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MASLA Newsletter

an electronic newsletter

July 2007

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Advocacy

At the end of June, I had the opportunity to attend the annual ASLA Licensure Summit in Grand Rapids, Michigan. The summit is an event which ASLA's Government Affairs group puts together to get one representative from each state to discuss current issues with licensure and policy affecting the practice of landscape architecture. It may sound dry and boring to you. It did to me. But to my surprise, I found the experience to be incredibly rewarding and educational.

ASLA is the only professional organization dedicated to Landscape Architects in the United States. As such they are the best resource we have to represent our profession as a group, help us advocate for ourselves, and assist in developing policy which influences our ability to practice. There are no other organizations which are advocating solely for our profession. While so many of us are focused on our computers and calendars, keeping the money coming in and the other day to day activities necessary to our jobs, ASLA staff is actively invested in promoting our *profession* to the rest of the world. The first time I met with ASLA staff, I was surprised at the level of enthusiasm they have about our profession; and I have to say that I was a little bit embarrassed that these non-landscape architects are more focused on the importance of the recognition of landscape architecture than many of the landscape architects I know.

In Minnesota, we are fortunate. Many states are running into issues with the overlap of practice between landscape architects and engineers, landscape designers, landscape contractors and other occupations which deal with the design and construction industry. Landscape architects are struggling to prove that they are worthy of licensure and capable of designing systems signing documents which are necessary to get plans approved by municipalities. Some

groups are adamantly opposed to landscape architects being able to sign certain drawings as they find it to be a threat to their professions. ASLA has developed materials and resources to help states struggling with such issues as well as to assist those states which do not have practice acts to develop policy and maintain licensure in their "50 x 2010" initiative.

Although we do not have immediate threats to licensure in Minnesota, there are decisions and policies which affect the wide range of our practice. ASLA provides resources for landscape architects to stay on top of local and federal issues through the Advocacy Network, and I urge everyone to sign on. [Advocacy Network](#)

We can also dedicate time and energy working on promoting our profession's visibility by sitting on a variety of boards, commissions and other public seats. Not only do members Doris Sullivan, FASLA and John Uban, ASLA sit on the State Licensure Board, Mark Kogler serves on the State Designer Selection Board, giving a voice to landscape architects among architects, engineers, contractors and representatives for state agencies; and Bill Sanders, FALSA serves as an architectural advisor on the Capitol Area Architectural Planning Board. Other members serve on municipal councils and commissions, including David Motzenbecker, ASLA who serves as President of the Minneapolis Planning Commission. I congratulate and thank these individuals for their involvement and dedication in advocating for landscape architects. I know are many more landscape architects sitting on boards and commissions and I would like to highlight involvement of these members on our website in the future. So, please forward names and positions to me at estewart@landformmsp.com

Public service is an important way that we can advocate and effect the perception of landscape architects and the leadership roles we are capable of taking on in the design of the environment.

Sincerely,
Ellen C. Stewart, ASLA
President, Minnesota Chapter

MASLA Related News and Events **Several Items for Review**

Register Now for the Annual Golf Event on Tuesday, August 7th!

The Golf Tournament is only a few weeks



away. We have many sponsor and supporters of MASLA, along with MASLA members Terry Minarik and Chuck Evens, to thank for helping bring the event together. Please send in your registration forms soon as the deadline is quickly approaching. Remember to extend the invitation to related professionals and other contacts who may be interested in joining us. See the website calendar for other links to the registration form and more information about the tournament. Firms can be sponsors too! For any questions, please contact kate.lamers@bonestroo.com

MASLA Fall Barbeque

In September we will kick off the new academic year and welcome the newest board members with a barbeque open to members, sponsors and others associated with MASLA. Last year the gathering was combined with an open house at the Theodore Wirth House. This year, we are open to ideas for the event, and would welcome suggestions and volunteers from our membership. There may be opportunities to combine a social dinner with a tour or educational session beforehand. If you have ideas for a location or planning for the barbeque, please contact kate.lamers@bonestroo.com

SCAPE Magazine Articles Available Online at MASLA.org

Topics from the Spring issue of SCAPE magazine, including Whips, Nature, Law, Art and Business, are available for download at MASLA.org.

