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Important Chatham University News

Reminder to Graduate Students planning to graduate over the next few terms:
Any student planning to complete degree/program requirements over the next few terms must submit an Application for Graduation to the Registrar’s Office according to the following schedule:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Term</th>
<th>Deadline</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>End of Maymester</td>
<td>March 15</td>
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<tr>
<td>End of Summer</td>
<td>May 15</td>
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<tr>
<td>End of Fall, 2008</td>
<td>September 15</td>
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</table>

The Application for Graduation form is available in the lobby of Braun Hall, first floor, or online at MyChatham>Forms>Registration: Application for Graduation. The application may be submitted at the Registrar’s Office in Braun 103, sent through regular mail, or faxed to 412-365-1643.
Summer Registration
Now open through March 14.
Please consult with your advisor before registering online through the Student Portal.

**SUMMER 2008 LANDSCAPE COURSES**

**LANDSCAPE STUDIES**
Summer Session 12 week Courses 5/27/08-8/15/08

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Course no.</th>
<th>Course title</th>
<th>Instructor</th>
<th>Credits</th>
<th>Days</th>
<th>Time</th>
<th>Room</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>LNS 521</td>
<td>Plants and Design I</td>
<td>Nicole Oeler</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>H</td>
<td>6-9 p.m.</td>
<td>203 ADC</td>
</tr>
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</table>

**LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTURE**
Summer Session 12 week Courses 5/27/08-8/15/08

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Course no.</th>
<th>Course title</th>
<th>Instructor</th>
<th>Credits</th>
<th>Days</th>
<th>Time</th>
<th>Room</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>LAR 516</td>
<td>Plant Identification: Trees and Shrubs</td>
<td>Mike Masiuk</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>M</td>
<td>6-9 p.m.</td>
<td>Sem1 ADC</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>LAR 518</td>
<td>Native Plant Identification</td>
<td>Martha Oliver</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>W</td>
<td>6-9 p.m.</td>
<td>Sem1 ADC</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>LAR 578</td>
<td>Wetlands Ecology</td>
<td>ChrisTracey/ Mike Takacs</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>S</td>
<td>9 a.m.-noon</td>
<td>Sem2 ADC</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>LAR 630E</td>
<td>Green Roof Design Studio</td>
<td>Joel Perkovitch</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>W</td>
<td>6-9 p.m.</td>
<td>Sem2/204 ADC</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>LAR 656</td>
<td>Field Work: Chatham Arboretum</td>
<td>Lisa Vavro</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>TBD</td>
<td>TBD</td>
<td>NA</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>LAR 657</td>
<td>Field Work: Chatham Arboretum</td>
<td>Lisa Vavro</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>TBD</td>
<td>TBD</td>
<td>NA</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>LAR 681</td>
<td>Internship</td>
<td>Lisa Vavro</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>TBD</td>
<td>TBD</td>
<td>NA</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>LAR 682</td>
<td>Internship</td>
<td>Lisa Vavro</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>TBD</td>
<td>TBD</td>
<td>NA</td>
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<tr>
<td>LAR 683</td>
<td>Internship</td>
<td>Lisa Vavro</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>TBD</td>
<td>TBD</td>
<td>NA</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>LAR 698</td>
<td>Thesis or Final Project</td>
<td>TBD</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>TBD</td>
<td>TBD</td>
<td>NA</td>
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<tr>
<td>LAR 699</td>
<td>Thesis or Final Project</td>
<td>TBD</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>TBD</td>
<td>TBD</td>
<td>NA</td>
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</table>

Summer Session 1 six-week course 5/27/08-7/03/08

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Course no.</th>
<th>Course title</th>
<th>Instructor</th>
<th>Credits</th>
<th>Days</th>
<th>Time</th>
<th>Room</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>LAR 670</td>
<td>Interactive Portfolio Design</td>
<td>David Goldberg</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>T/H</td>
<td>6-8 p.m.</td>
<td>201 ADC</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Summer Session 2 six-week course 7/07/08-8/15/08

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Course no.</th>
<th>Course title</th>
<th>Instructor</th>
<th>Credits</th>
<th>Days</th>
<th>Time</th>
<th>Room</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>LAR 526</td>
<td>Modern Landscape Architecture</td>
<td>Anne Withey</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>T/H</td>
<td>6-9 p.m.</td>
<td>Sem2 ADC</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

*Please note: New prerequisite for registering for thesis credits: a thesis topic and committee must be established. Please see Lisa Kunst Vavro with any questions.*
Important student loan changes regarding AES/PHEAA

From: Jennifer A. Burns, Ed.D.
Chatham University
Director of Financial Aid

Recently American Education Services (AES)/Pennsylvania Higher Education Assistance Agency (PHEAA) has decided they will no longer act as a lender in the federal Stafford Loan industry. Because of this change, students who have chosen AES as a lender, will no longer be able to borrow with them. This change will take place on March 7, 2008.

Although AES will cease to be a direct lender, virtually all of the banks that funded these loans will continue to offer Stafford student loans. A lender is the “bank” that provides the funds for your Stafford loan. As a result of this change, AES/PHEAA will no longer act as a “bank.” Students are still able to able borrow Stafford loans, just not with AES, as the lender. For most students currently borrowing through AES, this change will not result in the loss of student Stafford loan financing, but they will be required to complete appropriate paperwork to fund through an alternative institution.

AES/PHEAA will still continue to operate as a loan servicer and a loan guarantor. The loan servicer is the organization that provides customer service, handles repayment, and processes the loans. The loan guarantor insures the loans.

As a result of these changes, students who have used AES/PHEAA directly as their lender will have to complete another Master Promissory Note in order to have Stafford loan funds sent on their behalf to Chatham University. Students who have been affected by this change will be notified by AES, and they will also be notified by our office.

AES/PHEAA and Chatham will work with students to help them decide on a new lender, to ensure a smooth transition. There are many lenders that work with AES/PHEAA, and once a new lender has been chosen, provided it is still guaranteed and serviced by PHEAA there will be no change in the operations of the loan or repayment. Students that are affected by this change will be notified by our office, as well as, AES.

If you would like to review information on your loans, at any time, you may access this information through the National Student Loan Database System at: http://www.nslds.ed.gov/nslds_SA/. This will provide helpful information on your loans. In order to access the website you will need to have the PIN that was assigned to you from the Department of Education that you used to complete your FAFSA. If you do not remember your PIN, you may have the PIN information sent to you at www.pin.ed.gov.

AES/PHEAA may also be contacted directly with any questions or concerns. Their number is 1-800-692-7392. They will be able to provide you with detailed information regarding your loans. Finally, PHEAA will continue to administer the state grant program for undergraduate Pennsylvania residents. There is no change in this program.

Please call our office at 412-365-2797 or PHEAA at 1-800-692-7392, if there are questions.

Student Services Center hours extended

From: Jennifer R. Lundy, CPA,
Assistant Vice President for Finance & Administration

To respond to the needs of our student population, the Student Service Center (SSC) is extending its weekday hours on certain days during Spring Semester, as well as opening one Saturday. This is to ensure that all students have access to the SCC staff at a time when they are on campus.

The following weekdays the SSC will remain open until 7pm: March 13, 17, 19; April 2, 3, 7. The SSC will also be open Saturday, March 15, noon to 2 pm.
For more information please call 412-365-1145.

Conferences, Meetings, Events

Ongoing through Sunday, May 25, 2008

“Ecology.Design.Synergy” Exhibit
Heinz Architectural Center, Carnegie Museum of Art

Ecology.Design.Synergy, is an exhibit of the work of Behnisch Architekten and Transsolar ClimateEngineering. Working collaboratively, these German architecture and engineering firms are setting a standard around the world for “green architecture.” RiverParc, the team’s winning proposal for the Pittsburgh Cultural Trust, is on view along with the firm’s other designs that transform work environments and city spaces for contemporary life.
See www.cmoa.org for more information.

Friday, March 7 – Sunday, March 16

27th Annual Duquesne Light Home and Garden Show
David Lawrence Convention Center, Pittsburgh

Visit Chatham University’s booth at the Dream Home Gardens, A-Maze-in-Green on level 1, featuring both Interior Architecture and Landscape Architecture programs. Any student or faculty wanting to be stationed at the Chatham booth for an hour or more receives free admission. Contact Lisa Kunst Vavro for more information, email: LVavro@chatham.edu.

