Information to read about:

1. Important Chatham College News
2. Conferences/Meetings/Events
3. For Future Consideration
4. Tours – Study Abroad Opportunities
5. Student Chapter of the American Society of Landscape Architects
6. American Society of Landscape Architects News
7. Design Work Opportunities
8. Volunteers Needed
9. Call for Research Papers and Entries
10. News of Interest
   o New Books at Chatham’s JKM Library
   o CIC Launches Website for Historic Campus Architecture Project
   o Software Deals
   o Shellhorn: Groundbreaking Woman For Disneyland
   o Street Tree Diversity
   o Bill Passed to Research Invasive Species
   o New Podcast on Urban Sustainability
   o Water-Collecting Pavers
   o Hardscapes: Euro vs. U.S.
11. Green Building Alliance News
12. News from Sustainable Pittsburgh
   o Imperative to stop wasting land
   o Vacant Lots Green Forum
   o Renewing Great Lakes mega-region
   o Local Brownfield Tools
   o Greener Pittsburgh
**Important Chatham College News**

**ATTENTION STUDENTS:**

The Student Portal (http://portal.chatham.edu) is now open for 2007 MAYMESTER REGISTRATION. Directions for using the portal can be found at the following link http://intranet.chatham.edu/documents/is.asp. If you have difficulty accessing the student portal you should contact the IT Helpdesk at helpdesk@chatham.edu or 412-365-1112 for assistance. Please keep in mind that this is a newly implemented student system—the process for registering is a little different and may be a little slow at times...please be patient.

**Open Registration Dates for 2007 Spring and 2007 Maymester**

CLOSES-Friday, December 8, 2006

*Please Note: Any student who does not register within the open registration period and processes their initial registration after the open registration period closes will be assessed a $150 Late Registration Fee.*

**ALL STUDENTS REGISTERED FOR LAR 683 STUDY ABROAD**

*“Innovative Landscape Architecture in Germany”*

**MANDATORY MEETING TUESDAY, DECEMBER 12, 2006 AT 5:45 P.M. ADC SEMINAR ROOM.**

Chatham College’s agreement with Port Authority Transit:

Chatham College entered into an agreement with Port Authority Transit (PAT), that starting on November 1, 2006, “Students, faculty, and staff need only display a valid Chatham College I.D. card aboard any PAT bus, light rail vehicle or the Monongahela Incline as payment for unlimited rides throughout the service area”. Unfortunately, we have received some complaints that some PAT operators are not accepting our I.D. cards. We have been in contact with PAT, and they have stated that they have notified their operators of the new program, and they would continue to make sure that all of the operators are aware of our program. If you encounter an operator who refuses or is reluctant to accept our I.D. card, advise the operator to use their two-way radio to call the dispatcher for clarification, and this should rectify the problem. If you continue to have problems, please feel free to contact Public Safety at ext 1274, we will need the operator’s name or the bus/light rail number or route, the time of day, and location. We will then follow up with PAT. We will continue to work with PAT to correct these problems.

Bernie Merrick
Director of Public Safety/Chief of Police

**Conferences/Meetings/Events**

Through-Dec. 10, 2006  "Connections: The West End Pedestrian Bridge Competition" opens at Carnegie Museum of Art's Heinz Architectural Center, presenting the winning proposal by the Berkeley, Calif., architecture and engineering firm Endres Ware, with landscape architects Olin Partnership of Philadelphia. Also on view will be the five other final-stage proposals and five projects commended in the competition's first stage.
Through April 29, 2007

Carnegie Museum of Art Presents an Exhibition on Tiffany Desk Sets

Distinctive Desk Sets: Useful Ornament from Tiffany Studios

Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania...Around 1900, Tiffany Studios, under the direction of Louis Comfort Tiffany (1848-1933) began producing bronze desk sets in a variety of designs and finishes for the well-appointed desks of men and women of social standing. These sets, while exquisitely patterned, were intended as affordably priced luxury items from the Tiffany line. Between 1900 and the early 1930s, the Studios produced 20 patterns, which ranged in size from 6 to 25 accessories per set. Carnegie Museum of Art presents a selection of 9 desk sets in Distinctive Desk Sets: Useful Ornament from Tiffany Studios, an exhibition on view in the Treasure Room gallery October 14, 2006-April 29, 2007.


Carnegie Museum of Art Presents

Forum 58: Jonathan Borofsky-Human Structures

Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania...Artist Jonathan Borofsky, who for the past decade has focused almost exclusively on large-scale public sculpture, returns to the museum space with Human Structures, an environmental installation at Carnegie Museum of Art, on view in the Forum Gallery December 2, 2006-March 11, 2007. Human Structures consists of approximately 2,000 brightly colored, interlocking male and female figures made of transparent Lexan (a high-end industrial strength plastic). The artist will extend the exhibition from the gallery space into the Scaife Lobby, where he will install a complementary sculpture of geometric human figures made from galvanized steel, as well as a series of three screen prints. Borofsky has also composed an original music score to accompany the exhibition.

"With this exhibition, Jonathan Borofsky revisits his longstanding exploration of the human form, but with a distinctly contemporary aesthetic," says exhibition organizer and Carnegie Museum of Art assistant curator of contemporary art, Heather Pesanti. "His work is direct and powerful, and offers a unique vision for those who immerse themselves in it."

Human Structures encourages the visitor to walk around and through the exhibition and offers an engaging aesthetic experience. It also suggests a conceptual interpretation of the contrasts between the internal psychological experience and exterior physical reality.

In May 2006, Borofsky installed the large-scale public sculpture Walking to the Sky on the campus of neighboring Carnegie Mellon University, where Borofsky received his BFA in 1964.

Support

Forum 58: Jonathan Borofsky is made possible by grants from the Juliet Lea Hillman Simonds Foundation and the Kraus Family Foundation. Additional support was provided by The Associates of Carnegie Museum of Art.

General support for the exhibition program at Carnegie Museum of Art is provided by grants from The Heinz Endowments and the Pennsylvania Council on the Arts. For more information, visit the museum’s web site www.cmoa.org <http://www.cmoa.org>, or call 412.622.3288.

Photos are available on Carnegie Museum of Art’s media photo website. Contact the communications office at 412.688.8690 for the access code.

Support

Support for the museum’s exhibition program is provided by The Heinz Endowments, the Pennsylvania Council on the Arts, and Allegheny Regional Asset District.

Carnegie Museum of Art Located at 4400 Forbes Avenue in the Oakland section of Pittsburgh and founded by industrialist and philanthropist Andrew Carnegie in 1895, Carnegie Museum of Art, one of the four Carnegie Museums of Pittsburgh, is nationally and internationally recognized...
for its distinguished collection of American and European works from the sixteenth century to the present. The Heinz Architectural Center, part of Carnegie Museum of Art, is dedicated to the collection, study, and exhibition of architectural drawings and models. For more information about Carnegie Museum of Art, call 412.622.3131 or visit our web site at www.cmoa.org.

Amazon Voyage: Vicious Fishes and Other Riches:
Now free with museum admission thanks to campaign pledge fulfillment

Carnegie Museum of Natural History (CMNH) is pleased to announce that, thanks to early capital campaign pledge fulfillment by donor Richard P. Simmons, it is eliminating the surcharge for Amazon Voyage: Vicious Fishes and Other Riches, on view through January 7, 2007 in the Richard P. Simmons Family Gallery. The surcharge is waived effective immediately. Bill DeWalt, Director of the CMNH, said: "This is another gift to Pittsburgh from Dick Simmons and his family. Because his capital campaign pledge was paid earlier than anticipated, this fabulous exhibit will be available as a part of the regular admission fee to Carnegie Museums of Art and Natural History."

Amazon Voyage: Vicious Fishes and Other Riches takes families and children on an exciting hands-on journey down the amazing Amazon River, and explores issues of biodiversity, field research, resource management, and the ways people live and work all along the Amazon. Every display in the exhibit is hands-on for children.

