

# PLAIN NEWS

The Official Newsletter for the Prairie Gateway Chapter of the American Society of Landscape Architects

January – February 2006



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## Message from the President...

By: John Lutz, ASLA – Chapter President

PGASLA has been very active during the first quarter of this year. The chapter hosted its Annual Meeting in January at the Shoal Creek Country Club. We all enjoyed food and beverages and had the opportunity to discuss our goals for 2006. Thanks to those who attended and contributed to the discussion. PGASLA had the opportunity to host a combined social at the Screenland Theatre with the Kansas City Section of APA and AIA KC in February. The social included drinks, snacks, and a private screening of *The End of Suburbia: Oil Depletion and the Collapse of the American Dream*. Many attendees also participated in First Friday in the Crossroads District later that evening. The combined social was a welcome end to a busy week and provided the opportunity to meet some great people from our allied organizations.

### Stormwater BMP Bus Tour

The activity trend will continue in the near future. PGASLA and the Student Chapter of ASLA at K-State will host a bus tour of stormwater BMP's in Topeka, Lenexa, and Kansas City on Saturday, April 1. Bus transportation will be provided to bring the students from Manhattan to the selected sites. The tour is a continuation of a panel discussion in Manhattan about current stormwater BMP's. The culmination of this effort will be the design and construction of a BMP along Campus Creek at K-State.

We feel that, like the students, many of our professional members would benefit from learning more about the built BMP's in our region. We would like to gauge the interest among professionals from the Kansas City area. Tentatively, we plan a second bus to pick-up the professionals at 8:00 a.m. at the Missouri Department of Conservation Discovery Center at Troost Avenue. The second bus will proceed to the first BMP site in Topeka and follow the tour back to the Discovery Center in the afternoon. The final tour at the Discovery Center is scheduled to end at 5:00 p.m. Professionals also can carpool to the first Lenexa site if they need a shorter day; we should arrive in Lenexa around noon. Please email or call me at [lutz@skw-inc.com](mailto:lutz@skw-inc.com) or (816) 460-1131 if you would be interested in joining this tour and to provide a count of those who wish to catch the bus at the Discovery Center. This will enable us to justify a second bus. Lunch will be provided to members for \$10 and continuing educational credit slips will be provided as requested. Stay tuned for the itinerary and additional details.

### Save the Date Part I - 2006 Awards Celebration

Our annual awards celebration will be held at the Liberty Memorial Museum in Kansas City on Saturday, May 6. The celebration is always a good time for networking and renewing old friendships. This is an opportune time to learn more about the chapter and to view our award-winning projects. This meeting is open to all members, spouses, friends, and even colleagues who may be potential members. Again, stay tuned for more information about this event.

### Save the Date Part II – 2006 Central States ASLA Conference

This year the Iowa Chapter of ASLA will host the first annual Central States Conference and Awards Ceremony. Hosted by the Iowa, Great Plains, St. Louis, Prairie Gateway, and Oklahoma chapters, the event is entitled *People and Parks: From the Corner lot to the Nation's Playgrounds*. Topics include Urban Parks, Waterfront Parks, Park Master Planning, and Methods to systematically determine successful parks. A social will be held before the Awards Ceremony and a pub crawl is scheduled for later that evening.

PGASLA encourages all firms that submitted for our chapter's awards program also to submit for the Central States program. Like they say, you can't win if you don't enter.

This year's event will be held at the Hotel Fort Des Moines, in downtown Des Moines. The dates are Thursday, May 18<sup>th</sup>, and Friday morning, May 19<sup>th</sup>. More information will be available at [www.iaasla.org](http://www.iaasla.org).

**Continue Reading for  
Job Opportunities!**

Also PG-ASLA is forming a committee to plan the **2007 Central States Conference in Kansas City**. Volunteers are needed. First tasks include selecting a theme for the event, location, and discussion about guest speakers.

**Kansas City Design Center (KCDC)**

The Kansas City Design Center's annual lecture series helps to build public awareness of leading ideas and issues in urban design and provides a unique opportunity for initiating community dialogues about critical issues facing the region's built environment. The 2006 series, "Transformations: Leadership for the Public Realm" will feature individuals who have played a direct and significant role in devising and implementing civic agendas for good urban design and stewardship of the public realm. All lectures will take place in the Gladys Feld Helzberg Auditorium at the Kansas City Public Library, Central Branch at 6:00 pm, preceded by a 5:00 pm reception.

