Recent CTASLA Programs Educate, Illuminate, Inspire

CTASLA and CTGBC New York City Sustainability Tour
by Frank Gagliardo

“East side, west side all around the town” was the theme for 25 members of the CT Chapter of ASLA and the Connecticut Green Building Council (CTGBC) who ventured into lower Manhattan to see the latest examples of sustainable development: 1) the Solaire, the award-winning and only example of a LEED Gold-certified residential apartment building in the country located in Battery Park City on the Hudson River, and 2) Stuyvesant Cove Park, a stretch of new park located on the east side between the FDR and the East River.

This was the second event to be jointly hosted by CTASLA and CTGBC. Last year, the organizations co-sponsored “Let Nature Do the Work,” a conference on low impact development and innovative techniques in stormwater management. Almost equal numbers from both organizations attended the NYC tour.

Battery Park City (BPC) is a 90-acre planned community with approximately 34 acres of open space and parks of various types. It is a mix of housing, restaurants, supermarkets, movie theaters, and other commercial establishments. The land upon which it stands was reclaimed from the Hudson River using 1.2 billion cubic yards of dirt and rocks excavated during the construction of the World Trade Center. The Solaire is the first of eight towers to be constructed in BPC with a total population of 80,000 inhabitants and stands as a model of future multifamily residential development in NYC and the rest of the nation. It attained a LEED Gold rating and includes a green roof and a green roof garden which help insulate the building and a black water recycling system that treats

Inclusion of Constructed Wetlands in a Sustainable Landscape for Mitigation, Stormwater Treatment and Education
by Aris Stalis

At CTASLA’s Constructed Wetlands program, held at the recently constructed Roger Ludlowe Middle School in Fairfield, CT on April 23, 2004, Robert Jontos, PWS, CPESC of Land-Tech Consultants, Inc. presented a comprehensive overview for the design and construction of wetlands. The presentation is available at the website of Land-Tech Consultants at www.landtechconsult.com. The site also includes a description of one of the featured sites, which are the wetlands constructed at the Ludlowe Middle School.

Summarizing Mr. Jontos’ remarks, there exist greater opportunities for landscape architects, engineers and wetland scientists to merge their disciplines to create more sustainable site development projects. The traditional site planning exercise has completed its lifespan, assisted in part to the requirements as set forth by the new EPA Phase II guidelines, and requests from Town Conservation and Wetland Commissions. The by-product is that the landscape we leave after the construction process is one that is capable of servicing the clients, as well as the surrounding natural environment for years to come.

As landscape architects, we must initiate projects in the same manner that includes any work that we put our pen to.

1. Identify design goals & objectives.
2. Inventory the site conditions.
3. Examine opportunities to link the various disciplines to assure success to the project.
4. Identify the regulatory requirements. (as with any site plan development, it is critical to

(continued next page)
100% of the building’s waste water for reuse as irrigation, toilet flushing, and in the cooling tower. Some other sustainable elements include building integrated photovoltaics, materials with with recycled content, and floor to ceiling windows with a low-E coating which offer natural sunlight throughout the day, keeping apartments cooler in the summer and warmer in the winter. The Solaire is designed to be 35% more energy-efficient than current code requirements.

BPC is committed to green practices in the landscape as well. The parks, maintained by the BPC Conservancy, are cared for without the use of pesticides or synthetic or inorganic fertilizers. The parks are heavily used and the corresponding maintenance is designed into the project from the outset. Proper soil mixes are the life of turf areas and planting beds. The preferred mix for planting beds is a mixture of five to seven parts coarse sand and one part loamy sand plus 10 to 15 percent by volume organic matter. Lawn areas have less organic matter at 5 to 6 percent by volume. The base soil texture formula for both lawn and planting beds maintains a lean 3 to 5 percent combined clay and silt content before the organic matter is added.

BPC is a great example of mixed use development. It’s a great place to observe how people use urban open spaces, the types of plantings that can thrive in such environments, and home to great sites such as the Winter Garden in the World Financial Center. One can easily spend a day touring the parks and gardens of BPC. For more information on the landscapes maintenance practices in BPC, see “Battery Park City’s invisible Landscape” by James Urban, FASLA, February issue of Landscape Architecture magazine and a follow-up article in the March issue. Also see www.batteryparkcity.org/guidelines.htm.