About the R.P. Simmons Family Gallery: In May 2006, Carnegie Museum of Natural History announced that its Special Exhibits Gallery, which houses temporary and traveling exhibits, would be known as the R.P. Simmons Family Gallery. The hall's new name recognized the R.P. Simmons Family Foundation for its pledge of $5 million to endow the changing exhibits program.

The gift, announced in February 2006, helps to underwrite the cost of hosting special temporary and traveling natural history exhibits at the museum, as well as support the maintenance of the hall. Located on the third floor of the museum, the 8,000-square-foot exhibit area meets the strict space and climate control requirements for the museum to bring in major traveling exhibits as well as smaller, environmentally and climate sensitive exhibits. The Special Exhibits Gallery opened in May 2003. Since then, the museum has brought a number of internationally recognized traveling exhibits to Pittsburgh, including Machu Picchu: Unveiling the Mystery of the Incas, The Sculptures of Allan Houser, and The Mysterious Bog People.

The gallery is equipped to handle robotic exhibits, and is wired to provide power for electronics such as computers and video equipment that often accompany traveling exhibits. It is also climate-controllable, a requirement for exhibits that contain artifacts that can be damaged when exposed to humidity and temperature fluctuations.

Admission to Carnegie Museum of Natural History is $10 for adults, $7 for senior citizens, $6 for children ages 3-18 and full-time students with ID, and free to children under 3. Carnegie Museums of Pittsburgh members always visit free! For more information, call (412) 622-3131 or visit the museum's Web site at www.carnegiemnh.org.

Tuesday, December 5, 2006 11:30 - 12:30 ARTS FIRST FESTIVAL ADC 3rd Floor

- Student work displayed all over the ADC building
- Original music compositions amplified on the 3rd floor of ADC
- Monologue readings
- Projected videos
- Performance art
- Public art works — Chatham Quad
- Posters – Posted all over campus
- Poetry readings (Grad and Undergrad students)

FOOD, REFRESHMENTS, AND MORE.... Please join us for the end of the year ARTS FIRST CELEBRATION. Everyone is welcome!
Tuesday, December 5, 2006   KMA 7th Annual Holiday Party!
3501 Butler Street    Lawrenceville
Students and faculty invited.  RSVP 412-681-9350 or email dknox@kma-associates.com

Tuesday, December 5, 2006   10 am - 2:30 pm
Communications Workshop Sponsored by the American Planning Association and Pennsylvania Planning Association
State College Borough Building - 243 Allen St. State College
Fee: $30 (includes lunch)
Info: 717-671-4510 or mawirick@comcast.net

A half-day workshop teaching planners how to use tested planning messages and framing strategies with the media and important stakeholders in order to communicate their perspective, diffuse controversy, and win greater support for planning. Custom-tailored to planners, the workshop will provide media relations and public speaking skills that can help advance planning objectives at the local level.

Tuesday, December 5, 2006   Launch of the Rachel Carson Centennial in 2007
9:30 am
31st Floor Regional Enterprises Tower (425 Sixth Ave.)
Downtown Pittsburgh
Free. Continental Breakfast served.
RSVP 724-274-5459 or fiona@rachelcarsonhomestead.org

The Rachel Carson Homestead Association
Invites you and your associates
to the launch of the Rachel Carson Centennial in 2007 and new Web site
on December 5, 2006
on the 31st Floor of the Regional Enterprise Center, 425 Sixth Avenue, Pittsburgh PA 15219

Join Pittsburgh Mayor Ravenstahl, Allegheny County Chief Executive Dan Onorato, State Representative Frank Dermody and State Senator Sean Logan for a preview of the Rachel Carson Centennial in 2007 and the launch of our new Web site.

Rachel Carson – an icon who taught us to protect and learn from the environment. Her work established the principle of precaution in the introduction of artificial materials into natural systems. She showed how people can both cause and solve problems in the environment. She demonstrated how all life is affected by man-made changes to our eco-system; and how wildlife health can be an early predictor for the potential effects on people from a polluted environment. This concept was revolutionary in her time, but remains an urgent legacy. Join us in helping to expand the awareness of Rachel Carson’s contributions to our world. Celebrate this child of the Allegheny – one of Pittsburgh’s own heroes – as the region builds its leadership in sustainable, green initiatives. Continental breakfast will be served.
R.S.V.P. to The Rachel Carson Homestead Association (724) 274-5459 or by reply to this e-mail.
Wednesday, December 6, 2006

Alliance Building Breakfast: USGBC/GBA Member Update
Take part in our annual year-end overview of what's going on in the green building field both locally and nationally, with updates on the U.S. Green Building Council and Green Building Alliance.

Wednesday, December 6, 2006  AIA Pittsburgh Holiday Party!  6:00-8:00 pm
Join AIA Pittsburgh at the Penn Brewery on Wednesday, December 6th from 6-8 pm for great food, great brew, and great company! Enjoy a buffet dinner and the ceremonial "passing of the wig" as we welcome in our 2007 President. Cost is $25 for members, $35 for nonmembers, which includes dinner and drinks. To register, contact AIA Pittsburgh at info@aiapgh.org or 412.471.9548.

Thursday, December 7, 2006  Graduate Council Meeting  4:00 p.m.
Graduate Student Holiday Party  4:30-7:00 p.m.

Graduate Student Community:
The Graduate Student Council invites YOU
to a December Holiday Party

Thursday, December 7th
4:30 p.m. – 7:00 p.m. Holiday Party
Chatham College Gatehouse

Great food and holiday spirits served.
All are welcome!

For more information, contact Angie Lusk, Director of Student Activities,
at alusk@chatham.edu or 412.365.1527
Sponsored by your Graduate Student Council and your Office of Student Activities
Friday-December 8, 2006  Mary Burris’ Thesis Project Presentation
6:30 p.m. Beckwith Hall in Buhl Science Building  Reception immediately following

THE SANDY EDMISTON MEMORIAL LABYRINTH
Friday-Monday, December 8-11, 2006  The Creativity Workshop  New York
You can read more about the workshop below or go directly to their extensive informational site: http://www.creativityexploration.com

Saturday, December 9, 2006  Help Make Pittsburgh a More Walkable Community  2 pm
University of Pittsburgh's Public Health Auditorium (just off 5th Ave. between Bouquet and Desoto St. Pittsburgh (Oakland)
Info: 412-255-2102 or richard.meritzer@city.pittsburgh.pa.us or www.walkinginfo.org

The City of Pittsburgh's Department of Planning is in the process of creating a Pedestrian Plan to address and correct issues with regards to walking around town. Pittsburgh is one of the first cities in the country to create a Pedestrian Plan, and we applaud that effort. They are inviting the residents of Pittsburgh to attend a Public Hearing to review the Draft Pedestrian Plan. This is a unique opportunity to meet with City Planning and give ideas on how to make the streets safe for all users. What's good for pedestrians is good for cyclists as it usually incorporates traffic calming measures, so mark your calendars!

Monday, December 11, 2006  SW PA Air Quality Partnership Inc. Annual Meeting
8:30 - 10:45 am (includes breakfast)
DEP Headquarters, 500 Waterfront Drive
Washington's Landing
RSVP: 412-442-4189 or cmensing@state.pa.us

Did you know that the cap on the electric rates comes off in 2007 and 2008? The SW PA Air Quality Partnership will host a number of speakers, including representatives from the PUC and the Allegheny Conference who will discuss this topic and ways businesses can reduce costs now to meet the future increases.

Monday, December 11, 2006  PennFuture is happy to invite you to our Holiday Parties...
Join PennFuture at one, two or all three of our Holiday Open House Parties. Food, drink and festivities for all as PennFuture staff and board thank our members and supporters for standing by us in 2006, and welcome new members and supporters as we race into 2007. Food guaranteed to be mercury-free.

