



MASLA Newsletter

an electronic newsletter

April 2008

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Dear Members and Subscribers,

As a profession, we are licensed to protect the health, safety and welfare through the design of our environment and our communities. I was at a design charrette the other day and the topic of sustainability came up. The speaker was making the point that the general public is being lured into believing that they are doing enough when they use new light bulbs, drive hybrid cars and live in green buildings; but the speaker went on to say that it will be how we design the space between buildings that will have the largest impact on the environmental challenges that we are facing today.

Landscape architecture is **the** profession trained, licensed and experienced in the design of the fabric of our communities and our environment. Yet the speaker recognized the role that architects, developers and planners play and neglected to name landscape architects. Landscape architects **have a role to play** in designing road, trail and sidewalk networks, stormwater treatment systems, outdoor environments that promote social gathering and safety, communities that are responsive to and supportive of natural systems and processes, and the selection and implementation of appropriate plant communities.

But as the general public realizes that many of the problems we are facing (i.e. child obesity and global warming) are the result of previous land use, transportation and landscape design decisions, it is evermore important that we, as landscape architects, take a leadership role in designing an alternative, healthy and sustainable landscape. We must also increase our visibility and inform the general public and other design professionals that we have the expertise to address these issues. **April is National Landscape Architecture**

Prairie Restorations, Inc. 

- Designing, installing, and managing native landscapes
- Retail stores in Princeton and Scandia, MN

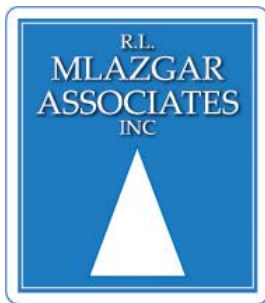
800.837.5986 prairieresto.com

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Month. Please use this opportunity to share with others all of the skills our professions has to offer.

Sincerely,
 Joni Giese, ASLA
 President, Minnesota Chapter of the ASLA

MASLA Related News and Events

Several Items for Review

MASLA Continuing Education Session and Awards Dinner



The first MASLA CE Session and the annual MASLA Awards Dinner is Friday, April 18th. The CE Session, "Designing Sustainability: A Blueprint for Native Plants", already has a great turnout but there are still a few seats open. You can download the PDF and registration form from the [MASLA Calendar](#) (April 18th) or click on the Turk's Cap Lily. If you have any questions about the program, please email or phone [Chad Buran](#), (651) 967-4543.

We look forward to seeing you at both the CE Session and the Awards Dinner!

Thank you to National Landscape Architecture Month Volunteers!

MASLA would like to thank Danyelle Pierquet and Chris Behringer from SEH for attending the Science Expo at Kenny Elementary School in Minneapolis. MASLA member and parent Laura Baxley recommended landscape architecture as the featured career for the evening where the students displayed their science projects that focused on environmental issues. Danyelle and Chris brought display boards, handouts and a model to demonstrate how our profession is interwoven into the environment around us and talked with parents, children and teachers to help raise awareness about landscape architecture.

Outreach Opportunities

There are still many opportunities to get involved with K-12 students and National Landscape Architecture Month is just beginning. This is also the time of year to find a lot of career fairs and places to tell students about landscape architecture. Check out the MASLA website for many of the resources and ideas provided to get you started. ([MASLA Calendar](#)) If you visit a school we encourage you offer a copy of Valued Places for their library. We are hoping to raise awareness of our profession and the role that landscape architecture has in local history and

culture. Please contact kate.lamers@bonestroo.com for copies of the books and other resources.

