Stewardship Committee Working With Sponsors to Educate the Industry

Tim Smith, Chair, ASLASSD Stewardship Committee

Wonderful things are happening! The ASLA Stewardship Committee has put on educational events that are helping us be better stewards of the land, and bringing related industries together in discussions of common interests and challenges. These types of events will continue with the hope of fostering even more multidisciplinary discussions.

The next event, sponsored by Belgard, will occur on Friday, July 12, at the Hotel Solamar with a three-hour educational session and a social event held on the rooftop of the hotel. The focus will be on learning the new Municipal Separate Storm Sewer Systems (MS4) requirements that will affect the way we design and develop sites. Stephanie Gaines, from DPWW Watershed Protection Program, will discuss the County’s understanding of the newest requirements as well as the issues of the permit that the County/City agencies must still resolve.

(continued on page 6)
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2012/13 Executive Committee

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On April 25th, hundreds of Landscape Architects from across the country gathered in Washington DC to meet with our Congressional Representatives. We were there for one reason: to advocate for our profession. We huddled together in the morning, and then split off throughout Capitol Hill to meet with our elected officials and their staff. We successfully shared who we are and what we do as landscape architects and advocated for specific support and legislation affecting our profession including:

- Small Businesses Growth and Development
- Innovative Storm Water Solutions
- Complete Streets
- Urban Parks

The San Diego Chapter was represented by Patricia Trauth, Mark Steyaert and Tim Jachlewski. We met with the staff of Senator Diane Feinstein, Senator Barbara Boxer, Congressman Scott Peters and Congressman Darrell Issa. It was a great success for our profession!

To learn more about how you can advocate, visit: http://www.asla.org/GovernmentAffairs.asp.
August 1, 2013:
2014 Community Grant Application Deadline

Nate Magnusson, ASLA, Vice President of Community Outreach
Summer is here, and we encourage you to spread the word to local organizations to apply for the 2014 ASLA San Diego Chapter Community Grant of $5000. This is a great way to share the value of landscape architects and the work we do by forwarding the grant application to your local non-profit community groups. The 2014 Grant application deadline is August 1, 2013. A link to the application can be found on our chapter website at www.asla-sandiego.org on the right hand side. Don’t wait, forward the link NOW!

2012 Community Grant, Highwood Park Master Plan Wrap-Up
The 2012 Community Grant recipient for the Highwood Park Outdoor Environmental Education Laboratory was La Mesa Spring Valley School District. The purpose of the project was to engage students in the design and future implementation of an outdoor environmental education lab at Highwood Park. Students and teachers were included in the planning and design of the lab, focusing on the preservation and enhancement of the existing natural features of an undeveloped section of the park. This project offered an excellent opportunity to teach students about landscape architecture through an interactive design process and to create real world, hands-on learning opportunities for teachers and students. The goal for the project is to expand the areas of native plants by selective eradication and removal of non-native species and re-planting of natives. The project was implemented by Kathleen Brand, Landscape Architect, Horticultural Therapist, and Environmental Educator.

2013 Community Grant - Sikes Adobe Historic Farmstead Update and Progress
The 2013 Community Grant for Sikes Adobe Historic Farmstead has been very successful this year! The master plan display signs have been installed. Irrigation for the Eagle Scout project and the peach orchard plantings has been accomplished. Native grapes have been started from cuttings. Shown below are existing site photos. Above is a planting plan that provides a wish list of items the Conservancy is looking for to complete improvements for the project. The planting design by In-Site Landscape Architecture includes an orchard, native planting areas, and garden patches for wheat, veggies, pumpkins or fruit. This gives the project a balance between agricultural uses and native plants.

The Conservancy is looking for nurseries, suppliers and contractors to make donations of materials for the project. If you are interested in donating, please Contact Anne Cooper at (760) 432-8318 or Email: anne@sdrp.org.

Update your listing on our website
Consumers are looking for you! The ASLA office and website constantly receive requests for referrals of Landscape Architects. Update your listing at http://asla-sandiego.org/profileupdate.html. You will be able to provide a description of your company and list the special types of landscapes you design.
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Welcome New 2013 Members
Please welcome this year’s new members to ASLA San Diego:
Amelia Capron, ASLA
Yu-Ju Liu, ASLA
Rich Melcher, Affiliate ASLA
Todd M. Schechinger, ASLA
Cristina Soutoood, ASLA
Tom Williams, ASLA
Amelia Capron, Landscape Architect
Spurlock Poirier Landscape Architecture
Office of James Burnett
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Thanks to our 2013 and returning sponsors for your support of our Chapter. We encourage members to look up our wonderful sponsors on our website at www.asla-sandiego.org and do business with their representatives. Thanks so much for your support!

