Stewardship Committee Archtoberfest Event

Jackie Higgins, ASLA

Thank you to all the volunteers who have made the last few Stewardship events so successful. We have an even bigger Archtoberfest event planned this fall—the San Diego ASLA Stewardship Committee will be hosting an educational event on October 9 at Silver Gate Yacht Club on Shelter Island.

TREE ReLEAF IN URBAN SETTINGS an In Depth Look at Urban Forestry and its Challenges

Keynote speaker Robert Perry, FASLA will be speaking about how trees positively affect the environment on a global scale and their role in carbon sequestration. Cal-Fire will be speaking about their Urban Forestry department and their work monitoring the status of the urban forest at a state and southern California level. Robin Rivet will be talking about state and regional tree assessment tools. Brian Kempf will discuss how to select a quality tree and explain all of the specifier resources available on the International Society of Arboriculture (ISA) website. There will also be a panel discussion on the local challenges with our urban trees during this severe drought.

We will end the event with a waterfront happy hour! Please come and join us for a fun and educational event!

Look for links to register for this event on the San Diego ASLA website, in the email news blasts, and on the Stewardship Committee web page or register at http://www.brownpapertickets.com/event/2200776

The Stewardship Committee is committed to advancing awareness and exposure of the sustainable practices that San Diego Landscape Architects contribute to our local environment.
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from the President

ASLA/SD Board Works as a Team

What a year this has been. The ASLA San Diego Board has been active organizing events that have helped the profession and the individual landscape architecture practitioner. The board is made up of a great group of people who have dedicated many hours to selflessly support the profession and you. Recently I was talking with someone from another profession and he said, from his experience on boards, most of the people on boards want the “recognition” of being on a board but don’t really want to work. However, I was very proud to say, emphatically, that is not the case with this board and many past boards of ASLA San Diego. Every single board member and committee chair is actively doing something to progress the profession. That also includes the many member volunteers who support the Stewardship Committee and the Emerging Professionals events.

California’s water issues have been a concern for all of us as we learn to follow the Department of Water Resource’s new design requirements regarding irrigation. CCASLA has been representing us at the State level, and locally we have been meeting with City Council members to discuss local methods of water conservation in the landscape. As of this writing, we are in the midst of coordinating a discussion with the County as well. This will likely involve a group discussion including ASLA landscape architects. These meetings are a result of a letter sent out, by ASLA SD, to local agencies offering the knowledge of our members to help address the agency’s approach to water issues. I believe that one of the silver linings of this topic is that it has given us the opportunity to promote the value of landscape architects to policy makers. I believe these opportunities will continue.

Design Awards - Another opportunity to increase awareness of our great profession is to increase the frequency of our Design Awards. Please take note that our next Design Awards Ceremony is tentatively planned for May 19, 2016 and will have an earlier submittal date. The Call for Entries will be sent out by November 2, but note that submissions will be due February 1, 2016. We are planning for a fun event that is in early May and will have an earlier submittal date. The Stewardship Award will be presented to County Supervisor Ron Roberts!

As this is my last article to write as President, I would like to thank the Board and Committee Chairs for their hard work this year. The election of new board members will be announced soon and whomever the newly elected members are, you will be welcomed gratefully.

Stewardship Award

Patricia Trauth, ASLA

Last year as President of the San Diego Chapter, I initiated the Stewardship Award to recognize local leadership that has contributed significantly to environmental leadership, vision and stewardship or a combination of these items. Last month the Board approved the proposal to have this as an annual award and I will be developing a nomination form, which will be available on our web site. Please think about your colleagues and who may be deserving of such an award. Last year, our first award was presented to County Supervisor Ron Roberts!

Eligibility: Individuals, firms, programs, organizations, or agencies may be nominated.

Frequency: One honor is awarded annually. Nominations will occur in October, voted by the current Board in November, with the announcement at the Holiday Gala in December.

Nomination Process: Nominations may be made by any active ASLA Member. The current Board votes for a particular candidate. Nominations are to be kept confidential.

2015 Community Grant Projects Make Progress

Nate Magnusson, ASLA

The Agua Hedionda Lagoon Foundation has done great work on their trail enhancements. Several volunteer events, native garden maintenance days, educational presentations, and construction improvements have shown their commitment and strength for improving the lagoon trail and engaging the community. Please visit online at www.lagoon.aguahedionda.org for information on upcoming events and volunteer opportunities at this site.

Living Coast Discovery Center is also making progress with the Native pollinator garden. They have been working through several design charrettes and should have a final master plan for the garden later this year. Learn more about Living Coast online at www.thelivingcoast.org.

