At the executive board’s annual retreat back in November, we discussed scheduling and editorial goals for The Connecticut Landscape Architect, which are intended to sharpen our focus and allow for more in-depth exploration of subjects important to readers. In summary: the first issue of each year will be devoted to awards, including winning projects from the previous year’s CTASLA design competition, recipients of other chapter awards, and the current year’s Olmsted Award winner. Two additional theme issues will appear each year, for which we always welcome topic suggestions and contributions.

After this issue Norma Williams will no longer serve on the editorial board, in order to devote more time to other chapter endeavors. Our thanks to Norma for her thorough and conscientious efforts. Any chapter member interested in serving on the editorial board is encouraged to contact me.

Many thanks also go to Jeff Mills, who has worked very hard to apply new graphic design ideas and has adapted graciously to our quixotic calendar. Meanwhile, his production standards have remained as high as ever. In this issue we even have four-color graphics in our center spread, made possible by advertising revenue that Jeff solicited. Let us know what you think!

Congratulations to all the award winners presented in this issue. And to those who submitted entries to the competition but did not receive awards, we appreciate your efforts to participate in the competition. Finally, a big thank you to Tom Tavella, who organizes and administers this competition every year.

Don’t miss our upcoming issue, in which we will explore the concept of sustainable development, also known as “smart growth.” Until then, best wishes for a lovely spring.

Sarah W. Middeleer

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President’s Message

CEU’s are what’s happening now! If you’re licensed, you know that CEU means Continuing Education Units, and that you have until the July 2000 renewal period to complete the required 24 contact hours. Ouch! Let me fill you in:

- Continuing education for landscape architects is a requirement of state licensure, not ASLA membership. This is not to be confused with architecture, where continuing education is a membership requirement for AIA, but not for licensure.
- Providing 24 contact hours of continuing education before the July 2000 renewal period is not the responsibility of ASLA, nor the licensure board. It’s YOUR responsibility.
- The board does not preapprove courses, seminars or other activities except for “self-guided” courses or individual research. This also means that “self-guided” courses or individual research must be preapproved.
- While the board does not preapprove courses or seminars, they have issued an approved list of subject matter. Hence, you may see “Subject matter approved for continuing education” on flyers CTASLA has sent out for programs.
- Keep records of courses/programs: registration forms, cancelled checks, handouts, completion certificates and, most importantly, the individual notes you took.

One major impact of continuing education has been an increase in “approved subject matter” technical programs by CTASLA, an unplanned benefit of which I witnessed at the James Urban program on “New Approaches to Planting Trees in Urban Areas.” Over 25 percent of those attending were not landscape architects or members of ASLA: they were town park staff, tree wardens, licensed arborists, state certified foresters, etc. At the breaks we were talking together about common problems. We learned about their work, and they gained a greater appreciation of how tree morphology is applied to landscape architecture. This is good. Expect more as CTASLA partners with other professional groups on future programs.

On March 2 the chapter sponsored an educational program by James Urban, FASLA. Held at the Connecticut Agricultural Experiment Station in New Haven, “New Approaches to Planting Trees in Urban Areas” was attended by more than 90 people from a variety of professions. This engaging program was the second one offered by CTASLA of a subject matter approved for continuing education for licensed landscape architects.

LETTER TO THE EDITOR

February 15, 2000

Thanks for producing another excellent issue of The Connecticut Landscape Architect. The chapter should be grateful for your continued good work on all our behalf.

One item that I wanted to mention concerns sharing the credit on the plaque mentioned in the Winter 2000 issue. Although I was given all the credit for the Old North Cemetery interpretive sign, I believe ARTEffects should share in this. Not only did they reduce their costs to the chapter to get the plaque manufactured, they provided some design “tweaking” which greatly helped the final layout. So my personal thanks to ARTEffects and a public acknowledgment of their help all the way around.

Sincere thanks,
Dean A. Johnson, FASLA

The editor replies: A heartfelt thanks from the chapter to ARTEffects as well. The generosity and skill of both Dean and the staff at ARTEffects resulted in a beautiful commemorative plaque, which will grace Old North Cemetery for years to come.