**Elizabeth Barlow Rogers** is president of the foundation for Landscape Studies, and was the guiding force behind creation of the Central Park Conservancy, which restored Frederick Law Olmsted's design legacy to America's premier urban park. She also founded the Cityscape Institute, a not-for-profit organization dedicated to assisting citizens and public officials in the improvement of public places, and was founding director of Garden History and Landscape Studies at the Bard Graduate Center. **Wednesday, April 5, 2006.**

**Robert D. Yaro** is president of the New York Regional Plan Association, America's oldest and most respected independent metropolitan research and advocacy group. He also chairs The Civic Alliance to Rebuild Downtown New York, a broad-based coalition of civic groups formed to guide redevelopment in Lower Manhattan in the aftermath of the September 11 attacks on the World Trade Center. He is currently practice professor in the city and regional planning at the University of Pennsylvania. **Tuesday, May 16, 2006.**

**KCDC Calendar:** <http://www.kcdesigncenter.org/calendar.html>

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### Movers and Shakers

Jason Meier has joined Matt Adam Development in Overland Park, Kansas as Vice President of Development.

Shannon Gordon has joined Ochsner Hare and Hare in Kansas City, Missouri.

Tod Hueser has joined Lutjen Associates in Kansas City, Missouri.

Please keep us informed of moving or new Landscape Architects in the area.

### Congratulations!

Joe Daly, his wife, Megan, and big brother Aidan welcomed a baby son, Connor Paul into this world on February 2. He weighed 7 lbs. 8 oz. and was 19 in. tall.

Chris Handzel and his wife, Carissa, welcomed a baby daughter, Emaline Victoria into this world on January 18. She weighed 6 lbs. 5 oz. and was 18 in. tall.

Cale Doornbos and his wife, Jacque, welcomed a baby daughter, Grace Elizabeth into this world on March 4. She weighed 3 lbs. 7 ozs. And was 15-1/4 in. tall.

### Public Relations and Resource Development

**Twenty professional chapters and one student chapter have contributed to the ASLA Green Roof**, raising the total cash contributions to \$102,630. Calls are continuing to medium and large firm principals and past leaders of the profession.

<http://www.asla.org/land/050205/greenroofcentral.html>

The **2006 Professional Awards Jury** will be meeting here this weekend to judge the 518 awards submissions—the fourth year entries have surpassed 500, making ASLA's awards program among the most competitive in the design and construction industry. Award recipients will be announced in the April 17 issue of *LAND Online*.

[http://www.asla.org/awards/2006/rules\\_entries/jurors.html](http://www.asla.org/awards/2006/rules_entries/jurors.html)

**The ASLA/National Building Museum *Building in the Aftermath* session, "The Gulf Coast: Restoring the Landscape" drew a standing-room-only crowd** on February 23. Joseph E. Brown, FASLA, Paul Rookwood, ASLA, Kevin Shanley, ASLA, and James L. Sipes, ASLA, discussed how natural resources were affected and steps that need to be taken to help mitigate future damage from storms and hurricanes. Web Editor Dave Connell posted the audio of the program as a [podcast](#) on the ASLA web site and covered the story in *LAND Online* <http://www.asla.org/land/030606/gulfcoast.html>.

Public Relations Manager Ashley Owens and Marketing Manager Julie Ziegler are coordinating materials for the **"Use Your ASLA Designation" campaign** which will include a mailing with a pin, follow-up emails, and *LAND* coverage to encourage members to use their membership designation, as well as when and how to use them.

The American Institute of Architects, the American Public Health Association (National Public Health Week), the Cultural Landscape Foundation, GreenDC Week, and PLANET have signed on as **partners for National Landscape Architecture Month** in addition to the existing partners, American Horticultural Society, the American Nursery & Landscape Association, and the Urban Land Institute.