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Emerging Professionals Group on the Move!
Michael Watt, EPG Chairman

The Emerging Professionals Group is experiencing exciting collaboration with all of San Diego’s landscape architecture students, associate graduate members, and licensed practitioners!

On the National level we are creating surveys to gather information regarding the profession and practice for emerging professionals and to learn what the students and associates need in the way of support and collaboration. Several ideas and suggestions are in the works for the ASLA National website to make it more accessible and productive for emerging professionals and those who want to know more about this area of our membership. Also in the planning stages are LARE exam information and material availability for workshops and seminars from ASLA and CIAR.

On the local level, our Facebook page, ASLA Emerging Professionals, is growing in “likes” and our group is pumped with enthusiasm. If you ‘Facebook’, stop by and join. Kristen Koehrn, vice chair of our committee, is doing great things with this social media network. She is also working with the committee on other media venues for connection and collaboration with all of the landscape architects community.

We had a great and productive meeting last month at “Basics Pizza” in downtown San Diego where we discussed membership, upcoming lectures, and LARE workshops/study groups as well as cutting edge innovation in the landscape architecture profession.

We are having joint meetings with Rich Risner and the residential practitioners committee with discussions on events and lectures that will be sponsored by both committees.....several of our members are serving on BOTH committees!! Its’ called ‘TEAMWORK’!!

Also, if you are a seasoned professional and licensed landscape architect, we want to extend an invitation to you to contact us. We plan to implement a mentor program for our members. If you would like to volunteer, please let us know. Contact me at mwdesigns21@aol.com or Kristen Kohern at krkoehhn@gmail.com.

Stay tuned for further events!!

Attendees at the Stone Brewery event enjoy fabulous food and drink sponsored by Hunter Industries and prepared by Stone Brewery.

[continued from page 1: Stewardship]

Additionally, several projects with challenging Low Impact Development (LID) requirements along with solutions will be presented by various Landscape Architects. After the presentations, a panel of landscape architects, civil engineers, geotechnical engineers and city agencies will be available to make comments and address questions from the audience. Audience members will also be encouraged to participate with suggestions to solve such problems.

We are expecting this event to be a great opportunity to interact with City/County agents and other consultants we, as Landscape Architects, must work with when addressing LID and MS4 requirements. The ASLA San Diego chapter and the Stewardship Committee thank Seth Seaton and Belgard for sponsoring this event and supporting ASLA members’ interests in creating environmentally sensitive projects.

In May, Hunter Industries, in conjunction with the ASLA Stewardship Committee, put on another great educational and fun event at the Stone Brewery. The event included several speakers and tours of the landscape. Greg Koch, owner and founder of Stone Brewery, gave an entertaining presentation of his philosophy and approach toward his business. Marney Jensen, of Schmidt Design Group, gave a very helpful presentation on how they obtained a one star rating from ASLA’s Sustainable Sites Initiative for the design of the Stone Brewery grounds.

Anne Hunter and Chris Roesink presented Hunter Industries’ approach to sustainability in the development of their own buildings and grounds as well as their efforts to create products to help the landscape industry be better stewards of the land. They also gave tours, later in the evening, of the grounds looking at the beautiful effects of the Hunter/FX LED lights.

The event attracted more than one hundred people including some from the Southern California ASLA Chapter. This event created opportunities for everyone to meet new people and enjoy great food and drinks provided by Hunter Industries and prepared at Stone Brewery. We are very grateful for Hunter Industries’ sponsorship of this event.

For information on future events by the Stewardship Committee and other events sponsored by ASLA San Diego, please visit ASLA San Diego’s web site at www.asla-sandiego.org. The listed events are updated periodically, so check often. If you have any questions regarding these events or want to know more about the Stewardship Committee, please do not hesitate to call me at (858) 513-0030 or email at tim@wynnsmith.com.

Stay tuned for further events!!
Sponsor Spotlight:
Belgard-Old Castle
Solutions for Existing and New Landscapes

Last year, the ASLA Stewardship Committee set a goal to work with multiple disciplines (engineers, landscape contractors, etc.) to share ideas for collaboration in the recovering economy. Belgard-Old Castle stepped forward to assist the Stewardship Committee by scheduling an event in October of 2012. Multiple disciplines participated in this charrette to look at how an existing commercial site could be designed more sustainably to provide a better ROI (Return On Investment) for the property owner.

This month, Belgard-Old Castle will again play host to multiple disciplines as they examine how landscape architects and other project design consultants can collaborate on solutions to meet the new MS4 standards established by the Regional Water Quality Control Board. The MS4 standard pertains to on-site stormwater retention to prevent run off.

We thank Belgard for their sponsor support of our Chapter and these collaborative programs so an array of professions can meet, exchange ideas and find solutions to make the San Diego region a model for sustainable project development.