Lao America Cultural Center

We will need MASLA members for at least two workdays to build the first phase of the Lao America Cultural Center enhancements. The first workday will probably be at the end of April or beginning of May to stake and layout the plans in the field. Subsequent workdays will follow depending on the weather and volunteer availability. This is a great opportunity to build our community while collaborating with contractors and volunteers from affiliated organizations (Architecture for Humanity and Minnesota Landscape and Nursery Association). It is also a way to gain field experience and a deeper understanding of construction practices. There may be more opportunities to work on planting implementation later in the summer. To volunteer please contact kate.lamers@bonestroo.com

Peavey Plaza Advocacy

We are all aware of importance of Peavey Plaza, but is anyone else? Consider joining our efforts to promote a future life for the plaza that honors the original design, awarded an ASLA Centennial Medallion for Design Excellence in 1999. Ongoing concerns are maintenance, repair, and incremental alterations to the plaza. These concerns led MASLA volunteers to complete the first Historic American Landscape Survey (HALS) in our state. A more immediate concern is news of Orchestra Hall's efforts to secure funding to plan for renovations to the Hall and the plaza. MASLA says cheers for the funding, (uncertain as it has been line-itemed out of the budget by the governor) as long as new plans consider the Secretary of Interior's guidelines for the treatment of cultural landscapes. The good news: having the HALS in hand makes sensitive changes easier to address because, to quote Frank Martin from his upcoming *_SCAPE* article, "once a landscape's essence is determined, it is actually surprising how much change in lighting, materials, and plantings is possible to make a landscape more functional for contemporary needs."

The City of Minneapolis owns the plaza, and the Public Works Department is responsible for its care. For that reason, we are asking for you to join an education effort targeted at city council members and key staff members who are the stewards of this site. If you feel passionate about the fate of the plaza, we need your help. Please contact Gina Bonsignore who is coordinating MASLA's volunteer efforts to advocate on behalf of this important public space in Minneapolis. You don't need to be a

resident of the city! Whether you work downtown, enjoy the plaza, or relish knowing it is there for future generations, get involved.

Email Gina: gina.bonsignore@comcast.net

Gateway to Greenway Tour, Preserve Minneapolis Fundraising Event

Be a tourist in your own town!

Join guides Todd Grover and Frank Edgerton Martin on a walking tour of downtown Minneapolis that highlights Modern buildings and landscapes, and the preservation challenges many face.

Tour stops include Bridge Square/Gateway Park, the Minneapolis Public Library, the IDS Center, Peavey Plaza, and the Loring Greenway. The tour will include a break for refreshments.

This is a fundraiser to cover the costs of Preserve Minneapolis' registration for federal non-profit status.

Saturday, May 3rd

10:00 am to 2:00 pm

Follow the link for more information and registration!

www.preserveminneapolis.org/calendar

Notice of Vacancies in Multi-Member Agencies, State of Minnesota

SAINT PAUL-The Secretary of State's Office released the monthly notice of vacancies that have occurred in multi-member state agencies: One that may be of interest to our members is linked below.

[Metropolitan Council / April 2008 Open Appts / Secretary of State](#)

Save the Date! August 12th MASLA Golf Tournament

We have reserved a place at Les Bolstad, the University of Minnesota Golf Course in St. Paul for Tuesday, August 12th. More details will follow as plans develop.

Information from our Affiliated Organizations

See MASLA.org for News, Calendar of Events, and Other Resources

Using Model Sustainability Ordinances to Implement your City's Sustainability Goals

Ever wondered how to get through the government bureaucracy and actually implement your city's sustainability goals? Learn about model sustainability ordinances from around the country and how to implement them in the Twin Cities region.



Wednesday, April 16th
12:30 pm - 4:30 pm
Paul & Sheila Wellstone Center
179 East Robie Street
St. Paul, MN 55107

Details and registration at www.sustaincommunity.net

Featured Technical Resource from Design for Health

-

The Impact of the Built Environment on Community Health: The State of Current Practice and Next Steps for a Growing Movement

"The way we plan, shape and create our urban environment impacts the health of the people who live, work, play and move through these communities." This report examines how urban planning affects the health of the residents that live there. Find this article and more through the [Design for Health](http://www.designforhealth.org) website.