Follow this link: [SCAPE](#)

Information from our Affiliated Organizations

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

Issues in Focus: Working Nature into Land Use Decisions, July 24th

Learn about protecting natural resources while meeting growth goals.

Through lecture and small group discussions, this training session will explore the process and connection between growth and natural resources, how natural resource information fits into the comprehensive plan, how to implement natural resource ordinances, and more.

The July 24 metro program also will review the Metropolitan Council's density calculations. (There is no cost to attend this training session.)

[LandUse2007](#)

Grand Opening Celebration of the Bruce Vento Regional Trail Extension.

The new Bruce Vento Regional Trail extension is transforming a former "no man's land" east of downtown Saint Paul into a three-way trail hub linking the Bruce Vento Nature Sanctuary, Swede Hollow Park and Mounds Park to each other and to Saint Paul's Lowertown District. The ribbon cutting and program was July 14th.

[Lower Phalen Creek Project](#)

FLASHBACK: Norwegian Landscapes in Retrospect

The changing Norwegian landscape is the subject of "Flashback: Norwegian Landscapes in Retrospect." The exhibit, on loan from the Norwegian Forest and Landscape Institute, pairs historic postcards and photographs with contemporary photographs taken in the same locations up to 125 years later.

The images are dramatic illustrations of how human activity impacts landscapes and how nature steps in when humans turn their backs. The photos reveal the transition from subsistence economies to modern agricultural methods, then to tourism and nature conservation. Fishing villages and hamlets grow into resort towns; farms and pastures regrow to woodlands.

"Flashback" is part of "Nordic Summer," a metropolitan-wide celebration of the arts and cultures of Norway, Finland, Sweden, Denmark and Iceland.

On exhibit now at the Bell Museum of Natural History through August 12

<http://www.bellmuseum.org/>

Plants for Stormwater Design Volume II Published!

Second Volume Details an Additional 65 Plant Species. Great River Greening is pleased to announce the publication of a second volume of the popular resource, Plants for Stormwater Design, Species Selection for the Upper Midwest. Similar to the first book, also written by Dan Shaw and other members of the Great River Greening landscape ecology staff, Volume II is an indispensable guide to lead designers through a plant selection process that takes into account environmental factors and stormwater management practices.

Packed with diagrams and photographs, the new volume contains an additional 65 plant species. Plant species included in Volume II were chosen based on their availability, presence in the Upper Midwest prior to European settlement, aesthetic properties and functional abilities as part of stormwater systems. Native plants, due to their hardiness and functions within stormwater

systems, are the focus of the book.

Volume II also examines emerging issues in the design of stormwater systems. New chapters include The Role of Vegetation in Controlling Non-Point Source Pollution; Trees in Stormwater Design; Phytoremediation: The Promise and Pitfalls of Using Plants for Environmental Cleanup; Establishing Native Plants: What's Working and What's Not; The Role of Evapotranspiration in Stormwater Management; and Maintaining Vegetation in Stormwater Systems. The authors also evaluate seven Bioretention and Rain Garden Case Studies for success and lessons learned.

New BMPs are included, and the plant lists for the original stormwater systems discussed in Volume I have been updated. This sequel to the much-used Plants for Stormwater Design, Species Selection for the Upper Midwest is a well crafted guide for the professional and is certain to become a must-have resource. Primary funding was provided by the Metropolitan Council and the Minnehaha Creek Watershed District.

Order info at: [Great River Greening/pubs](#)

Mentors Wanted at the University of Minnesota's College of Design

The College of Design (CDes), University of Minnesota is now recruiting mentors for fall 2007. CDes facilitates an annual program that helps motivated students grow professionally by matching them with a mentor in their field of study. Within an informal, nonacademic relationship, the mentor and student create individualized action plans that foster career exploration, experiential learning, networking, and skill building to support strategic career planning and professional development for the student. Time commitment is approximately two hours per month or more, as determined by the mentor and student. The orientation kick off event will be on Monday, October 29th beginning at 6:30 p.m.

The first step to becoming a mentor includes a short online application.

Go to www.cdes.umn.edu/mentor and click on Mentor Application.

[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

Email: loons_ochs@comcast.net

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

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