Volunteers within and without the chapter, as well as numerous commercial and civic organizations, contributed in a variety of ways to our centennial events. Such partnering is invaluable to us as a volunteer organization, but also benefits a much wider circle of Connecticut residents.
CTASLA’s annual holiday dinner and awards presentation, held December 2, 1999, was attended by several dozen landscape architects and friends. Far left: Rudi Favretti, FASLA gave a fascinating predinner presentation on Jacob Weidenmann (see page 6) . . . Steve Wing, outgoing chapter secretary, received a Service Award from Norma Williams.

Below left: Bill Cone, representing Peter Miniutti, accepts awards from Tom Tavella for entries in the categories Design – Municipal/Public Spaces, and Landscape Planning & Analysis. Below right: Diane Devore accepts two awards in residential design.

Jane Didona (center), of Didona Associates, Landscape Architects, LLC, and Dennis Elpern (left), Danbury Director of Planning, receive the 1999 Outstanding Planning Project Award (Municipal Category) from the Connecticut Chapter of the American Planning Association, for their work on the Elmwood Park Restoration Project. The award was presented by CCAPA President Dan Tuba at the association’s annual meeting in October.
Jim Gibbons Named CTASLA 2000 Olmsted Award Winner

The Connecticut Chapter is pleased to announce that Jim Gibbons of the University of Connecticut Cooperative Extension Center has been selected for the 2000 Olmsted Award. This award is given annually by CTASLA to an individual or organization outside of the profession who has employed the principle of stewardship of the land as a guiding force in their actions. Jim has worked for years educating the public, especially members of town commissions on planning and zoning, inland wetlands, and conservation, on the value of the state’s natural resources and on the role of design professionals in the process of making decisions about land use issues.

We are currently planning a program to celebrate Jim’s career and the contributions he has made to the state, as well as an article in the next issue of The Connecticut Landscape Architect.

Chris Ferrero Honored with 1999 Yarwood Award

At the December 2nd holiday party in Southbury, chapter member Chris Ferrero was presented with the 1999 Yarwood Award for unselfishly giving of “his time and talent to further the profession of landscape architecture.” Outgoing chapter president Norma Williams cited his persistence over several years in working to change the legislation that defines the practice of landscape architecture making it “truly both a title and practice act.” She said that “the accomplishment of the passage of this act in 1997 is the result of Chris’s shepherding the legislation through numerous legislative committee meetings, dealing with the concerns of other allied professional groups, and organizing meetings with legislators and other chapter members to make our case.”

In closing Williams said that “we all are greatly in debt to Chris, and my only hope is that he will be able to continue his efforts to monitor legislation that affects our profession.”

Ferrero served as chapter president in 1997 and has been a board member for many years.
Jacob Weidenmann was born in 1829 in Winterthur, Switzerland. He was educated at the Akademie der Bildenden Kunste, where he studied architecture, engineering, art, and botany. After graduating, he worked in Munich, Paris, London, New York, Panama, and Peru, before settling in New York. In 1861 Weidenmann became the first superintendent of parks in Hartford, where he designed Bushnell Park.

In 1863 Weidenmann was asked to serve on a committee to select a site for a rural cemetery in Hartford, which was to become Cedar Hill. He was then named its first superintendent. During his five-year tenure, he advanced the overall plan and the road construction of the cemetery.

In 1874, following the amicable split between Olmsted and Calvert Vaux, Weidenmann and Frederick Law Olmsted shared an office (although not a formal partnership). In the last three decades of the 1800s, Weidenmann designed the Iowa State Capitol grounds, a residential park in Iowa, and the grounds for Brooklyn University. He published numerous articles and a book, titled *Modern Cemeteries*, in which he argued for more park-like, open cemeteries. In 1893 Weidenmann was hired to draw up plans for Pope Park in Hartford, but he died before they were completed, on February 6, 1893. He was buried at Cedar Hill Cemetery.

Some of the projects Weidenmann worked on with Olmsted include: the Hartford Retreat; Congress Park, Saratoga; New York State Asylum, Buffalo; Niagara Square, Buffalo; Buffalo Park System; Mount Royal Park, Montreal; Schuykill Reservoir, Philadelphia; and the Washington, D.C. Capitol grounds.

Jacob Weidenmann was, by today’s standards, the best trained landscape architect of his day and was highly respected among his colleagues. He had an excellent ability to integrate all design factors into an aesthetic whole and was extremely adept at construction skills. Through his published work, Weidenmann also left an excellent account of 19th-century landscape architecture in the United States. He is remembered at the Graduate School of Design at Harvard, where the Jacob Weidenmann Medal is awarded to the top student each year.

