Important Chatham University News

Message from Chatham’s President
May 2008

To Chatham Faculty, Staff and Students:

I am delighted to announce that Chatham University has entered into an agreement to purchase the Eichleay building, a 250,000 square foot office building located at the corner of Penn Avenue and Washington Boulevard, a little more than a mile away from our Woodland Road campus. This agreement, which comes on the heels of Chatham’s acquisition last month of the 388-acre Eden Hall Farm in Gibsonia, demonstrates our continued commitment to providing the highest quality teaching and learning environment for our students and faculty.

Christened “Chatham Eastside,” the building will be an integral component of our Shadyside campus, which now will consist of our historic campus on Woodland Road (the “Woodland Campus”) and Chatham Eastside. By the summer of 2009, we plan initially to occupy approximately 50,000 square feet of the building’s leasable space with our Interior Architecture, Landscape Architecture, Nursing, Occupational Therapy, Physical Therapy and Physician Assistant Studies degree programs. We will lease the remainder of the space to the building’s current tenants.
Moving these programs to Chatham Eastside is a “win-win” proposition on many levels. First, and most importantly, it allows us to serve these programs – their students and faculty – better than we can on the Woodland Campus. Design programs require dedicated individual student work space which we cannot have on the Woodland Campus. Landscape Architecture, for example, is limited in the number of students it can accept because of lack of space to add more work tables. The health sciences are maxed out on enrollment at this time because of space constraints.

As with any move, there are sure to be some bumps along the road. There will be challenges, too, as we seek to integrate Chatham Eastside into the social and operational fabric of the Shadyside campus. We intend to create a committee of faculty, staff, and students who are moving to the building, and ask them to recommend steps to maintain our institutional “interconnectedness” and sense of community. We will make it a University priority to ensure that our students, faculty and staff at Chatham Eastside continue to feel like they are an important part of the University community.

Moving these programs to Chatham Eastside also will solve many of the space problems on the Woodland Campus. It will free up much needed classroom, office, and lab space there – not to mention parking spaces. Additionally, moving the arts programs out of the Art & Design Center (ADC) will allow us to relatively easily convert the ADC into a much needed Student Union for the whole Shadyside Campus, which is something the campus community identified as a key need during the recent Campus Space and Master Plan study process.

Our Woodland Campus will continue to be our anchor, as it has been for the past 139 years. Now, however, it will be joined by a related learning center in the City, Chatham Eastside, and by a suburban operation, Eden Hall Farm Campus, with a special focus on sustainability. Taken together, they reflect Chatham’s growth and transformation into a comprehensive university, one that is fast becoming one of the most unique institutions of higher educations in the country.

For those who could not attend today’s campus announcement, I enclose a Q&A that covers some of the questions that were addressed there. I look forward to filling you in on developments at Chatham Eastside and the Eden Hall Farm Campus when you return to campus in the fall. Until then, have a wonderful summer, and thank you all for being part of this special time at Chatham University.

Esther B.

In search of students for tuition waiver work on Chatham University grounds.
Two out of four available tuition waivers went unfilled this summer 2008.
So the two tuition waiver positions available for fall 2008 have been increased to four opportunities.

Why not work on the Chatham campus grounds for 3 credits of tuition waived???
Inquire to Lisa Kunst Vavro, Director of Landscape Programs, Chatham University.
Sunday, August 24, 2008  
Chatham University  
Graduate Landscape Architecture & Interior Architecture  
Orientation and Beginning of the Year Reception  
5:00 p.m.-7:00 p.m.  
Art and Design Center  
All landscape Students and any faculty to meet in studio 203 at 5:00 p.m.  
(Immediately following the University Orientation)  
Welcome our new students!  
Reception with the Interior Architecture students and faculty immediately following on the bridge.

New Landscape Books arrive at the Jennie Mellon King Library  
Librarian Dana Mastroianni announced the following books have arrived:  
- Developing Sustainable Planned Communities  
- Building Type Basics for Recreational Facilities  
- Creating a Vibrant City Center: Urban Design and Regeneration Principles  
- Regenerating Older Suburbs  
- Urban Design Handbook: Techniques and Working Methods  
These are all in the “New Books” section on the library’s first floor. In a few weeks they will be moved to their regular spots in the collections.

