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Presidents Report November 2014



AUGUST 2014

Now that the summer months have passed and snow will be flying for most of us in the coming months. I wanted to take time and update you on the past three month's activities:

We have launched the new and improved website and will be updating information over the last quarter of 2014. The chapter would like to thank Scott Lebsack for his hard work on making this possible. Please visit www.idmtasla.org when you have a moment.

We would also like to thank all of the membership who attended the annual golf outing. The annual golf outing took place September 30th in partnership with The Idaho Botanical Garden and Silvercreek Supply. The chapter raised \$1,000 towards the chapter budget and another \$1,500 which went to the Idaho Botanical Gardens to help grow their mission statement. This event was successful due to the sponsors stepping up and helping out! A special thanks goes out to Jerry Troy and Silver Creek Supply, along with our Executive Director, Teri Ottens and her staff. Thank you all it was a truly an amazing event. If you missed this event you will want plan on making it to next year's event, which will run during the 2015 Rendezvous.

Speaking of Rendezvous, we are excited to announce the 2015 Rendezvous will be located in Boise, Idaho. We are currently studying locations and dates for the fall of 2015. Watch the website for more information. If you would like to be part of the planning group we are looking for members who would like to be involved in the Rendezvous Committee at this time. Contact Teri Ottens if you are interested.





Our vision is to Lead the design and stewardship of land and communities.

Our mission is to lead, to educate and to participate in the careful stewardship, wise planning and artful design of our cultural and natural environments

President's Message, cont.

We are excited to announce a new sponsor for the 2014-2015 – Rainbird. Christen Funk is the Rainbird representative for the region, please say hello when she comes by your office to update you with the new 2015 binders.

The chapter will be holding a lunch and learn in December, January, and February for those who need to attain Continuing Education Units through the LACES program. Classes will be located in Boise and/or Montana and are currently TBD. Once we have a schedule in place we will update the website with all of the information necessary.

Lastly, the next ASLA annual meeting will take place in Denver, Colorado November 21-24 this year. See the advertisement in this newsletter for a social event provided by our chapter sponsors. Please RSVP if you would like to attend the event.

As always, take a moment and let us know how we are doing and what we can do to better serve your needs. You can reach me directly at president@idmtasla.org or get in touch with your newly elected section leadership either Jacob Thomas, vice-president of Idaho or Jennie Meinershagen as vice-president of Montana.

Respectfully,
John Roters
Chapter President, IDMTASLA





Thanks to Our 2014 Sponsors To Date!













For more information on sponsorship opportunities check out our website at www.idmtasla.org or call the MASLA office at 208-321-2389.











Sponsor Spotlight

One of our "newest, oldest " sponsor is Rainbird. What we mean by that is that Rainbird has been a great sponsor of IMASLA from since almost the beginning and has just recently RENEWED their commitment to our organization for 2015!

A privately held company founded in 1933, Rain Bird Corporation is the leading manufacturer and provider of irrigation products and services. Since its beginnings, Rain Bird has offered the industry's broadest range of irrigation products for farms, golf courses, sports arenas, commercial developments and homes in more than 130 countries around the world. Rain Bird has been awarded more than 130 patents, including the first in 1935 for the original horizontal action impact drive sprinkler (U.S. Patent #1,997,901), which revolutionized the food production industry and ushered in a new era in irrigation, worldwide. The original impact sprinkler was designated a historic landmark in 1990 by the American Society of Agricultural Engineers. Today, Rain Bird offers over 4,000 irrigation products and services.

Rain Bird is committed to <u>The Intelligent Use of Water™</u>. They consider it their legacy to design and manufacture only those products of the highest value and quality. They work for long-term, responsible partnerships with their customers and vendors. This is who they are, and this is how they wish to be perceived in the irrigation industry and our communities.

CLAIMING OWNERSHIP OF PUBLIC SPACE

photos & article by Jennie Meinershagen

What happens when the neighbors start taking over public space? What happens when they don't? The City of Missoula, Montana, depends on property owners to maintain the non-vehicular public right of way adjacent to their property; it is required by ordinance. The results vary widely, from neglect to delightful surprise. Three years after my design for the City had been implemented I saw what can happen when neighbors claim public space during a recent, casual project review.