---

**Favretti Fellowship to Aid Historic Conservation**

A fellowship for graduate students of landscape architecture has been established in the name of Rudy J. Favretti by The Garden Club of Virginia, for the purpose of producing measured drawings of historic sites in Virginia. Favretti has done 18 projects with the club, including a restoration of the pavilion gardens at the University of Virginia, originally designed by Thomas Jefferson and, most recently, the Bowling Green restoration at Mt. Vernon.
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BUILD BOSTON

Build Boston is an annual conference hosted by the Boston Society of Architects. Last year five Connecticut firms were represented at an exhibit of work by New England landscape architects:

Devore Associates
Didona Associates, Landscape Architects
Diversified Technology Consultants, Inc.
Johnson Land Design
Keith E. Simpson Associates, Inc.

BSA urges interested chapter members to participate in this year’s conference, to be held in mid-November. The submission deadline is August 1, 2000. For more information, see BSA’s web site at www.architects.org.

AIA Connecticut cordially invites all members of CTASLA to participate in Accent on Design 2000. The chapter’s 15th annual convention and design exposition will take place on Thursday, October 26th at the Connecticut Expo Center in Hartford. A feature of last year’s show was the ASLA Medallion Program exhibit, celebrating five sites in Connecticut.

AIA/CT will invite CTASLA members to submit display boards to be featured in the Grand Boulevard at Accent on Design; along with the work of members of AIA/CT, CT-ASID and the Awards Programs of CT-AGC and the IMI Golden Trowel Awards. Watch for your invitation!
On December 2, 1999, an ebullient crowd convened at The Heritage Inn in Southbury for the chapter’s annual holiday meeting and awards ceremony. Prior to dinner and the awards announcements, Rudy J. Favretti, FASLA, presented “Frederick Law Olmsted’s Other Partner,” a talk and slide show about Jacob Weidenmann. Excerpts from Favretti’s program appear on page 6.

After dinner the awards for service to the chapter as well the results of the annual design competition were announced (see pages 4-5).

The competition was judged by four professionals in Charlottesville, Virginia: Warren T. Byrd, Jr., Julie Bargmann, Mary Wolfe, and Peter O’Shea. Byrd and Bargmann teach landscape architecture at the University of Virginia, and Byrd is co-partner of Nelson Byrd Landscape Architects of Charlottesville. Wolfe practices in Charlottesville; O’Shea is a 1993 M.L.A. graduate of the University of Virginia and now works in Nelson Byrd Landscape Architects. Brief comments from the jurors follow descriptions of each winning project.

There were four submissions out of fifteen to win awards, but only two landscape architects responsible for the four projects: Diane Devore and Peter Miniutti.

The only honor award went to Miniutti’s design for a Vietnam veterans’ memorial in Winsted. This project was in the design category for municipal projects or public spaces, and also happened to be the winner of a competition in Winsted to choose the memorial designer. As described in the project summary, Miniutti worked with the town’s memorial committee to decide on the site, and he suggested putting the memorial at the other end of the green where a Civil War monument stood. Whereas the Civil War monument faces south, the Vietnam memorial faces north: “Two monuments at each end of the park, commemorating two wars which divided the country, connected by a central axis. An easy and ironic balance.” The monument itself is 17 feet tall and is the largest single piece of stone to have been fabricated in New En-
gland. The front face of the stone is polished, the rear face unpolished. Two holes separated by a chevron are at the top.

The jury remarked, “This project is wonderfully simple and symbolic. It accomplishes a considerable amount through very few materials, details, and design moves. While the obelisk may seem a bit clichéd, the designer reinterprets with slight adjustments to its traditional symmetry and with its differentiation in rough vs. smooth finishes. The three cherries standing quietly in a row to the side and the banded paving circle that the obelisk stands on are deft touches complementing this evocative memorial.”

Miniutti adds, “The Vietnam Memorial Committee, chaired by Paul Varcari, was a pleasure to work with. They were engaged, caring, and motivated. The vision of the project went from a $3,000 rock with a plaque to a $20,000 memorial with an annual academic scholarship to a local high school student.

“The dedication ceremony was punctuated by a military helicopter flying overhead, and by the performance of ‘Taps.’ There was not a dry eye in the crowd.

“I found the experience to be one of the most fulfilling of my career. The entire community was appreciative of my abilities to translate the feelings and emotions of the Vietnam Memorial committee into a public memorial, which acknowledged the losses in Vietnam without glamorizing war.”