Friday, March 7

Longwood Graduate Program Annual Symposium

The Fellows of the Longwood Graduate Program have announced the speakers for their 2008 Annual Symposium, “Powerful Exhibitions for Every Institution.” The Symposium will be held on Friday, March 7 in Longwood Gardens' ballroom, Kennett Square, PA. The speakers and sessions of the day include:

- “No Dough for the Big Show” Kathy Renwald, Professional Journalist, Writer and Television Host for HGTV
- “The Economics and Trends of Exhibitions at Public Gardens” Mary Pat Matheson, Executive Director, Atlanta Botanical Garden
- “Exhibiting Greatness” Dianne Garrett Powell, President, Sellmark
- “Garden Exhibitions Inspired by Regional Themes” Gwen Stauffer, Executive Director, New England Wild Flower Society
- “Exhibitions to Fit Your Institution” Madelaine Zadik, Manager of Education and Outreach, The Botanic Garden of Smith College

Thanks to the generous support of this year’s Symposium sponsors, the registration cost of the Symposium is only $75, with a 20% discount for full-time students. Discounted accommodations are also available at area hotels. Over the weekend, there is the opportunity to spend additional time in the Brandywine Valley or at the 2008 Philadelphia Flower Show.

Please visit the Symposium section of our brand new web site for session descriptions, speaker biographies, a schedule of the day, a downloadable brochure, information on reduced hotel rates, and a listing of our current sponsors. Registration opened on January 1. If you have any questions, please contact Kathryn Thoroughgood, Longwood Graduate Program Staff Assistant <longwoodgrad@udel.edu> or by telephone, 302-831-2517.

For more information please go to: www.udel.edu/longwoodgrad
Saturday, March 8
Western Pennsylvania Gardening & Landscaping Symposium
Chatham University, 8:30 am – 4:30 pm

This annual event is sponsored by Penn State, Phipps Conservatory, and Chatham University. Registration will take place in the Welker Room, Laughlin Hall 7:30 – 8:30 am. The keynote speaker begins in the Eddy Theater at 8:30 am.

Mike Masiuk of the Penn State Cooperative announced the following speakers for this year’s event including:

- Peter Del Tredici (keynote), Senior Research Scientist at the Arnold Arboretum of Harvard University
- Dan Benarcik, horticulturist at Chanticleer, where he oversees the Courtyard Gardens, concentrating on tropical, sub-tropical, and tender perennials for seasonal display.
- Richard Bitner, M.D., Longwood Gardens and practicing anesthesiologist on the faculty of The Pennsylvania State University School of Medicine / Hershey Medical Center.
- Dan Heims, president of Terra Nova Nurseries, Inc., a company noted for its new introductions to horticulture.

All Chatham students are admitted at no cost, but in order to receive a lunch, please fax a form to Phipps Garden Center, c/o Sarah Bua, at 412-665-2368 before March 6. CEUs will be available for Registered Landscape Architects. See Lisa Kunst Vavro for registration forms: lvavro@chatham.edu.

Saturday, March 8
Frick Park, 9 – 11:30 am
First Volunteer Day, 2008. Help remove non-native bush honeysuckle plants and re-establish dogwoods around Nine Mile Run area. Meet in the lower Frick parking lot off Hutchinson Avenue in Regent Square. For information email ecopeland@pittsburghparks.org.

Tuesday, March 11 – Friday, March 14
7th International Conference Solar Energy in Architecture and Urban Planning
Berlin, Germany
EUROSOLAR will continue the conference series “Solar Energy in Architecture and Urban Planning” in cooperation with the German Federal Ministry of Transport, Building and Urban Affairs with the 7th conference entitled “Sun and Sense”. We want to demonstrate how the enormous technological progress in the fields of Renewable Energies can be implemented extensively into architecture and urban planning.

The conference program will focus on the following topics:

- The building as solar power station: Solar architecture/Architectural integration of Renewable Energy technology
- Urban development and settlement models
- Urban mobility with Renewable Energies
- City-region relations, embedding cities into the context of their local resources
- 100% Renewable Energy scenarios and projects on building-, settlement-, urban-, and regional level
- The use of Renewable Energies in megacities

Members of supporting or associated organizations are invited to register at EUROSOLAR/WCRE member rates.
For information go to: http://www.eurosolar.org

Wednesday, March 12
Sustainability and Smart Growth Brown Bag Forum
Regional Enterprise Tower, Downtown Pittsburgh, 11:30 am - 1:30 pm
Meeting is in Davis Room, 23rd Floor. No fee. Bring a bag lunch; refreshments and dessert provided. Featuring Ty Gourley, Institute of Politics Regional Water Management Task Force. See further details in News from Sustainable Pittsburgh section of this newsletter.

Wednesday, March 12
Labor = Green!
New Hazlett Theater, 6:30 pm
The Blue-Green Alliance, a strategic partnership of the Sierra Club and United Steelworkers, envisions a nationwide green economic renaissance, with revitalized manufacturing, green building, safer chemical usage and global warming solutions that will grow this new job sector. Speakers include Donele Wilkins, Executive Director, Detroiters for Environmental Justice; Dave Foster Executive Director of the Blue-Green Alliance; and Rich Overmeyer, a Principal of GSP Consulting. Discussion will be moderated by Nathaniel Doyno, President of Steel City Biofuels. Cocktails and conversation to follow. The New Hazlett Theater is located at 6 Allegheny Square E, Pittsburgh PA 15212. Respond to: rsvp@nowall.com.

Thursday, March 13 – Friday, March 14
Good Jobs, Green Jobs Conference
David L. Lawrence Convention Center, Pittsburgh
"Good Jobs, Green Jobs: A National Green Jobs Conference" will bring together advocates representing local, state and federal policymakers; labor; business; the environment and public health; economic and workforce development specialists; investors; and scientists and technology experts. Participants will share best practices about how we can revitalize our manufacturing sector, drive green building, promote safer chemicals, and realize the economic benefits of global warming solutions. For registration and information: http://www.greenjobsconference.org/

Saturday, March 15– extended deadline for poster abstracts for 2nd World Botanic Garden Scientific Congress – See Call for Entries section of this newsletter.

Thursday, March 20
Carnegie Mellon University
Adamson Wing, 136A Baker Hall – 4:30 pm
P. Aarne Vesilind, Professor Emeritus, Bucknell University will be speaking on: “There is No Such Thing as Environmental Ethics.”

Saturday, March 22
Author Julie Moir Messervy
Fallingwater 10 am – 4 pm
Julie Moir Messervy, the acclaimed author and landscape designer known for her inspired, imaginative gardens, will lead a design workshop, “Creating Home Outside,” on Saturday, March 22, from 10 a.m. until 4 p.m. at the Barn at Fallingwater in Fayette County.

The $285 registration fee for the all-day workshop includes lunch, a printed companion workbook and a copy of Fine Gardening Magazine. The first 30 registrants will receive complimentary copies of The Inward Garden, Messervy’s classic book. Upon request at time of registration, participants will receive 6 AIA/CES Learning Units or a Certificate of Completion.
For reservations, please call 724-329-1441, ext. 1107.

Thursday, March 24
Carnegie Mellon University
Adamson Wing, 136A Baker Hall – 4:30 pm
David Epel, Stanford University, will be speaking on “Newly Appreciated Roles of Efflux Transporters in Environmental Pollution and Environmental Policy.”

Thursday, March 24
Carnegie Mellon University
McConomy Auditorium, University Center – 5 pm

Friday March 28 – Saturday, March 29
Farm to Table: A recipe for a healthy Pittsburgh
David Lawrence Convention Center
The speakers and exhibitors will assist consumers in understanding the benefits of eating locally grown food. Businesses that grow, sell or prepare farm raised produce, livestock, and value added products will be featured. Organizations providing health and wellness opportunities will also be an integral part of this conference. Giant Eagle and American HealthCare Group are sponsors of the event.
Friday, noon to 6 pm; Saturday, 9 am to 5 pm. Admission, $15; under 12, free; students ages 14-18, $10. Go to: https://www.pathwayswellnessprogram.com/farm_to_table_conference.html, or call 412-563-8800.