Belgard-Oldcastle Pavers is well known for their pavers (non-permeable and permeable) and interlocking wall blocks. Since 1995, Belgard’s locally made and nationally backed products have transformed thousands of residential and commercial properties.

Belgard’s uncompromising level of quality and craftsmanship sets the standard for hardscapes. They strive to improve their products by spending more than 20,000 hours in research and development every year. Perfecting new products keeps them aligned to current design trends and places Belgard on the cutting edge of manufacturing technologies.

Please contact Seth Seaton at Belgard-Old Castle at seth.seaton@oldcastle.com for more information on their programs and products.

2013 ASLA Golf Tournament
We’ve Dropped the Price!

This year the ASLA Community Grant Fundraising Golf Tournament will be held on August 5 at the Lomas Santa Fe Country Club in Solana Beach. Better yet, the green fees and tournament registration are only $100! This is a $35 reduction over last year and a terrific price to play at this course. The price includes all the contests and dinner at the end of the day. Confirmed sponsors (as of June 17) include: Valley Crest Landscape (Dinner), Auroralight (Shirts), Mark Schroeder & Company (Hats), Nature Designs Landscape (Beverage Cart). Contest, Tee and Drawing Sponsors include Calsense, Coast Recreation, El Dorado Stone, Hunter/FX Luminaire, KRC Rock, L.M. Scofield, Orca Block, Park West Landscape, Quick-Crete, RCP Block and Brick, Recreation Republic and reproHAUS. Download the registration form at www.aslasandiego.org (see right column of page).
CCASLA Report: California Legislation Review

Jon Wreschinsky, CCASLA President

The current 2013 California legislative session is progressing into this year’s critical phases. CCASLA has been tracking a number of bills of interest. These include proposed changes to the CEQA process, partly in support of a sustainable community strategy process; the legal ownership and use of Instruments of Service (Architects) which is designed to help clarify situations where the intellectual property rights of architects is protected from misuse due to economic circumstances; and, several water related bills including specific legislation on water recycling.

Recently the Landscape Architects Technical Committee (LATC) released a legal review of Business and Professions Code Section 5641 (Chapter Exceptions, Exemptions) of the Landscape Architects Practice Act. This legal opinion held that the current law as written clearly defines the practice of landscape architecture and stipulates what services non-licensed practitioners are legally permitted to provide. The legal opinion found that preparation of construction documents, details and specifications can only be performed by a licensee and that non-licensed practitioners are limited to conceptual design only as defined in BPC Section 5641.

CCASLA continues to study its operating procedures in order to provide services to all California ASLA members and represent licensees in a more efficient and effective manner. These activities include the formal establishment of a defense fund as part of the budget process to address specific threats to licensure and the practice of landscape architecture in California. This fund will assist in addressing the need to provide full representation at future sunset review activities. CCASLA has also established an operating fund reserve in order to provide greater stability in its operating capital budget.

The CCASLA Advocacy Grant Committee is continuing work on details of a legislative advocacy program. The program will focus on education and civil engagement on issues important to the profession. The program will provide needed materials and coordination in order for members to meet with state legislators, public officials and other decision makers that potentially affect the practice of landscape architecture here in California. Another focus will be to develop a formal network of expertise that these same individuals can call upon when discussing and acting on specific proposals where landscape architects can be of benefit.

Trustee’s Report: ASLA National Recent Activities

Mark Steyaert, Jr. ASLA, Trustee

Each year, ASLA Chapters around the country submit candidates for consideration for admission into the Council of Fellows. A Fellow is an ASLA member who has distinguished himself or herself in the profession. Fellows are recognized in different categories including works, leadership/management, service and knowledge. They are “voted in” when approved by a committee of current Fellows and inducted at the annual meeting each year. Those inducted have the “F” added to their ASLA, FASLA.

Every year the San Diego chapter tries to submit one or more candidates. Potential candidates come forward either by invitation by the Executive Board or can be self recommended. Ultimately, all candidates submitted to National ASLA must be approved by the San Diego Board.

Last year the San Diego chapter did not offer up any candidates for Fellow consideration. Several members were asked to submit, but declined. There are several reasons for this – as relayed to me by the invitees themselves or inferred by yours truly. They include:
1. It isn’t important to me.
2. It takes too much work to put the application together (true, it takes a significant effort).
3. Too busy to get the application done or done in time.
4. Don’t have proper photos of projects.
5. I have submitted in the past and have been shunned (my personal favorite).

All of these are valid reasons. However this year, the Board wants to take more of a proactive stance regarding encouraging and helping those interested in submitting. For one, we will be starting earlier in the year (like now) to call for those who themselves are interested (you know who you are), or if you have an idea of a potential candidate you would like us to contact. Also, we plan to host a Fellows workshop in September or October with either local Fellows and/or appropriate staff from National. In this workshop, information on the application process – how to make yours the best it can be – and mentors can be found to assist in completing your application.

