

**August 1, 2008**

## **LICENSURE LEGISLATION UPDATE – DEREK DALLING & BRAD COMMENT, MICHIGAN ASLA LOBBYISTS**

At the end of April, the Michigan Chapter held another successful Lobby Day at our State Capitol. Eighteen chapter members took time from their schedules to represent the profession and the chapter and push our Legislature to enact the licensure legislation promoted by the Chapter. Those members met with senators, representatives or staff from 54 different districts. In all, 13 state senators, 24 state representatives, staff from 8 different senate offices, and staff from 9 different representative offices took part in the Michigan ASLA Lobby Day. The 18 chapter members also witnessed the State Senate take some action on the legislation promoted by the profession.

The momentum continued in early May as the State Senate voted unanimously in support of Senate Bills 382-383, the legislation sponsored by Senator Wayne Kuipers on behalf of the profession. The legislation now is in the State House.

Momentum continued in June after Michigan ASLA President Kenn Rapp testified before the House Commerce Committee on Michigan ASLA licensure legislation. The bills in question were House Bills 5025 and 5026, sponsored by Representative Marie Donigan, and are similar to SB 382-383. There were no questions from the House Commerce Committee members. We are now working on getting a second hearing where the bills can be voted on by the House Commerce Committee and referred to the full House.

It is up to every landscape architect to keep our momentum from these important milestones! And the time has come to contact our state representatives just as many of us did earlier this year with our state senators.

Please take the time to write your state representative and request support for our effort. It is up to all of us to finish our goal and pass our legislation. Our elected leaders need to hear from us to learn why our licensure effort is so important to our profession. If you have time, you may want to consider not only contacting the senator where you live and vote, but you may also want to contact the senator who represents the area where you work or senators in areas where you have had recent projects. You can use the talking points (below) to send a separate letter to other senators. Background information is available on the Michigan ASLA website at: [www.michiganasla.org/chapter/licensure.html](http://www.michiganasla.org/chapter/licensure.html) as well.

If you are uncertain who your state representative is or if you need to find contact information, you can locate the information at the following website address: <http://house.michigan.gov/representatives.asp>. Or you can always contact your chapter staff who would be happy to point you in the right direction.

As a reminder, if you haven't already made a financial contribution to the Landscape Architects of Michigan political action committee, now is the time. While contributing to the PAC is a personal decision, keep in mind we must support those candidates that support our profession and our efforts. Even a token amount would be very helpful. The most influential and recognized organizations are those with strong PACs.

With your help, we can finish our effort this year!

# CALL FOR SITES ARTICLE WRITERS

The SITES editorial team is looking for writers for this topic:

Trend Article: **Sustainability**

For our fall 2008 newsletter

Criteria for a Trend story:

Trend stories highlight up-and-coming approaches to landscape architecture and design. The story will identify a trend and its origin, feature projects in Michigan showcasing the trend and how it has benefited the landscape, and explain why the trend is catching on. In order to be considered for a trend article, it must include input and quotes from multiple sources associated with the trend (landscape architects, planners, clients, engineers, architects).

Word count: 1,000 to 1,200 words

Photos: 5 to 10, high resolution, 300 DPI (Please provide captions for photos)