So join us:

•  Monday, December 11th, 2006 from 5 - 8 PM at PennFuture Pittsburgh , 425 Sixth Avenue, Suite 2770

RSVP online or call 800-321-7775

The party in Pittsburgh is on Monday, December 11th. You can RSVP online or just give me a call or shoot me an e-mail that you’re planning to attend. Looking forward to seeing you! Feel free to pass the invitation along

Heather Sage
Director of Outreach
Citizens for Pennsylvania's Future (PennFuture)
425 Sixth Ave, Suite 2770
Pittsburgh, PA  15219
Phone: 412-258-6681
Fax: 412-258-6685
http://www.pennfuture.org/
**TUESDAY, DECEMBER 12, 2006 AT 5:45 P.M.**
**MANDATORY MEETING ALL STUDENTS REGISTERED FOR LAR 683 STUDY ABROAD “Innovative Landscape Architecture in Germany”**
**ADC SEMINAR ROOM.**

**Wednesday, December 13, 2006**
**Green Strategies for Vacant Land Management in Pittsburgh from 12 pm - 1:15 pm**

The brownbag forum will be held at Pittsburgh City Council Chambers in the City County Building. Space is limited. RSVP to info@sustainablepittsburgh.org or 412-258-6642 Light refreshments provided.

Graduate students at the Heinz School of Public Policy and Management at Carnegie Mellon, have conducted a study of vacant land management for the City of Pittsburgh utilizing Green strategies. Formed by Mayor O'Connor's Redd Up Initiative and continued by Mayor Ravenstahl's administration, the goal of the study is to provide the City, community and neighborhood organizations with a comprehensive view of the current land management system, as well as practical recommendations for next steps, including options for reuse of vacant land, and implementation strategies. Vacant land, whether abandoned properties or vacant lots present opportunities for community revitalization, economic growth and sustainability. Partners across Pittsburgh are coming together to alleviate blight through determination, innovation, and a commitment to Green Practices. The time has come to revisit how the system works, maximize existing resources, and cultivate fresh ideas.

Hosted by The City of Pittsburgh Mayor's Office, Heinz School of Public Policy and Sustainable Pittsburgh.

**Friday, December 15, 2006**
**8:30 a.m.- 11:30 am (8 am registration)**
**3rd Annual Regional Equitable Development Summit "County Comprehensive Planning for Equitable Development in Southwestern Pennsylvania"**

The Twentieth Century Club
4201 Bigelow Blvd., Oakland
No fee to attend
Register by calling 412-258-6642 or info@sustainablepittsburgh.org

The 3rd annual Regional Equitable Development Summit, will feature john a. powell, Director of Ohio State University's Kirwan Institute for the Study of Race and Ethnicity, speaking on equitable development in the Southwestern PA region and best emerging practices around the nation.

A formal public input session of Allegheny Places (Allegheny County's comprehensive land use plan that is now being developed), the Summit will explore equity in regional development by addressing the challenges and opportunities inherent in the quest to ensure individuals and families in all communities can participate and benefit from economic growth and activity.

With a purview of strategies that are proving effective among counties in the region, the Summit collaborates will examine how strategic public, private, and civic investments and county land use planning can substantially reduce disparities in services and in social and economic conditions. Come learn how policies regarding investments for jobs, businesses, transportation access, and housing can be crafted to be truly inclusive of low income and communities of color.

The Summit will feature panels consisting of economic development and country planning directors from around the region, along with representatives from the Allegheny Places resource panels on Economic Development, Transportation, and Equity & Diversity.

At the Summit, the public is invited to provide input on draft elements of the Allegheny County
Comprehensive Plan, and consider opportunities to advance the policy and practice of equitable development in our region.

The Twentieth Century Club is fully accessible and can be reached by the following bus lines: 54C, 61A, 61B, 61C, 71A, 71C, 71D, 500, 501, 59U. Parking is available beneath Soldiers & Sailors Memorial.

The Summit is presented by Sustainable Pittsburgh and the University of Pittsburgh's Johnson Institute for Responsible Leadership.

Friday, December 15, 2006   Adjunct Faculty Meeting   6:00 – 7:30 p.m.

Landscape Programs’ Holiday Party For Students and Faculty
7:30 p.m. - ?????
On the ADC bridge

Friday, January 12, 2007   PA/DE ASLA Western Section Post Holiday Party
Six Penn Kitchen Downtown on Penn Avenue   6:30 p.m.-9:30 p.m.
More details to come in January Newsletter

For future consideration…

http://www.creativityexploration.com
Summer Creativity Courses in Europe 2007 and Fall and Spring Classes in New York City. An inspiring way to learn and travel.

The Creativity Workshop: Writing, Drawing, Storytelling, and Memoir was founded in 1993 by Master teachers Shelley Berc and Alejandro Fogel. Berc and Fogel developed a series of exercises dedicated to helping individuals from all backgrounds and experiences explore the uniqueness of their creativity. We teach from the point of view that people are by nature creative and that creativity, like DNA, is unique in each individual. To access and develop creativity, participants do exercises in: sense perception, free form writing and drawing, associative thinking, map-making, constructive daydreaming, and sensitivity to our environment. We also work with learning to recognize and trust your imagination's instincts. Our exercises are broad paradigms that each participant can easily tailor to her/his own goals, whether it be a particular specialty or life in general. Most of all, like the imagination itself, the Creativity Workshop is fun.

We believe that creativity is best served in a playful, nurturing, and non-competitive environment where freedom and focus go hand in hand. We concentrate on creative process rather than product and on the idea of creativity as a way of viewing and appreciating life.

The Workshop is designed to help you: find new sources of inspiration, break through creative blocks, take pleasure in your imagination, discover images from your unconscious, give yourself
the permission, time, and encouragement to do creative work, and develop a daily practice to accomplish these goals.

Participants are eligible to earn 3 grad or undergrad University credits for taking the Workshop. The only requirements for the Creativity Workshop are curiosity about the creative process and a sense of playfulness.

New York City workshops: $750, tuition only.
European workshops: start at $1,700 for tuition and 9-night accommodations. Airfares are not included.

SPECIAL OFFER: Limited time only
$100 off Early Registration for Summer Workshops in Europe (offer good until 1/15/2007)
Also, more special offers at:
http://www.creativityexploration.com/specialoffers.html

See below our calendar for the New York City workshops and the workshops in Europe:

**FALL/SPRING CALENDAR 2006-7**
New York December 8-11, 2006
April 13-16, May 18-21, 2007
**SUMMER CALENDAR 2007**
Crete June 17-26, 2007
Prague June 26-July 5, 2007
Bruges July 5-14, 2007
Florence July 13-22, 2007
Barcelona July 21-30, 2007
Dublin July 29-August 7, 2007
From $1,700 including tuition and 9-night accommodations.

You can read more about the workshop below or go directly to our extensive informational site:
http://www.creativityexploration.com

Jan 21-24, 2007
US Composting Council 15th Annual Conference and Tradeshow
Wyndham Orlando Resort, Florida,

**February 4-6, 2007 • The Annual Penn-Del Shade Tree Symposium**
Lancaster Host Resort • Lancaster, PA
**ROOTS TO THE CROWN**
Dr. Bonnie Appleton  Virginia Tech
Dr. Bruce Fraedrich  Bartlett Tree Research Laboratory
Greg Hoover  Penn State University
Dr. Chris Luley  Urban Forestry LLC
Scott Prophett  North American Training Solutions
and much more …
**Rigging Demonstration Tree and Trade Show in the Expo Center**
**Certified Arborist Tests**
**CPR and First Aid Certification Class**
**Business, Plant Health Care, Utility, Municipal and Tree Worker Breakout sessions**
The Annual Penn-Del Shade Tree Symposium is sponsored by the Penn-Del Chapter of the International Society of Arboriculture.