The second part of the tour was at the new Stuyvesant Cove Park on the east side (at E. 23rd St. and Ave C). The park is constructed on a linear stretch of reclaimed waterfront on the East River and bounded by the FDR Drive. The park is a neighborhood retreat and maintained by the Stuyvesant Cove Park Association. The park is a series of serpentine paths and planting beds which views across to the East River to Brooklyn. The designer’s goal was to introduce the organic lines of a flowing river unbounded by man-made elements such as a bulkhead (which still bounds the park along the river.) The park also contains a small temporary environmental center with solar collectors. For more information on this park, see the article “East Side Story” in the August 2003 issue of Landscape Architecture magazine. See also www.stuyvesantcove.org.

Both organizations hope to sponsor more tours of sustainable development, especially in Connecticut. If you have ideas for a tour, please contact Frank Gagliardo at frank.p.gagliardo@po.state.ct.us.

[For more information on LEED training, please see page 6.]

As the project continues, we must maintain vigilance throughout the process, including post-construction. Often clients are not aware of the intricacies of the growth of the site, and we must monitor the site, since things never go as planned. As Bob Jontos explained, “The unexpected, or Mr. Murphy rides again.” And as we monitor post construction, we also build our knowledge base, since every project is a little different.

A critical lesson, as with most any project, is to leave a good paper trail. Project team members, clients, and contractors too often have memory lapse at the most critical of times. The more backup documentation in your files, the better prepared we as designers are when unforeseen issues arise during our projects.

The Executive Board wishes to thank Mr. Jontos for his wonderful presentation, as well as the Fairfield Schools for allowing us the opportunity to experience their new facility.

Comments and suggestions for future events are always welcomed by our Executive Committee!
Call for Nominations!

The CTASLA Executive Committee WANTS YOU to participate as a member of the Committee, or to nominate others to serve. Available positions for 2004-2005 include President Elect, Vice President, Secretary, and two Members-at-Large. Please note that Full Members are eligible for all positions while Associates are eligible for Secretary, Treasurer and Member-at-Large.

If you’ve served on the Executive Committee, please consider serving again. If you have never served, please consider a position as Member-at-Large. Remember, chapter involvement is your most tangible benefit of belonging to ASLA! The board meets once a month, typically in Connecticut AIA’s office in New Haven. Board members receive $25 per meeting attended, up to an annual maximum of $275 (an easy way to cover the cost of annual dues!). Committee composition, and available positions, are as follows:

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<td>Vice-President</td>
<td>John Alexopoulos</td>
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<td>Secretary</td>
<td>Frank Gagliardo</td>
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<td>Whitney Talcott</td>
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<td>Diane Devore</td>
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Please send in your 2004-2005 nominations and return to Jeff Mills...
- **By fax:** (860) 742-7349
- **By mail:** to CTASLA Nominations, c/o Jeff Mills, 205 North Farms Rd., Coventry, CT 06238
- **By email:** publishing@ctasla.org

**President Elect** (3 years: President-elect, President, Past President)

Nomination: ________________________________

**Vice President** (1 year)

Nomination: ________________________________

**Secretary** (2 years)

Nomination: ________________________________

**Member-at-Large** (2 years)

Nomination: ________________________________

Nomination: ________________________________
On March 25, 2004, I attended the Annual Meeting of Friends of the Connecticut Agricultural Experiment Station. I have always felt the Connecticut Agricultural Experiment Station is an outstanding resource for landscape architects when it comes to plant pest and disease problems, soil testing, horticultural information, etc. See their website: www.caes.state.ct.us/. Check out their publications, including “Native Alternates to Invasive Plants.”

At the meeting there were several presentations, including:

- Asian Longhorn Beetles are a very serious risk to maples and other deciduous trees. They’ve been found now in New York, NJ and Chicago area. Their larva eat 1/2” diameter holes in live wood, killing their host trees. Where they’ve been found, huge areas have had all deciduous trees cut down and removed to prevent their spread. The good news is they are under much better control in the last year or two, but not eradicated, and they may always be imported again in pallet wood from Asia, or similar.