Monday, March 31
Green Roof Training Courses, Philadelphia
Green Roof Design 101 Introductory Course 2nd Ed.
In this newly revised introductory course you will learn about the components and benefits of green roofs, how to design a project for maximum benefits, how to cost estimate for different types of projects and much more. The new course includes the most up-to-date green roof research and design practices as well, as new case studies from this rapidly expanding industry.
Federal Reserve Bank Building
100 North 6th Street
Philadelphia, PA Tuition: $399
For further information on our training courses, please contact Anna Sergeyeva, at 416-971-4494, ext. 228 asergeyeva@greenroofs.org or Jordan Richie at 416-971-4494 ext. 221 jrichie@greenroofs.org.

Monday, March 31 – Deadline for T-shirt designs for Sakura project. See Call for Entries section of this newsletter.

Monday, March 31
Carnegie Mellon University
Adamson Wing, 136A Baker Hall – 4:30 pm
Elizabeth W. Jones, Biological Sciences, Carnegie Mellon, will speak on “Making it Up as I (We) Went Along.”

Monday, April 7
Carnegie Mellon University
Adamson Wing, 136A Baker Hall – 4:30 pm
John G. Craig, Jr. Former Editor, Pittsburgh Post Gazette AND Paul O’Neill, Former Secretary of the Treasury and Former CEO, Alcoa
Will be speaking on “Benchmarking the Real Pittsburgh,” as part of the Distinguished Lecture Series in Environmental Science, Technology and Policy.

**Monday, April 7 – Tuesday, April 8**

*4th Annual Urban Land Institute Conference*

“Developing and Investing Green”

Charlotte, North Carolina

*For information go to: www.uli.org*

**Tuesday, April 8**

Carnegie Mellon University

Rangos 1, University Center – 4:30 pm


**Saturday, April 12**

LAR Student Field Trip

Old Economy Village

Ambridge, PA

Join LAR 527 Historic Preservation class for a field trip to Old Economy, Ambridge, with historic preservation landscape architect, Bill Menke, RLA, ASLA. Please notify Lisa Kunst Vavro of your interest in order for adequate transportation to be arranged. More details forthcoming.

**Monday, April 14**

Carnegie Mellon University

Adamson Wing, 136A Baker Hall – 4:30 pm

Terry Collins, Chemistry, Carnegie Mellon, will be speaking on, “Living the Pursuit of a Sustainable Civilization.”

**Tuesday, April 15**

Carnegie Mellon University

Adamson Wing, 136A Baker Hall – 4:30 pm

Bernard Amadei, University of Colorado, will address the “Role of Engineers in Poverty Reduction: Challenges and Opportunities,” as part of the Distinguished Lecture Series in Environmental Science, Technology and Policy.

**Wednesday, April 16**

Rachael Carson Spirit and Nature Forum

Chatham University, 6 pm – 8:30 pm

Through a roundtable discussion with panelists representing Pittsburgh’s faith groups, participants can explore how earth stewardship is a matter of faith and how sustainable living, including conservation efforts, green building and using renewable energy, are practices that can be embraced by all.

Register online at www.rachelcarsonhomestead.org,
or call (724) 274-5459.

**Tuesday, April 29**

Carnegie Mellon University

Connan Room, University Center – 5 pm

Judy Wicks, of The White Dog Café, Philadelphia, will be speaking on, “Local Living Economies: Green, Fair, and Fun.”

**April 31 - May 2**

Sixth Annual Greening Rooftops for Sustainable Communities Conference
Baltimore Sheraton Inner Harbor Hotel and Baltimore Convention Center
See www.greenroofs.org/baltimore for details.
Saturday, May 3
LAR Native Plant Field Trip, Ohio Pyle, 10 am – 4 pm
**Required for students registered for LAR 518.** All other landscape students are welcome.
Meet at the Primrose Path, 10 am. **More details forthcoming.**

**For future consideration:**

**Saturday, May 3, 2008 through January 11, 2009**
**Life on Mars, the 2008 Carnegie International**
This show at the Carnegie Museum of Art, 4400 Forbes Ave. in the Oakland section of Pittsburgh, includes works by 40 emerging and established artists from 17 countries. As the pre-eminent international survey of contemporary art in North America, the 55th exhibition in the 112-years-old series will continue the historic legacy set forth by previous Carnegie Internationals in presenting new and compelling works by artists from around the world. **Life on Mars, the 2008 Carnegie International,** explores the important, yet continually perplexing, question of what it means to be human in the world today. Each artist brings a unique outlook to the question of humanity’s response to a world in which global events challenge and seem to threaten our everyday existence. **For more information call 412.622.3131 or visit their web site at [www.cmoa.org](http://www.cmoa.org).**

**Wednesday, May 21, 2008**
**Green Roof Training Courses, Philadelphia**
**Green Roof Infrastructure Design & Installation 201**
This second course in the forthcoming accreditation program is for those who have taken Green Roof Design 101 or who have basic green roof knowledge. You will learn the roles and responsibilities of a green roof team, and various issues and complexities involved in managing your green roof project and how to plan for success every time. Tuition: **$399**
**For further information contact Anna Sergeyeva, at asergeyeva@greenroofs.org.**

**Friday, June 6**
**Central PA Summit on Green Building Products**
**Penn College, Williamsport, PA 8 am – noon**
Learn how Pennsylvania manufacturers are taking advantage of the fast-growing market for green buildings. With its close proximity to much of the eastern U.S. and Canada, Pennsylvania is an ideal location for architects seeking to specify “regionally sourced” materials for green projects. Plus, Pennsylvania consistently ranks among the national leaders in the number of certified green buildings, a sign of strong market interest.
**To register or for more information, go to the Green Building Alliance, 64 South 14th St., Pittsburgh, PA 15203, Phone: 412-431-0709 Fax: 412-431-1432, [http://www.gbapgh.org](http://www.gbapgh.org).**

**Sunday, June 29 – Friday, July 4**
**2nd World Botanic Garden Scientific Congress**
**Delft University of Technology, Netherlands**
This congress is organized by the Botanic Gardens Conservation International (BGCI) and the Botanic Garden of Delft University of Technology. With outstanding and first-rate speakers as well as a diverse, interesting and challenging program we are sure that this will be a trailblazer at least for the next decade in the garden business. The Congress will provide the unique opportunity to share experiences and research findings from botanic gardens around the world.

**Tuesday, August 12**
**Green Roof Training Courses, Philadelphia**
**Green Roof Infrastructure Waterproofing and Drainage 301**
This is GRHC’s third course in the Green Roof Accreditation Program. This new course will provide participants with an overview of waterproofing and drainage construction and maintenance for green roof assemblies. It lays out technical vocabulary and materials and presents detailed design solutions and implementation best management practices for waterproofing and drainage in green roofs. Tuition: **$399.**
For further information on our training courses, please contact Anna Sergeyeva, at 416-971-4494, ext. 228 asergeyeva@greenroofs.org.

September 21 – 23, 2008
International Urban Parks Conference
Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania
Pittsburgh for Body and Soul: Parks and the Health of Great Cities.
The biennial conference of the City Parks Alliance and the National Association for Olmsted Parks is the premier forum for professionals and parks advocates with a primary focus on urban and historic parks. The 2008 conference is presented in partnership with and produced by the Pittsburgh Parks Conservancy.

For information go to www.urbanparks08.org.

News from ASLA

Demand for Landscape Architects remains high
Many firms hiring during 2008’s first quarter
Washington, DC, February 11, 2008 — The majority of landscape architects remain busy despite trouble in the housing market, according to a survey by the American Society of Landscape Architects (ASLA). More than six in ten firms reported steady or increased work, and nearly four in ten firms planned to hire in the upcoming quarter. The survey asked quarterly benchmarks on key statistics including billable hours, inquiries, and hiring plans, with 319 firms responding.