**Tuesday and Wednesday, February 6-7, 2007**

*17th Annual Symposium*  
New Directions in the American Landscape  
Nature's Unseen Influences and the Art of Garden Design

Morris Arboretum Education Dept.  
PA Arboretum Villanova

CEUs available for landscape Architects

215-247-5777 ext. 156

Student rate $195 includes continental breakfasts, lunches, breaks

$289 per person

**Tuesday -Thursday, February 6-8, 2007**

**Pennsylvania Landscape & Nursery Conference**

Penn Stater Conference Center Hotel  
State College, PA

Register online at [www.PLNA.com](http://www.PLNA.com)

Student Rate only $25.00 per day

**Monday-Friday, February 12-16, 2007**

**Mid-Atlantic Hardscaping Trade Show**

Atlantic City Convention Center  
Atlantic City, New Jersey

[www.mahts.com](http://www.mahts.com)

**Thursday, February 15, 2007, 8 a.m. – 5 p.m.**

Bowman’s Hill Wildflower Preserve’s Seventh Annual Land Ethics Symposium: 
Creative Approaches to Ecological Landscaping

**Who should attend:** Landscape architects, landscape designers, contractors and other members of the landscape and horticultural industry, environmental consultants, land planners, managers and developers, state/municipal officials and students.

**Symposium location:** Sheraton Bucks County, Langhorne, Pennsylvania

**SPEAKERS and PROGRAM INCLUDE:**

**Stormwater Management from a Watershed Perspective**

Jeffrey Featherstone, PhD

**Conservation Design, Best Development Practices**

Keith Bowers, BS in Landscape Architecture, RLA, PWS (Professional Wetland Scientist)

**Integrating Nature, Culture and Art**

S. Edgar David, MLA, RLA, ASLA

**Plants Green Roofs as Living Machines**

Edmund Snodgrass, Owner and President of Emory Knoll Farms Inc. and Green Roof

**Native Grasslands and Meadows in Pennsylvania: Their History and Current Condition**

Roger Latham, PhD
Seventh Annual Land Ethics Symposium Schedule

8:00-8:45 a.m. Registration, continental breakfast, book sale/book signing
8:45-9:00 Welcome
9:00-10:00 Dr. Jeffrey Featherstone - 1 hour
10:00-11:00 Keith Bowers - 1 hour
11:00-11:20 Refreshments, exhibits, book sale/signing
11:20 a.m.-12:20 p.m. S. Edgar David - 1 hour
12:20-1:30 Lunch, book sale/signing
1:30-2:30 Edmund Snodgrass - 1 hour
2:30-2:45 Break, exhibits, book sale/signing
2:45-3:45 Dr. Roger Latham - 1 hour
3:45-4:00 Closing remarks
4:00 p.m. Symposium concludes

Friday, February 23, 2007 Green Matters: Trees – Urban Re-leaf
8:30 a.m.-4:30 p.m. Brookside Gardens Wheaton, MD
Course number 25699 Fee $69.00 early registration by January 15, 2007
For detailed information and to register online visit www.brooksidegardens.org
Questions call 301-962-1470

Friday, March 9, 2007
The Longwood Graduate Program is delighted to present its annual Symposium, "Technology’s Influence on the Interpretive Experience". Please save this date on your calendar!

Speakers include:
- Jim Ockluly, Director of Interactive Media at the Minneapolis Institute of the Arts
- Chad Wollerton, Monticello Webmaster
- Brad Johnson, Co-founder of Second Story, a Web site development company that helped create Monticello's Explorer Program Web site
- David Asheim, Founder of Guide by Cell, Inc.
- Craig Bettles, Futurist and Researcher for the Institute for Alternative Futures

We will be posting more information closer to the event date on our website, www.udel.edu/longwoodgrad, so please check it for updated registration information and schedule details as they are posted.

If you have any questions, please contact Sonya Comstock, Longwood Graduate Program Secretary, via e-mail, comstock@udel.edu, or telephone, 302-831-2715.

Saturday, March 10, 2007 Western PA Gardening and Landscaping Symposium
8:30 a.m.-4:30 p.m. At Chatham College...more information to come...
March 15, 2007- SAVE THE DATE
GreenSense 2007
Are you looking for ways to differentiate your properties in the marketplace? Come hear keynoter Susan Eastridge and other speakers at GreenSense 2007 as they reveal their proven strategies for gaining a competitive advantage by investing in high-performance green buildings. Eastridge, developer for the Pittsburgh Cultural Trust's riverfront project, will describe how the biggest downtown housing initiative in city history and its commitment to green building is a smart way to build profits.

As chief executive officer and founder of Concord Eastridge, Inc., she is one of many nationally recognized experts from the green development field who will share their secrets to financial success through green building. Breakout sessions will be geared both to green building novices, as well as seasoned professionals. Afternoon tours of Pittsburgh-area green buildings will be offered, and the conference will also include the third annual Shades of Green Leadership Awards luncheon. Nomination forms are available at www.gbapgh.org. Deadline is February 5, 2007.

Tours – Study Abroad Opportunities

March 6-18, 2007
A Brazilian Odyssey: the Gardens and Landscapes of Roberto Burle Marx

Early June, 2007    The Legacy of Thomas D. Church: The Donnell Garden and Private Gardens in the San Francisco Bay Area
Please e-mail me for details.

These unique tours, custom-designed for landscape architects, include visits to many private gardens rarely, if ever, open to the public. They thus represent a rare opportunity to see some of the most renowned and exciting work of two of the 20th century's major figures in landscape architecture. Both tours will be personally managed by me, with landscape architects Isabela Ono and Richard McPherson, specialists in Burle Marx and Church respectively, accompanying each group to many of the gardens.

To register your interest in either tour, or if you have any questions or would like to hear from someone who has been on one of our tours, please e-mail me as soon as possible. Numbers are limited to 16 participants for the Marx tour and 20 for the Church tour.
Plans are in the initial design phase for The First Annual, ASLA Chatham College Orchid Sale, to be held on February 12, 2007, at The Gate House on Fifth Avenue. A committee for the sale has just been formed and we are searching for creative individuals to help coordinate this Event! The sale is being held two days before Valentine's Day, so the opportunities for artistic and imaginative input are endless. If interested, please contact Doug Dmitrzak at dogpgh@netscape.com.

From ASLA: The Dirt News …
"news we dig from the world of landscape architecture and beyond"…

"Big-Picture Consigliere"
December 1, 2006 11:49 AM

Related Categories: Urban Design
That's what William Witte, president of developer Related Cos., calls Laurie Olin, FASLA, who is the landscape architect for Related's massive Grand Avenue project in Los Angeles. Olin gets the full profile treatment in the LA Times this week, and has one of the best quotes on landscape architecture we've come across in awhile. "So part of my role has been working on the larger urban vision, the connections, the arrangement of the parts," he tells the paper. "Most people don't think of it, but a city is a landscape. You can add buildings to a landscape. I don't think you add landscapes to a building — that's sort of a decorator's idea."

Frederick Law Olmsted: A Top 50 American
November 21, 2006 1:41 PM

Related Categories: landscape architecture in culture

49 Frederick Law Olmsted
The genius behind New York’s Central Park, he inspired the greening of America’s cities.

50 James K. Polk
This one-term president’s Mexican War landgrab gave us California, Texas, and the Southwest.

51 Margaret Sanger
The December issue of *The Atlantic Monthly* includes a cover story titled "They Made America," which polled ten historians to come up with the top 100 most influential Americans. Breaking the top 50 (at number 49) is Frederick Law Olmsted, cited as "the genius behind New York's Central Park" and for "inspiring the greening of America's cities." The lone architect on the list is Louis Sullivan, "the father of architectural modernism," who comes in at number 59. The *Atlantic* also includes a long essay by Olmsted titled "Village Improvement," submitted to the magazine by Frederick Law Olmsted, Jr., which warns against the possibility of creating sameness out of an effort to beautify the American village.

*From the ASLA website…*

**Land Matters: William H. Whyte, Meet Pokemon**

When is it okay to flagrantly market a commercial product in a public park? That question stared me in the face on a trip to New York this summer. As my wife and I were walking down 41st Street, we spied in the distance the stately plane trees of Bryant Park—and, floating over them, what appeared to be an enormous yellow cartoon figure.

"Pokemon!" exclaimed my wife, who recognized a character from the cartoon and video game series. I, on the other hand, was clueless. All I knew was that some huge toy balloon was looming over what, to me, is one of Manhattan's sacred spaces. Bryant Park, you'll recall, was the public space behind the New York Public Library that, in the 1970s, was a grungy open-air drug market. Then William "Holly" Whyte defined the vision that transformed it into one of the most vibrant urban spaces on the planet. Whenever I return to the park, I seem to feel Whyte's spirit suffusing it, but this day, his unseen presence was blotted out by the Pokemon character Pikachu.

