September 21: 35th Annual Golf Tournament

By Richard Risner, ASLA

The American Society of Landscape Architects, San Diego Chapter (ASLASD) will be hosting their 35th Annual Golf Tournament on September 21, 2015 at Lomas Santa Fe County Club in Solana Beach. The proceeds from the event will benefit the ASLASD Annual Community Grant Program.

ASLASD is a non-profit professional organization established 38 years ago to provide educational training for the profession and community outreach programs to help the public understand the benefits provided by professional landscape architects. The Chapter’s Community Grant Program has benefitted numerous local communities by providing grant funding to help improve local community parks, schools, gardens and streetscapes.

There are a couple of ways you can help ASLASD support our local communities through this program. The first opportunity would be to donate items for drawing prizes to be raffled or auctioned during the golf tournament. Items such as Gift Certificates, Gift Cards, and Free Services are a good start. The second opportunity is to become an event sponsor and/or play in the tournament. Please see our ASLASD website at www.asla-sandiego.org for information detailing sponsorship and/or player options.

Any item(s) or monetary donations will help to ensure the success of this very worthwhile fundraising event. Your support and involvement are greatly appreciated.
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American Society of Landscape Architecture
from the President

Growth Through Involvement

I am so grateful for the experiences I have had working with ASLA San Diego and National. Because of this, I sincerely urge you to consider running for any of the board positions that are up for election this year. After being a member for so many years, I began volunteering my time to ASLA (you) during the process of planning the Annual Conference here in San Diego a few years ago. That was the beginning of many good things — for me and I hope for the members.

Before becoming active, I wondered what meaning or value I could bring to the membership, and frankly, I really didn’t know very many people, so it was a little intimidating. However, once I jumped in, I realized that there were many opportunities to help, and the bonus was that I was also helped in ways that I never imagined. The experience you have will likely be different, but most likely you will be of help and experience personal gain as well.

One of my unexpected discoveries, after becoming an active member, was just how much ASLA does for us as landscape architects and the challenges the profession faces. This made me realize just how important growing our membership is and the importance of continually getting new people in voting positions on the board.

If you are an emerging professional, you may have doubts about what you have to offer, but I can assure you that you probably have more to offer the membership than you realize. It is important that the board have a good mix of both veteran leadership and emerging professionals. This helps ensure that the entire membership is represented.

If you are a seasoned landscape architect, we need your insight to the profession. Your knowledge is invaluable and should be shared with the membership. This is an opportunity for you to influence issues that you feel should be improved, and at the same time, mentor the up and coming professionals.

Finally, you should know that nominating yourself for a position should not be an awkward thing. It happens quite frequently and is appreciated. You are really just saying you are willing to help, so please do not feel uncomfortable nominating yourself. Look for the nomination form in this issue to determine what position you might be interested in filling. If you have any questions about a position, do not hesitate to call the person who currently holds that position.

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Trustee’s Report:

SITES. Rating System for Sustainable Landscapes

Mark Steyaert, Jr., ASLA, Trustee

By the time this article is published, ASLA members will have received a news release from ASLA national on the “SITES” initiative. In case you missed it, following is a synopsis:

SITES was developed through a collaborative, interdisciplinary effort of the American Society of Landscape Architects Fund, The Lady Bird Johnson Wildflower Center at The University of Texas at Austin, and the United States Botanic Garden. SITES includes best practices in landscape architecture, ecological restoration and related fields, and will become the industry standard for promoting and acknowledging sustainable landscapes.

In the final agreement between the developing parties, ASLA and the University of Texas at Austin transferred ownership of the SITES Rating System to Green Business Certification Inc. (GBCI), the certification body for the LEED green building program from the U.S. Green Building Council (USGBC). USGBC and GBCI have been involved with and supportive of SITES since its inception, and much of the SITES Rating System was based on LEED.

ASLA will have an ongoing role in SITES, including a seat on the SITES advisory council, and will be active in providing SITES education and promotion. ASLA members will continue to be involved on SITES technical committees that support the Rating System. ASLA members will also receive discounts on SITES products, including certification, publications, and, once it is developed, credentialing. SITES project certification, using the SITES v2 Rating System, will open on June 10. Interested project teams should contact GBCI via the website, http://sustainablesites.org.

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Thompson Building Materials Design Center is a 3,500 sq. ft. outdoor display area with a 6,000 sq. ft. indoor showroom and warehouse featuring the largest selection of masonry, stucco and landscape products in Southern California. Whether you need brick, pavers, natural or manufactured stone, the Thompson Building Materials Design Center has a wide selection of innovative building products on display.

The outside display provides many different outdoor kitchen vignettes and products, while the interior showroom has a full-service conference room available for architects, designers and specifiers — just about anyone who needs a meeting space while working on their project. And, if that isn’t enough, Thompson’s knowledgeable staff will find exactly what you need.