As with third quarter of 2007, the fourth quarter saw the majority of firms staying busy despite larger housing market troubles. Fifty-nine percent of respondents described their billable hours as either “well above average” (six percent), “slightly above average” (25 percent), or “average” (27 percent). Thirty percent said their hours were “slightly below average,” and 10 percent said “well below average.” When asked to compare Q4 2007 with Q4 2006, 61 percent said their hours were either “higher” (31 percent) or “about the same” (30 percent); 36 percent said that compared to 2006 their hours were “lower.”

Firms shared their outlook and concerns in the survey as well. One small Midwestern firm said its outlook for billable hours is “improving significantly,” while a midsized Northeastern firm said it has “just started receiving much larger commissions.” A large national firm said, “The housing market had a major effect on our backlog of work. We are currently developing more relationships with commercial developers.” Other firms spoke of their experiences with seasonal construction slowdowns, concerns about inflation and energy costs effecting profit margins, and drought-related problems.

New inquiries in Q4 2007 were similarly positive: six percent reported well above average inquiries, 19 percent reported slightly above, 31 percent reported average, and 44 percent reported their inquiries were down this quarter. When asked to compare Q4 2007 with Q4 2006, 56 percent said that their new inquiries were either “higher” (19 percent) or “about the same” (37 percent), while 40 percent said that compared to 2006 their inquiries were “lower.” A midsized Southeastern firm summed up its experience: “Given the state of the economy, we have been surprised about the seeming strong amount of inquiries.”

The strong job market for landscape architects also remained steady. Fully 38 percent of firms planned to hire in the first quarter of 2008, representing little change from those who planned to hire in the fourth quarter of 2007 (40 percent).
The Bureau of Labor Statistics projects that the number of landscape architects must grow by 16 percent by 2016 in order to meet growing demand for services. The survey asked firms how they are helping to grow the profession, and more than 40 percent reported they actively conduct outreach to school-aged children to promote careers in landscape architecture. The theme of National Landscape Architecture month in April will be “Discover Careers in Landscape Architecture.”

Learn more about landscape architecture online at [www.asla.org](http://www.asla.org).

2008 Call for Entries
Each year, the ASLA Professional Awards honor the best in landscape architecture from around the globe, while the ASLA Student Awards give 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 2008 ASLA Annual Meeting & EXPO in Philadelphia, October 3-7.

Professional Awards
With the exception of the Communications and the Landmark Award categories, the official entrant must be a professional member of ASLA as an Associate, Full, or International member, or must be qualified to join ASLA in one of those categories. The non-member fee includes a one-year membership to ASLA. For information on membership qualifications, call 1-888-999-ASLA. The jury process is “blind.” In other words, the identities of the entrant and creative team are not revealed to the jury. Members of the Professional Awards Jury, as well as the firms, organizations, or agencies they represent are not eligible to enter the Professional Awards program. ASLA retains the right to disqualify any entry that does not meet the requirements or that presents a conflict of interest. In such cases, refunds will not be issued.

ASLA releases climate change policy recommendations
Washington, DC, February 20, 2008 — The American Society of Landscape Architects (ASLA) has released a series of strategic policy recommendations on climate change to reduce carbon emissions and mitigate global warming. ASLA encourages Congress to adopt these strategies, as well as pass the Safe Climate Act and America’s Climate Security Act—actions that will increase energy efficiency, reduce greenhouse gas emissions, and protect the natural environment.

“The techniques landscape architects use for sustainable design can translate into effective public policy,” said Nancy Somerville, executive vice president and CEO of ASLA. “These strategies can save billions of dollars on infrastructure, create vibrant and healthy neighborhoods, preserve our natural resources, and reduce global warming if Congress acts soon.”

Some specific policy recommendations include:

- Encourage sustainable site planning for new communities and buildings of all types.
- Require open space and parkland preservation as a component of all public and private development, from small site-specific projects to regional land use plans.
- Encourage the research and use of native and adapted vegetation in the built environment to take full advantage of the most appropriate plants to increase air quality, conserve water resources, and sequester carbon dioxide.
- Encourage the use of sustainable stormwater management practices that enhance the treatment and increase the infiltration of stormwater.
- Encourage the use of green roofs on public and private buildings of all types.
• Require comprehensive transportation and utility planning as a component of land use planning, matching infrastructure capacity with current and proposed land uses.
• Encourage the development of smart growth communities.
• Enact policies that support design of safe transportation routes for all users, including pedestrians, bicyclists, and those who use wheelchairs.

The full white paper and policy recommendations can be viewed at www.asla.org. ASLA also encourages Congress to pass comprehensive climate change legislation including the Safe Climate Act of 2007 (H.R. 1590) and America’s Climate Security Act of 2007 (S. 2191).

Student ASLA News

Student Chapter Meeting
The next meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, March 18, 5 pm, ADC room 203.

Plant Sale
Look for information concerning the upcoming annual ASLA plant sale via email. To volunteer, contact DougPgh@netscape.com or LFollweiler@gmail.com

ASLA 2008 call for entries
ASLA has released its 2008 awards call for entries. The eligibility and entry process has changed for 2008, so please pay careful attention to the guidelines.

Student Awards
The official entrant must be a member of ASLA in the Student or Student Affiliate categories, or must be qualified to join ASLA in either of those categories in order to enter. Official entrants must provide proof of registration as a student (such as a copy of a current student identification card). Student entries may be individual or team efforts. For all categories, all team members must be Student or Student Affiliate ASLA members in good standing (or must join ASLA) in order to enter. The non-member fee includes a one-year membership in ASLA. A list of team members must be submitted with the entry form.

Members of the Student Awards Jury will recuse themselves from judging any entries with which they have a conflict of interest (for example, a juror who teaches in a landscape architecture program will not judge entries submitted by students from that program). ASLA retains the right to disqualify any entry that does not meet the program requirements or that presents a conflict of interest. In such cases, refunds will not be issued.

Student entry forms are due May 9, 2008 and submissions must be received by May 23. Student award recipients will receive a complimentary full registration to the 2008 Annual Meeting in Philadelphia October 3-7, 2008. The 2008 call for entries is available on line at www.asla.org/awards/2008/rules_entries/.

Student opportunities at 2008 annual meeting
Students from Pennsylvania landscape architecture schools will be needed for the PA/DE Chapter Booth at the 2008 annual meeting.

Look for information concerning a T-shirt design competition between all Pennsylvania landscape architecture schools.
Call for Entries

Japanese Cuisine offers Logo Competition
We seek a logo for use on our letterhead, web page, and T-shirts. The winner will be awarded a $100 gift card from Chaya Japanese Cuisine. The design should be a cherry blossom or blossoms and/or kanji, hiragana, one color, and should fit in a one-inch square. The deadline is March 31, 2008. The winning design will be announced on the inauguration day of planting (end of April or beginning of May) and on the web page, www.pghsakuraproject.org. Please send entries, or for more information email: pghsakuraproject@msn.com.

Product Innovation Grants proposals due Monday, March 10
See the Green Building Alliance section of the newsletter for more info, or go to: http://www.pa-greenbuildingproducts.org/product_innovation_grants.aspx.

Deadline extended for poster abstracts to 2nd World Botanic Garden Scientific Congress
Deadline for poster abstracts has been extended until March 15, 2008 from the 2nd World Botanic Garden Scientific Congress in Delft, Netherlands June 29 – July 4, 2008. The congress is organized by the Botanic Gardens Conservation International (BGCI) and the Botanic Garden of Delft University of Technology. The Congress will provide the unique opportunity to share experiences and research findings from botanic gardens around the world.

The congress is organized by the Botanic Gardens Conservation International (BGCI) and the Botanic Garden of Delft University of Technology. With outstanding and first-rate speakers as well as a diverse, interesting and challenging program we are sure that this will be a trailblazer at least for the next decade in the garden business. The Congress will provide the unique opportunity to share experiences and research findings from botanic gardens around the world. Please note, that only electronically submitted abstracts can be considered. Information is available at: http://botanicalresearch2008.bt.tudelft.nl/call.html

ASLA 2008 Call for Entries
Each year, the ASLA Professional Awards honor the best in landscape architecture from around the globe, while the ASLA Student Awards give 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 2008 ASLA Annual Meeting & EXPO in Philadelphia, October 3-7.