Devore Associates received two merit awards in the division of residential design: one was for “A Seaside Residence” and the other for “A Woodland Residence.”

The seaside project was located on Fishers Island, NY— an exclusive island community near New London. Following is an excerpt from the project description:

“Perched high on a hill overlooking Long Island Sound and the Connecticut coast, this shingle-style house evokes images of ‘summer at the shore’....It was our intent to create spaces which articulated the existing topography and accentuated the native plant habitat, while satisfying the programmatic requirements of the client. In achieving this we hoped to diminish the boundaries between architecture and landscape architecture. For example, the structural stone walls of the pool terrace and of the cutting garden read as garden walls that mediate between the strong lines of the house, the dynamic lines of the site’s slopes, and the commanding line of the horizon. The clipped privet hedge that forms an edge at the upper lawn renders a softer variation on this theme.

“...A simple gravel drive was aligned to gently wind up the hill through the meadow of tall fescue and small shadblows. At the entrance to the house, a bluestone walk filled with thyme leads one to the front door where two tree hydrangeas frame the entryway. The perennial plantings along the northern edge of the lawn are filled with naturalistic seaside plantings of yarrow, catmint, grasses, sedum, and tickseed. A few specimen trees are scattered throughout the lawn to provide shade and scale.

“A swimming pool is located off the cutting garden. The stone retaining..."
walls and pergola are integrated by design, and with the use of climbing roses planted to cascade down from the fence above. Beds planted with roses, summersweet, and hydrangeas extend along the pool lawn’s edge, providing fragrance, texture and color throughout the summer months.

“The integration of nature and architecture was achieved by working closely with the architects, and by deriving from the site itself inspiration for the specific forms and textures of the amenities requested by the client.”

The jury praised this project as “a very solid, not overwrought design. The quarter-arc terraces negotiate terrain and the transition from house to site in a convincing manner. Emphasis on white-flowering plants also seems to demonstrate a cool restraint and respect for the context. The square landing above the arc terraces does seem somewhat forced in the view provided. Otherwise, a gentle, fitting scheme.”

Devore comments, “The topography was the most challenging aspect (continued on page 12)
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Design Awards, cont’d

on the Fisher’s Island project, along with the fact that it is a 45-minute ferry ride to the island, and the ferry only departs from New London five times a day. The cutting garden and pool house mitigated the existing topography.” This project was completed by Devore and David Moser (currently landscape architect for the city of New Haven). The landscape masonry was by Tarva di Roma; planting was by Race Rock Nursery. The house was designed by Shope Reno Wharton.

The other merit award was for Devore Associates’ “Woodland Residence” in Greenwich. The house, “for former city dwellers,” is stone and “...sits within a sylvan glade surrounded on three sides by a meandering stream.” Here the feeling is monumental, with a formal motor court and lawns meant to remind the client of grand parks and estates of Europe and England. The project summary emphasizes the desire of client and designer to create a strong contrast between “natural” and “domestic” spaces, which is conveyed by the use of classical forms and long lasting materials in close proximity to the native riparian landscape.

A Seaside Residence
Above: Plan view. Right: Cutting gardens.

A Woodland Residence
(Greenwich) by Devore Associates.
“worked very closely with the architects to assure that there was a continuity between the garden and the architecture.”

Asked about her restrained use of plants, Devore remarks, “I have always had a very simple planting palette. I look at the existing vegetation and try to play off of that. If you study our natural environment, one finds a very limited palette.” She has been inspired by landscape architects Russell Page and Fletcher Steele. “I greatly appreciate the planting of Page and the layout, grading, and masonry elements of Steele. Most of our clients hire us for the simplicity of our designs. In fact, it has been mentioned that it is difficult to see what we have done. I try to do elegant, simple details with gardens near the house. It constantly amazes me how long it takes to achieve a ‘simple design.’”

Devore has a M.L.A. from Cornell University and worked previously at Rolland/Towers and for the National Trust for Historic Preservation. Devore Associates is located in Fairfield and has a staff of three landscape architects in addition to owner Diane Devore.

A planning entry by Miniutti, titled “Lands of Unique Value,” won the third merit award. This study was commissioned by the Quinebaug-Shetucket River Valley National Heritage Corridor (QSRVNHC), a “special district” named by Congress. Unlike traditional national parks, the National Park Service does not own any of this land but instead partners with local citizens, businesses, organizations, and governments “to preserve the region’s cultural history and to perpetuate its natural heritage.”