In 2010 the City of Missoula undertook major revisions on North Higgins Avenue. In addition to lowering the crowns on the road, improving pedestrian crossing safety, installing period lighting and adding a modified cycle-track to the three blocks, planting areas were created at the intersections. There is no irrigation to these plantings and the area is heavily used both day and night. Maintenance of the plantings is the responsibility of the adjacent property owner.



North Higgins Ave #1

Resiliency is inherent to how landscape architects are wired. It is who we are and what we do. We work with the land and nature, not against it. Mark A. Focht, **FASLA**

ASLA President



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At the intersections where the public space has been claimed, the plantings are thriving and being added to in ways that express uniqueness of the neighbor. At the neglected intersections, plantings are trampled, dry and filling with cigarette butts. When the neighbors take ownership of public space the entire community benefits.

The original planting for the city plan included only ornamental grasses that could withstand no watering and little care. This summer the property owners at several corners added annual flowers and oak barrels. During construction, the patrons at one bar requested sunflowers so they could nibble on the seeds; their corner is now full of color.

Our communities are a reflection of the people who live in them. Claiming ownership of public space results in places that reflect the people who spend the most time in those spaces. Community participation in the planning and maintenance of public spaces is key to the success of those places.



ASLA National Conference

The largest gathering of landscape architecture professionals and students in the world!

November 21-24, 2014 Denver, Colorado

For more information visit www.asla.org



Strategic Plan—2014

Just a reminder of the strategic planning efforts YOUR chapter has embarked upon this year. Below are the priority areas and the Initiative Leaders. Please feel free to contact them at any time with your thoughts, suggestions and offers to assist.

- <u>Leadership Development/Succession Planning</u>—Jay Gibbons, Initiative Lead (jgibbons@meridiancity.org)
- Website Development
 —Jennie Meinershagen, Initiative Lead (jennie@montanalastudio.com
- <u>Partnering and Outreach Opportunities</u>—Jacob Thomas, Initiative Lead (jacobthomas.la@gmail.com)
- Advocacy—Aly Ross Initiative Lead (alyross@gmail.com)
- <u>Student Communication and Coordination</u> Sean Conner, Initiative Lead (sean@thelandgroupinc.com)
- <u>Expand Sponsors</u> Jim Mihan, Initiative Lead (jmihan@beckandbaird.com)

Standing Committees:

Audit—Sean Conners, sean@thelandgroupinc.com
Constitution and Bylaws—Jay Gibbons, jgibbons@meridiancity.org
Nominating—Neil Kiner, neil@peakstoplains.com
Tellers—Neil Kiner, neil@peakstoplains.com

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Senate Next to Address Conservation Easement Incentive Tax

As the U.S. population continues to expand over the next several decades, open lands for farming, . grazing, fishing, hiking, and other recreational uses will become increasingly difficult to secure. One of the most cost-effective ways of conserving these precious lands is known as a conservation easement, whereby a local landowner voluntarily donates the future development rights to his or her land in exchange for a limited federal tax benefit.

Since 2006, a federal provision called the Conservation Easement Incentive, which has been a success in increasing the pace, quality, and permanence of land conservation, has resulted in the conservation of nearly one million acres of easements. The incentive expired last year, and conservation easement enrollments are expected to drop by approximately 300,000 acres per year, roughly one-third. Under current legislation, H.R. 2807, the Conservation Easement Incentive Act, the federal deduction for conservation easements would be permanent. The maximum deduction a land donor can take for donating a conservation easement will rise from 30 percent of their adjusted gross income (AGI) to 50 percent, while farmers and ranchers will be able to deduct up to 100 percent of their AGI.

Land placed in easements can be put to use by a number of activities including farming, grazing, hunting, recreation, or conservation of a natural resource. Precious open spaces or farmland can be protected by an easement for a fraction of the cost of buying it, making easements one of the most costeffective approaches to land conservation. Land trust easements are also taxpayer friendly, since instead of being cared for and overseen by the federal government, they are managed by local, community-based land trusts. There are many land trusts across the country, and they operate as private organizations that are often staffed by volunteers.

