



MASLA Newsletter

an electronic newsletter

July 2008

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Dear Members and Subscribers,

What is Your Area of Expertise?

With the general public's increased awareness of how the built environment impacts our personal health and the health of natural systems, it is important that landscape architects work to develop solutions and be recognized as experts on these issues. One of the services MASLA can provide is the promotion of our members as experts on current topics that are receiving media attention.

Over the course of my term as MASLA President, I have been approached numerous times to provide names of firms/individuals who are experts on various aspects of landscape architecture. The Executive Committee would like to develop a database of experts that we can refer to when we receive these inquiries. This database is fashioned after a similar national "experts" database developed by ASLA. It is the Executive Committee's goal to keep this database current and use it as we develop media contacts that will get our members recognition and visibility while also educating the public. Please watch for more information about when the survey will be available, then take a few minutes to fill out the "Expert Checklist" form and email it back to me at jgiese@srfconsulting.com. Please feel free to contact me if you have any questions or comments regarding this initiative. If you would like a copy of the survey sent to you, you may request one from the Director of Communications, Chris Ochs - chris@windsorcompanies.com

I hope you are enjoying our beautiful summer!

Sincerely,



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Joni Giese, ASLA
President, Minnesota Chapter of the ASLA

MASLA Related News and Events

Programs, Advocacy, etc....

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. Registration and Sponsorship information will be posted on the MASLA website soon. In the interim, contact Kate Lamers, Director of Programs for additional information.

[Kate Lamers](#)



Thank you to Outreach Volunteers!

Student council members and first and second graders and their teachers, totaling about 170 people, were exposed to the profession of landscape architecture at Capitol Hill Magnet School in St Paul. Gina Bonsignore, in the context of a butterfly garden installation, gave kids a lightning presentation of the site planning and design work we do and some of the tools we use, just before they went out to install plants this May. Other MASLA members and Capitol Hill parents, Carmen Simonet and Todd Wichman, gave great assistance in garden preparation.

Heritage News - Peavey Park Plaza

Comprehensive documentation - measured drawings, written history and large-format photography - of Peavey Park Plaza was donated by Close Landscape Architecture+ to the National Park Service's Historic American Landscapes Survey. Peavey Park Plaza is significant for its association with a series of post World War II urban renewal projects that began in the late 1950s and continued until the 1970s in Minnesota. The plaza, constructed in 1975 in downtown Minneapolis in an effort to connect the system of parks and boulevards known as the Grand Rounds, is an example of a sunken park plaza, a new urban park aesthetic that departed from previous landscape architecture design. The plaza was designed by noted landscape architect M. Paul Friedberg.

nps.gov/history/hdp/hals/index

Submitted by Chad Moffett, Manager, Historic Preservation

HALS/Peavey Plaza Acknowledgment

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MASLA would like to thank the following individuals instrumental in developing the Peavey Plaza Historic Landscape Survey:

- Chad Moffet, Mead and Hunt
- Frank Edgerton Martin
- Tony Siebenaler-Ransom, Close Landscape Architecture+
- Jeff Lawler, Meritage Design Studio
- Jean Garbarini, Close Landscape Architecture+
- Chris Faust (Pro bono photography)

A Special thank you to Bob Close, Close Landscape Architecture+, for providing extensive pro bono support for this project.

Freehand Drawings as Design Inspiration

William "Bill" Thompson, editor of Landscape Architecture Magazine, is seeking freehand drawings of subjects found in life (or your travels) that result in sources for your design ideas.

Contact Mr. Thompson if you feel you have what he seeks.

bthompson@asla.org

202/216-2346

ASLA Annual Meeting - Early Registration

Registration is now open for the ASLA Annual Meeting (Philadelphia, October 3 - 7, 2008). Register by July 23 and save \$100. asla.org/meetings/am2008/

Award Banquet Feedback

The MASLA executive committee has been discussing ways to improve our annual banquet. One idea that has been suggested is to announce the award winning projects the night of the events, not in advance. While this will generate more excitement the night of the event, the executive committee also recognizes that if the winners are not notified in advance some might be reluctant to invite clients to the banquet. We want to know what you think about this idea. Please contact [Frank Fitzgerald](mailto:ffitzgerald@closelandarch.com) (ffitzgerald@closelandarch.com) with your comments.

Information from our Affiliated Organizations

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

The Return of Good Ideas:



Urban Density, Regional Planning Are Fashionable Again- ULI, July 10, 2008

The Urban Land Institute (uli.org) leads local real-estate developers to see the opportunities in creative re-use of old properties in big, swelling cities. These folks are

translating concept into housing and multiple-use developments.

Read more ... ULI.org/news

Housing Market Turmoil and Rising Gas Prices Reveal Lasting Value of Urbanism

"Economic, environmental concerns tarnish sprawl's appeal."- CNU, 7/2/2008

New Urbanists have long known that Americans deserve communities that give them transportation choices. Suddenly, a seismic shift has occurred which appears to have validated this argument. Record-high gasoline prices has severely diminished the market appeal of suburban sprawl just as the easy-money mortgage machine, which made sprawl look so affordable, has shut down. Meanwhile, good urbanism has clearly demonstrated its enduring value even amidst the economic challenges.

