

2013: Update from the VTASLA Executive Board

Letter from the President

Dear Members,

Welcome to the fine summer days! I don't expect too many lazy summer days though – too much to do and too much to think about doing. The Executive Board continues to forge ahead and we are happy to inform you that we are now an approved Landscape Architecture Continuing Education System (LA CES) provider. What this means for our Chapter and for Vermont Landscape Architects, is that VTASLA is now able to submit programs, workshops, and events to ASLA National for approval and offer Continuing Education Credits (CEU's) to participants. The Green and Sustainable Vermont workshop organized jointly by CSI VT and VTASLA, held on May 22, 2013, was the first event hosted by VTASLA which offered CEUs and we expect many more to come! We are hoping that this move will make it easier for our members to maintain their licensure requirements.

As you know, Vermont's licensure law is still on the table. This has been a long battle for many who remain dedicated to assuring that our practice is protected and regulated in the State of Vermont. The last big effort will take place in the fall as we face the sunset review process. Many of our discussions during our monthly Executive Board meetings are focused on what we need to do to cement the future of Landscape Architects working in our state.

This is an important time for Vermont and an even more important time for you to get involved:

Back in 1906, an economist observed that 20% of the people in Italy owned 80% of the land. Since then, I have read that this same principle applies in various local situations in the U.S. as well. For example, 20% of customers account for 80% of business income; 20% of patients use 80% of healthcare resources. But should that 80/20 principle apply to the work for our State ASLA Chapter? Should 20% of the people be doing 80% of the work?

It's election season and it's time to step up to the plate. Now is the time to contribute to the 80% workload that has to get done in order for our profession to stay current and viable. Each of us has gifts and each of us can contribute to the greater cause of our profession. I look forward to seeing your names on the ballot this summer and more importantly, I look

forward to seeing you at the conference, the Executive Board, or subcommittees meetings. Now is the time to join your profession. Now is the time to engage in your profession.

Recently the President of the NC Chapter reached out to their membership as follows: At the risk of providing justifications for not participating in VTASLA, I'm going to name the 8 most popular reasons LA's don't join and after each, I'll respond with why you should. Here are the 8 most common objections to joining VTASLA that I've heard from across the state.

- **I'M CUTTING EXPENSES.** Joining VTASLA is about strength in numbers and professional pride. The more members we represent, the more credibility and effectiveness we have as a group and therefore, the more we can accomplish for our members and our profession.
- **I DON'T SEE ENOUGH VALUE FOR THE DUES.** In addition to our Association Management and our Legislative Advocacy, there are a number of benefits to membership, from Profession and licensure protection, professional development, educational opportunities to discounted conference services.
- **MY EMPLOYER WON'T PAY FOR MY MEMBERSHIP.** There are discounts available if you are just graduating from school from ASLA National. Your membership pays back dividends on your investment in VTASLA when fully utilized. Your VTASLA membership is an investment in you and it will help you grow through your activities and involvement in VTASLA.
- **I'M TOO BUSY TO REALLY USE MY MEMBERSHIP.** I understand that your focus is on taking care of clients and that leaves you little time to contribute to the profession at times. Membership means that you are putting VTASLA to work for you, advocating on your behalf, meeting with the lobbyist or the various chairs and providing local educational opportunities for you to participate in.
- **THE CHAPTER PROGRAMS DON'T FIT MY NEEDS.** VTASLA is the most effective organization representing the interests of Vermont Landscape Architects. While you may receive specific benefits from other professional associations, VTASLA is the only organization that speaks specifically for all Landscape Architects in Vermont. VTASLA is advocating on your behalf, whether it's in Montpelier or Washington, DC, meeting with

(CONTINUED ON PAGE 2)

MEMBER PROFILE

ADAM HUBBARD

TELL US A BIT ABOUT YOU: WHERE ARE YOU FROM, WHAT THINGS DO YOU LOVE? WHAT PATH LEAD YOU TO THE PRACTICE OF LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTURE?

My father's side of the family reaches back many generations in southern Vermont. My mother's side were urbanites and businessmen. I grew up on an organic vegetable farm in the 1970's, with lots of hippies and 'back to the land' refugees. We worked hard, but also traveled quite a bit. I was really taken with different places and cultures, yet still had a strong pull to the land. Honestly, that upbringing created a certain tension of yearning for more, but an attachment to place.