Last month, the House of Representatives approved H.R. 4719, the <u>America Gives More Act</u>, which contains the Conservation Easement Incentive Act. The ball now rests in the Senate's court for final passage. Through a tax deduction, landowners are allowed to place their most prized assets – historical sites, forests, family farms, and ranches – in protected easements to ensure a legacy of natural abundance, enjoyment, and agricultural production for future generations. Currently, the Senate has not taken action on this measure, which means the incentive would continue to lapse and precious open space could be lost forever.

As stewards of the land, landscape architects support policies that help protect and preserve landscapes and other open spaces for the enjoyment of future generations. Contact your U.S. Senators and <u>send a message</u> urging them to vote in favor of the Conservation Easement Incentive Act, to ensure the permanence of this unique tool to help preserve precious lands.

P.O. Box 8224, Boise, Idaho 83707

ASLA Membership Benefits Page

Some reminders of the benefits of being an IMASLA Member—check out these on the ASLA website at www.asla.org.

ASLA is dedicated to helping members increase their professionalism and operate their businesses more effectively and efficiently. Through its resource center, ASLA offers free and discounted professional resources to members.

Resources include:

<u>Standard Form Contract</u>
<u>Landscape Architecture Technical Information</u>
Series (LATIS)

Salary and Business Indicators Surveys

Job Link:

As the primary career network and recruitment tool for landscape architecture professionals, JobLink—ASLA's searchable jobs database—connects employers with qualified applicants for a variety of landscape architecture positions. Members receive a special rate to post jobs, making JobLink an inexpensive alternative for members to market their firms and open positions.

Why You Should Join and Stay in ASLA!!

"Being a member of the ASLA provides me with the information and connections that I need to do my work, as well as to get new work. Being actively involved in the ASLA has been incredibly rewarding, both personally and professionally. In twenty-five years of membership, I have made friends and alliances in my Chapter, as well as across the country and around the globe. It's great for establishing a network and working on business development."

Susan Hatchell, FASLA

ASIA-Your Career Connec-



Phone: 208-321-2389



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Thanks!! Ш Ш Ш Ш Ш III IMASLA would like to thank Silver Creek Supply Ш III for hosting the Golf and Dinner Outing Septem-Ш ber 30, 2014 presented by The Olmsted Group Ш and IMASLA. This was in partnership with Ш Hunter Industries, Rainbird and other great Ш Ш III sponsors. Ш Ш Ш The proceeds from this event went to assist Ш III IMASLA and the Idaho Botanical Gardens. Ш Ш Ш Ш Ш Ш

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Alternative Paths to Licensure Update

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In states such as Montana with a small amount of practicing Landscape Architects and offices it is difficult for many emerging professionals to get the experience under the direct supervision of a Landscape Architect required for licensure. To address this, a subcommittee of the Idaho Montana chapter in Spring of 2013 put their efforts towards making recommendations to the Montana Board of Architects and Landscape Architects for alternate pathways to licensure in regards to experience requirements. Their goal being to evaluate alternatives to the experience requirements in the licensure law that may facilitate increasing the number of practicing landscape architects in Montana, and to continue to maintain excellent standards for professional qualifications and practice in the state.

The committee reviewed Montana's Licensure Code in depth as well as CLARB's Standards, the AIA internship Development Program and mentorship programs in other states for comparison.

This Fall the topic was addressed with members of the CLARB board at the regional level. Major points include: clarifying definitions of direct supervision, types of experience that count, allied professions, time frame for experience and the requirement of experience prior to exam with the hope that experience requirements are not a barrier to employment in jurisdictions with small populations, large geographies, and few employers.

There does appear to be some traction at CLARB to undertake a task analysis of what work experience should actually entail and to better understand how different states deal with it. This issue is really coming out of our region and Montana specifically for all the reasons previously discussed.

We will continue to keep you informed as the topic develops.

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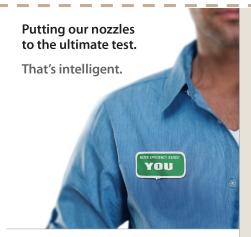
Calendar of Events

IMASLA Board Meetings (noon, MST)

November 18 December 16

ASLA Conference and Expo

November 21-24, Denver CO





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