But even an old curmudgeon like me had to admit that having Pikachu bobbing over Bryant Park was fun. And boy, did it bring in the kids. They formed a line all the way around the perimeter of the park waiting to get into the various Pokemon exhibits in open tents and to watch live actors in bright costumes stage some sort of Pokemon show. On the other hand, the Pokemon presence forced the rest of us to make do with whatever space was left over. My wife and I just managed to find two folding chairs and sat down to eat our lunch.

Was Holly Whyte rolling over in his grave? I asked that question later that day when I dropped by the downtown office of Project for Public Spaces, which Whyte founded, and met with its
directors. Kathy Madden thought Whyte would have been comfortable with a wide range of activities in parks, even Pokemon. Fred Kent disagreed, reminding us that Pokemon Day wasn’t an isolated occurrence. Just a few weeks later, the huge tent for the Olympus fashion show would take up the entire central lawn area for a full week.

“What would Frederick Law Olmsted have felt about these highly conspicuous partnerships, complete with logos, company names, and other commercial trappings?” wonders Phyllis Myers, editor of GreenSense, a newsletter on park funding. “To the extent that these public–private enterprises eliminate the differentiation between the commercial city and the naturalistic park, many people feel that something gets irretrievably lost.”

Yes, and how would Olmsted have reacted to the recent proposal to sell “naming rights” to some of New York City’s gardens and parks? What next, asked a coalition of community leaders, college professors, and others in an open letter to the mayor: Enron Central Park?

That’s not as far-fetched as it sounds. In Orange County, California, the bedroom community of Lake Forest recently agreed to name a city park after a shoe company. In exchange for $100,000, Etnies, a manufacturer of skateboard shoes and clothing, got naming rights to parkland adjacent to its corporate headquarters and will be permitted to stage skateboard competitions and to film commercials on the property, according to the Los Angeles Times. So watch out, reader. A corporate logo may be heading for a park near you.

J. William “Bill” Thompson
Editor / bthompson@asla.org

Please direct all comments on Land Matters to Landscape Architecture magazine editor Bill Thompson, FASLA.

Design Work Opportunities
An adjunct professor in the MFA in Creative Writing program and his wife are considering re-doing their little backyard in Friendship (maybe 40’ x 40’). Looking for a strong student to draw up some design possibilities…

Is anyone interested in this design project?
Please contact Lisa Kunst Vavro if you are interested.

A four year old non-profit life care facility in southern suburban Pittsburgh consisting of 19 acres would like to make their landscape more aesthetically pleasing “while using native plants to maintain a sustainable environment.”

Is anyone interested in this design project?
Please contact Lisa Kunst Vavro if you are interested.

Volunteers Needed

Volunteers Needed For The SAH Annual Meeting in Pittsburgh

From Wednesday, April 11th, to Sunday, April 15th, 2007, the Society of Architectural Historians will hold its 60th Annual Meeting in Pittsburgh, PA, at the Omni William Penn. Volunteers are being sought to help with the meeting. This is an excellent opportunity to hear
presentations of recent research in architectural history and related fields and an opportunity to meet the 500 scholars and practitioners who are expected to attend the conference.

In exchange for your valuable time (a minimum of six hours), volunteers will receive a complimentary conference registration and are invited to attend the Wednesday evening opening reception and lecture.

Some of the areas requiring volunteers include: AV assistants in the paper sessions (training provided), registration desk attendants, registration packet assembly, and general helpers and floaters to assist participants with questions and directions.

A copy of the brochure detailing the program of scholarly papers, tours and events can be downloaded here after January 1, 2007: www.sah.org

This will be a wonderful opportunity to get to know fellow volunteers and meet colleagues in your discipline. Volunteer slots will be filled in the order received. If you are interested in serving as a Volunteer at the 60th Annual Meeting of the Society of Architectural Historians, please email Mattie Schloetzer, Annual Meeting Volunteer Coordinator at schloetzerm@carnegiemuseums.org

**Call for Research Papers and Entries**

**Call for Entries: Sustainability Issue**

**Category: Calls For Papers [View all]**
**Posted by: Drain Magazine**
**Deadline: 06/01/07**

*With the launch of his new film and book An Inconvenient Truth, the 45th Vice President of the United States, Al Gore has managed to push urgent issues surrounding the effects of global warming into the popular realm. If radical changes in the interaction between humans and the environment are not made, then the problems associated with over-population, aggressive agricultural practices, the proliferation of pollutants, ozone depleting gases, and the melting of ice caps will drastically affect our ability to reside on earth. This issue of Drain is interested in the role culture plays at this critical time. How can designers, artists and theorists make a positive contribution in redefining the way we relate to the earth? How might cultural practices participate in the social capital necessary in forging a new vision not just for human beings but life on the whole?*

Abstracts due June 1, 2007
Completed papers due September 1, 2007
Contact: Adrian Parr  adrian@drainmag.com

Post on 10/09/06  Expires on 06/01/07 at midnight.
CAA is not responsible for the content of the listings. Inappropriate submissions will not be published. All listings are subject to review by CAA but will not be edited.

Each year, the ASLA Professional Awards honor the best in landscape architecture from around the globe, while the ASLA Student Awards program gives us a glimpse into the future of the profession. Award recipients receive featured coverage in Landscape Architecture magazine and in many other design and construction industry and general interest media. Residential category professional award recipients will also be featured in Garden Design magazine. Award recipients, their clients, and professors will be honored at the Awards Presentation Ceremony followed by a special luncheon during the ASLA Annual Meeting and EXPO in San Francisco, October 5-8, 2007.
ENTRY FORM FOR JANUARY STUDENT FILM FESTIVAL AND EXHIBITION
OPEN TO ALL UNDERGRAD AND GRAD CHATHAM COLLEGE STUDENTS

Name:______________________________________________________

Contact Info: email____________________phone_______________

address____________________________________________________

Title of Work:_____________________ Year Completed:_________

Medium:____________________________________________________

Creative Statement: (Please explain the concept/narrative that surrounds your work. Do not write more than 100 words. Attach additional sheet if necessary.)

____________________________________________________________________________________________________________________________________________________

____________________________________________________________________________________________________________________________________________________

____________________________________________________________________________________________________________________________________________________

____________________________________________________________________________________________________________________________________________________

____________________________________________________________________________________________________________________________________________________

EXHIBITION: You can submit your artworks for review on CD, DVD, miniDV, via a URL or as a printed image. If you submit still images on a CD, please make sure they are in JPEG format. Each student is allowed a total of three submissions. Students will be contacted through email of their acceptance. At that point, students will be asked to submit — exhibition quality — works of art to the Woodland Art Gallery for installation on January 6 at 10:00AM. The juror will then decide on student awards. The exhibition runs from January 9 – 19. Awards will be announced at reception – date TBD.

FILM FESTIVAL: Submission of short films (15 minute max running time) can be in DVD or mini-DV formats. Each student is allowed one film submission. Selected students will be contacted through email of their acceptance. Festival date to TBD. Awards will be presented to filmmakers at the festival screening.

DEADLINE FOR SUBMISSION IS JANUARY 3 by 5:00PM. Please drop your entries off in room XXX in the Arts and Design Center and/or in the Broadcast Studio. Please look for the submission boxes in both locations.

If you have any questions, please contact Liana Dragoman at x2970 and/or 412-365-2970.
News of Interest

New Books at Chatham College’s JKM Library

The ones that have arrived and are available for checkout are:

- Designing Public Consensus
- Landscape Architect’s Portable Handbook
- Green Roof Plants
- Roof Gardens
- Leed NC Sample Exam: New Construction

Michael Van Valkenburgh Associates: Allegheny Riverfront Park
- Community by Design
- Preserving Modern Landscape Architecture II

CIC Launches Website for Historic Campus Architecture Project

The Council of Independent Colleges is delighted to announce today the launch of the CIC Historic Campus Architecture Project website (www.cic.edu/hcap) – the first nationwide architecture and landscape database of independent college and university campuses. The website documents nearly 2,000 campus sites of historical significance and includes more than 4,300 images relating to featured sites.