At the University of Vermont I studied Geography, thinking it would help me find a path that balanced a sense of place with the excitement of exploration. The result was deep interest in urban planning and the study of how cultures and communities adapt to the land.

As a young man, I left to live in places like California, Colorado and North Carolina thinking the rural Vermont lifestyle was too slow. I was constantly seeking greener pastures. I also struggled with balancing the need to work on the land, with the need to advance a professional career.

Finally, I decided the Landscape Architecture and Regional Planning Program at Umass Amherst might provide the path to that elusive balance. *(CONTINUED ON PAGE 4)*



Adam Hubbard

(CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1)

state agencies to facilitate inclusion, developing practice management tools and seminars for you and your staff, or spearheading public awareness campaigns to improve the profession.

- **I JUST CAN'T WRITE A CHECK FOR DUES AT THIS TIME.** Membership is something that you can pay on a monthly plan.
- **WE'RE JUST A SMALL FIRM, AND ASLA IS FOR THE BIG GUYS.** Not true. Throughout VTASLA - its subcommittees, its management, and the Executive Committee - there are women and men, young professionals and students who actively participate. We work hard to meet the unique needs of our diverse membership.
- **I CAN'T FIND A JOB IN THIS PROFESSION, SO WHY SHOULD I JOIN?** VTASLA provides the platform for interacting with your profession through Conferences, Lectures and - now - through various CEU events. Membership allows you to stay current with those that may be hiring at some point in the near future. Participation on the Executive Committee allows you greater practice for keeping you energy up and showing that next employer that you are interested in what is happening in your profession.
- **I'M JUST NOT INTERESTED.** Then tell me what issues I could work on to pique your interest!

As I said before, each of us has gifts we can contribute to the greater cause of our profession. I look forward to seeing your names on the ballot this summer and more importantly, I look forward to seeing you at our Annual Conference and the Executive Committee meetings and/or subcommittees. Now is the time to join your profession. Now is the time to engage in your profession.

Thanks in advance. This is an amazing time to be practicing in the Green Mountain State!

Paula Green, RLA, ASLA ■



EVENT PROFILE

GREEN AND SUSTAINABLE VERMONT: NORTHEAST REGION CONFERENCE 2013

by Adam Portz, VTASLA Past-President

Joining efforts for the first time, VT ASLA and the Vermont Chapter of CSI (Construction Specification Institute) held a one day continuing education conference focusing on Green and Sustainable practices in Vermont and beyond. The event was held at the Coach Barn in Shelburne Farms on the magnificent 1,400-acre working farm/campus on the shores of Lake Champlain. The conceptual layout for this National Historic Landmark was designed by America's father of landscape architecture Frederick Law Olmsted in the 1880's. Prominent architect Robert H. Robertson designed four major buildings including the Coach Barn.

The day kicked off with a keynote by net-zero home builder Chuck Reiss on Building and Living Green. Chuck discussed his philosophy of building sustainable homes and showed how to make it work using examples of projects he has build in Vermont that combine highly insulated energy efficient construction with solar electric power and geothermal heat pumps to create homes that use zero fossil fuels and have no utility bills.

Attendees were able to receive 5.5 continuing education credits from among the eight sessions that followed:

- **MANAGING THE STORM:** Rainwater Management Design Innovations
- **EFFICIENCY VT ROUNDTABLE:** From Vision to Projects – How can High Performance become Standard Practice
- **RIPARIAN CORRIDORS:** Restoring Nature for Human Benefit
- **LEED Version 4:** What's Coming
- **LED:** Lighting State of the Art and Art of Control
- **ENVIRONMENTAL PRODUCT DISCLOSURES:** The New Materials Documentation Standards
- **GREEN ROOFS IN THE NORTHEAST:** Options, Opportunities and Lessons Learned
- **LIVEABLE/WALKABLE COMMUNITIES:** Planning with Form Based Codes

Throughout the day, the trade show booths offered attendees a chance to checkout the latest products and materials from around the region. By all accounts the vendors who displayed found this a very well attended successful show.

Thank you to our members who presented; Jeff Hodgson and Mark Hamelin. And of course, thanks to those who attended. Stay on the look-out for more credit earning continuing education! ■

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MEMBER PROFILE

ADAM HUBBARD (CONTINUED FROM PAGE 2)

HOW LONG HAVE YOU LIVED AND PRACTICED IN VERMONT?

After completing the Master's Degree program I ran a Landscape Design-Build company from the land that used to be our farm. We worked very closely with Gordon Hayward, a well-known, local garden designer. I ran that company with an old friend for a number of years, but again found myself seeking more: bigger, more complex work.