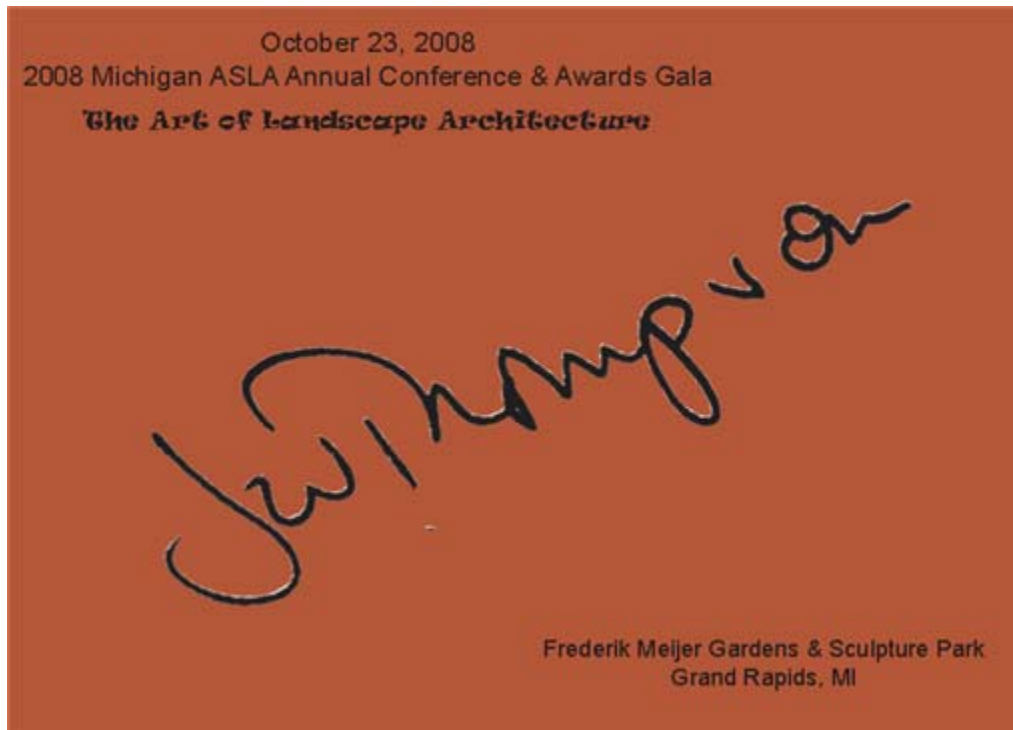
## **Why write an article for SITES?**

Writing an article for the **SITES** publication can be advantageous to your firm in the following ways:

- It is free for members to write articles
- Your project will be viewed by almost 2,000 potential clients in the state (and our mailing list is growing!)
- Your firm will be acknowledged at the end of the article and your firm's contact information will be listed
- Photos and illustrations can also be used to showcase your project

If you or your firm is interested in writing an article for **SITES**, please contact Clare Jagenow at 734-669-2691 or [clare.jagenow@jjr-us.com](mailto:clare.jagenow@jjr-us.com), so we can reserve a space for you. We look forward to highlighting your project in the next issue!

## SAVE THE DATE!



## ASLA NATIONAL UPDATE – PAM BLOUGH, ASLA, MICHIGAN ASLA TRUSTEE

As summer progresses, work at ASLA national continues to move along. Several initiatives are making headway including "Growing the Profession," "Sustainable Sites Initiative", several legislative agenda items, 50 by 2010 Licensure Efforts, as well as several PR efforts. Earlier this month I attended the Summer Executive Committee Meeting and the Growing the Profession strategic meeting. I ask that you each keep up your passion for our profession. We can each make a difference for so many people.

- Pam Blough

### Governance and Administration

- A special discussion on the topic of **growing the profession** was convened in Asheville, NC, on July 9 in conjunction with the ASLA **Executive Committee** meeting. Representatives of the **Canadian Society of Landscape Architects, Council of Educators in Landscape Architecture, Landscape Architecture Foundation, Landscape Architectural Accreditation Board, and Council of Landscape Architecture Registration Boards** participated in the meeting, along with representatives from ASLA's Council on Education and Licensure, Emerging Professionals, and Public Relations Committees. The goals of the meeting were to share knowledge on the issues and challenges; review current and planned initiatives; identify knowledge gaps; and identify potential additional efforts and opportunities for collaboration. Results will feed into planning for 2009 and beyond.

- **President Perry Howard, FASLA**, is attending the **National Society of Professional Engineers** board meeting in Portland this week. Howard will report on the Sustainable Sites Initiative and other ASLA priorities.
- EVP Nancy Somerville represented ASLA at the **U.S. Air Force's annual design awards** luncheon on July 16. Landscape architecture firm **The Environmental Collaborative** was one of the merit award winners. Leaders of the Air Force Center for Engineering and Environment are very interested in the **Sustainable Sites Initiative**.
- EVP Somerville and Special Assistant Keith Swann gave a presentation on the **ASLA green roof** at the **U.S. Botanic Garden** on Friday, July 18. Discussed were the overall positive aspects of a green roof, testing results, and retrofitting vs. applying to a new building. **Dana Nunez Brown, ASLA**, of Brown and Danos, Baton Rouge, also presented on stormwater management.
- Recent **visitors to the green roof** included: employees of the **World Bank**, who said they would inform the Bank's Green Group about the ASLA roof for possible future collaboration; employees from the architectural firm **Ayers Saint Gross**, Washington, DC; and a resident who is interested in doing a green roof on his home.