New Library Study Carrel Policy  
Due to high demand for individual study carrels, the JKM Library has developed a new policy effective Fall Semester 2008. Study carrels will now be available on a first-come, first-served basis. Keys to these rooms may be checked out at the Library Circulation Desk for a period of 4 hours with the option of one 4 hour renewal if no one else is waiting. No reservations are permitted.

Study Carrel Policy  
Jennie King Mellon Library offers individual locked study carrels for use by members of the Chatham University community. Access to study carrels is on a first-come, first-served basis. No reservations are permitted. All carrels are equipped with network connections and electrical outlets.

Patrons may check out a key for a study carrel at the Circulation Desk. A valid Chatham ID must be presented in order to check out a carrel key. Carrel keys are checked out for 4 hours with the option of one renewal for an additional 4 hours if no one is waiting. Individuals who do not return study carrel keys will be assessed an overdue fee of $1.00 per hour. If the key is lost, the patron will be responsible for a $75.00 key replacement fee.

Beverages in spill-proof containers and small snacks are permitted in individual study carrels. Please dispose of all waste in a publicly accessible trash receptacle and report all spillage as soon as possible.

Address any questions to Kate Wenger at 412.365.1247  kwenger@chatham.edu
**Conferences/Meetings/Events**

### Walks in the Woods
**Walks will be held each Wednesday from 6:30 - 8:00 p.m. June - September 2008.** Free Wednesday-evening *Walks in the Woods* series returns for the summer. We'll meet at a different park each week of the month, and our docents will tell you all about the parks' history, ecology, and activities. Walks begin at 6:30 p.m. and sometimes cover uneven terrain.

The schedule is as follows:
- **1st Wednesday** - *Schenley Park* (meet at the Schenley Park Visitor Center)
- **2nd Wednesday** - *Riverview Park* (meet at the Riverview Park Visitor Center)
- **3rd Wednesday** - *Frick Park* (meet at the Frick Environmental Center on Beechwood Blvd.)
- **4th Wednesday** - *Highland Park* (meet at the fountain in the Entry Garden)

*Interested in being a docent?* Contact Melissa McMasters at 412-682-7275 or mmcmasters@pittsburghparks.org if you'd like to learn about leading walks in the parks.

**Saturday, July 26** 10 a.m. to 9:30 p.m.
**Outdoor Adventure Trip to Ohiopyle Whitewater rafting and biking trip**
Sponsored by the Graduate Student Assembly and Student Activities
Only $25 to reserve a spot white water rafting
Only $15 to reserve a spot biking
Price includes transportation to and from, lunch, and recreational activity

All students, faculty and staff welcome to participate.
Sign up at the Athletic and Fitness Center Control Desk
Must pay in full by check or money order upon sign-up.
Checks can be made payable to Chatham University

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**Important information/instructions for reserving a spot for the July 26th Ohiopyle trip:**
1.) **The Ohiopyle trip will take place on Saturday, July 26th.** A chartered bus will pick all participants up (that choose to use Chatham transportation) at 10:00 a.m. in the AFC Parking Lot. *The bus will depart promptly at 10:15 a.m.*

2.) **To reserve a spot, please pay in FULL upon signing up at the AFC Control Desk.** **THE COST OF THE TRIP, PER PARTICIPANT, IS AS FOLLOWS:**
- White Water Rafting: $25
- Biking: $15
**this includes transportation to and from, your bike or white water rafting experience and 1 lunch, July 26.**
Tuesday, July 29  5:30 to 7:30 pm  
Allegheny County Comprehensive Plan - Public Open House  
Duquesne University Power Center (Corner of Forbes Ave and Chatham Sq. – Open House will be on the 5th Floor)  
You are invited to attend a Public Open House to view the Draft Plan for Allegheny Places, Allegheny County’s first Comprehensive Plan.  
For more information and to view the plan  
www.alleghenyplaces.com

Tuesday, August 5- Pittsburgh  
Green Roof Design 101 Introductory Course  
Slippery Rock University, Regional Learning Alliance, 850 Cranberry Woods Drive Cranberry Township, PA 16066  

Green Roofs for Healthy Cities  
Your Green Roof Infrastructure Industry Association

Pittsburgh 2008 - Green Roof Training Courses

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.
Tuition: $399

August 6   6 - 8 p.m.  
Pittsburgh Parks Conservancy Urban EcoSteward Trainings  
Late Season Invasive Plants  
Highland Park, Bigelow Shelter  
Find out how to identify and remove invasive plants late in the season, focusing on limiting seed dispersal

Please RSVP to Jeff Bergman at Nine Mile Run Watershed Association: 412-371-8779 or jeff@ninemilerun.org for any of these trainings.