It was then I came to Stevens & Associates, a Brattleboro architecture, engineering and landscape architecture firm. Here I found meaningful projects of a scale and scope that challenge my abilities and contribute significantly to the built environment. I have been working here for nine years.

WHO HAS INFLUENCED YOU THE MOST PROFESSIONALLY?

Stevens & Associates is run by Bob Stevens and Brud Sanderson, two gifted civil engineers with a very admirable approach to land development. There is such a high level of honesty and integrity in the way they tackle problems that we do not experience the drama typical of high level work. We all know that large projects are fraught with problems and challenges, but they have set a standard of collaboration and directness that encourages the staff to work through issues together and deliver clients clear, fact based decision making.

WHAT IS THE MAIN FOCUS OF YOUR PRACTICE? WHAT IS THE MOST INTERESTING / UNIQUE PROJECT YOU HAVE WORKED ON?

We work on wide ranging projects from schools and hospitals to affordable housing and municipal planning efforts.

We recently completed a patient courtyard at the Brattleboro Retreat that created a unique challenge. Since the hospital has been taking on more patients with acute mental health issues they have been challenged to provide adequate staffing to get their patients outside. The hospital was built in the 1830's and consists of traditional architecture, brick buildings and a mature arboretum. It was very important that the courtyard provide a safe, secure environment, but not 'look like a prison'. Self harm, elopement and ligature are design criteria we do not usually encounter.

Today they have a beautiful courtyard, enclosed with brick and wrought iron fencing, that has patios, a gazebo, walking paths and gardens. Staff to patient ratios have increased from 2 staff to 3 patients to 2 staff to 10 patients and more. More patients are getting outside, an important element of therapy and recovery.

IF YOU HAD ADVICE FOR SOMEONE JUST ENTERING THE FIELD, WHAT WOULD IT BE?

I find landscape architecture to be an incredibly broad field with lots of enriching opportunities. For me, however, the challenge is to narrow the focus of our work and still find enough of the 'fun' work to stay busy. For the work we do, it seems that for every ounce of design work, there seems to be a pound of administrative work (permitting, regulations and codes, budgets, cost estimates, contract administration, billing and proposals). Entering Landscape Architects should be aware of the complexity of project execution.

I still haven't found the ideal balance of nourishing my roots in the land with the professional demands of the office. And I still yearn for more travel and exploration. But I am lucky to be living Vermont, practicing landscape architecture. ■

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NOTES FROM THE STONE TRUST

UPDATES AND UPCOMING EVENTS

by Brian Post PLA, Board of Directors of The Stone Trust

Located in Dummerston, Vermont, The Stone Trust is a nonprofit that seeks to preserve and advance the art and craft of dry stone walling. The Stone Trust Center is the only facility in North America that provides year round educational and Dry Stone Walling Association (DSWA) certification opportunities.

This year the Stone Trust received LACES accreditation for its workshops and training events. Spring workshops have already provided continuing education credits for Landscape Architects.

At workshops put on by The Stone Trust, participants learn the hands on basics of building dry stone walls. These workshops are set apart from others by the focus on correct structural construction and the use of DSWA Certified Instructors. Workshops also teach how to evaluate dry stone walls and provide information on the proper use, design, and styles of construction.

Soon to be posted on The Stone Trust website's resource page are standard construction specifications for dry stone retaining walls, which will be available as free downloads in multiple formats. The Stone Trust will also have a booth at the upcoming ASLA Expo in Boston.

Upcoming events at The Stone Trust include:

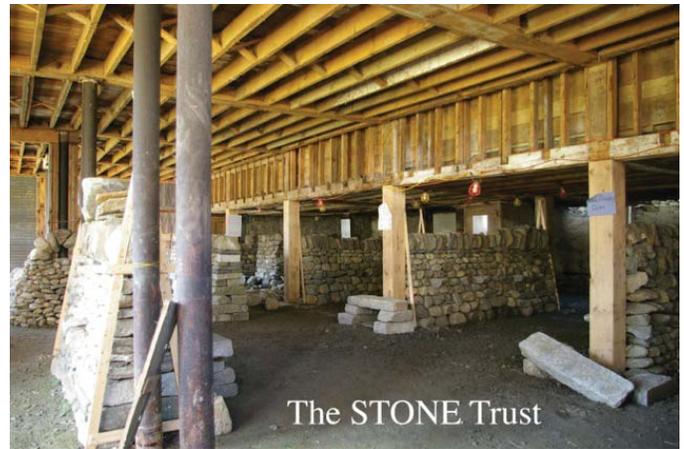
- **Sept. 7th & 8th Two Day Outdoor Workshop** - 16 LACES credit hours
- **Sept. 7th Guest Lecture** by Kevin Gardner, author of the Granite Kiss
- **Sept. 21st One day Indoor Workshop** – 8 LACES credit hours
- **Oct. 19th One day Indoor Workshop** – 8 LACES credit hours