- There are a number of other, new Asian beetle problems, including Emerald Ash Borer which is causing death to large areas of ash trees in Ohio, Michigan, and is now in Virginia. All ash species are susceptible, and they die. There’s also a type of Japanese beetle which is killing arborvitae in some areas. (There goes one of our critical evergreen screening plants, and without hemlocks, this is going to get tougher.)

- One of the main types of mosquito which breed in catch basins is one of the most likely to carry West Nile virus; there is discussion at some levels of state to try to control this. We should keep in mind that “self-cleaning” basins without sumps (which accumulate standing water) may be options in new designs. Also think twice about design of low areas in surface drainage.

- CCA, Copper Chromium Arsenate wood preservative is now against the law to use, since January. This was once specified as the wood preservative in railroad tie timbers used in retaining walls, etc. It was also used a lot in decks and playground equipment. The arsenic leaches out, contaminates soils, gets on hands with direct contact and is apparently now injuring people and pets. It can be painted over to seal and prevent leaching. On play equipment sometimes they are replacing only the parts which get the most hand contact with “Trex”, a plastic/wood substitute (see www.trex.com/), or similar, such as hand- and slide-rails. If removed it should not be chipped or burned, but at the moment can be taken to landfills which will ultimately be sealed and capped (but this option may not be available much longer). EPA acceptable wood preservative alternatives are ACQ, Copper Azole and Borite. Combined plastic resin/chipped wood products are also okay.

- The good news is there are many interesting vegetables being tested for CT, including many artichoke varieties! And a more disease-resistant native American chestnut tree has been found growing in a region of the state which offers promise of cross-breeding to provide a viable full-sized chestnut tree. Neil Jorgensen once wrote that chestnuts were probably the dominant hardwood species of Connecticut forests. How we forget!
As of May 26, 2004, there are two adopted bills regarding the importation, movement, selling, purchase, transplantation, cultivation or distribution of 81 plants identified as invasive. Smoking any of these is not included, but, there is a maximum $100 fine for each occasion. There is currently one half a position in DEP for invasive plants, though it is possible that any law enforcement officer could levy a fine or fines. The intense lobbying of the “Green Industry” kept the 18 million dollar investment of Norway Maple, Winged Euonymus and Japanese Barberry off the list for now. Cultivars are not specifically listed, so it seems that these could be subject to interpretation. The legislature added a section that prohibits an individual town from banning plants through October 1, 2005. Westport, I believe, is trying to create just such an ordinance.

The Connecticut Nursery and Landscape Association takes the position that plant bans will not work, that public education is most effective. Funding for education was left off the current bill. The CNLA believes that most invasive plants are spread innocently and naturally with bans having little effect on eradication and elimination of invasive plants.

You can get the complete list from The Connecticut Nursery & Landscape Magazine coming out in the first week in June or through the CTASLA’s “2004-05” Handbook: New Title, Same Great Taste

by Rob Clapper, ASLA, CTASLA Handbook editor

We’ve made a change in the Handbook title. Every year it comes out May/June. And so, it appears, we’re half way through a year before that year’s Handbook is produced. We’ve tried different ways (start the advertising cycle in October for example)...and still it comes out in May/June. And so, the obvious hit me, rather than speed up (or slow down) the Handbook to fit an arbitrary date, just change the title to reflect its actual use. And so from this edition forward, we will continue to publish the Handbook annually, but use the dual-year nomenclature (i.e., 2004-05) to reflect the mid-year to mid-year street life of the book. Another problem solved by this bureaucrat.

This kind of forward thinking can be taken too far, of course. Today I received my “Products and Services Directory 2005” from Erosion Control magazine. It’s May 2004 as I write this article, and here they’re hawking a 2005 directory which in May, 2005, will be replaced with the 2006 directory!

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Code Simplification

by Channing Harris

CTASLA has had representation on the Connecticut Coalition for a Unified Code for the last couple years. There are about 30 member organizations, and it was started mainly to try to get the Fire Marshals and Building Officials to agree on one publisher of codes. The building codes organizations in the US have gradually been consolidating over the last few years. Now almost all states use what used to be BOCA, now ICC, so that helps. But Fire safety professionals have used Fire & Life Safety codes to review proposed and built structures too, and have used a different publisher, hence system, of codes.