Please see the attached press release for details about the new website, and please feel free to forward this release to anyone who would find it of interest.

Sincerely yours,

Richard Ekman
President
Council of Independent Colleges
One Dupont Circle, NW
Suite 320
Washington, DC 20036
202-466-7230
Fax 202-466-7238

Software At Low Price

World leading manufacturers. The most popular software.

- MS Windows XP Professional with SP2 - $49.95
- Adobe Photoshop CS2 V 9.0 - $69.95
- Microsoft Office XP Professional - $49.95
- Adobe Acrobat 5.0 - $39.95
- More then 300 items

Best price. Good choice. Visit our Website.
Landscape architect Ruth Shellhorn died Nov. 3 at Torrance, Calif. She was 97. The Southern California native broke ground for women and helped pioneer the tree-rich, lushly-landscaped look that came to define the region’s commercial spaces.

Her friend and fellow landscape architect Kelly Comras said Shellhorn had suffered a stroke a few days earlier.

“She was a landscape architect’s landscape architect,” said Comras, who is writing a biography of Shellhorn. “She was a terrific site planner, she had exquisite planting skills, she wrote well…. When she designed something, she had complete command of construction details. She didn’t just rely on employees and contractors to fill in the gaps.”

Shellhorn’s collection of drawings and plans has been donated to UCLA’s Special Collections department.

Shellhorn was hired by Bullock’s in 1945 as consulting landscape architect for the Pasadena store, designed by prominent Los Angeles architect Welton Becket. Collaborating with Beckett, a succession of Bullock’s department stores followed, including Bullock’s Wilshire, Bullock’s Palm Springs, Bullock’s Lakewood, a remodel of Bullock’s Westwood and the Fashion Square Malls in Santa Ana, Sherman Oaks, Del Amo, and La Habra.

These were modernist landscape designs, evoking a sun-soaked, leisurely lifestyle, and came to epitomize the “Southern California Look.” Company executives, anxious to lure post-World War II, middle-class disposable income to the stores, allowed Shellhorn to work directly with site planners and architects from the beginning of each project. She recognized that the shopping experience began the moment a customer pulled into the parking lot and she designed those areas with a generous number of trees and bursts of exuberant color. Especially on the Fashion Square projects, where different architects designed each of the stores, Shellhorn’s goal was to create a harmonious transition between buildings with various architectural styles. She composed beautiful, courtyard-like settings, designed to attract customers who were, or wished to be, well-educated, traveled, cultured. In these park-like settings, Shellhorn’s designs redefined shopping as a relaxing and enjoyable activity.

Becket, who worked with Shellhorn on several of those projects, recommended her to Walt Disney in 1955, only a few months before his new amusement park was to open in Anaheim.
Disney was looking for a liaison between chief landscape architects Jack and Bill Evans and the other designers.

“He had five different art directors, and he was concerned that the five ‘lands’ wouldn’t hang together,” Comras said, referring to the five themed areas that made up much of the original park.

By using screens and plants compatible with differing styles of architecture, Shellhorn was able to ease the transition from the Victorian look of the plaza to western-themed Frontierland, for instance.

In looking back at the era, Comras said, “It was unusual for a woman to have the responsibilities she did…. She was not a feminist, she was just extremely competent.”

As a child, she tended a garden, climbed trees, read fairy tales and swam in the ocean on family trips to Laguna Beach. By the time she was a teenager she knew she wanted a career that allowed her to work outdoors.

She studied landscape architecture at what is now Oregon State University and then Cornell, leaving during the Depression a few units shy of graduation. Last year Cornell reviewed its records and belatedly awarded her two degrees, a bachelor’s in landscape architecture and a bachelor’s in architecture.

From left: Cornell Professor Kathryn Gleason, Ruth Shellhorn and Cornell alumna and College of Architecture, Art and Planning Alumni Council member Margo Hebald Heymann, on June 4, 2005 in Los Angeles, where Shellhorn was presented with a 1933 Cornell landscape architecture degree.

Shellhorn’s husband died in 1991, and she leaves no survivors. And because landscapes naturally change with time and developers alter plans, few of her designs remain intact.

Comras, of Pacific Palisades, Calif., is seeking information for her book about Shellhorn’s work, particularly her residential designs. Anecdotes are welcome too. She can be reached at k_comras@hotmail.com

Sources: L.A. Times, Kelly Comras, RLA.

Abstract. In light of catastrophic tree losses caused by Dutch elm disease, foresters recommended that the urban forest be diversified. The intent was to create a more sustainable urban forest that would not be decimated by a single pathogen or insect pest. However, recent introductions of deadly borers such as Asian longhorned beetle and emerald ash borer reveal that new introductions can have disastrous consequences for urban forests.
An analysis of tree inventories from 12 cities in eastern North America reveals an overabundance of certain genera of trees such as Acer and Fraxinus. Introduced pests with broad host ranges such as the Asian longhorned beetle may be capable of killing or forcing intervention on large numbers of trees. Even cities that have diversified at a low taxonomic level (cultivar or species) may suffer greatly from the depredations of insect pests such as the emerald ash borer that specialize on plants at the generic level. Generalists capable of feeding on plants in several families will create problems for urban forests even when attempts have been made to diversify at higher taxonomic levels. Urban foresters should avoid planting susceptible taxa of trees, especially in cities that are overstocked in these taxa, and consider diversifying greatly the types of trees in cities.

Key Words. Asian longhorned beetle; diversity; emerald ash borer; risk; street trees; sustainability; urban forestry.

**Bill Passed to Research Invasive Species**

Salt cedar is one of the invasive species that has taken over a significant portion of the western riparian areas.

The U.S. Senate last week gave final approval to legislation developed by New Mexico Sens. Pete Domenici and Jeff Bingaman and Rep. Steve Pearce to establish a federal program to find the best means of eradicating salt cedar and Russian olive vegetation — nonnative plant species that have overtaken most western riparian areas.

The Senate Friday gave final approval to the Salt Cedar and Russian Olive Control Demonstration Act (HR 2720). The bill, passed by the House May 2 and by unanimous consent in the Senate, will be forwarded to the White House for President Bush’s consideration.

HR 2720, like a companion Senate bill introduced by Domenici (S 177), directs the Bureau of Reclamation to work with the U.S. Department of Agriculture to undertake at least five salt cedar and Russian olive assessments. The bill authorizes $20 million for fiscal year 2006 and $15 million annually from 2007 to 2010 to provide grants to eligible entities to identify the best ways to eradicate these nonnative species.

“This bill will help in our efforts to eradicate salt cedar by both funding projects to remove the invasive species and supporting research to more effectively combat its growth. This is one of the many tools we need to protect our state's water resources, minimize fire risk, and improve habitat,” said Bingaman, who was an original cosponsor of the Senate salt cedar bill.

*Source: Small Town Papers News Service*
New PF Podcast: Urban Sustainability Forum on Energy


In this podcast, PennFuture's Joy Bergey speaks with presenters at the October 2006 Philadelphia Urban Sustainability Forum event on energy. Joy speaks first with Liz Robinson, Executive Director of the non-profit Energy Coordinating Agency. ECA is best-known to make low-income homes more energy efficient, but their services are available to everyone in the Philadelphia area.

At the forum, Robinson spoke about energy policies needed to ensure a sustainable future in the face of "peak oil" and global warming. Robinson explains that peak oil, which she believes we have reached, refers to the situation where humans have extracted and used half the earth's oil supply, and as such, the second half becomes much more difficult and much more expensive to extract. Robinson also shares in the podcast what she believes to be the most important policy change that must occur as soon as possible.