How to Turn a Place Around

Start: 04/24/2008 08:00 AM

End: 04/25/2008 05:00 PM

Location: New York City, New York

The next How to Turn a Place Around training course will be held in April 24th & 25th, 2008. This workshop is designed for professionals and non-professionals alike who help plan towns and cities -- from highway engineers and real estate developers to community garden advocates and housing specialists. Based on PPS's 30 years of experience in placemaking, and inspired by our popular book, *How to Turn a Place Around*, the course shows participants our unique approach to revitalization. Enrollment is limited to 40 participants, in order to promote a close-knit environment that fosters a deep understanding of what makes public spaces function and of PPS's innovative methods for analyzing them. During the course, participants work in small teams to observe and analyze places in Greenwich Village that illustrate pertinent issues, give insights and encourage them to see the sites from a user's point of view.

Detailed information regarding the sessions, prices, and accommodations can be found using the link below.

Host Organization(s): Project for Public Spaces

Contact name: Sandy Pan or Michael Kodransky

Contact phone and/or email: span@pps.org or mkodransky@pps.org or call them at (212) 620- 5660

Contact URL: pps.org/training

Ecocity World Summit

Start: 04/22/2008 12:00 AM

End: 04/26/2008 09:00 PM

Location: San Francisco, CA

The International Ecocity World Summit 2008 will focus on key actions that cities and citizens can take to rebuild our habitats (cities) to be in balance with living systems and in the process slow down and even reverse global warming and the effects thereof. Delegates from around the world will gather to discuss best practices for sustainable city planning and urban design. The conference has previously been held in Australia, Africa, Asia and South America.

Please visit the link below for more information on pre-registration events and a full itinerary.

Host Organization(s): Ecocity World Summit

Contact URL: ecocityworldsummit.org

Minnesota Bike Summit - April 26, 2008

The Minnesota Bike Summit brings together bicycle organizations, professionals, and citizen groups to discuss "The Power of Organizing."

The breakout sessions may include: 2008 National Bike Summit Report, Mn/DOT & DNR Design Guidelines, City Comprehension Plans, Promoting Bicycle Commuting, Trail Maintenance Panel Discussion, How Citizens & Professionals Can Work & Communicate Together, Funding, Policy & Enhancements, and Future of the Bike Expo & 2009 Bike Summit.

The Summit will be held from 9:30 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. at the Quality Bicycle Parts (QBP) Training Center in Bloomington, MN.

Pre-registration will be required.

\$10 fee collected at the event (includes lunch). Limited to 150 participants. Exhibit Area for Bike Organizations, contact: mnbikesummit@visi.com

MASLA.org Your Resource

More from our Affiliated Organizations

See MASLA.org for News, Calendar of Events, and Other Resources

At Last, Minnesota is Melting! Alas, Greenland is too.

Floes and Fjords: Images of Greenland

Curator's statement from Water and Oil Art Gallery:
Water and Oil Art Gallery



will celebrate the coming of spring with our Spring Thaw exhibit, running April 11th-20th! The show will highlight images captured along the Greenlandic coast and the North Sea in an effort to raise awareness of this fragile ecosystem, at a time of year when melting snow brings thoughts of ecological balance and climate change.

View more information at: [Water and Oil Art Gallery](http://www.WATERandOIL.com)

April 11-20, 11:00 am - 7:00 pm

506 Kenny Road, Saint Paul

651-774-2260

www.WATERandOIL.com

Minnesota Native Plant Society: Spring Fieldtrip

Where: Nerstrand-Big Woods State Park

When: Saturday, April 26th, 2008

Time: 1:00 PM-4:00 PM

Early Spring Wildflowers

Hike Nerstrand-Big Woods State Park to view the early spring ephemerals of Southern Minnesota.

Come join Daniel Jones (MN NPS board member and senior ecologist for Barr Engineering) at Nerstrand- Big Woods State Park for an afternoon of hiking and woodland plant identification. Through the sugar maple, basswood, elm, green ash, and ironwood trees that shade the early spring wildflowers, participants will get to see plants like hepatica, bloodroot, Dutchman's breeches and trout lilies in full bloom.