To date, **18 chapters have submitted their [National Landscape Architecture Month event listings](#)** to Public Relations Coordinator Erin Maguire. A list of the **"Top Five"** public outreach activities chapters can do to gain media attention during NLAM was featured in Monday's *LAND*. The **Indiana Chapter** has already begun covering NLAM and their many chapter events in their quarterly issue of their magazine, *INSite*. Public Relations staff will participate in the Chapter Presidents Council conference call this week to discuss NLAM resources and how they can support chapter activities. An ad promoting NLAM will run in the April issue of *Landscape Architecture*.

PR staff met with **The American Institute of Architects** on Monday to discuss ways to work together in 2006 and beyond, including NLAM, trading mailing lists, exchanging practice information, and cross promotion of the AIA Convention and the ASLA annual meeting.

**Dennis Carmichael, FASLA, and Sunny Scully, FASLA, were interviewed by the Associated Builders and Contractors (ABC) [Construction Executive](#) magazine** on trends and growth in the landscape architecture industry.

Check out all the great coverage of members in this week's **Landscape Architecture in the News** on disaster assistance, garden design, and a variety of local planning and design issues. <http://www.asla.org/land/030606/lain.html>

**A new design for *The Dirt* debuted last week.** The functionality and look resemble the new *LAND Online* and other new sub-site designs. **Chapters are encouraged to link to *The Dirt* from their web sites.**

## Thanks to our Sponsors!

Currently the following are our sponsors to date. We have a sponsorship drive going on and hopefully in the future we can have more to announce.

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## Governance and Administration

**Green roof construction update:** The new roof membrane is in place. The initial flood test identified a leak along a seam, which is being repaired. A second flood test will be done next week. Demolition of the ceiling over the stairwell is being completed and the new stairs to the roof will be in place shortly. <http://www.asla.org/land/050205/greenroofcentral.html>  
**Construction will be completed in time for dedication on Earth Day, Saturday, April 22.**

The **National Building Museum's (NBM) Construction Watch tour of the green roof** was postponed to April 8 when the new stairs will be in place and the project will be closer to completion. The NBM tour **sold out in three hours**. A preview tour for media will take place prior to the April 22<sup>nd</sup> dedication and additional tours/events are planned for the following week. Calls from individuals and groups inquiring about tours have already begun. Fact sheets and additional graphics are being prepared as handout/briefing materials on the roof. Current plans call for the roof to be open for tours/visits by members and by other groups/organizations by appointment beginning May 15. Several opportunities for visiting the roof are being built into the midyear meeting schedule for trustees and chapter presidents. Staff are working on an application for a **National Endowment for the Arts** grant to support an expanded exhibit and written materials on the green roof as well as development of a related tour/educational workshop for 10-14 year-olds.

## Government Affairs

**Good news on the licensure front** this week. On March 1, the **West Virginia** House approved the practice act upgrade. This week, the Senate committee approved the bill, sending the proposal to the Senate floor. Last year, the Senate committee was the sticking point for the bill. **Virginia** scored a victory last week when the legislature approved a bill to change a provision that stated that local and state authorities *may* accept the stamp of a landscape architect so that it reads that such entities *must* accept a landscape architect's stamp. The bill now goes to the governor for his signature. Yesterday, Colorado's practice act legislation was approved unanimously by the House Business Affairs and Labor Committee; the next step for the bill will be appropriations.

Last month, more than 1,460 ASLA members completed a **grassroots advocacy survey** designed to provide a baseline assessment of the extent to which members engage with elected officials on issues important to the profession and the information, tools, and other resources they would need to become more effective advocates. This high level of response is extremely encouraging and offers a solid foundation on which to build. In general, the survey found: (1) large majorities of members rarely or never contact state and federal officials; (2) when asked why, more than half said they do not have sufficient background information while 40 percent indicated they had never been asked to engage; and (3) about 90 percent of members indicated that having background information is the most important resource they need to become more actively engaged followed by the need for talking points and local examples to illustrate issues.