October

5  ASLA Stewardship Committee Mtg, 6 pm, DeLorenzo International, RSVP to Jackie Higgins @ Jackie@c2cld.com
7  Exec Comm Reports Sent for Board Agenda
8  Creating Great Cities: An Evening with Gil Penalosa, 6:30 p.m. to 9:00 p.m. Downtown Central Library, Neil Morgan Auditorium. RSVP http://tinyurl.com/Creating-Great-Cities-Oct-8
9  Tree ReLeaf in Urban Settings – In depth look at Urban Forestry and its challenges. ASLA Stewardship Committee. Silvergate Yacht Club, 2091 Shelter Island Drive, 1:30 Registration, 2-5pm Program, 5-6 pm Hosted Reception. Free to ASLA Members+Students with RSVP, $15 Non-members+At the Door Registration. See page 1. RSVP @ http://www.brownpapertickets.com/event/2200776

November

7  ASLA Stewardship Committee Mtg, 6 pm, DeLorenzo International, RSVP to Jackie Higgins @ Jackie@c2cld.com
4  ASLA Annual Mtg Travel Day – Chicago, IL
5-6  ASLA CPC/Trustees Mtg at Annual Mtg, Chicago, IL
12  Exec Comm Reports Sent for Board Agenda
19  Exec Comm Mtg – 6 pm, Mesa College, Room Z-205 or 201, 7250 Mesa College Dr., San Diego

December

7  ASLA Stewardship Committee Mtg, 6 pm, DeLorenzo International, RSVP to Jackie Higgins @ Jackie@c2cld.com
10  ASLA Annual Mtg/Holiday Gala, 6 pm Re- ception, 7 pm Dinner and Program, Bai Hai Restaurant. Silent Auction/Drawing donations appreciated by November 30.
10  Exec Comm Reports Sent for Board Agenda
17  Exec Comm Mtg – 6 pm, Mesa College, Room Z-205 or 201, 7250 Mesa College Dr., San Diego
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CCASLA Report:
Sunset and Other Effects
Jon Wreschinsky, ASLA - CCASLA President

Just as each day dawns, the ensuing sunset reminds us that our efforts, hopefully, have not been in vain. Professionally speaking, it is this faith or hope, that through our efforts, we live to see another day. As of this writing, it is through the efforts of the profession as a whole and the dedication of a few tireless individuals that landscape architects can rest assured that the importance of the professional licensure of landscape architects and the role this plays in the protection of the public health, safety, and welfare will be recognized for another 6-year period. It is expected that by the time you read this article, Governor Brown will have signed Assembly Bill 177, Professions and vocations: licensing boards, into law.

The sunset review process plays a critical role in assessing how effectively and efficiently our government works and, when it becomes necessary, there is a process to address specific concerns of the consuming public. As landscape architects, we should never forget this fact.

As the delivery vehicle for planning-, design-, and construction-related services, each landscape architecture licensee owes it to their clients to remain cognizant of the critical design issues of the day. This includes remaining proactive in self-education, both in professional practice and issues affecting the practice of landscape architecture; awareness of on-going licensure threats; and support for the breadth of our profession.

A key point to be made in this effort is that although the sunset review process only occurs once in a 5-6 year period, the importance of establishing minimum competency through the licensing of professional practitioners should be a daily concern. This is especially true in those areas where minimum competency is called into question.

As my days as the current CCASLA President come to a close, I can assure you that this question of minimum competency is especially critical. With the on-going drought situation becoming increasingly important as a factor in the delivery of professional design services--and don’t think that it isn’t--what constitutes minimum competency in the delivery of water-conservation-related design services and the protection of the public consuming those services is being called into question. The dilemma is that there is an increasing need to assist homeowners and others to address landscape issues as they relate to a dwindling water supply and at the same time maintain some minimum standard that protects those same consumers from unscrupulous practices. There are many individuals and businesses throughout California that are ready and willing to step in and fill what has been described as a professional design services void.

This void has been described as driven by the unwillingness or inability of landscape architects to assist homeowners by providing affordable i.e. cheap (italics mine) services to help alleviate the consumption of water in the landscape. This has been coupled with an intentional effort to broaden the Exceptions and Exemption clause of the Landscape Architects Practice Act to allow for non-licensees to provide full design-related services, including providing construction drawings, details, and specifications for all residential projects. CCASLA has been working diligently to counter the perception that landscape architects simply don’t care or wish to be bothered in the matters of residential design as well as their ability to meet the (design) budgets of this class of consumers. This is why it is especially critical that all landscape architects support the continued need to maintain minimum professional competency, i.e. professional licensure as key in protecting the public health, safety, and welfare. It will always remain critical that as practitioners, each one of us must make a continuing investment in time and resources to relearn our craft, practice it to the point of competency and demonstrate our understanding of how the delivery of services is based on an ethical and professional approach to the public’s benefit.

If there is one parting thought I would like to leave each of you with, it is never rely on others to express your individual concerns regarding your professional interests. Although CCASLA works diligently to provide that voice, you each need to take personal responsibility to reach out and educate others on what landscape architecture has been, what it is becoming, and what it will continue to be. At least that is my faith and hope.