The good news is that the Fire Marshals agreed last year to use the same publisher’s codes for fire/life safety review of new building designs, but they are sticking with their historic publisher’s system for codes for inspecting existing structures. It’s coming along, and maybe someday will be further simplified, but it’s brought many interested parties to the same table and resulted in much greater appreciation of the many perspectives the various groups have. The Coalition’s activities have included attending hearings and hosting a legislative reception in Hartford, and the group’s meetings are usually attended by state officials from the Department of Public Safety and the State Building Inspector.

The Coalition is now also starting to talk about zoning, subdivision, potentially wetlands and other more land use-related concerns, the issue being partly how much local variation there is. Other agenda concerns have included keeping codes as regulations managed by professionals, not laws created by legislators trying to govern technical aspects of buildings. For more information contact CTASLA’s representative on the Coalition: Channing Harris, ASLA, Towers|Golde, 85 Willow Street, New Haven, CT 06511. Tel: (203) 773-1153; Fax: (203) 865-6411; E: charris@towersgolde.com.

LEED Training Workshop

The Connecticut Green Building Council is hosting a LEED training day sponsored by the U.S. Green Building Council. Training is scheduled for Tuesday, September 21, 2004 at Pfizer in New London. For more details and to register, see www.usgbc.org. (Act fast, as registration is limited to approximately 75 participants!)

Calendar: 2004 CTASLA Chapter Programs and Items of Related Interest

TBA Chapter Program — Dark Skies and Landscape Lighting and/or Irrigation Program
TBA Chapter Program — CT Building Codes and the Landscape
TBA Chapter Program — Tour of Nursery Gardens & Perennials
Late Summer Program sponsored by Connecticut Stone
September 1 Sponsorship deadline for 2004 CTASLA Golf Outing
September 23-25 CLARB Annual Meeting (Philadelphia, PA)
Sept. 30-Oct.1 2004 New England Regional Planning Conference (Springfield, MA)
October 1 Registration deadline for 2004 CTASLA Golf Outing
October TBA Submission Deadline: 2004 CTASLA Connecticut Design Awards
October 15 CTASLA Golf Outing — Scholarship Fundraiser, at Blue Fox Run, Avon
October 12-16 National Recreation and Parks Association Conference (Reno, NV)
Oct. 29-Nov.2 National ASLA Annual Meeting and EXPO (Salt Lake City, UT)
Fall Chapter Program — Stone Walls/Geology

More information on CTASLA events, as it becomes available, will be posted to www.ctasla.org.
**CTASLA Events: Olmsted Day**

On April 26th an avid but small group of celebrants gathered together at the State Capitol to cut a cake in honor of Frederick Law Olmsted’s birth date. Senator William Finch set off the event with a fine presentation. The singing of “happy birthday” followed. President Cameron, Norma Williams and John Alexopoulos represented the chapter. The birthday remembrance was a part of a full day of scheduled events, including a walk and talk tour of Bushnell Park that was rained out that morning and culminated by an event at the Olmsted tomb at Old North cemetery led by Norma Williams. Sen. Bill Finch and an aide of his, Rod Cameron and Norma Williams went over to the cemetery in the rain. Margie Carpenter was there for part of the time. Norma showed them the grave and discussed the family members who were buried in the tomb as well as explaining the program the CTASLA had given there when we gave Sen. Lieberman the Olmsted the tree. The tree looked good.

The event on April 26th also celebrated the unanimous passage of Senate Bill 541, AN ACT ESTABLISHING A FREDERICK LAW OLMS TED DAY. This bill would establish April 26th, Olmsted’s Birthday, as Frederick Law Olmsted Day in the State of Connecticut. The Olmsted Coalition has been working to pass this bill as a great first step toward getting Olmsted the recognition he deserves in our state.

Unfortunately, the bill did not have the opportunity to get through the House, so did not become law this legislative session. But we are hopeful that the bill will be passed again next year and signed by Governor Rell to establish Olmsted Day here in Connecticut.