The QSRVNHC hired Miniutti to advise them on open space acquisition for the towns of Ashford, Chaplin, Eastford, and Hampton, which all lie within the national heritage corridor. Working with a variety of mapping techniques, including GIS and LANDSAT, Miniutti created a methodology to help the organization deal with all land-use planning projects. His analysis included the identification of natural and cultural resources, elements contributing to each town’s unique character, and recommendations for (continued on page 15)
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Design Awards, cont’d

open space acquisition. The project summary states:

“The Quinebaug and Shetucket Rivers Valley in northeastern Connecticut has been called the ‘last green valley’ in the Boston-to-Washington megapolis and the ‘last dark valley’ by airplane pilots who fly this route at night. On the Connecticut Department of Environmental Protection’s natural resources inventory map, our region is marked by the importance of prime agricultural land and unfragmented forest habitat. We are blessed with clean air and clean water, and would like to keep them that way for future generations. Much of this region is in a ‘pre-sprawl’ state, but is being squeezed by the expanding labor markets of the greater Hartford area, as well as Providence and Worcester. Many of our towns have small populations and no professional planning staff. Some, in fact, are led by volunteer part-time first selectmen. As we face ever increasing development pressures, the need is urgent to increase public awareness, to educate local land use commission members, and to build the capacity in the region to guide future development and preservation of land in such a way that the quality of our environment is preserved and our ‘sense of place’ enhanced. Congress designated the Heritage Corridor in 1994 as a region of significant natural, historical and cultural assets. Its vision is to preserve those assets while residents enjoy a quality of life based on a strong healthy economy compatible with its character. QSHC is now implementing its management plan for the Corridor, and this project is a piece of that implementation.”

The jury commented, “This entry satisfies well the three criteria [for judging]. In particular, this project is commendable for its scope, its comprehensiveness, and its considerable potential value in communicating site information to a wide audience relative to ‘lands of unique value.’ We were less certain (less clear) about the conclusions that the study was reaching. It seemed that one had to wade through an overwhelming amount of data to find the essential maps. Regardless, this is an invaluable study.”

Readers may remember Miniutti from the 1998 competition, when he garnered two merit awards. He has taught landscape architecture at the University of Connecticut in Storrs for seven years. Before coming to UConn Miniutti worked at SWA Group, Johnson and Richter, and Sasaki Associates. He has a B.S. in landscape architecture from the University of Massachusetts and a M.L.A. from Harvard.
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Coalition Working to Preserve Connecticut’s Farmland

EXCERPTED FROM AN ARTICLE BY MARK RUWET, EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR, CT FARM BUREAU

Farmland is one of Connecticut’s greatest resources, the heart of a vital and diverse industry. It provides many benefits, including locally grown food and fiber, wildlife habitat, water impoundment and recharging, and the enrichment of our state’s rural character. Yet today, Connecticut farmland is being lost at an alarming rate. Between 1984 and 1997, 20.8 percent of farmland was lost to other uses. This equates to 80 farms or 8,000 acres per year.

At the Connecticut Rural Development Council’s meeting in December 1999, a new farmland preservation initiative was unveiled. Called Working Lands Alliance, this broad-based, multi-interest coalition will conduct a statewide public information and education campaign to raise the public concern for preserving farmland and legislature. The Alliance will then push for a five-year, $50 million dollar funding package for the Purchase of Development Rights Program (PDR) that includes “lump sum” authority to the Department of Agriculture.

There are many private and public efforts to preserve farmland for future generations, but the most successful government initiative is PDR, which leaves the land under private ownership. Unfortunately, the program is seriously underfunded. When the state PDR effort started 25 years ago, the goal was to preserve 130,000 acres, but to date only 26,000 acres have been preserved. There are over 200 farms on the waiting list for the program, and nearly $7 million in requests are still awaiting bonding approval for money already authorized by the legislature.

Widespread concern for the irretrievable loss of these lands to other uses makes the time right for a public initiative to enhance this program with additional funds and a method to expedite requests when land becomes available. It is not an industry issue but a public one, concerning every citizen of this state. The Alliance needs support to help carry out a public information and education campaign that will result in legislative action to enhance the program. This will cost approximately $60,000. To help:

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