To learn more about the Council of Fellows, visit the web site at http://www.asla.org/ContentDetail.aspx?id=21646#eligibility. Please contact me (760) 822-7424 or Tracy Morgan Hollingsworth, Association Executive Director (619) 283-8818 if you are interested or have questions.

ASLA San Diego has put together a series of Brown Bag Lunch topics - educational events that can be consumed during the lunch hour. Visit www.aslasandiego.org for information. Bring you lunch and join us for these upcoming topics:

July 17: Pools Education: The Good, the Bad and the Ugly
Mark Felstein, Gardner Outdoor and Pool Remodeling at URS Corporation

August 22: San Diego Children & Nature Collaborative
Ilisa Goldman, MLA, RLA 5293 at New School of Architecture and Design
If you missed the MEET THE FELLOWS event on April 19, you missed a great one! For the first time in the history of the San Diego Chapter and in honor of National Landscape Architecture Month, a panel discussion was held to recognize all of our local ASLA Fellows. There was truly an abundance of humor, passion, synergy and inspiration amongst the group with plenty of interaction with the audience.

The event was sponsored by T.B. Penick and held at the NewSchool of Architecture+Design in conjunction with their Industry Day. Fellows who participated included Vicki Estrada, Kelly Broughton, Martin Poirier, Andy Spurlock, Kathy Garcia, Pat Caughey, Dennis Otsuji, and Mike Stepner, Provost of the NewSchool of Architecture+Design and a fellow in AIA and AICP. An ASLA Fellow is the highest honor bestowed on landscape architects by our society.

Questions were asked of the Fellows and here are just a few of the notable responses.

When asked how they found out about landscape architecture, Vicki related that as an architecture student she attended a lecture at Cal Poly San Luis Obispo by Roberto Burle Marx. Burle Marx had a splendid way of describing what architects do (design buildings) and how landscape architects design with nature all the other elements and weave the site together. Roberto Burle Marx was a Brazilian landscape architect as well as a painter and ecologist. His designs made him world famous.

There were many students and young professionals attending the panel discussion. Kelly advised them when making professional decisions to follow your heart and perhaps ask for forgiveness later.

Pat talked about how he had been inspired by Tommy Church and Ian McHarg, particularly early on in his profession.

For me, one of the most stimulating conversations was between Kathy Garcia and Dennis Otsuji, who were both on the City of San Diego’s Planning Commission in the 1990’s. The two of them had an interesting conversation about development density. At that time, density was a word that carried considerable negativity and was not supported by many development professionals as it is today. This led to discussions about the concept of sustainability and the need to have landscape architects as the lead design professional.

Special thanks to all of our Fellows who took the time to attend. IT WAS GREATLY APPRECIATED!
Learn more about ACE Mentor San Diego opportunities at a mixer on July 24, and help introduce students to the field of landscape architecture.

Despite the continued push by the American Society of Landscape Architects (ASLA) and individual practitioners to expand awareness, the field of landscape architecture continues to lie quietly in the shadows of its more well-known cousins, architecture, engineering and construction.

“Most students still have never heard about landscape architects,” says Mark Moss, a project manager at the landscape architecture and planning firm, Schmidt Design Group, Inc. Moss is also a board member of ACE Mentor San Diego, a local project-based, after-school program that mentors high school students and inspires them to pursue careers in design and construction. “But once they learn more about the field, they’re very interested.”

Moss says he hopes to continue introducing students to landscape architecture by reaching out to local practitioners and encouraging them to get involved with ACE Mentor San Diego (www.acementor.org/601). The program will be hosting an open mixer with food, drinks and a short presentation from 5 to 7 p.m. Monday, July 24, at DPR Construction 5010 Shoreham Place, San Diego, CA 92122. Landscape architects, designers and drafters are encouraged to attend.

Founded in 1994, the ACE name stands for Architecture, Construction and Engineering. Local volunteers serve 10 schools across San Diego County by leading workshops in an after-school program where the students work on hands-on projects including putting together cost estimates, creating drawings, building models and more. The program exposes students to exciting, interactive industry-specific material they won’t find in their normal curriculum. The program also offers scholarships and opportunities for select students to attend a summer camp to learn about potential careers.

“We need landscape architects in our schools because we have a unique approach to priming, managing and designing a project as a whole,” Moss says. “Lots of people know what architects do—they design buildings. But there is a gap, in not just students, but the general public, in understanding what landscape architecture is and the important role it plays. It is an educational opportunity and a chance to highlight the field.”

For more information on ACE Mentor San Diego, or to RSVP to the July 24 event, email mmoss@schmidthdesign.com or call 619-236-1462 x115.
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