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**ASLA Student Merit/Honor Awards**

*by John Alexopoulos, Assoc. Prof. of Landscape Architecture, University of Connecticut*

On April 30th the annual ASLA student merit and honor award presentations were made at the University of Connecticut. The reviewers included Chapter president Rod Cameron with faculty members Peter Miniutti, Kristin Schwab, Mark Westa and John Alexopoulos. With the total number of landscape architecture students around 65, a maximum of four students could be invited to make presentations. In order to be considered, students must be in their last two years of the program, have a minimum grade point average of 3.0 in a 4.0 grading system and have demonstrated exceptional abilities in all facets of landscape architecture. The invited students are asked to make a 20-minute presentation that demonstrates their personal development through their created works and to also present a project that best demonstrates cumulative skills. For the first time two juniors were included along with two seniors. Merit awards are automatically given to all students who are selected for presentations and up to two honor awards can be awarded. This year the reviewers wholeheartedly chose to award two students with honors. Senior Alex Schmalzle of Hauley, Pennsylvania and Junior Jon Hoenig of Thompson, CT received the honor awards by virtue of their high level of design achievement and presentation. Junior Jessica Allison of Hebron, CT receives the merit award as does senior Chris Taverna of New Milford, New Jersey.
United States Senate  
WASHINGTON, DC 20510  
June 16, 2004

The Honorable Conrad Burns  
Chairman  
Subcommittee on Interior  
Committee on Appropriations  
United States Senate  
132 Dirksen Senate Office Building  
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Byron L. Dorgan  
Ranking Member  
Subcommittee on Interior  
Committee on Appropriations  
United States Senate  
160 Dirksen Senate Office Building  
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Chairman Burns and Senator Dorgan:

We are writing to respectfully request your consideration of providing $800,000 in the FY 2005 Interior Appropriations bill to fund the Historic American Landscapes Survey (HALS). The program was established by the National Park Service (NPS) in 2000, under authority granted in the Historic Sites, Buildings, and Antiquities Act of 1935 and the National Preservation Act of 1966.

The purpose of HALS is to document historic landscapes that serve as tangible evidence of our nation's heritage and development. Historic landscapes are special places. They are important representations of national, regional, and local identity and culture. They foster a sense of community and place. Historic landscapes are also fragile places. They are affected by the forces of nature, by commercial and residential development, and by vandalism and neglect. They undergo changes that are often unpredictable and irreversible. For these reasons, it is important to document these places so the stories they tell can educate and benefit future generations.

Precedent exists for Congressional funding of HALS. Since 1933, the Historic American Buildings Survey (HABS), the nation's oldest Federal preservation program, has documented historic buildings and made available to the public an archive of records of America's architectural heritage. In 1969, the Historic American Engineering Record (HAER) was established as a companion program to HABS to document structures of technological and engineering significance. NPS administers both HABS and HAER, in conjunction with the Library of Congress, with funds appropriated by Congress.

During the past 20 years, historic preservation has broadened beyond the singular historic building or urban district to include the historic landscape that provides the setting and context for a property. It is now time to advance this field and protect historic American landscapes. From carriage roads to battlefields, designed gardens to vernacular homesteads, industrial complexes to summer estates, these landscapes represent the impact of the natural landscape on human beliefs and actions over time. We believe that $800,000 is a small price to pay for preservation of these stories for future generations.

In closing, we thank you for your consideration of funding HALS in the FY 2005 Interior Appropriations legislation.
The Honorable Conrad Burns
The Honorable Byron L. Dorgan
United States Senate
June 16, 2004

With kindest regards, we are

Sincerely,

Mary Landrieu
Mark Udall
Bob Kerrey
Jeff Bingaman
Jack Reed
Jeff Bingaman
Dick Cheney
Chester Davis
Carl Levin

John Breaux
Pete V. Domenici
Norm Coleman
Frank R. Lautenberg
Lamar Alexander
Barbara Boxer
John Edwards
Mark Dayton
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CTASLA Handbook: Rob Clapper 860-424-3210
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Legislative: Chris Ferrero 860-658-0456
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