**With information from the survey, ASLA staff will begin to research options for developing an on-line action center.** A more detailed summary of the survey results is available this week in *LAND Online*. <http://www.asla.org/land/030606/federal.html>

**Lobby Day** is less than two months away. In order to be prepared to begin requesting meetings early next month, ASLA staff is requesting that those attending the leadership meetings **return attendance forms by March 17**. ASLA is pursuing this aggressive time frame so that staff can identify key Congressional districts without ASLA representation so additional steps can be taken to recruit participants from these areas. **If you have not yet returned your attendance form, please email it to Federal Government Affairs Manager Scott Kovarovics at [skovarovics@asla.org](mailto:skovarovics@asla.org).**

Securing **Congressional funding for HALS** remains one of ASLA's top federal legislative priorities. In the past, this has been a significant focus during Lobby Day. However, the appropriations process is well under way by early May (especially in the House of Representatives), which requires us to reach out to members of Congress on this issue well in advance of Lobby Day. Working with the nationwide network of HALS liaisons, we have begun an aggressive effort to demonstrate widespread support for funding and to reach out to Representatives and Senators leading key Appropriations subcommittees. **By later this month, our goal is to engage ASLA members across the country as advocates with their Representative and Senators.** Based on the status of appropriations bills in early May, ASLA will maintain the flexibility to address HALS on Lobby Day.

See the updated web site for information and the latest approved meeting minutes.

[www.pgasla.org](http://www.pgasla.org)

### **Information and Professional Practice**

ASLA hosted a working meeting on Friday, March 3, and Saturday, March 4, for strategic planning of the SITESS initiative. SITESS stands for “**Systems Integration Tool for Environmentally Sustainable Sites,**” and aims to develop metrics for site performance and means to evaluate and recognize overall site sustainability. Participants included **President Dennis Carmichael, FASLA, Information and Professional Practice VP Rob Tilson, FASLA, Sustainable Design and Development PPN Chair April Philips, ASLA, and PPN Officers Patrick Curran, ASLA, Deb Guenther, ASLA, Keven Graham, ASLA, Jana McKenzie, ASLA, and Linda Moery, ASLA. Heather Venhaus, ASLA,** represented ASLA’s project partner, the **Ladybird Johnson Wildflower Center.** The focus of the meeting was identifying the resources needed to meet project goals and planning to secure and optimize those resources.

### **Education and Academic Relations**

The **Landscape Architectural Accreditation Board** met on March 3-4. The Board reviewed five programs that were undertaking the accreditation renewal process and one program applying for candidacy status. Results of the meeting will be available after the programs reviewed have been notified.

The **2006 Graduating Student Survey is being prepared.** The survey will once again be an online survey and data collection will begin in April with survey results available in the fall.

ASLA is working with the **U.S. Department of Labor** to provide information for the Occupational Information Network (O\*NET). O\*NET is an automated database that replaces the Dictionary of Occupational Titles.

### **Meetings and Special Programs**

Yesterday, detailed instructions and the ASLA hotel reservation form and ASLA reimbursement forms were emailed to the Board and the Chapter Presidents Council in preparation for the 2006 midyear meetings and Lobby Day. **The hotel reservation forms are due back to Lynnette Davis at [ldavis@asla.org](mailto:ldavis@asla.org) on or before March 24, 2006** to ensure the ASLA reduced rate at the headquarters hotel, the Hyatt Regency Washington on Capitol Hill.

### **Deadlines and Reminders**

The **Leadership Calendar of Events** can be accessed on the web at <http://www.asla.org/membersonly/governance/calendar.htm>

## **2006 Calendar of Events in Brief**

March 23	LINKS Event – Technical, Aesthetic and Human Considerations Regarding Light and Landscape
April 1	Stormwater BMP Bus Tour of Topeka, Lenexa, and Kansas City projects
April 5	Submittal Deadline for Central States Conference
April 5	Elizabeth Barlow Rogers lecture (KCDC)
May 6	PG-ASLA Awards Celebration at Liberty Memorial
May 16	Robert D. Yaro lecture (KCDC)
May 18-19	The First Annual Central States Conference and Awards Ceremony

The Kansas State University College of Architecture, Planning and Design would like to inform practicing professionals that they are welcome to attend College-sponsored lectures. A certificate of attendance is available at all lectures to facilitate reporting participation to the appropriate board or agency for fulfillment of continuing education requirements. The College's lecture schedule is available at: [www.arch.ksu.edu/info/events](http://www.arch.ksu.edu/info/events).