Joy next speaks to Nadia Adawi, Director of the Energy Cooperative of Pennsylvania. This organization is a 27-year old member-owned cooperative with more than 6500 members in southeastern Pennsylvania. The Energy Co-Op includes businesses, residences, municipalities, and organizations in its membership. Adawi's group works to bring more renewable energy into the market. Their products include 100% renewables, biodiesel for area fleets, and bioheating oil for use in home furnaces. They are also embarking on a new venture, the Philadelphia Fryer Diesel project, where they will be collecting waste restaurant grease and producing biodiesel for members' transportation needs.

To learn more about how you can buy clean, renewable energy, visit Clean Your Air. For more information about PennFuture's work on energy policy and global warming, contact us at podcast (at) pennfuture (dot) org, or visit our Web site.

http://www.pennfuturepodcast.org/index.php?post_id=146731

It's almost impossible to sum up the accomplishments of the inimitable Wangari Maathai. She recently returned to Pittsburgh (she received her Master's degree in biology at the University of Pittsburgh in 1965) to receive an honorary doctorate, and to speak at the national convention of the Society of American Foresters. The 2004 Nobel Peace Prize Laureate has impacted the lives of countless people. Perhaps one of her most important contributions to the world is her ability to inspire great action in others.

In this podcast, PennFuture's D.J. Trischler speaks with Wanjira Maathai, Wangara's daughter and the Executive Director of Green Belt Movement International, the organization her mother founded. Wanjira shares how each person must follow our hearts in order to enjoy whatever it is we do in life. She believes it would be impossible to follow in her mother's footsteps. So she is creating her own path, based on her own interests, and although her path was very different, she is now working alongside her mother.

Whether you are an environmental activist or not, the words of Wanjira Maathai are compelling. She speaks of how we might all conquer our fears, and accomplishing all that you wish to in your lifetime.
**Water-Collecting Pavers**

Concrete porous pavers that purify polluted run-off water are being developed by researchers in Australia.

Special porous pavers made of concrete containing specific additives would purify the polluted run-off, says Professor Simon Beecham, a civil engineer from the University of South Australia.

The water could then be captured in large underground tanks and be used for irrigation, cleaning and flushing the toilet, he says.

"We're trying to harvest a resource that we've not been able to tap into before," says Beecham.

Roads, driveways, pathways and the like make up 60 percent of impervious urban surfaces. And run-off from them causes flooding and pollutes our waterways.

"Until now harvesting rainwater from them has proved more difficult than from roofs," says Beecham.

His team is developing a system in which porous concrete pavers allows run-off to seep into underground tanks made of galvanized metal or a flexible plastic lining filled with gravel.

A special bonding material ensures the porous pavers are strong enough to withstand the heavy weight of cars and trucks. Additives mixed into the pavers, or into the sand and gravel bedding material beneath them, enables the system to trap pollutants.

A paver injected with ferrous hydroxide, for example, traps toxic and persistent heavy metals like lead, zinc and cadmium that come from sources such as car tyres, brake-linings and exhaust. A layer of microbes on fabric beneath the pavers can trap and degrade hydrocarbons such as oil. And a layer of granulated activated carbon traps dissolved organic matter from leaf litter that is responsible for algal blooms in rivers, says Beecham.

According to Beecham, the pollutants can accumulate in the pavers over 25 to 30 years, allowing usable water to be caught and pumped above ground for reuse. The pavers could also allow trees, which themselves soak up and recycle water, to grow more freely because their roots have access to more water and air.

Problem tree roots could be avoided by using a special concrete device that directs the roots away from the pavers, he says. The pavers could also be seeded with low maintenance native vegetation including sedges.

Beecham says one of his PhD students Baden Myers is about to construct a full-scale prototype of the complete water harvesting and reuse system, which he predicts will cost 10 to 30 percent more than conventional paving.

*Source: ABC Science Online*
**Hardscapes: Euro vs. U.S.**

Rome’s Spanish Steps are among the more famous of European hardscapes.

Do European public spaces enjoy superior pavements? Architect and professor Roger Lewis of the University of Maryland contends that they do. He unleashed a debate over the issue with a recent piece in the Washington Post.

What do you think? Send a note to editorial@landscapeonline.com

The essay points to design and construction shortcomings of U.S. “horizontal urban surfaces,” i.e., streets, sidewalks, parking lots, plazas, etc., compared to those of Europe.

Lewis cites Washington, D.C.’s cheaply-built, exposed-aggregate, crumbling-concrete curbs and sidewalks that are cracked and heaved up by tree roots and cycles of freezing and thawing. He bemoans the National Mall lawns that abut walkways cheaply built with exposed-aggregate concrete, instead of granite, with no attempt to create “visually distinct seams or edges that materially define the transition.”

By contrast, Lewis says, “ground planes in European city centers are thoughtfully designed, well constructed and continuously maintained. ... Europe’s urban streetscapes and civic spaces are almost always artful compositions. Underfoot are durable paving materials arranged in meaningful patterns that articulate patterns of use and movement. Pathways and their edges—streets and sidewalks, bike lanes, crosswalks, alleys and narrow passages, medians and transit stops—are demarcated by visible changes in paving. Europeans do not rely only on reflective white paint.”

He notes further that borders around and within public squares, courtyards and plazas are “typically delineated with pavers of differing materials, shapes and colors. Contrasting pavers are further used to produce geometric patterns, which may be purely decorative. But they also can mark and differentiate functional zones, accentuating elements within civic spaces – fountains and pools, trees, light poles, sculptures, columns, pavilions and pergolas, or even rainwater drains.”

---

**GREEN BUILDING ALLIANCE NEWS**

*At Colleges, the Environment is Hot*  On university campuses, the environment is hot—and not just as a research topic. Colleges are rolling out new academic programs in environmental studies and announcing initiatives devoted to energy conservation. And just as colleges are proud of healthy endowments, superior rankings and high graduation rates, so are they also starting to brag about their eco-friendly buildings and sustainable landscapes in this age of heightened environmental scrutiny.
We must change our culture and stop wasting land

While improving mass transit fights sprawl, building new highways does the opposite. Instead, PennDOT should expand its Home Towns Streets program that focuses on sidewalks and trails to encourage walking and bicycling as a means of transportation. Additional revenue should be raised by hiking gas taxes to discourage excess driving in the same way that higher cigarette taxes have discouraged smoking. The Commonwealth Financing Authority should cut funding for projects on undeveloped land and restrict future loans and grants to projects on recycled land in existing cities, towns and older suburbs. The state Department of Education should eliminate state funding for sprawling new schools on the urban fringe and require school districts to pay the entire $1 billion annual cost of busing students instead of covering half the bill.

Midweek Perspectives: No smoking, no sprawling

We must change our culture and stop wasting land

Wednesday, November 15, 2006

By Thomas Hylton

Allegheny County's recent decision to ban smoking in workplaces -- coming on the heels of a similar ban in Philadelphia -- represents one of the biggest cultural changes of our times. Such a ban would have been unthinkable 50 years ago, when cigarette commercials dominated the airwaves and glamorous movie stars lit up regularly on the silver screen.

In recent years, 17 states and more than 500 local municipalities have enacted smoking bans. Cigarette sales have dropped 20 percent since 1998, when tobacco companies agreed to pay $248 billion to the states to help cover the costs of treating tobacco-related diseases. Today, about 20 percent of Americans smoke, half the percentage of 40 years ago.

This not only represents an enormous victory toward eradicating America's most deadly habit, it demonstrates that concerted public and private efforts can change negative social behavior, no matter how deeply ingrained. That's heartening for a number of reform movements, including attempts to protect Pennsylvania's farms and forests from another bad habit -- the low-density, drive-everywhere-for-everything lifestyle that has emasculated our cities and decimated our countryside in the last half-century.

Just as the surgeon general reported in 1964 that smoking was the leading threat to individual health, the 21st Century Environment Commission appointed by Gov. Tom Ridge in 1997 concluded that sprawling development is the No. 1 threat to Pennsylvania's environmental health. Sprawl, the Environment Commission said, consumes enormous quantities of farmland, isolates
the poor in our cities and towns, creates massive traffic congestion, worsens air and water pollution, and requires exorbitant amounts of tax dollars to build and maintain.