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

SDASLA Launches Job Opportunities

The ASLA San Diego website has a new section that gives SDASLA member firms the opportunity to post job listings for 60 days as a FREE member benefit. Non-members may also submit job listings at $100 per listing. Go to www.asla-sandiego.org and click on the Resources link. When choosing Job Opportunities, you may post or edit a job posting.
Trustee’s Report: 
ASLA National / Visibility 
Mark Steyaert, Jr., ASLA, Trustee

There are a myriad of ways that we, ASLA National, SDASLA, firms, and individuals, can work to increase our visibility as a profession. When I think of visibility, what comes to mind most often are efforts to inform the public about what we do and the importance of what we do - whether it is through press releases, a mention in TV or films, or participation in Landscape Architecture Month. I keep in mind what my Trustee predecessor Glen Schmidt kept promoting during his stint as Trustee - let’s get a spot on 60 Minutes, that would be more valuable than years of smaller efforts! True. Let’s not give up that idea.

There are avenues to visibility that ASLA National pursues on a consistent bases, such as outreach and coordination between national, state, and local governments and allied professions on various issues. This creates positive visibility and informs others of the breadth of our profession and garners respect from non-landscape architects. Here is a smattering of recent efforts:

• A conference call was organized by Esri staff (company providing GIS programs) with potential partners to collaborate on ASLA’s commitment for the Clinton Global Initiative. Participants were from the Trust for Public Land and Penn State, along with ASLA.
• Attended two meetings at the White House at the invitation of The White House Council on Environmental Quality to discuss stormwater green infrastructure.
• During Water Week 2015, ASLA was represented at many events including the U.S. Water Alliance 2015 Water Prize Ceremony and the Water Week 2015 Congressional Reception. ASLA also invited Water Week guests for green roof tours hosted at ASLA headquarters.
• To celebrate WLAM, ASLA and the U.S. State Department’s Foreign Press Center hosted a foreign press tour on Wednesday focusing on sustainably designed urban landscapes in Washington, D.C.
• Met with the staff of Congresswoman Vicky Hartzler (MO) to discuss ASLA’s concerns about her “Roads Not Roses” legislation, which would eliminate the vegetation management category of the Transportation Alternatives Program.
• Met with the American Society of Civil Engineers’ government relations team, which provided an opportunity to learn about ASCE’s legislative agenda, discuss future advocacy engagement and collaboration on transportation, green infrastructure, pollinators, and conservation issues. These are a small sampling of what ASLA National does to put landscape architecture in the spotlight. We as a Chapter in San Diego also promote visibility of our profession in a similar way, and we will strive to continue to do more in this area.

Emerging Professionals Committee Collaborating with the USGBC for Social Equity 
Kristen Koehrn, ASLA, LEED AP ND

At the end of June, San Diego hosted the U.S. Green Building Council’s Convergence. The USGBC is globally recognized for its LEED green building rating system, which has recently incorporated LEED for SITES. The worldwide non-profit is continuing to grow and is now making sustainable development available to underserved communities with the launch of the ADVANCE platform.

ADVANCE is a culmination of 23 years of research, testing, and learning from the LEED green building rating system and unlocks the knowledge, experience, and benefits of sustainable development for low-income neighborhoods. It is how the USGBC does social equity. This platform meets the low-income project host wherever they are on their path and gives them the tools they need to become a leader in energy efficiency, water conservation, and sustainable resource management. ADVANCE uses feasibility studies, workshops, and plans to action in its four-step process: START, PLAN, FOCUS, LEAD.

Our ASLA Chapter was represented at Convergence on the Emerging Professionals National Committee (EPNC). San Diego benefitted from nine local service projects. These prospective ADVANCE projects are listed at right. They have positioned our city to become the leader in this nationwide movement.

With the full support of our 2016 President, Rich Risner, our chapter will put significant effort into project and volunteer recruitment for ADVANCE in the coming year. With this effort, ASLA-SD will strengthen the USGBC’s mission that “buildings and communities will regenerate and sustain the health and vitality of all life within a generation.”

Prospective ADVANCE Projects:
• San Diego Salvation Army PLAN Builder
• San Diego Museum of Man LEED Hack-a-thon
• Tree San Diego Strategic Plan
• Pacific Beach Taylor Library PLAN Builder
• Joe and Vi Jacobs Center PLAN Builder
• San Diego Healthy Schools WELL Feasibility Study
• Clean the World Service Project
• San Diego River Garden Service Project
• San Diego Coastal Habitat Restoration Service Project

If you would like to volunteer for any of the potential ADVANCE projects listed above or know of an at-need community project that could benefit from ADVANCE, contact Kristen at kkkoehrn@gmail.com.

An ADVANCE presentation will be integrated into the Holiday Gala program on December 10 given by our Emerging Professional Committee Chair, Kristen Koehrn.
Vision
A world where the built and natural environments coexist in harmony and sustainable balance; where all peoples can express their diverse heritage and their individual desires to grow and thrive; and where we, as a profession, can substantially contribute to the process of achieving these ends.

Mission
To lead, to educate and to participate in the careful stewardship, wise planning and artful design of our cultural and natural environments.