## LINKS UPDATE

The LINKS event for March 23rd, 2006 will be Derek Porter of Derek Porter Studios. He will be presenting "Technical, Aesthetic and Human Considerations Regarding Light and Landscape." From 12 pm - 1 pm. The location will be the Sylvester Powell, Jr, Community Center, 6200 Martway, Mission, KS 66202

Please contact Tod Hueser ([ramtod@aol.com](mailto:ramtod@aol.com)) to offer to set up topics and speakers for events, identify a location for an event and coordinate the ordering and delivery of food. Special thanks to Korey Schulz for his years of service in getting the LINKS program established.

### In Memory

**Donald Ray Sechrest**, 72, of Kansas City, passed away on Friday, Jan. 20. Don was born in St. Joseph, Mo., on Feb. 16, 1933.

Don's life was golf. He attended Christian Brothers Academy in St. Joseph, and graduated in 1956 from Oklahoma A & M (Oklahoma State University) in Stillwater, where he played varsity golf. Upon graduation Don stayed in Stillwater, working with the late Labron Harris at Lakeside Golf Course and playing on the PGA Tour. In 1963 Don began to pursue his true passion by designing his first course, the Stillwater Golf and Country Club. During his career Don designed more than 90 courses, including Adams Pointe, Heritage Park, Loch Lloyd, Mozingo Lake, Pinnacle, Terradyne and Southwind. His "grand finale" design, and where he spent his last days, was the Ixtapan Club de Golf in Ixtapan de la Sal, Mexico. Don is survived by his son, Kent Sechrest and wife Lori of Stillwater; his daughter Kelly Wilson and husband Todd of Kansas City; five grandchildren; close friend and companion Ruth Ann Messner and family of Andover, Kan. Other survivors include nephew Dan Sechrest and nieces Debbie Lowe (Greg) and Laura Kehrlein (Vince). Interment services were held on the golf course in Ixtapan del la Sal, Mexico.

In lieu of flowers, the family requests that any personal memories of Don be shared with the family via Kent Sechrest ([kent\\_sechrest@yahoo.com](mailto:kent_sechrest@yahoo.com)). Published in the Kansas City Star on 1/25/2006.

## Job Opportunities

**BNIM Architects** is seeking a talented landscape architect with 3-10 years of experience. Candidates should be collaborators, passionate about sustainability, and committed to the highest level of design excellence. Good hand drawn graphic skills, proficient in AutoCAD, and presentation software are essential. Experience in GIS, Land Development Package, and 3D computer modeling are a plus.

BNIM is committed to the highest level of design ideas and has been recently recognized by the ASLA 2005 Award of Excellence for the "New American City". Send resume to **Amy Allen** @ BNIM Architects, 106 W 14<sup>th</sup> Street, Suite 200, Kansas City, MO 64105, [aallen@bnim.com](mailto:aallen@bnim.com)

**HNTB**, an established multi-disciplinary design firm, is expanding our Urban Design + Planning practice. This growth provides opportunities for key individuals to join our award-winning design team working on local and national assignments. These include public and private projects ranging from small-scale neighborhood parks to major urban revitalization projects. Our primary goal is to be *the firm of choice* -- attracting the best talent, the best clients, and the best projects.

Recent design commissions include: Vivion Trail, Downtown Lee's Summit Streetscape Revitalization, the South Metro Connection Study, Kaw Point Riverfront Park, Atchison Commercial Street Revitalization, and the Las Vegas Convention Center.

The following positions are currently available for talented individuals to join our team:

**Landscape Architect I** - Requirements include a BA/BS in Landscape Architecture. Ideal candidate is entry-level, interested in learning and being part of a dynamic, multi-disciplinary team working on all phases of project development. Position requires AutoCAD and/or Microstation capabilities, computer rendering and presentation graphics skills.

**Landscape Architect Intern** - Position offers the opportunity to work in all aspects of Landscape Architecture. Ideal candidate should be working towards BA/BS in Landscape Architecture with some knowledge of AutoCAD and/or Microstation, as well as computer rendering and presentation graphics skills.

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Send resume in confidence to:

Kelly VanElders at HNTB Urban Design + Planning, 715 Kirk Drive, Kansas City, Missouri 64105, [kvanelders@hntb.com](mailto:kvanelders@hntb.com) Phone: (816) 527-2714