Thursday and Friday August 7-8, 2008  
Out There: Field Explorations in Nature and Garden  
A series of coordinated lectures and field trips designed to examine the relationship between nature, culture, and creativity in the practice of Landscape Design.

Created By:  
New Directions in the American Landscape (NDAL)  
developed by Larry Weaner
The first of the series:
Gardens that Evolve: Directing Natural Succession
Where: Northwest Corner of Connecticut

How do “initial floristic composition”, “disturbance”, and “floristic relay” relate to garden design? While these and other ecological processes are rarely considered by landscape practitioners, the potential benefits of “process influenced” garden design are profound. This series of lectures and tours will illustrate an innovative approach to garden creation that works with, instead of fights against, the dynamic natural forces that alter plant compositions over time.

Day 1--9:00AM to 4:30PM
Convening Location: Aton Forest, Norfolk, CT

Frank Egler at Aton Forest (Lecture-1.5 hours)
Glenn Dreyer and John Anderson
Ecologist Frank Egler spent sixty years at Aton Forest, introducing plants, manipulating existing vegetation, and meticulously recording how the landscape responded to his actions. The innovative nature and unprecedented time span of his work makes the study of this 1500-acre property a uniquely enlightening experience. In this lecture, Glenn and John will contrast archival photographs and documents with contemporary images to illustrate effects of Dr. Egler’s pioneering work.

Woodchuck Hill at Aton Forest (Tour-1.5 hours)
Glenn Dreyer and John Anderson
This 7-acre shrub land has not been mown since the 1940’s, yet it has never succeeded to forest. We will study the innovative techniques that Frank Egler employed to arrest succession and foster the magnificent mosaic of native shrubs and rare herbaceous plants that currently exist on the site.

The Experimental Gardens at Aton Forest (Tour-1 hour)
Glenn Dreyer and John Anderson
Is this a landscape garden, an ecological restoration, or a research plot? Dr. Egler considered it to be all of the above. Consequently, he planted a wide variety of plants into the naturally occurring vegetation, meticulously cataloging the successes and failures of each. During this part of our tour, we will compare the documentation of Egler’s plantings with the current vegetative composition, learning how introduced and naturally occurring plants interact over time.

The Successional Forests at Aton Forest (Tour-2 hours)
Glenn Dreyer and John Anderson
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learning how introduced and naturally occurring plants interact over time.

Day 2-9:00 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.
Convening Location: Interlaken Inn, Lakeville, CT

The Reality of Succession and Vegetation Change (Lecture-1hour)
Tom Wessels
Ecologist Tom Wessels will present an overview of succession theory focusing
on primary and secondary succession, and alternates to the concept of “climax
community”. He will also discuss how ecosystem complexity and stability
increase as the processes of succession unfold, a concept that has important
ramifications for sustainability in designed landscapes.

The Successional Forests at Aton Forest (Tour-2hours)
Glenn Dreyer and John Anderson
Traversing the woodlands at Aton will reveal differing plant compositions in
similar ecological conditions. In many cases, these are remnants of Egler’s
experiments in woodland management. For the remainder of our tour, we will
examine these variations and compare them with unmanaged control areas.
here: Connecticut’s Northwest Corner

Bartholomew’s Cobble and Schenob Brook (Tour-2.5 Hours)
Tom Wessels
Tom, renowned for his ability to interpret natural and cultural landscapes, will use
this intense variety of habitats to analyze each stage of succession, from
meadow to old field to ancient forest. The tour will also visit remnants of historic
land use, where Tom will interpret their impact on the current landscape. The tour
will conclude at a scenic bluff, where views of a beaver-created wetland provide
a panoramic illustration of the processes he previously discussed.