Thank you to Thompson Building Materials for hosting a stellar event on June 11 where guests enjoyed beer from BNS Brewing & Distilling Co. and wine from Pamo Valley Winery Tasting Room. Thank you also to all of the vendors involved: Thompson Construction Services, Acker-Stone Industries, Belgard Hardscapes, Quarry-Services LLC., Eldorado Stone, Pacific Clay Products Inc., Montana Rockworks Inc., FireMagicStore.com., Valori Precast, Orco Block and Hardscape, Kichler Lighting, Arto Brick & Tile, Creative Mines LLC., and HERO Program.

And a final congratulation to Joe Cogswell who won a Belgard fire-pit and seating valued at over $500 and Erin Hagen who won an American Outdoor Grill valued at over $2,000!
Emerging Professionals Committee

Year Off to a Great Start
Kristen Koehrn, ASLA

This spring has been a growing and productive season for the Emerging Professionals Committee. We have developed a deeper understanding of irrigation and lighting landscape products with a hands-on Hunter Industries factory tour, represented our local chapter at Balboa Park’s Garden Party of the Century, kicked-off our first ever official mentorship program, and learned great project development techniques at a lecture by the talented Mark Rios of the Los Angeles-based firm, Rios Clementi Hale Studios.

On March 27th, the Emerging Professionals Committee hosted a Friday afternoon ASLA MeetUp at the Hunter / FX Factory. Lunch was provided followed by a tour of the campus including some lighting and irrigation product and manufacturing information. It was a great way for new designers to familiarize themselves with some of the top-of-the-line irrigation and lighting fixtures in the industry and for the seasoned Landscape Architects to see the newest developments and improvements at Hunter.

Our April committee meeting was held at KTU+A with a handful of new attendees. We recapped recent chapter happenings and encouraged our members to attend the Mark Rios’ lecture, which turned out to be a very enlightening and inspiring event. Mr. Rios’ down-to-earth presentation focused on three of his heroes and three of Rios Clementi Hale Studios’ projects. He encouraged our EPs to identify their own three heroes and to look to other fields of study including painting and sculpture for inspiration.

We had a great Saturday afternoon at Morley Field on May 16th with our EP-sponsored ASLA BBQ and Mentorship Program Kickoff. We met up at the picnic tables near the tennis courts to kick off our Mentorship Program with home-made brisket, refreshments, and good company. Our program is off to a good start with 14 professionals volunteering as mentors. They will meet with their mentees in-person every 6 months to continue the development of these professional partnerships in the coming years. A special thank you to Michael Watts for sharing his tips on how to foster diverse professional skills and avoid being pigeon-holed in the landscape architecture industry.

1) A committee meeting featuring ASLA SD president-elect, Rich Risner, Wednesday June 17th. He shared his tips on how to foster diverse professional partnerships in the coming years.

CCASLA Report:

Drought Response on Forefront of CCASLA Activities
Jon Wreschinsky, ASLA - CCASLA President

The landscape architecture profession has long been a proponent of sustainable practices in the planning, design, creation, and maintenance of the outdoor environment. Many of these practices have been in direct response to the existing site conditions we work with. This approach is about to become especially critical given California’s continuing drought.

The use of water in the landscape is something we as landscape architects can directly affect. The current drought has reached a point where action by the State of California to control its use has intensified. Per the Governor’s direction, the California Department of Water Resources must significantly reduce outdoor water use directly affecting how we design and maintain outdoor spaces.

Key components in the State’s efforts are updating the Outdoor Landscape Irrigation provisions of the California Building Standards and updating the Model Water Efficient Landscape Ordinance (MWELO). The proposed MWELO revision includes a number of significant changes that will require additional information in Landscape Documentation Packages; affect the design, operation, and maintenance of irrigation systems; limit the selection and use of turfgrass and other plant materials; further limit the use of water in the landscape; and address the use of recycled water in the landscape. Visit the California State Water Resources Control Board website www.water.ca.gov/wateruseefficiency/landscapeordinance/.

CCASLA has taken an active role in responding to these proposed changes, participating in public forums, conferring with allied professionals, and preparing written responses to the proposed changes. Our message has been one of reason and the need for achievable results. The California landscape is extremely diverse and requires a varied approach to how these landscapes are designed and maintained. Providing the necessary flexibility to the designer, constructor and maintainer will remain important if the new mandates are to be achievable and lasting.

There are obviously a number of areas related to landscape design, construction, and maintenance that landscape architects can continue to not only address the effort to conserve water in the landscape, but protect all facets of the environment. One of our primary tasks will continue to be the education of the public about the need to rethink what climate-appropriate landscaping is and why the practice of landscape architecture plays such an important role in meeting today’s challenges in the built environment. We owe it to ourselves to embrace these challenges and strive to be the solution rather than a part of the problem.

Should you have any questions or concerns regarding any of these issues, please contact me at jswreschinsky@pacbell.net or 619-916-6956.