## Government Affairs

- **The Texas House Government Reform Committee held a hearing on July 16 to consider deregulation of certain professions, with a major focus on landscape architecture.** According to the chapter, licensure was well defended by a series of witnesses, including the executive director of the multidisciplinary licensing board (landscape architects, architects, and interior designers) and **CLARB President Cleve Turner, ASLA**. Eleven other landscape architects registered at the committee hearing to indicate their interest, but did not testify. There was positive feedback from several of the committee members, and it is unclear whether the committee will recommend moving ahead with deregulation legislation during the 2009 legislative session.
- **New Jersey legislation to upgrade the title act to a practice act awaits action from Governor Corzine.** He has 45 days from its passage (August 7) to act on the bill or it becomes law without his signature.
- Federal Government Affairs Manager Roxanne Blackwell participated in a congressional briefing sponsored by Congressman Earl Blumenauer, Hon. ASLA, (OR) to discuss **policies to improve and fund the nation's infrastructure.**
- Government Affairs staff attended a Senate Appropriations full committee mark-up on July 10, where the **Transportation, Housing and Urban Development (HUD) spending bill for 2009 passed** unanimously 29-0. The bill will provide \$73 million for public transit programs and full funding federal transportation programs authorized under the **Safe, Accountable, Flexible, Efficient Transportation Efficiency Act: A Legacy for Users (SAFETEA-LU)**, which contains key ASLA-supported legislation, including Transportation Enhancements, Scenic Byways, and Safe Routes to School programs.
- Staff attended the **House Subcommittee on National Parks, Forest and Parks hearing** which addressed legislation affecting federal public lands. During the hearing, Rep. Raul Grijalva (AZ) discussed his sponsored legislation, H.R. 5263, the *Forest*

*Landscape Restoration Act.* This legislation would encourage restoration of priority forest landscapes.

- Staff participated in the **Sustainable Urban Forests Coalition's** conference call to discuss strategies for advancing the *Energy Conservation Through Trees Act (H.R. 5867)* and the *Green Resources for Energy Efficient Neighborhoods (GREEN) Act of 2008*. The coalition is also working to maintain \$30 million in funding for the U.S. Forest Service's Urban and Community Forestry Program that is reportedly included in the FY09 House Interior, Environment, and Related Agencies Appropriations bill.
- ASLA participated in a conference call with **The Conservation Alliance**. During the call, participants discussed potential projects and legislation, including S. 3213, the ***Omnibus Public Land Management Act of 2008***. This legislation, sponsored by Senator Jeff Bingaman (NM) would address over 90 current land management Senate bills that are under the jurisdiction of the Bureau of Land Management, National Wilderness Preservation, the U.S. Forest Service, and the Department of the Interior, among others.

## Public Relations and Communications

- Staff are preparing the **next phase of outreach for the Sustainable Sites Initiative**. Plans include reaching out again to hundreds of organizations to participate in the program, targeted briefings to major industry players, a press conference at the ASLA Annual Meeting, developing new collateral materials, a revamped sustainability section on ASLA.org to appear in conjunction with the final report, as well as additional tactics.
- The **Career Discovery Activities Manual**, scheduled for fall release, is taking shape. The manual's objective is to get NLAM chapter participation to 100 percent. Currently, 10 projects are being chosen that will **both offer different levels of complexity and serve as models for chapters to implement**.

## Finance & Business Operations

- The **headquarters building has earned the EPA ENERGY STAR for 2008**. Earning the ENERGY STAR indicates that the building is using approximately 35% less energy than average buildings while still providing quality service and comfort to occupants. The EPA has awarded this to more than 3,200 buildings nationwide. In the U.S., it is estimated that energy loss from commercial buildings represents 18 percent of greenhouse gas emissions.

## Member and Chapter Services

- Current ASLA Membership statistics:

Member Type	Total
Affiliate ASLA	848
Associate ASLA	1,788
Corporate ASLA	191
Full Member	10,775
Full-Fellow	603

Honorary ASLA	96
International ASLA	264
Student Affil ASLA	600
Student ASLA	3,005

**Total** 18,170

## Information and Professional Practice

- Today ASLA hosted the **Green Infrastructure Community of Practice** in Washington, D.C. EVP Nancy Somerville welcomed representatives from 30+ federal and local government agencies, NGOs, and trade and professional organizations and gave an update on the work of the Sustainable Sites Initiatives. Special Assistant to the EVP Keith Swann gave an ASLA Green Roof presentation and tour. The EPA Watershed Academy also presented a webcast on "Green Streets."
- Professional Practice Manager Rachel Shaw is now ASLA's liaison to **New Partners for Smart Growth** (NPSG). ASLA is a sponsor of the 2009 NPSG meetings in Albuquerque. Shaw is sitting in on the review of proposals for education sessions for next year's meetings.
- Professional Practice staff met via conference call with the **PPN Council Leadership**. The council leaders are currently reviewing and updating the PPN Guidelines. Other issues brought before the group were a proposal for a new PPN related to plants, and whether a PPN would be an appropriate way to support members interested in small business issues.

## Deadlines and Reminders

- The deadline for responding to the **call for 2009 committee volunteers** and the request for **nominations for national office** is **Monday, August 4**. Send expressions of interest for committee service and nominations to Corporate Secretary Mary Hanson at [mhanson@asla.org](mailto:mhanson@asla.org).

The Michigan Chapter of ASLA  
Annual Conference

October 23

*The Art of Landscape Architecture*

Thursday

Frederik Meijer Gardens & Sculpture Park  
Grand Rapids, Michigan

2008