Twin Maples Farm (Tour-2.5 hours)
Larry Weaner
This scenic hilltop estate contains a dynamic and evolving interplay of meadow,
thicket, and woods. Our tour will include 40-acres of highly diverse planted
meadows, extensive areas of managed woodlands and shrublands, and a variety
of habitat-based native gardens. During our tour we will go behind the scenes to
investigate the design, planting, and management techniques that transformed
over 50 acres of newly cleared fields and invasive choked woodlands to the
panoramic and intricate landscape that exists there today.

Thursday, August 7-Friday, August 8
Green Homes and Sustainable Communities 2008
The Drake Hotel 140 East Walton Place Chicago, IL 60611800-55-DRAKE
Make Your Reservation Online  Tuition Assistance Available
Why You Should Attend This Conference

Green is becoming the affordable mainstream across the country. Developers are pushing the envelop on energy efficiency, water conservation, indoor air quality, and smart sites – and generating significant financial, health, and environmental benefits for their projects and tenants. Public policy makers are developing new resources and imposing new requirements that raise the bar on performance – and corresponding reductions in operating costs. New players – energy services companies, renewable energy providers, and environmental infrastructures experts – are responding to emerging opportunities as affordable housing and community development becomes a leading edge industry in the transformation from a carbon economy to a green economy.

No other industry event brings together the leaders who are making green and affordable one and the same. No other industry event offers opportunities to learn from the best about what’s working today – and what’s next. No other industry event convenes the growing community of developers, financiers, technical experts, and advocates who are redefining affordable housing and community development in this country. This conference will allow you to remain at the forefront of industry innovation, get the latest research on costs and benefits, and understand emerging opportunities for research.

Did you know?

- Green affordable projects generate tangible, measurable energy and water savings and carbon emission reductions, resulting in lower operating costs and hedges against spikes in energy costs.
- New ways of financing energy efficiency rehab, renewable energy, and green infrastructure are emerging.
- Public policies at all levels of government – from housing to energy to transportation to climate change – are creating new opportunities and requirements.
- Renewable energy tax credits are not the only green tax credits. Projects funded by the Low-Income Housing Tax Credit, the Historic Preservation Tax Credit, and the New Markets Tax Credit can be sustainably developed to leverage the other credits.
- Green affordable means more than bricks and sticks and the surrounding site. It’s about better lives and opportunities for low-income people.

Friday, August 8 – Saturday, August 9
Two Day Mike Lin Graphic Workshop
2-day Graphic Workshop in San Francisco, California,
Discount code: $50 off-August8-2371-3151.

San Francisco, California
: http://www.beloose.com/index2.php

Mike Lin Mike Lin Graphic Workshop
650-868-8075
www.beloose.com
mikelin@beloose.com
Discounts offered to students and faculty for drawing workshops  
Sunday, August 10 - Sunday, August 17  
Mike Lin Graphic Workshop  
7 or 8-day Graphic Workshop in San Francisco, California  
In order to encourage you to come, Mike Lin is offering $200.00 off the tuition. Please put the discount code “200off-August-2008-Last” on the online registration form. This offer does not apply to those who have registered, nor with any other offers.

Over the past 35 years, thousands of design professionals and students have joined in this incredible and unforgettable learning experience. Regardless of a person’s age and background, this workshop will guide you to a higher potential and cultivate your ability to draw and design projects quickly and convincingly. Artistic talent can be taught and refined.

You do not need to be gifted in art to enjoy this workshop. Just show up, and we will help to increase your confidence to the next level and adjust the proper attitude necessary in your professional career. And for a limited time, the following opportunities are being offered to students and faculty with reduced tuition. The details of the workshops and their discount amount (not applicable to people who have registered) are as follows:

You are encouraged to join one of the above workshops so your life will be fulfilled with confidence and joy. Please wait no more and register now, we will take care the rest for you. Remember, If you can breathe, you can learn how to draw and render projects from us. [http://www.beloose.com/index2.php](http://www.beloose.com/index2.php)

Tuesday, August 12, 2008  
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.
All students and faculty are invited for the presentation of:

**Peters Creek Watershed**

*Utilizing Greenprint Techniques to Preserve the High Quality Unique Natural Infrastructure (HQUNI) of Peters Creek Watershed*

**Saturday, August 16  10:00 a.m.**
Graduate Student Commencement
Chatham University AFC

**Sunday, August 24  5:00-7:00 p.m.**
Landscape Architecture Student Orientation and Social
New and Existing Students get to know each other!
2 scholarships awarded…
Meet Interior Architecture Students…
Refreshments…

**Monday, August 25**
Back to School …Fall term begins!
Check your schedules.

**Thursday-Friday, August 28-29**
**Out There: Field Explorations in Nature and Garden**
The second of the series of coordinated lectures and field trips designed to examine the relationship between nature, culture, and creativity in the practice of Landscape Design.

**Meadows and Meadow Inspired Gardens: Making it Work**
Where: Pennsylvania’s Pocono Area

**Day 1--9:00AM to 4:30PM**
Convening Location: Hampton Inn, Easton, PA

**Naturally Occurring Meadows (Lecture-2 hours)**
*William Sweeney, Larry Weaner*
In this presentation we will discuss where, how and why meadows occur naturally in the Eastern United States, and under what conditions they are able to persist over time. Observations on managing the dynamic dance that occurs between native plants, exotic species, and wildlife will also be explored.

**The Meadows and Grasslands at Jacobsburg Environmental Education Center (Tour-3hours)**
These meadows exhibit a plethora of habitat types, successional stages, and land-use histories, making this an ideal laboratory to study the various natural and cultural models for meadow creation.

**Henry’s Woods at Jacobsburg Environmental Education Center (Tour-1 hour)**
While not directly related to meadow habitats, we would be remiss if we did not visit one of the richest woodlands in Lehigh County, including a mature Oak-Hemlock Forest containing many rare forest bird species and woodland herbs.

**Day 2--9:00AM to 4:30PM**
Convening Location: Hampton Inn, Easton, PA

**Refined Meadow Technique: Brains over Braun (Lecture-1hours)**
*Larry Weaner*
Larry will present a detailed and practical look at the process of creating a meadow, including site analysis, site preparation, planting, and long term management. He will also discuss the importance of imparting realistic expectations to your clients.

**Plants of the Meadow: Beyond Flowers (Lecture-1.5 hours)**
*Larry Weaner*
Ian will discuss the best plants for use in meadow plantings for a wide variety of scales and settings, including crucial information on the habitat requirements of each species. He will also discuss the fine points of seed mix formulation, as well as describe the best cultivars and selections for use in meadow gardens.

**The Bean’s Property Meadows (Tour-3 hour)**
*Larry Weaner*
This 165-acre property consists of 35 acres of planted meadows ranging in age from 7-10 years. In addition, over 2 acres of meadow-inspired gardens, including many cultivars and selections of native plants, encircle the house, terraces and pool area. In this tour we will closely examine how habitat, aesthetics, and reduced maintenance can all be achieved by combining ecological restoration and fine garden design.

**Thursday-Friday, September 11-12**
**The Cultural Landscape: People, Nature, and Art**
Where: Central New Jersey’s Coastal Plain

**The Cultural Landscape: People, Nature and Art**
Virtually all landscapes, from the wild and seemingly untamed to the obviously manipulated, have been influenced by human activity. In this series, we will provide a wide-ranging study of historic land use practices, discuss their effects on a variety of landscape types, and explore how they can influence the practice of landscape design in today’s ecologically-oriented professional environment.

Where: New Jersey’s Central Coastal Plain
September 11 & 12, 2008

**Day 1--9:00AM to 4:30PM**
Convening Location: Laurita Winery, New Egypt, NJ

**Conducting the Landscape: Native American Land Use Practices (Lecture-1hour)**
*TBD*
Recent research reveals that prior to European colonization, Native Americans did not simply hunt, gather, and maintain small garden plots but manipulated the landscape on a huge scale. They did this with such high levels of expertise and over such long periods of time that many plants evolved to become dependent on their practices. As landscape practitioners, we now attempt to grow or restore these same species, yet have no understanding of their inherent human
dependencies. This presentation will explore these long lost connections that could be so useful to designers planting or restoring native landscapes.