Read more ... CNU.org

Drivers Move Over: Cyclists and Pedestrians to Have Priority on New Bike Walk Streets

Bike Walk Twin Cities Announces Projects in Falcon Heights, Minneapolis, Richfield, Roseville and Saint Paul
Transit for Livable Communities' Bike/Walk Twin Cities initiative unveiled the five projects it will fund out of the 2008 round of solicitations. Five bike/walk streets were selected, and there was a lot of media coverage! Stories about bike/walk streets appeared in the Star Tribune/Roadguy Blog, MinnPost, KSTP, KMSP (notice TLC's own Jaméz Smith!), and KARE. You can view a slide show of all our photos from the event.

More from... TLCMinnesota

Minnesota Design Team - Upcoming Visits

Be a volunteer and exercise your skills; preservation, economic development, water quality, trail planning, parks, "Main Street" revitalization, urban design, and more!

MDT has two opportunities in September-

Gaylord: September 4-6, 2008

Gaylord (pop. 2,300) is a gem on the prairie. The city is complete with a nice downtown, a mix of well-kept housing, a growing Hispanic population, and everything within walking distance. The locals are resourceful, well-organized, and enthusiastic about the upcoming visit.

La Crescent: September 11-13, 2008

Join the MDT in La Crescent, the "Apple Capital of Minnesota," a small town located near I-90 and across the river from La Crosse, Wisconsin. Our effort will be part of La Crescent's month-long preparation for their famous Apple Festival the following weekend, and we're likely to bask in gorgeous fall colors as we help them

build a vision for a safe, friendly, river town connected to the water, their neighborhoods, and the bluffs that play host to orchards and to Apple Blossom Scenic Drive. Visit MDT for registration information: minnesotadesignteam.org

MASLA.org Your Resource

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2008 MNLA Landscape Design Tour

July 30, 2008

Northwest Metro Area

Join your colleagues to tour 9 design sites in the northwest metro area. The stops are sure to inspire and the event will provide great networking opportunities. Bring back ideas to implement in your own designs and share your ideas with your peers!

*The tour will begin and end at Bachman's in Plymouth. Note that the sites on the brochure may not be toured in the order listed. *Advanced registration is required by July 22*

Registration information at MNLA.biz



Tour de Plants

Aug 09, 2008 8:00am - 12:30pm

The 2008 Tour de Plants(SM): Dollars for Scholars will start on the west side of Lake Harriet in Minneapolis at Beard's Plaissance (45th and Upton Avenue South), and loop around the lakes of Minneapolis on bike trails with frequent designated stops for breaks and networking, then we'll finish with lunch. Casual and serious riders are welcome!

Proceeds will be invested in scholarships for students who have chosen a career path in the green industry via the MNLA Foundation. Help us raise money that will be invested for the long term enhancement of the Green Industry. Come and raise Dollars for Scholars with us on August 9th!

Registration and waiver information at: MNLA.biz

The 21st North American Prairie Conference!

August 4-8, 2008 in Winona, MN

Conference Highlights:

Keynote presentations by prominent biologists and authors · Wes Jackson, Ph. D., co-founder of The Land Institute · Calvin Fremling, Ph. D., author of "Immortal River"

Conference field trips
Art and photographic exhibits
An opportunity to take in the sights of the Mississippi River on the WSU River Explorer cabin cruiser
BBQ and evening entertainment at Prairie Moon Nursery
Read more at bio.winona.edu

MNLA Events

MNLA has several opportunities that MASLA members are invited to in July. See the website (mnl.biz/july.htm) for registration forms and more descriptions of the following events.

Creating Successful Photos of Landscape Lighting,
6:00 - 9:00pm, July 23rd, Rose Vine Hall, Roseville.
A networking and social hour with appetizers and a cash bar will be followed by a class on equipment, technique, composition and other considerations.

Widmer Golf Tournament

12:30, July 29th, University of Minnesota Golf Course, Roseville.

Join MNLA and their associates for lunch, dinner, drinks, golf with awards and prizes, and a lot of socializing and networking opportunities.

Landscape Design Tour

July 30th, Northwest Metro Area.

See nine inspiring design sites and hear about how they were created. Tour begins at Bachman's in Plymouth.

Treeology Exhibition

Explore the *Treeology* Exhibition along a specially-marked 1.5 mile loop through the Arboretum grounds. Trees shelter and shade us, they outlive and outgrow us - and from May 24 through October 12, they're taking center stage at the Minnesota Landscape Arboretum. The Arboretum's *Treeology* exhibition is designed to help visitors better appreciate our foliated friends by featuring their benefits and beauty all summer long. Features of the exhibit can be read at: arboretum.umn.edu/treeology

Council Approves Formation of Nonprofit Parks Foundation

The Metropolitan Council voted unanimously in June to form a nonprofit foundation that will raise private funds to help acquire land for regional parks. Preserving significant natural areas and providing recreational opportunities for the public are among the Council's priorities for the regional park system. A new foundation will help raise private funds to help acquire land for new parks needed for the region's growing

population.

The Council's 2030 Regional Parks Plan proposes that the region acquire 17,000 acres of land for seven new regional parks and 700 miles of regional trails, at an estimated cost of \$193 million in 2005 dollars.

Read the entire report from the [Metropolitan Council](#)

[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/index.php>

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