

Rocky Mountain News

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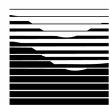
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LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTS

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FROM THE PRES.....

Jolene Rieck, ASLA

I am continually overwhelmed with the amount of correspondence a Chapter President receives! It truly could be a part-time job. As an extravert, I enjoy communicating anyway, so any chance to correspond with my colleagues or the public in general motivates me. April is National Landscape Architecture month. There are many things that chapter members are doing to promote the profession on your behalf.

We are displaying our booth at a workshop targeted towards realtors, allied professionals and government agents. If you submitted a board for an award, you get free advertising! We are working with both high school and colleges to promote awareness of the profession, hopefully resulting in some home-grown professionals to help with our staffing needs. National ASLA is offering leadership workshops and conferences that our members are taking advantage of, what a great time to be a chapter member!

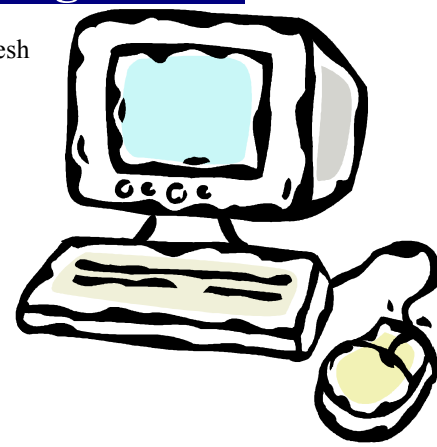
If you are looking for a summer intern, ASLA is offering a free posting through "job link" on their website. We can also post your opening on our chapter website, too. I have received inquiries from out-of-state practitioners who want to move to Idaho and Montana, and they are looking at our chapter website for openings.

Most importantly, don't forget to thank our sponsoring vendors, who are making all of our new efforts possible. They help keep our chapter dues affordable and allow for special services as mentioned above. We hope this newsletter is informative and appealing enough to take the time from your busy schedule.

Jolene Rieck, ASLA

www.imasla.org

The chapter website has fresh new look...Check it out!



TRUSTEE REPORT...

Jim Mihan, ASLA

Upcoming Mid-Year Meeting

We are quickly coming up on the mid-year meeting for ASLA. The purpose of this meeting is to continue the business of the organization, coordinate the training and interaction of chapter president's and president-elects so they can take back energy and ideas to their respective chapters, as well as provide an opportunity to lobby our national legislative representatives to further the advocacy of issues that are a priority to this organization. The mid-year meeting is May 7th thru 10th and the Idaho-Montana Chapter will not only be represented by myself as Trustee but Jolene Rieck and Eirik Heikes who will be attending the Chapter President's Council. Please take a moment and let any of us know what issues are important to you so that we can try to pass on this feedback to the senators and representatives that we will be meeting with in Washington, D.C.

ASLA Advocacy Network

ASLA is currently asking members to talk to their congressional representatives about restoration of National Arboretum funding and to vote to make the National Landscape Conservation System a permanent entity. If you aren't already receiving notifications from the ASLA Advocacy Network, please go to asla.org and find out more about this great tool. The network allows ASLA to quickly coordinate action on legislative priorities.

Priority Setting and Program Review under way

ASLA is working with the Board of Trustees to evaluate current programs and enlist our input in setting the priorities given to future activities. I would love to hear back from membership on any ideas they have about programs they believe are particularly successful or others that may not seem a priority for our chapter. Please reply soon as this effort is working quickly in coordination of the upcoming mid-year meeting.

HALS...

Historic American Landscape Survey Jim Mihan, IMASLA HALS Liaison for Idaho

ASLA continues efforts to secure funding for HALS Program

Efforts continue to secure funding. I wanted to remind everyone that you can check out the individual websites for each states HALS priorities. You can do this by going to the ASLA Government Affairs/Licensure Tab, scroll down to federal priorities, click on "learn more" under HALS and click on the map to enlarge. This will also give contact information for the liaisons for each state. If you have any ideas or comments, please email myself or Kent Watson who is the liaison for Montana.

OF LOCAL INTEREST.....

Way to Go!!!

Donna Erickson has been inducted into the Academy of Fellows of the Council of Educators in Landscape Architecture. Donna taught landscape architecture at the University of Michigan from 1989 to 2005, when she returned to her hometown of Missoula. She is the author of the recently published *MetroGreen: Connecting Open Space in North American Cities*, from Island Press.



High School Students Redesign Their Courtyard

As the oldest of the three high schools in Missoula, Hellgate High School in the University District, consists of an early 20th Century three-story main building and an addition that was built in 1983. Between the two structures lies an 18,000 square foot largely shaded open space known as the "Courtyard," which faces the very busy S. Higgins Avenue behind a rather forbidding brick wall. Two years ago Jennie Meinershagen, ASLA, working with an alumni committee, redesigned the rear (east) portion of the courtyard. These improvements were installed last year.

Late last year I was asked to assist with the design of the front (west) portion of the courtyard, which directly faces the street. I agreed to do so only if I could engage the students in the design process. I wanted them to be directly involved with the design of the space so they could have some “pride of authorship” in its outcome. From my long experience, I knew that the most successful projects are those where the “clients” are fully engaged in helping to create the final design. This was certainly the case with the “Outdoor Discovery Core,” at nearby Lewis & Clark Elementary School, where I served as the parent/facilitator/landscape architect for the creation of an 8500 square-foot environmental yard that is now used by all K-5 grades at the school.