**Landscape Design and the New Agriculture: Crops, Ecology and Economics (Lecture- 2 hours)**

*Larry Weaner, Raymond Shea, Randy Johnson*

For eastern agriculture to be economically viable, additional sources of income are often required. In this joint presentation, the Principals of Laurita Winery and their landscape design team will discuss how ecological restoration, native plantings, rain gardens, and historic restoration is being dovetailed with the vineyards’ agricultural mission to attract more customers.

**Laurita Winery (Tour- 3 hours)**

*Phil Larsen/Larry Weaner*

The tour will include visits to a variety of planted meadows and managed woodlands where innovative planting and invasive plant control methods have been employed. We will also examine a number of constructed elements that express the agricultural heritage and ecological mission of the property, including a trail system with boardwalks and wildlife observation decks, a dual irrigation/wildlife pond, an historic farmstead complex and extensive native plantings and rain gardens associated with the Winery building.

Day 2--9:00AM to 4:30PM
Convening Location: Laurita Winery, New Egypt, NJ
Location: Grounds for Sculpture, Hamilton, NJ

**The Arts and Crafts Landscape of Gustave Stickley (Lecture-1hour)**

*Phillip Larsen, RLA*

The New Jersey estate of Gustave Stickley, founder of the Arts and Crafts movement, was an early example of function, aesthetics, and self sufficiency. Mr. Larsen, author of a landscape study of the Stickley estate, will illustrate the principals that underlie this unique property. He will also depict contemporary examples of garden design in an Arts and Crafts setting.

**The Making of Grounds for Sculpture (Lecture-1hour)**

*Brian Carey, RLA*

In 1992, Mr. Carey created the original plans for the Grounds for Sculpture, which provides a contemplative setting for the work of over 130 sculptors and environmental artists. Built on a historic 19th century fairgrounds, the landscape recognizes a unique combination history and modernity. Using current and archival images, he will provide us with a behind-the-scenes look at the creation and continuing evolution of this fascinating landscape.

**The Grounds for Sculpture (Tour-4 hours)**

*Brian Carey, ASLA*

Mr. Carey will follow his background presentation with an extensive tour of the Grounds for Sculpture, pointing out the rationales, challenges, and improvisational decisions that contributed to the creation of this landscape. His tour will include all aspects of the grounds, including areas which are in development to accommodate newly acquired works, where he will offer insight into his design process.

Directions schedule will be sent with confirmation. Registration will be refunded only when notification is received no later than 7 working days prior to event.

For more information call: (215) 886-9740 or Fax: (215) 886-9028

Hotel Accommodations *(Mention NDAL)*:

NJ: The Dancer Farm Bed and Breakfast, New Egypt, NJ; 1-866-326-2376
PA: Hampton Inn, Easton, PA; 1-610-250-6500
CT: Interlaken Inn, Lakeville, CT; 1-800-222-2909
Inn at Ironmasters, Lakeville, CT; 1-860-435-9844

Co-Sponsored by:
The Jacobsburg Environmental Education Center
The Walkabout at the Laurita Winery
Aton Forest
The PA/DE Chapter of the Society of Landscape Architects

Monday Sept 15-Tuesday, Sept. 16
The 2nd Annual PAGGP Forum
Hershey, Pennsylvania

Sunday, September 21 – Tuesday 23, 2008
International Urban Parks Conference
Hilton Hotel
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

For future consideration:

Registration Deadlines
Don’t miss the most important annual event for landscape architecture professionals!

Advance Registration: On or before August 27, 2008
Save $50

Now more than ever, the landscape architecture profession is leading the process that connects environmental, social, and economic health: green infrastructure. Our annual meeting will celebrate the contributions of landscape architects in the design, planning, management, and research of the life support system for the planet. Join us in Philadelphia as we share principles and practices to link landscapes and communities through green infrastructure.