For more information and registration please visit:
www.thestonetrust.org

Workshops often fill up fast so register early. ■



Workshop in progress at The Stone Trust.



Inside The Stone Trust Center.



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CALENDAR

Upcoming Events and News

2013 VT ASLA CHAPTER AWARDS DINNER

DATE: Friday, September 13, 2013

LOCATION: ECHO Center, Burlington, VT

FOR MORE: Hannah Loope
INFO: hloope@wagnerhodgson.com
 802.864.0010



June 5 – June 11, 2013

The Message

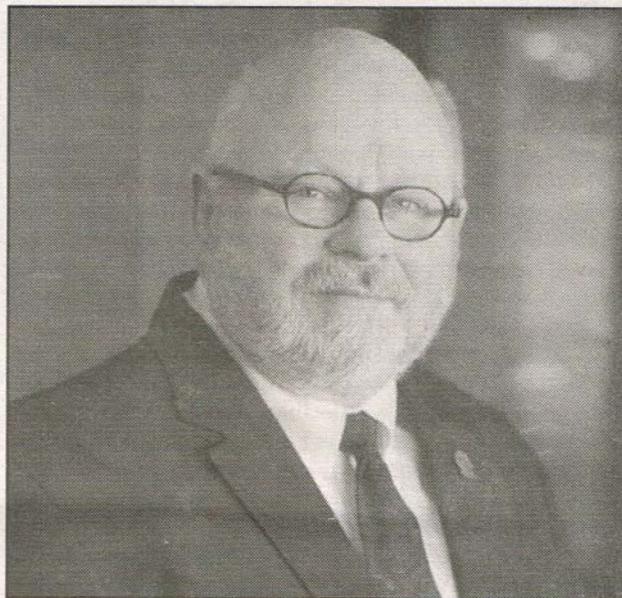
Stephen Plunkard Promoted at Stantec

Only six months after arriving in Calgary, award-winning landscape architect and urban planner Stephen Plunkard has been promoted to Senior Principal for Planning and Landscape Architecture at Stantec.

Plunkard, who is marking 35 years as a planner and landscape architect, established himself in New England (particularly in Vermont) as an authority on "New Urbanism." He has quickly brought his brand of landscape design to Calgary with several major inner city projects including a regional park, transit-oriented development and master planned communities.

"New Urbanism is about creating and delivering high quality, sustainable and livable cities, towns, neighborhoods based on time tested and traditional principles of planning and design," says Plunkard.

"For more than 40 years I have been involved in the planning, design and adaptive reuse of places throughout North America, Europe, the Middle East and Africa. I am as enthusiastic today about the prospects for having an opportunity to



improve our footprint on the planet as I have ever been. Stewardship of the land, sustainable growth and economic prosperity need not be mutually exclusive."

In Calgary Plunkard is working with the city on the adaptive reuse of the McCall Lake Golf Course, transit oriented development for Whitehorn station and planning for the North Central Light Rail Transit Line and a master planning study for Stanley Park.

Plunkard spent the majority of his career based in Vermont, where he owned

his own landscape architecture and planning firm before joining Stantec. He is a member of the American Society of Landscape Architects' (ASLA) Council of Fellows and a founding member of its Vermont chapter.

He has designed community spaces in urban and rural settings across the US and Canada, including the preliminary concepts for Mashpee Commons on Cape Cod, Massachusetts, regarded as one of the first New Urban communities in the United States.

don't forget....

VT ASLA CHAPTER AWARDS SUBMISSIONS DUE 7.22.2013

FOR MORE INFO: Jim Donovan jdonovan@gmavt.net
 Claire Humber chumber@segroup.com

have you read....?

OBAMA UNVEILS LONG-AWAITED CLIMATE CHANGE PLAN

go to: <http://dirt.asla.org/2013/06/25/obama-unveils-long-awaited-climate-change-plan/>



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