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Study Abroad and in the U.S. Opportunities

Thursday, March 27 – Saturday, March 29, 2008
Charleston Garden Excursion
The Cultural Landscape Foundation is partnering with Historic Charleston Foundation to host a special tour on March 27-29. Highlights include two morning lectures at the Charleston Foundation Headquarters, visits to Magnolia, Mepkin Abbey, Medway Plantation, and gardens designed by Loutrell Briggs. Tours are followed by receptions at the Aiken Rhett House and the Nathaniel Russell House. Register by March 12; $1400 per person; $300 will be earmarked as a tax-deductible donation to the Cultural Landscape Foundation and Historic Charleston Foundation. General info: info@tclf.org
May 25-June 5, 2008
Arts and Crafts Gardens of Southern England and South Wales
This tour will be led by landscape historian and award winning author Judith B. Tankard of the Landscape Institute, Harvard University.

June 4-12, 2008
The Great Edwardian Gardens of Harold Peto
This new tour, the third in our 'Great Garden Designers of the 20th Century' series, will be led by Robin Whalley, a leading authority on Victorian and early 20th century gardens and author of the highly acclaimed new book The Great Edwardian Gardens of Harold Peto (London: Aurum Press, 2007). Robin's book is reviewed in the current issue of the Landscape Architecture magazine.

Sunday, June 29 – Friday, July 4, 2008
2nd World Botanic Garden Scientific Congress
Delft University of Technology, Netherlands
This congress is organized by the Botanic Gardens Conservation International (BGCI) and the Botanic Garden of Delft University of Technology. With outstanding and first-rate speakers as well as a diverse, interesting and challenging program we are sure that this will be a trailblazer at least for the next decade in the garden business. The Congress will provide the unique opportunity to share experiences and research findings from botanic gardens around the world.
For an update of the program: http://botanicalresearch2008.bt.tudelft.nl/programme.html

Grant and Scholarship Opportunities
Request for Proposals
Product Innovation Grants
Proposals Due: March 10, 2008
See the Green Building Alliance section of the newsletter for more info, or go to: http://www.pa-greenbuildingproducts.org/product_innovation_grants.aspx.

Pittsburgh Rotary has scholarships available for 2008
The Pittsburgh Rotary district in partnership with Rotary International is looking to fill five to six slots as part of the Rotary International Ambassadorial Scholarships program for 2008 and possibly 2009. The program is flexible and aimed specifically at non-Rotarians. Undergraduate and graduate students, as well as professionals seeking additional education should contact Richard Beck, (412) 343-9488 or Georgia Petropoulos, (412) 683-6243 ext. 18.
For further information go to www.rotary.org/foundation/educational/amb_scho/index.html.

Internships and Summer Job Opportunities
Internship for manufacturing initiative
Green Building Alliance and Innovation Works are announcing their partnership in the Interns for Manufacturing Initiative that makes hiring a summer intern easy and affordable.

GBA's Green Building Products Initiative is designed to assist manufacturers in developing and marketing green building products in the rapidly expanding green building marketplace. Innovation Works helps local manufacturers succeed by assisting with product innovation, process improvement, and market development. Combined, the two organizations seek to help companies develop new products and deepen understanding of the green building market.

Employ top-caliber college students as summer interns to explore new green product ideas or expand the market for an existing green product. GBA will assist in finding qualified candidates and recruiting them, alleviating the administrative responsibilities involved in recruitment. Innovation Works will reimburse each company for half of an intern’s salary for the summer (for up to 12 weeks and up to $3,000). Interns must work for a technology-focused green building product manufacturing company or must be working on a technical project in a non-technology-focused green building product manufacturing company.
Companies must be located in one of the following counties: Armstrong, Allegheny, Beaver, Butler, Fayette, Greene, Lawrence, Washington, or Westmoreland. Participants will report back to Innovation Works and the Green Building Alliance as to the nature of the project.

For more information contact Aurora Sharrard at (412) 431-0709 or products@gbapgh.org

Norris Design offers internship in Denver
Norris Design’s Theory 2 Practice Program is a paid internship located in their Denver, Colorado office. They are currently accepting applications for three and seven month internships.

For more information go to www.norris-design.com/internship.

Internships available at Sewickley-based e. k. smith landscape design
Engage in every facet from design to installation at e. k. smith landscape design, a boutique firm with a stellar reputation in Sewickley, Pennsylvania. We’re seeking interns who can do hand renderings as well as accurate sheets and vignettes. We design projects all around Pittsburgh, from intimate courtyard gardens to large hard-scape projects. Specializing in endemic plant species, we also design terraces and swimming pools. As a design/build firm, candidate will have the opportunity to learn site analyses, design, and installation, gaining much experience in plant selection and sustainable landscape practice. Travel costs will be compensated.

For further information, please visit www.eksmithlandscapedesign.com to get a better idea of the scope of what we do, or call Elise Keely, 412-741-6030.

Immediate need for Landscape Architecture intern
Landscape Design Studio, an expanding, professional design company located in Squirrel Hill, has an immediate need for a Landscape Architecture intern or recent graduate, on a sub-contract basis. Candidate must be able to draft and design using own CAD software and be proficient at on-site surveys. Attention to detail and accuracy a must. Artistic, 3-D rendering abilities would be a plus. Contact: Phyllis Gricus, 412-654-8693

Fellowship Opportunities
Enterprise Community Partners announces the 2008 Rose Fellowship Opportunities
Rose Fellowship fosters a unique partnership between Fellows and their host organizations. Both parties make a commitment of three years. The Fellow contributes his or her time and energy to work as part of the host organization’s staff, building capacity and bringing fresh experience and ideas to the organization. The host provides mentorship and guidance, supporting the development of the Fellow’s career by providing meaningful experiences in design, development, financing, construction management and resident services.

Applications are now available for four new Rose Fellowship opportunities in diverse communities from San Francisco to East Biloxi, Mississippi, and Downtown Minneapolis to rural Minnesota:

Community Housing Partnership - San Francisco, CA
San Francisco attracts tourists, innovators and industry leaders from around the world. At the same time, more than 7,000 San Franciscans have no place to call home. But for many of these vulnerable people, the situation is changing. Community Housing Partnership (CHP) successfully provides housing for people who have been homeless, as well as support services, training and employment opportunities that help people become involved in their communities and secure in their homes.

Gulf Coast Community Design Studio - East Biloxi, MS
Hurricane Katrina may have washed away homes across Mississippi’s coast, but it could not wash away hope. Since that devastating storm in 2005, the Gulf Coast Community Design Studio (GCCDS) has partnered with the East Biloxi community to plan, design, and build or rehabilitate more than 80 homes for low-income households. Now GCCDS is expanding its service area to all three coastal counties, multiplying its community partners and growing in scale to encompass much larger projects.
Project for Pride in Living - Minneapolis, MN
Must affordability mean less than quality design or barebones systems and maintenance? Project for Pride in Living (PPL) in Minneapolis answers this question with a resounding, No. For 25 years, PPL has focused on providing the City's most in need with affordable, dignified, attractive housing that is well-maintained and well-managed. But five new projects will aim even higher, adopting Green design standards and a commitment to providing top-notch, consistently handsome buildings.

Southwest Minnesota Housing Partnership - Slayton, MN
Every community has its unique needs. Urban, suburban, rural; new or established; mixed use, multi-generational, immigrant, and on and on and the Southwest Minnesota Housing Partnership (SWMHP) embraces them all. A regional community development corporation with national standing, the SWMHP has a long list of projects in the planning, pre-development and conceptual stages. The rural Minnesota Fellow will also work in partnership with the Greater Minnesota Housing Fund (GMHF) on two Research & Development projects including testing the cost impacts of the installation of basic green product integration within in single-family home construction and providing data to revise the current Building Better Neighborhood manual. Applications are due April 25, 2008; start date, September 2. Go to: www.rosefellowship.org.