But efforts to curb sprawl have gone nowhere, mostly for the same reason that efforts to curb smoking floundered in the first two decades after the surgeon general's report. Despite all the evidence of societal harm, smoking was considered an individual lifestyle decision that people had a right to make in a free country. Health workers concentrated on prodding smokers to "kick the habit" rather than emphasize the enormous economic costs and substantial health risks that smokers were inflicting on everyone else.

It was only when anti-smoking advocates changed tactics -- lobbying for smoking bans and higher taxes on cigarettes, suing tobacco companies to pay for the health care costs of smoking and campaigning about the dangers of second-hand smoke -- that tobacco use plunged. Cigarettes began to lose their allure only when smokers were forced to stand outside their office buildings to take a drag during work breaks.

Just as it once seemed almost impossible to attack smoking when more than half of the men in America were doing it, fighting sprawl is a daunting mission when the American dream still revolves around two-acre housing lots and three-car garages. But (to paraphrase Anatole France), if 50 million people do a foolish thing, it is still a foolish thing.

When John and Mary buy a new home that can be reached only by car, they are contributing to America's dependence on foreign oil and increasing the country's greenhouse gas emissions. They are helping squander Pennsylvania's open space, and they are raising the cost of government by compelling an inefficient network of roads and utility lines. Unfortunately, no one has brought home to John and Mary the negative effects of their decision -- both to them individually and to society. Meanwhile, government has been subsidizing such behavior, not penalizing it.

The Pennsylvania Department of Transportation is a good place to start changing the land-use paradigm. On Monday, a transportation commission created by Gov. Ed Rendell reported that an additional $1.7 billion is needed annually to maintain and improve the state's highways and mass transit systems -- about 40 percent more than Pennsylvania currently spends. The commission recommended raising the extra funding through a combination of higher state fuel and realty-transfer taxes, driver fees and local taxes.

While improving mass transit fights sprawl, building new highways does the opposite. Instead, PennDOT should expand its Home Towns Streets program that focuses on sidewalks and trails to encourage walking and bicycling as a means of transportation. Additional revenue should be raised by hiking gas taxes to discourage excess driving in the same way that higher cigarette taxes have discouraged smoking.

The Commonwealth Financing Authority should cut funding for projects on undeveloped land and restrict future loans and grants to projects on recycled land in existing cities, towns and older suburbs.

The state Department of Education should eliminate state funding for sprawling new schools on the urban fringe and require school districts to pay the entire $1 billion annual cost of busing students instead of covering half the bill.

And just as former Surgeon General C. Everett Koop prominently campaigned for a smoke-free society, Gov. Rendell should use his bully pulpit to promote sustainable communities -- ones that conserve resources, not waste them.

Pennsylvanians can be persuaded to adopt healthier lifestyles -- but it will take a concerted effort to get their attention and make it fashionable as well as practical to walk instead of drive.
'Green' forum targets blighted vacant lots

Vacant lots and abandoned properties are among the most pervasive obstacles to revitalization in post-industrial cities, but greening groups have found creative and sometimes low-cost solutions, even temporary ones, in some cities. Both citywide and in neighborhoods, green solutions are showing up increasingly on idea lists, from simple clearing and planting of grass, with neighborhood stewards, to large urban gardens on private property in anticipation of lien clearing or sale.

Renewing the Great Lakes mega-region - Brookings sets state-federal course

The Brookings Institution and regional foundations are calling for a 12-state Great Lakes campaign to renew the economy of the region, making it even greater than in the age of coal, steel and heavy industry. With an eye to the 2008 presidential election, authors of The Vital Center: A Federal-State Compact to Renew the Great Lakes Region, suggest that to assure a sound economic future for the "mega-region" the states' governors and other leaders "forge a compact with the federal government based on policy innovations." The idea of winning support from presidential hopefuls seems especially apt given the region’s rich history in agriculture and industry – not to mention its reputation for swing states.

The study calls for changes in state and federal policy to accomplish goals in four areas. Just one of the study's recommendations is listed here with each goal: Cultivate the region's human capital – Build a Great Lakes "common marketplace" for education and employment, featuring such things as portable academic credits and pension benefits. Fuel the economic engines – Create a Great Lakes energy independence compact with significant investment in research on clean energy and sustainable transportation. Remake the social compact – Provide low-cost, portable health insurance plans funded by employers and workers. Strengthen the economies of metro areas – Design a new transportation policy to include high-speed rail, access to ports and freight hubs.

The report defines the Great Lakes region to include western portions of New York, Pennsylvania and West Virginia; northern Kentucky; all of Ohio, Indiana, Michigan, Illinois and Wisconsin; eastern Minnesota, Iowa and Missouri. Home to 97 million people, the highly urbanized "mega-region" is "one of the largest industrial production centers and consumer marketplaces in the world," according to the report. It also boasts one of the largest concentrations of research universities in the world. If the idea of a compact and regional collaboration among the Great Lakes sounds familiar, that's because a broad-based coalition, including Great Lakes states, has a $20 billion restoration plan pending before Congress.

Local Brownfield Financing Tools Structures and Strategies for Spurring Cleanup and Redevelopment

Local governments often know best when the redevelopment of a blighted or underused brownfield site is needed to revitalize a neighborhood or spur economic development. To encourage developers to take on such sites, local governments have created a variety of financing tools that can leverage private dollars, improve the developer's financial position, reduce lender risk, or fund property improvements needed for redevelopment to proceed.

It's getting much easier to be green in Pittsburgh

Although the county's comprehensive land-use plan will be largely advisory, it comes in response to "a push from the state toward sustainability," said Ms. Gelzhiser. "There's just been a great convergence of efforts." "The Keystone Principles is the state gesturing to regions with expeditious ideas to get more bang for buck," said Court Gould, executive director of Sustainable Pittsburgh, which is involved in multi-municipal land use planning. "Dollars are scarce, expectations are high, principles of sustainable development are mainstream and our ticket to stability. "This is a very exciting time to be in our region right now," said Mr. Gould. "What once might have been thought warm and fuzzy are prerequisites to a complete community that's more successful in the long haul."
Historic Vandergrift looks to future

The Vandergrift Improvement Program -- VIP -- is another nonprofit organization comprising local residents, businesses, municipal and state government officials working to protect, preserve and restore the community through the National Trust for Historical Preservations' Main Street approach...The design committee is developing guidelines for the protection of historical buildings during changes or renovations. Those on the economic restructuring committee are determining how many businesses are downtown and what types of businesses are in place in order to gauge what improvements are needed..."Sustainable Pittsburgh is working with us so that Vandergrift becomes a green sustainable development," Matta said. "And the Mascaro Sustainability Initiative through the University of Pittsburgh's School of Engineering is also working on quite a project in Vandergrift."...All the partnerships have helped VIP pick up steam on revitalization projects. "Other towns are calling us for information. Everyone has a passion for this, and it's something that's really taking off," Teeple said.

Asian influence molds old steel town

The number of immigrants coming to the Pittsburgh region is relatively small compared with other American cities. Asians make up 1.3 percent of the Pittsburgh metropolitan region's 2.3 million population, according to Chris Briem, an economist at the University of Pittsburgh's Center for Social and Urban Research. But, according to the Census, about half of the 25,000 immigrants who came to the Pittsburgh region in the 1990s were Asian. Influx of intellect. More than half of the 1,600 foreign students at the University of Pittsburgh and 75 percent of Carnegie Mellon's nearly 2,100 international students are Asian, most from India, China and South Korea. As a result, the Pittsburgh region boasts the nation's highest percentage of immigrants with college degrees -- 58 percent, according to William Frey, a demographer with the Washington-based Brookings Institution...The region boasts vibrant Chinese, Filipino, Japanese, Vietnamese and Korean communities. There are more than 8,600 Chinese out of an Asian population of nearly 31,000, according to Census figures.

Enjoy the holidays and your time to reflect over the winter break, so that you may enter spring term (starting January 3, 2007) invigorated!!