Meeting and engaging a science class of 25 bleary-eyed freshmen at 8:46 a.m. on a monthly basis is indeed a challenge. However, with the aid of some Power Point slides, I’ve taken them through the Inventory and Analysis process, so they can see the benefit of fully understanding the nature of the space, before they begin to explore the various design options. I’m encouraged by the various flickers of interest I see from the students. Who knows there may be some future LAs in the group? This is indeed a “work in progress.” I encourage other Chapter members to look for similar opportunities in their own communities.

Kent Watson, FASLA

Vendor Spotlight: **Hunter Industries**

In late 2006, I received a call from Kent Watson, asking if Hunter Industries would like to be involved in the upcoming 2007 Idaho – Montana ASLA “2007 Rendezvous” event. I was thrilled at the opportunity to meet and develop relationships with members of the ASLA chapter in my new hometown. I was born in Polson, but moved from Montana at an early age. Finally, I got smart and moved back “home” a few years ago. While living in San Diego, where Hunter is located, I was very involved with the local ASLA S. CA chapter, sitting on the BOD as the commercial representative for many years.

What I didn’t realize, until the actual day of the Rendezvous, was how fantastic all of the members really are. Even as a representative of a commercial manufacturer, I was welcomed into the professional group with open arms and

allowed to jump in to help with registration, organization and other small tasks. The speakers were outstanding as were Keith Dixon’s heartfelt observations and Mayor Engen’s opening remarks.

The traffic through our tradeshow area was well attended and I had an opportunity to meet many new people in our industry. I was especially excited to see so many students attend and ask questions about irrigation careers and how they affect the landscape architect getting ready to graduate. These are our next generation of employees and everyone at the event could tell these students were there to learn and network; awesome, to say the least. Professionals sharing with upcoming professionals...fantastic opportunities for all.

My hopes are, that in the future, I can get more involved with this chapter on committees and/or planning of future events, while sharing past experiences and knowledge I’ve obtained through my 24 year tenure with Hunter Industries. Currently, my position as Senior Sales Manager, allows me to oversee all of our specification efforts (worldwide) and involvement in all National Associations that pertain to our industry.

Thanks to everyone for allowing me to attend and participate in the Rendezvous 2007! I am anxious to continue the opportunity to be a main sponsor of this great group.

Have a terrific 2008; enjoy life and don’t forget to keep smiling and laughing!

Lynda Wightman
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Olmsted Group Activity Report

The Olmsted Group has re-energized itself with the spring weather and is busy providing input to the City of Boise regarding their writing of a new landscape ordinance that will help to consolidate ordinance language spread out thru a number of existing ordinances. This is the first landscape ordinance by the City and should represent the last city in the Treasure Valley without an ordinance. A legislative committee has been organized to consolidate input on



various regulatory offices in the valley so we can craft a coordinated effort to continue positive interaction with all of the agencies in the valley. The Committee is made up Toby Norton, IMASLA Vice President-Idaho, Jon Breckon, IMASLA Legislative Committee Chair, and myself with advisory participation by Bill Dial, Chair, Idaho Board of Landscape Architects. The Olmsted Group is hoping to hold new elections shortly and continue meetings every other month that will focus on continuing education for the membership and fostering opportunities to interact with various agency and community activities. I wish to thank everyone that has assisted the creation and growth of this group and recognize we are entering our 12th year of activities.

Jim Mihan, IMASLA Interim Co-Chairman
Olmsted Group

IMASLA is a founding partner with QBS

Don't forget that IMASLA is a supporting member of the Idaho Qualification Based Services Board and they continue to lead efforts to educate on the requirements of QBS in how requests for professional services are released by government agencies in the state of Idaho. If you ever see anything you have questions on, contact myself or go to idahoqbs.com

Jim Mihan, QBS Liaison Officer

Upcoming Workshop :: Context Sensitive Solutions: Designing Transportation Projects for People and Places

Time: July 24-25, 2008

Place: Denver, Colorado

I wanted to make sure everyone was aware of the upcoming workshop that STPP and CNT are hosting to continue refining the discussion on context sensitive solutions and how these principles can be used to balance and integrate the needs of travelers and communities.

For more information, please check out www.transact.org.

The original workshops were co-sponsored by ASLA, and ASLA continues to work as a partner in these efforts.

Jim Mihan, IMASLA STPP Conference Co-Representative

VENDOR NEWS...

A big **THANK YOU** to our new vendors who help support our chapter through financial contributions, product information, and the like. Please make it a point to show your appreciation to the vendors so they will continue their support. Thanks also to Eirik Heikes for his coordination with the vendors. If you know of a vendor who would like to advertise in the newsletter or sponsor an event or booth at the 2009 Rendezvous, please forward the contact information to Eirik at eirikh@ctagroup.com

RFP's & EMPLOYMENT ...

If you have an RFP or employment opening, place it on our chapter website – imasla.org. Just email details to Steve Davison at: sdsd26@verizon.net

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