Job Opportunities
Garden Greenhouse and Nursery
A South New Jersey company for over 58 years dealing with all aspects of landscape construction, design, and maintenance seeks a talented Individual in the filed of design and management in hopes of enabling our company to offer more attention to our customers needs in these particular areas. This individual will be given the opportunity to work with the public and manage landscape projects from the design level to the completion of the project.
Skills required:
• Landscape Design
• Management
• Leadership
• Organization
Respond to: Garden Greenhouse and Nursery
1919 Rt. 9 North
Clermonth, NJ 08210
609-624-3750
gardengreenhouse@comcast.net

Immediate need for part time landscape designer
A professional design company located in Squirrel Hill has an immediate need for a landscape designer on a part time basis. Contact: Sandy Copeland at 412-352-6741.

Gardener’s Eye seeks Design Assistant
Work Status: Full Time
Reports to: President
FLSA Status: Non-Exempt (hourly)
Job Summary: This position will assist with the creation and presentation of accurate, detailed, knowledgeable and unique garden designs for Gardener’s Eye clients.
Duties and Responsibilities:
• Assist designer with preparing and implementing garden designs. This includes setting up and participating in client consultations, assisting with bid estimates, completing site visits and analysis, preparing proposals that address client requests, ordering materials and coordinating installations.
• Accurately measure locations for new and enhanced garden designs. This includes consideration for existing and planned land areas, planting beds, hardscaping, and all other landscaping and structures that might affect the designs.
• Create drawn-to-scale hand-rendered site plans for garden designs that clearly, accurately and comprehensively depict the proposed design.
• Research, analyze, select materials, provide options and make design and garden recommendations based on clients needs.
• Create, construct and assemble pictures and information sheets of plants and other materials for design portfolios.
• Prepare presentation portfolios for clients that include detailed pictures and information about the proposed plans, plants and color schemes.
• With direction, apply knowledge of plants, landscaping and gardening to develop mini-designs for landscaping areas, such as small perennial beds, that address materials, products and color selection.
• Stage installations of planting areas based on client and company requirements.

To perform this job successfully, an individual must be able to perform each essential duty satisfactorily. The requirements listed above are representative of the knowledge, skill and/or ability required. Reasonable accommodations may be made to enable individuals with disabilities to perform the essential functions.

**Supervisory Responsibility:** None required.

**Budget Accountability:** With direction, responsible for adhering to client and company budget requirements and bid proposals.

**Computer and Equipment Skills:** To perform this job successfully, an individual must be skilled in the use of Word, Excel and Outlook.

**Abilities:**
- Possess strong analytical and spatial skills to measure, organize and produce accurate, drawn-to-scale designs.
- Possess and demonstrate knowledge of plants and other garden-related materials.
- Demonstrate professional and courteous interpersonal skills when working with clients, customers, co-workers, vendors, suppliers and the public on behalf of Gardener’s Eye.
- Work both independently (under direction) and in teams and effectively manage interpersonal relationships and conflict.
- Possess and demonstrate strong written and verbal communication skills.
- Demonstrate ability to multitask, prioritize, work independently, meet deadlines and maintain attention to detail in communication, design, presentation and client service.
- Possess a strong work ethic, intuitive concern for the client, desire to enhance the reputation of Gardener’s Eye and passion for gardening and fine landscapes.

**Education/Experience:**
- High school graduate or equivalent; undergraduate degree in gardening or landscaping related field preferred.
- Minimum three (3) years garden, landscape design, or related experience.

**Physical Demands:**
The physical demands are representative of those that must be met by an employee to successfully perform the essential functions of this job. Reasonable accommodations may be made to enable individuals with disabilities to perform the essential functions.
- While performing the duties of this job, the employee must be able to sit, walk, use hands; reach with hands and arms; bend, stoop, kneel and crouch.
- Must be able to work outdoors meeting clients, analyzing and measuring sites in all Pittsburgh area climates and temperatures throughout the year.
- Must be able to lift 30 pounds.
- Must be able to manipulate, carry and place plants and containers on properties.
- Must possess a valid PA driver’s license and/or have reliable transportation to client sites.

*Gardener’s Eye 3392 Saxonburg Blvd
Glenshaw, Pa 15116 412.487.7802, info@gardeners-eye.com*
Design Opportunity

Fox Chapel resident seeks landscape consultation
Property situated across from Hartwood Acres near sloped woodland, design ideas wanted. For more information contact Lisa Kunst Vavro at lvavro@chatham.edu

Volunteer Opportunities

Oakland Community Council seeks student input
From: Elan Strait
We're beginning a program that will look at various green spaces and throughout Oakland and try to renovate them, so they make more sense. We're hoping to work with consultants and a team of student volunteers to help us rethink these green spaces. Contact Lisa Kunst Vavro, lvavro@chatham.edu, if interested in this project as part of community field work.

Volunteer for the Pittsburgh Home and Garden Show March 7 – 16
Landscape students and faculty can receive free admission for volunteering at the Chatham booth. The Chatham University booth is part of the A-Maze-in-Green on level 1. See Lisa Kunst Vavro for details, lvavro@chatham.edu.

News of Interest

The National Association for Olmsted Parks is re-releasing “The Master List of Projects of The Olmsted Design Firm, 1857-1979”
Edited by Lucy Lawliss, Caroline Loughlin and Lauren Meier with essays by Julia Sniderman Bachrach, Charles E. Beveridge, Ethan Carr, Lee Farrow Cook, Rolf Diamant, Arley A. Levee and others, this richly illustrated color edition of the Master List includes new research conducted over the past 20 years. Searchable by project type and geographic location, it is an inspiring and invaluable tool for individuals and communities.

Expanded to over 6,000 projects, the Master List is the only publication to categorize all of the Olmsted firm’s design projects so that the scale, type, and geographic diversity of the work can be quickly and easily understood.

“When the field of landscape preservation and our awareness of the Olmsted design legacy was in its promising infancy, the Master List of Design Projects of the Olmsted Firm was the essential reference. Twenty years later, this new edition, brought to life with contemporary photography and evocative essays, is as much a cause of celebration as the hundreds of Olmsted designs that have been preserved and interpreted by communities all across America.”

– Charles A. Birnbaum, FASLA, FAAR, Founder + President, The Cultural Landscape Foundation

NAOP Members: $45; Non-NAOP members: $55; $7.95 handling & shipping for the first book For each additional, add $1.50; Pre-orders will be shipped in April 2008. Orders may be sent to: NAOP Book Orders, P.O. Box 104, Tranquility, NJ 07879; fax: 973-383-4877; phone: 973-383-4488. e-mail: cpa-naop@customfulfillment.com.

www.olmsted.org

Rothschild Doyno Architects goes for LEED-Gold in new Strip District home

by Jennifer Baron; photograph copyright Brian Cohen

After 19 successful years in Regent Square, the architect firm of Rothschild Doyno is moving—and doubling its space—into a renovated bus garage at 2847 Penn Ave. in Pittsburgh’s Strip District.

“We're very sensitive to the catalytic effect that positive development can have in a neighborhood,” says Rothschild, who emphasizes the project’s collaborative nature. "The glass windows give peeks into office activities and our conference room is a storefront. We're showing the process of architecture and design."
The 7,000-square-foot space features natural light on all four sides, 18-foot ceilings and a flexible floor plan with collaboration alcoves and a print center encased in translucent fiberglass. Giving physical form to a creative process, the building's exterior metal panels feature reproduced pages from the sketchbooks of the 13-member firm.

"It's a living lab of our environmental commitment," says Rothschild who notes the use of PPG spectrally selective glass and the concrete floor stained with a soy-based product from ARTEMIS, and compares the building's use of natural light to that of a sundial.

"The interior has a different feel than a typical office. It's cleaner, healthier and brighter—the next generation of office environment," he adds. The first project to receive the URA’s new low interest loan program for LEED buildings, it will seek LEED-Gold certification.

The 15,000-square-foot lot includes a 50-foot side yard, which will house a garden and indoor-outdoor workspace. Says Doyno, "It's time for our buildings to be better citizens from an environmental standpoint. We're trying to do everything we can to play a role in the revitalization of Pittsburgh's main streets."


**Saving Plants That Save Lives**

*Scaevola glabra.*

Concern over the decline in medicinal and aromatic plant populations and supplies, has been growing for some years and the new standard addresses requests from industry, governments, organic certifiers, resource managers and collectors.

