full spring/summer workshop schedule.

Feel free to contact us with questions.

Email: ibpi@pdx.edu

Phone: 503-725-4024

Fax: 503-725-8480

CHILDREN, YOUTH AND ENVIRONMENTS FACT SHEETS

The latest [CYE fact sheet](#) on benefits of gardening for youth is now available as a reference.

Two other fact sheets are also available, on the benefits of place-based education and on benefits of nature for children. For more information, contact Bambi Yost, MLA, MURP at bambi_1_yost@yahoo.com.

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