We will begin the day at 1:00 PM at the entrance of the visitor center with a brief introduction before hiking for the afternoon. Parking is next to the visitor center. Remember either a daily or annual state park pass will be required for this field trip.

Directions: Take I-35 to State Highway 19 east into Northfield. Go south on State Highway 3, east on State Highway 246, then turn right onto County Road 29. Follow signs to state park.

[Minnesota Native Plant Society/field trips](#)

DNR Fishing Pier Grants

Program purpose: To improve fishing opportunities, especially to meet the needs of children, the elderly, and people with disabilities.

Counties, cities, and townships may apply. Applications are accepted year-round. Project awards are made in the fall.

For more information about this program call the Area Trails and Waterways Supervisor in your location or you may contact: Nancy Stewart, Water Recreation Program Coordinator at 651-259-5616

More info is available on the web at: [MN DNR / fishing pier](#)

[grants](#)

Save the Date: First Annual Minnesota Master Naturalist Conference

May 2-4- 2008

The Minnesota Master Naturalist Program is a volunteer program that teaches adults about Minnesota`s natural resources- empowers them to educate others and provides opportunities to do conservation projects. The mission of the Minnesota Master Naturalist Program is to promote awareness- understanding- and stewardship of Minnesota`s natural environment by developing a corps of well- informed citizens dedicated to conservation education and service within their communities.

Main contact: Dawn Flinn (MN DNR)

dawn.flinn@dnr.state.mn.us

Conference will be held at Camp Courage- near Annandale- MN. Cost will be \$100.00 per person- including housing- and all food. It is a great deal!!

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

Greening Your Building toward The Bottom Line

Co-Sponsored by the USGBC - Mississippi Headwaters Chapter

Green retrofitting is a powerful business tool critical to achieving business and environmental objectives. The LEED for Existing Buildings Rating System helps building owners and operators measure operations, improvements and maintenance on a consistent scale, with the goal of maximizing operational efficiency while minimizing environmental impacts.

LEED for Existing Buildings addresses whole- building cleaning and maintenance issues (including chemical use), recycling programs, exterior maintenance programs, and systems upgrades. It can be applied both to existing buildings seeking LEED certification for the first time and to projects previously certified under LEED for New Construction or Core & Shell.

Thursday April 24th, 2008

3:30pm - 7:00pm

Hyatt Regency Minneapolis

1300 Nicollet Mall, Mpls

Registration information: [Finance and Commerce](#)

A Million Shades of Green Gala

Where: Marjorie McNeely Conservatory, Saint Paul

When: Friday, April 25th

Mark your calendar today for the second annual *A Million Shades of Green Gala*, Friday, **April 25**. Over two hundred guests attended last year's gala described as one of the more enchanting evenings of the spring season! The evening begins at 6:30 pm with a reception and a silent auction featuring items you won't want to miss bidding on:

Vacation getaway to charming cabin at Blueberry Island on Lake Vermillion.

Wine basket with tour and tasting certificates for California's Byington Winery and Vineyard.

Toro lawnmower.

Saint Paul Hotel Romantic Getaway for two with champagne and overnight deluxe room accommodations.

Tickets for two for theatre, dance, and orchestra performances.

Garden baskets with gift certificates from area nurseries.

Dinner begins at 8:00 pm, with music by the Norm Herzog Quartet, followed by A Million Shades of Green Awards Ceremony.

For more information, contact: telephone Justin at 665-9500x18 or e-mail jkutzer@greatrivergreening.org

MASLA.org Your Resource

MASLA is the local Minnesota chapter of the American Society of Landscape Architects, a professional organization that represents landscape architects nationwide. MASLA has over 300 members working in the private, public, and educational sectors. We are growing in numbers and in programs, and are currently planning and offering a variety of service projects, social events, networking opportunities, and continuing education sessions.

MASLA's executive board meets monthly on the first Thursday from 4-6 pm, to discuss, organize, and facilitate chapter activities.

MASLA

Email: loons_ochs@comcast.net

Web: <http://www.masla.org>

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