Poor or non-existent collection controls are threatening the survival of many of the plant species used in traditional and modern medicines. Some estimates indicate that 15,000 of the 50,000 – 70,000 plant species used for medicinal purposes and mostly collected from the wild may be threatened, many as a direct result of unsustainable collection practices.

Three years of collaboration in which WWF has played a key role have now produced the first set of principles and criteria for the sustainable wild collection of plants.

"This important effort will benefit the health and well-being of both the ecosystems they are part of, and the local people who depend on them for their livelihoods," stresses Dr. Susan Lieberman, Director of WWF’s Species Program.

The new International Standard for Sustainable Wild Collection of Medicinal and Aromatic Plants (ISSC-MAP) has been produced by the IUCN-SSC Medicinal Plant Specialist Group, TRAFFIC the wildlife trade monitoring network, WWF Germany and the German Federal Agency for Nature Conservation (BfN), with support from IUCN Canada.
Concern over the decline in medicinal and aromatic plant populations and supplies, has been growing for some years and the new standard addresses requests from industry, governments, organic certifiers, resource managers and collectors for a means of assessing the sustainability of wild collection. It also provides potential frameworks for addressing a rising consumer concern and desire for information on the sustainability and ethical implications of products.

Adapted from materials provided by World Wildlife Fund. LandscapeOnline.com Copyright © 2004 Landscape Communications Inc.

Landmark Green Affordable Policy Advances in Congress
In January, the House of Representatives passed a landmark green affordable housing bill by a wide bipartisan margin. The “HOPE VI Improvement and Reauthorization Act of 2007” (H.R. 3524) provides $800 million annually from 2008-2013 for mixed-income communities that incorporate Green Communities Criteria (see below). This is the first time the House has passed a bill authorizing holistic environmental principles in a major housing program. View segments of the floor debate (http://www.greencommunitiesonline.org/news/newsletters/).

The bill requires new HOPE VI revitalization projects to meet the Green Communities Criteria for residential construction. It also gives more points in the HOPE VI selection process for greater compliance with Green Communities or other green rating systems chosen by the Secretary of HUD. For non-residential buildings, the bill requires the HUD Secretary to choose an appropriate green rating system. The bill provides funding for technical assistance to ensure developments can meet the green requirements cost effectively.

The green building provisions in the bill were championed by House HUD Appropriations Subcommittee Chairman Olver (D-MA). A number of leading House members spoke strongly in favor of the Green Communities Criteria on the House floor during the vote. A remarkably broad-based coalition of governors, mayors, trade associations, environmental organizations, public health groups, affordable housing advocates and green building leaders actively advocated for the green provisions in the bill.

The historic vote marks a major victory for all advocates for healthier, more energy efficient and environmentally sustainable homes for low-income people. The next step is the Senate, where the coalition is building strong bipartisan support.

The Green Communities Initiative is intended to help “mainstream” green building and sustainable development in the affordable housing industry. By 2009, Green Communities will provide $550 million in Green Grants, financing, and equity investment to create 8,500 affordable rental and for-sale homes nationwide.

Developing the Criteria
The Green Communities criteria was developed collaboratively by Enterprise and a number of leading national organizations and experts for the purpose of providing a clear, cost-effective framework for all kinds of affordable housing: new construction and rehabilitation in multifamily as well as single family buildings.

The Green Communities criteria are aligned with the LEED (Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design) Green Building Rating System®. The US Green Building Council, through LEED, strongly supports the Green Communities initiative. In addition, the Green Communities criteria reflect and are compatible with leading state and local green building programs.

To learn if your project has the potential for green classification and Green Communities grants and funding, see the full criteria and requirements. Request the Green Criteria. http://www.greencommunitiesonline.org/tools/criteria/request.asp
It irked Greg James to see some of his employees roll up to work in hulking, gas-guzzling sport-utility vehicles -- often driving more than 40 miles a day round trip.

So in 2005 he finally did something about it. The chief executive and founder of Topics Entertainment Inc., a Renton, Wash., DVD and software publisher, Mr. James established an incentive program that offers its 55 employees $1,000 to trade in their automobiles for one with fewer cylinders in the engine. Buying a hybrid or biodiesel vehicle earns them $2,500, while carpooling at least three days a week pays $300 annually split between the ride sharers.

Ten employees have claimed the auto-purchase bonus so far. Mr. James estimates that by getting those new vehicles and boosting their gas mileage an average 10 miles per gallon, employees cut last year's gasoline consumption during commutes by 2,400 gallons.

"You don't need a big gas hog to drive one person to work in the morning," he says.

Many companies, large and small, have become greener by reducing office waste and pollution or buying so-called carbon credits, which companies purchase to offset the impact of their pollution. But a growing number of small companies like Topics also are seeing value in encouraging employees to make environmentally friendlier choices as well -- at home, at work and in their commutes.

Among the incentives: giving bonuses to employees who buy more fuel-efficient vehicles and outfit their homes in more energy-efficient ways, as well as helping employees support environmental causes. Even low-cost measures, such as letting employees purchase energy-efficient light bulbs at the employer's bulk price, are making a difference in employees' behavior and energy use.

In an era when more young workers are seeking out employers with a socially responsible mission, such green incentives can help bolster recruitment efforts and foster goodwill. At small companies especially, green benefits can be an easy and effective way to ingrain a workplace's eco-friendly mission.

"I think employers are just beginning to understand that, to have an environmentally conscious work force, you need to help them in their everyday lives," says Joel Makower, executive editor of GreenBiz.com, a Web site devoted to businesses' use of environmentally friendlier practices.

Many early adopters are socially responsible companies that see it as a way to extend their mission and marketing. But Mr. Makower says he wouldn't be surprised to see many of the practices spill more broadly into mainstream businesses as employers realize the environmental benefits -- and good publicity -- such programs can create.

At Topics, Lindsay Collins, the company's DVD product manager, says the bonus plan prompted her to start thinking about the fuel efficiency of the car she was driving. So, she sold her six-cylinder Volkswagen Jetta and bought a four-cylinder Hyundai Elantra. Ms. Collins says the switch, which she wouldn't have done without the $1,000 assistance from Topics, has boosted her gas mileage to about 37 miles per gallon on a highway, from the Jetta's 24 miles per gallon.

"It's just made a world of difference in how often I have to get gas," says the 27-year-old.

Another company helping employees switch to more fuel-efficient rides is Clif Bar & Co., a Berkeley, Calif., maker of organic energy bars, with 212 employees. Clif offers forgivable loans of as much as $5,000 so employees can buy vehicles that get at least 40 miles per gallon. With the forgivable loans, employees don't have to pay back any of the money if they stay with the company for generally five years; a certain amount is forgiven each year.

\textbf{Big Incentives}

\textbf{Loans and Massages}
The company also rewards points to employees who commute by public transportation, car pool, walk or bike. The points can be exchanged for cash or rewards like gift certificates to Whole Foods Market and free massages.

This week, Clif is introducing two new benefits -- one giving employees as much as $1,000 annually for making energy-saving home improvements, like buying more energy-efficient appliances and home compost kits; and one offering as much as $500 to buy or retrofit a commuter bicycle, like installing a basket to hold things.

So far, about 75 employees have participated in some way in the environmental benefits, says human-resources manager Jennifer Freitas, and the company has spent roughly $100,000 on those benefits. Some employees have gotten ambitious by finding colleagues to car pool with on their routes to work and turning fuel savings into something of a sport.

Ms. Freitas says the company sees the program not only as a good employee motivator but also as helping serve one of its core missions -- "sustaining our planet."

At NRG Systems Inc., a Hinesburg, Vt., wind-measurement manufacturer with about 85 employees, people who buy a Toyota Prius get a $1,000 bonus each year. About 26 employees have purchased the car so far. NRG also holds monthly meetings on various environmental and alternative-energy topics. And it has a white board where it keeps track of employees who've taken advantage of the company's various green incentives.

**Buying Credits**

Some companies find that the participation of even a few employees can have an impact. Green Mountain Energy Co., an Austin, Texas, renewable-electricity provider, lets employees buy renewable-energy credits to offset their carbon-dioxide emissions. It also matches donations to environmental groups made through payroll deduction, up to $10 per two-week pay period.