Patricia Trauth

Appointed to LATC

Congratulations to Patricia Trauth on her recent Governor’s appointment as a Member of the Landscape Architect Technical Committee at the Department of Consumer Affairs. This is a three year appointment to oversee landscape architects in the state to ensure the public’s health, safety and welfare by establishing standards for licensure and enforcing the laws and regulations that govern the practice of landscape architecture in California.
2016 Community Grant Deadline August 1
Nate Magnusson, ASLA

Spread the word to local organizations to apply for the $5,000 2016 ASLA San Diego Chapter Community Grant. The Grant is intended to educate and enhance community awareness of the profession of landscape architecture as well as to provide a benefit to our local community. The 2016 Grant Application is at www.asla-sandiego.org and due August 1.

Loma Portal Elementary School Update
Nate Magnusson, ASLA

Loma Portal has made big strides in implementing the first two phases of the Ecological Schoolyard Vision Plan. At the 100th Anniversary Celebration of Loma Portal, The Loma Portal Foundation raised over $15,000 for the Ecological Schoolyard Project. This money will be used to install parklets with trees, planters and benches throughout the schoolyard. They hope to raise another $15,000 for implementation of the Habitat Garden, Outdoor Classroom for the fall of 2015.

Loma Portal is in need of the following items for the Ecological Schoolyard Project. Please contact Lisa at igoldman@rootedinplace.com.

Garden Supplies: 2 - wheelbarrows, 2 - 100 foot-long hoses, 10 x10 storage shed, rain barrel and gutters for storage shed, lock for storage shed, irrigation equipment, hose bib splitter, native plants, planting soil, wood or composite decking for raised beds and fencing, garden tools, bird feeders, bird seed, compost tumbler, compost bins, worm compost, lockable storage unit with open mesh sides (approx. 2’ x 3’).

Teaching tools: weathervane, outdoor thermometer, outdoor rain gauge, clip boards, work tables, stumps and logs for seating (approximately 30), rulers/yardsticks, levels and pulleys, chalk board, paint, white board, bulletin board.

San Diego Chapter Forms a HALS Committee
Join In to Highlight our Cultural Landscape Assets
Joy Lyndes, ASLA

The San Diego Chapter of the Historic American Landscapes Survey (SD HALS) was formed in May to promote the documentation, preservation, and knowledge of historic landscapes in San Diego.

The SD HALS encourages the participation of individuals and organizations who are knowledgeable and interested in cultural landscapes. Our first meeting will be soon and will set goals and objectives. Contact Joy Lyndes jlyndes@coastal-sage.com if you would like to be involved.

SD HALS will cover cultural landscapes ranging from prehistoric tribal through mid-century modern time periods—including designed, vernacular, historic, ethnographic and traditional cultural properties—and a broad range of interests including natural and ornamental landscapes and cultural history. There are many local, state and national groups and resources available to SD HALS which provide knowledge, support and advocacy for San Diego cultural landscapes. We intend to foster partnerships with these organizations. A few are listed below.

The National Park Service (NPS) manages the HALS National Program and formulates policies, sets standards, and drafts procedural guidelines in consultation with ASLA for HALS documentation which is submitted to the Library of Congress. The ASLA provides professional guidance and technical advice through their Historic Preservation Professional Practice Network (HALS PPN). The Prints and Photographs Division of the Library of Congress preserves the documentation for posterity and makes it available to the general public, making it the preeminent source of documentation for historic properties.

ASLA National has an active HALS Program, which engages with the NPS and will help support SD HALS and provide guidance and resource information. Their mission includes recording historic landscapes in the United States and its territories through measured drawings and interpretive drawings, written histories, and large-format black and white and color photographs. ASLA has an active and supportive HALS Professional Practice Network, which shares information on cultural landscapes, supports Chapter HALS committees, and assists with technical information for documentation.

Northern CA Chapter of ASLA has a very successful and long standing HALS program. They have approximately 100 members including arborists, community activists, enthusiasts, landscape architects, landscape historians, students, and writers. The Chapter is actively engaged in documenting landscapes in northern California that meet the criteria for HALS documentation. See the Landscapes page on their website at www.halsca.org for a list of sites in northern California that have been documented.

The Cultural Landscapes Foundation (TCLF) is a national organization composed of individuals and local, regional, and national groups with a mission of understanding and protecting our landscape heritage and to reach the broadest possible audience. TCLF supports cultural landscapes by providing training of professionals, students, teachers, and the general public to recognize, document and safeguard America’s cultural landscapes. They serve as the nation’s largest non-profit source of information about our nation’s historic landscapes and those pioneering individuals who contributed (through design, planning and advocacy) to this legacy. They raise awareness of and support for individual landscapes-at-risk, and they recognize and celebrate the efforts of owners, supporters and stewards of significant American places.

UPCOMING EVENTS:
Friday-Sunday, October 2-4, at Balboa Park, San Diego - California Garden & Landscape Historic Society (CGLHS) - Annual Conference

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Vision
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