October 4 and 5, 2008, Saturday and Sunday all day
Bridges to Other Worlds: An International Literary Festival
On the Chatham University Campus
Pittsburgh, PA
Sponsored by the Chatham University MFA in Creative Writing Program*
A gathering of international writers engaging the Pittsburgh community in readings and conversations about the ways in which geography and culture, including the culture of exile, inform the creative process, and about the ways poems and stories shaped by other lands might serve as ambassadors to new ways of thinking, creating and understanding

Featuring:
Robert Hass
Naomi Shihab Nye
Claudia Rankine
Peter Cole
Taha Muhammad Ali
Astrid Cabral
Alexis Levitin
Derek Green
Yousef Al-Mohaimeed
Horacio Castellanos Moya
Anahita Firouz

*Made possible by the generous support of
Laurie and Henry Reich and
Tom and Margaret Whitford

All events take place in the Mellon Board Room on the Chatham University campus unless otherwise noted.

Bridges to Other Worlds Schedule

Saturday, October 4:
8:30-5:00 p.m. Book exhibit and sale
8:30-9:15 Registration and welcome. Coffee and pastries.
9:15 Esther Barazzone, Chatham President, Welcoming Remarks
Introduction to the festival, Sheryl St. Germain, Director
9:30-10:15 Keynote Address: Robert Hass
10:30-11:45 Middle East Imaginations and the Arabic-speaking world Naomi Shihab Nye, Peter Cole, Yousef Al-Mohaimeed, Anahita Firouz
11:45-1:00 Lunch. Box lunches available for purchase
1:15-2:00 Reading: Peter Cole and Taha Mohammed Ali, Claudia Rankine
2:15-3:30 Round Table with all writers: Other Places: the role of Environment in crafting poems and stories
3:45-4:45 Reading: Yousef Al-Mohaimeed and Horacio Castellanos Moya
5:00-8:00 Dinner on your own
8:00 Reading: Robert Hass and Naomi Shihab Nye
Reception and book-signing to follow.

Sunday, October 5:
8:00-5:00 Book exhibit and sale
8:00-8:30 Registration, coffee and pastries.
8:30-9:45 Conversations on Craft. Participation limited to 12 for each session, by special reservation only.
Poetry: Robert Hass
Fiction: Derek Green
Translation: Alexis Levitin
Nonfiction: Claudia Rankine  
Children’s Writing: Naomi Shihab Nye

10:00-11:15 The Language of Exile. Horacio Castellanos Moya, Yousef Al-Mohaimeed, Taha Muhammad Ali, Peter Cole

11:30-1:00 Brunch

1:00-2:00 Reading: Horacio Castellanos Moya, Anahita Firouz

2:15-3:30 In Other Words: a conversation on translating and being translated. Peter Cole, Alexis Levitin, Robert Hass, Astrid Cabral

3:45-5:00 Bridges to Other Worlds: International Women Writers Naomi Shihab Nye, Astrid Cabral, Claudia Rankine, Anahita Firouz

5:15-6:15 Reading, Derek Green, Astrid Cabral and Alexis Levitin


Registration for Bridges to Other Worlds

The audience for this festival will be limited to 150. Registration for the festival is free for students, faculty, staff and alums of Chatham University, and $30 for all others. Box lunches will be available for purchase both days. The small conversations on craft are limited to 12 participants. In order to be considered for these small sessions you must submit a creative writing sample of up to 10 pages in the genre for which you are applying for admission.

Name ____________________________________
Address __________________________________
Phone __________________________
Email _______________________________
I am (circle one) a Chatham student  faculty  member  staff  alum
I am not a member of the Chatham community and am enclosing a check for $30.00
I am planning to purchase a box lunch (under $10.00) for Saturday ___yes ___no
I am planning to purchase a box lunch (under $10.00) for Sunday ___yes  ___no
I am interested in attending the following special session (Conversations on Craft) on Sunday morning (circle one).

Poetry with Robert Hass. Submit up to 10 poems
Creative Nonfiction with Claudia Rankine. Submit up to 10 pages of creative nonfiction.
Fiction with Derek Green. Submit up to 10 pages of fiction
Children’s Writing with Naomi Shihab Nye. Submit up to 10 pages of children’s writing

Literary Translation with Alexis Levitin. Submit up to 10 pages of translation or other creative work in any genre.

You will receive an email confirmation of your registration and/or your acceptance into the craft sessions.