In addition, the company hands out prizes like gift certificates based on points that employees rack up by finding alternatives to driving to work, such as biking or taking public transportation.

Though only about 25 of Green Mountain's 150 employees participate in the commuter program, the impact has been substantial, with those people collectively driving about 21,000 fewer miles in 2007, says Gillan Taddune, the company's chief environmental officer.

"People in general get overwhelmed when they hear about glaciers melting," she says. "I think companies can help [employees] do things in ways they can sustain."

http://online.wsj.com/article/SB120398248571792011.html

**Working with Wood – unique benefits and energy efficiency**

Find out why no other material can match wood's unique combination of benefits, including strength, affordability, energy efficiency, ease of use and environmental superiority Throughout the history of human development, wood products have played a unique role in the built environment, from simple structural applications, to furnishings, to highly finished ornamental millwork, moldings and trims. No other material can match wood's unique combination of benefits, including strength, affordability, energy efficiency, ease of use and environmental superiority. Indeed, in the quest for "green" products, wood is the only renewable building material, which can not only be recycled, but regenerated as well.

However, while wood is most definitely a renewable resource, its specification is decidedly not eco-friendly if tropical and old growth forests are being destroyed as a result of its production. Of the 7.5 billion acres of virgin forests that once blanketed the earth, only half remain today, and logging threatens over 70 percent of these. If current trends continue, our world will one day soon be stripped of the forests we depend upon for lumber and more.
Sustainable forest management means that the forests where trees are harvested are carefully monitored to ensure that the health and character of the ecosystem is maintained. By choosing lumber and finished wood products that are derived from well-managed forests, architects and builders are in a unique position to ensure that the demand for wood products can be met without depleting the source.

The Forest Stewardship Council (FSC) is the premier organization for accrediting groups that certify timber operations. All FSC members must abide by global and comprehensive standards and are audited annually. Insisting that the wood and wood products you specify are certified by an FSC-accredited organization is the only guarantee that it was harvested according to the highest standards of forest management.

Source: Designer Series eNewsletters February 2008 CADdetails.com

Cities examined for innovative light interaction and integration

by Elizabeth Donoff

Lighting in the urban realm is no longer just the jurisdiction of engineers. Cities are becoming increasingly aware that their streets, buildings, and skylines take on entirely new dimensions at night. While few cities in today’s volatile economy have the luxury of dedicated budgets directed toward illumination schemes, numerous municipalities are finding the available means to develop lighting strategies that best suit the needs of their particular urban environments while utilizing the expertise of lighting designers.

With the Jan/Feb 2008 issue, at the start of our 22nd year, ARCHITECTURAL LIGHTING visits five cities—New York; San Luis Potosi, Mexico; Paris; Philadelphia; and Eindhoven, the Netherlands—each of which explores a different urban lighting approach. The discussion is two-fold, offering examples of how light interacts with a variety of city typologies and examining how lighting can be used as a planning element working in unison with social, economic, and political strategies to define a city's persona. Whether it is a single building, a lighting spectacle, or a master plan requiring multyear phased implementation, urban design is a matter of scale, knowing how to marry broad strokes with detailed gestures.

Source: http://www.archlighting.com/magazine

The Green Building Alliance is a non-profit organization that advances economic prosperity and human well being in Western Pennsylvania by driving market demand for green buildings and green building products. In its 15th year, GBA has been a national pioneer, and continues to lead change in our region as the core green building catalysts – a desire for environmentally sound materials and minimal impact, healthy indoor environments and financial payoff in reduced energy, water and other operating costs – cascades across every aspect of the built environment, from offices, retail stores and other commercial spaces to schools, hospitals, and homes.
Request for Proposals
Product Innovation Grants
Proposals Due: March 10, 2008

Through a competitive selection process, GBA intends to award funding for one or more projects that seek to develop new or introduce revamped existing building products as green building products to the marketplace. Projects may address key product development challenges, address engineering or design challenges, show a significant degree of innovation, and, most importantly, identify a clear path to commercialization with the potential to significantly impact innovation-based companies in the region.

Full proposals must include collaboration between private sector companies and university researchers / teams. Applicants may request up to $100,000 in funding and Green Building Alliance will award up to $700,000 in grants in 2008. For program details go to http://www.pa-greenbuildingproducts.org/product_innovation_grants.aspx.

Friday, June 6
Central PA Summit on Green Building Products
Penn College, Williamsport, PA 8 am – noon

Learn how Pennsylvania manufacturers are taking advantage of the fast-growing market for green buildings. With its close proximity to much of the eastern U.S. and Canada, Pennsylvania is an ideal location for architects seeking to specify "regionally sourced" materials for green projects. Plus, Pennsylvania consistently ranks among the national leaders in the number of certified green buildings, a sign of strong market interest.

To register or for more information, go to the Green Building Alliance, 64 South 14th St., Pittsburgh, PA 15203, Phone: 412-431-0709 Fax: 412-431-1432, http://www.gbapgh.org.

News from Sustainable Pittsburgh:

Wednesday, March 12
Sustainability and Smart Growth Brown Bag Forum
11:30 am - 1:30 pm
NOTE ROOM CHANGE--Davis Room, 23rd Floor, Regional Enterprise Tower, Pittsburgh

No fee to attend. Bring a bag lunch; refreshments and dessert provided.

Featuring:
Ty Gourley, Institute of Politics
Regional Water Management Task Force

The Regional Water Management Task Force, created in mid-2006, is designed to build on previous studies of southwestern Pennsylvania’s water and sewage-related problems—which are widely considered to be among the most challenging in the nation—and to achieve consensus on policy solutions.

The Task Force is currently drafting its initial recommendations and will soon be seeking input from the region in order to improve them. This brownbag lunch will be one opportunity to be involved in providing feedback to the Task Force on its activities and eventual recommendations. Endorsed by the Southwestern Pennsylvania Commission, the Task Force includes representatives of 11 southwestern Pennsylvania counties. Carnegie Mellon University president Jared Cohon serves as chair.

RSVP 412-258-6642 or info@sustainablepittsburgh.org
Clear the air: The county should fix the pollution program
Pittsburgh Post Gazette Editorial, February 28, 2008
Chief Executive Dan Onorato and local environmental groups agree that the Allegheny County Air Quality Program is understaffed, the pay for employees is too low and morale is even lower.

The environmental groups are rightly concerned what he'll do about it.

In a letter and in public comments at a press conference last week, Clean Water Action and the Group Against Smog and Pollution asked Mr. Onorato for a pledge to keep the air program under local control, where it has existed as part of the health department for 50 years. Sustainable Pittsburgh and the Sierra Club Allegheny Chapter supported the request.

We wholeheartedly agree, as we've said before, that the quality of the region's air should remain in the county's hands, where there has been a long history of improvement and citizen involvement.

The county says the program is undergoing a top-to-bottom review, and Mr. Onorato has said that one possibility for the future is turning the air planning, permitting, monitoring and enforcement duties over to the state's Department of Environmental Protection. That option might ease the county budget's bottom line, but it won't ensure the same clean air protection for county residents.

This question mark that Mr. Onorato has dangled over the program -- and he maintains he has made no decision -- already has inflicted damage.

Roger Westman, who was in charge of the program for 12 years, decided to retire at the end of the month rather than accept the appointment of a deputy and the accompanying changes in his responsibilities. Mr. Westman, who is 62, has worked for the program for 34 years and has built a reputation as a straight shooter and the authority for information on regulating air pollution in the county. Environmental and health advocacy groups as well as state, federal and industry officials all gave him high marks.

The county will lose that valuable asset at a crucial time, when work is starting on issuing air quality permits for U.S. Steel's $1 billion plan for two new coke batteries at its Clairton Works.

If there really are problems with how the county processes clean air permits, as Mr. Onorato asserts, it's within his power as county executive to fix them. His response should be to make a respected county agency work, not to transfer it to a more distant and less interested state government.

If you want to receive weekly issues of 3E Links, Sustainable Pittsburgh's e-newsletter send an email to info@sustainablepittsburgh.org.

Hopefully Spring be here…March 20th