Mail registration to:

Sheryl St. Germain  
Director, MFA in Creative Writing  
Chatham University  
Woodland Rd.  
Pittsburgh, PA 15232

Questions? Call 412-661-1809 or email sstgermain@chatham.edu
October 18, 2008, 9 a.m. – noon  
Pittsburgh Parks Conservancy Urban EcoSteward Trainings  
Native Seed Collection  
Join Kathy McGregor to learn how to collect and store native seeds. PLEASE RSVP by October 15 as places are limited.

Please RSVP to Jeff Bergman at Nine Mile Run Watershed Association: 412-371-8779 or jeff@ninemilerun.org for any of these trainings.

News from ASLA

ASLA has created the standard form contract package, a business tool developed specifically to meet the needs of the landscape architecture profession. The package, which contains two forms—one for regular projects (long form) and the other for relatively simple, low risk projects (short form)—is available through the professional practice page on the ASLA website. Brief guidelines, describing the contracts' basic provisions and the attendant risks of particular clauses, accompany both contracts.

The two contracts and corresponding guidelines are sold as an electronic package and licensed annually on a graduated fee, based on the purchasing firm’s size. During 2008, ASLA is offering a special introductory price on the ASLA contracts package. Individuals purchasing the contracts package will save $50 off the regular member and non-member pricing structure.

**Introductory ASLA Member Price (reflects a $50 savings off the regular price for each tier)**  
1 to 10 individuals: $50  
11 to 49 individuals: $200  
50+ individuals: $450  

**Introductory Non-Member Price* (reflects a $50 savings off the regular price for each tier)**  
1 to 10 individuals: $340  
11 to 49 individuals: $490  
50+ individuals: $740  

*The non-member fee provides a one-year membership in ASLA, including a subscription to Landscape Architecture magazine.

**ORDER NOW!**

Full draft contracts and guidelines are available to review for only $25.

ASLA is excited to release the standard contracts in response to a distinct industry need. For complete information about the standard form contract package, read the recent LAND Online article.

I hope you will take advantage of these professional tools,
PA/DE Chapter ASLA Awards
The Awards Program is open to all PA and DE registered Landscape Architects, members of the Pennsylvania Delaware Chapter of the American Society of Landscape Architects, and faculty members and students currently teaching or enrolled in PA and DE landscape architectural curriculum submitting work associated with their academic pursuits. Entries from private practice offices, planning agencies, and sections of federal, state and local governments are invited to participate.

Awards will be given for excellence in the execution of works of landscape architecture. Awards will be given for General Design, Residential Design, Analysis and Planning, Research, Communications, Landmark Award, Student Collaboration, and Student Community Service Award. Honor, Merit and Special Recognition Awards for both public and private sectors may be given in each category. Presidential Awards for Excellence may be given to projects of special merit. Entries will be judged on quality of design or presentation, functionalism, context and surrounding relationships, technological advancements, pioneering efforts, and overall significance to the profession.

Entry Form, Entry Fee and Submission Binder must be received no later than:
5:00 PM Monday, July 31, 2008

To find out more information about the 2008 Professional Awards Program such as General Information, Award Categories, Submission & Format Requirements, and an Entry Form – Visit www.landscapearchitects.org or Click on the following link

http://www.landscapearchitects.org/awards_flyer08.pdf

This message was sent by: ASLA PA/DE, 908 North Second Street, Harrisburg, PA 17102

Landscape Architects Key to Energy Conservation Bill

Legislation that recognizes the important role landscape architects can play in energy conservation is now under consideration in Congress. The Energy Conservation Through Trees Act, H.R. 5687, introduced on Earth Day by Congresswoman Doris Matsui, would establish a grant program to assist electricity providers in planting shade trees to insulate residential buildings, minimize home heating and cooling energy demand, and reduce greenhouse gas concentrations.

Please contact your Representative today and ask him/her to cosponsor H.R. 5687. The bill contains several ASLA recommendations including:
- Establishing an education campaign to help residents to maintain their shade trees.
- Requiring monitoring and reporting on the survival, growth, overall health, and estimated savings of the provided trees.
- Requiring tree recipients to care for the trees.

The legislation also specifically mentions ASLA in the bill and recommends that a landscape architect serve on the local Technical Advisory Committees that provide technical knowledge and advice throughout the process.

This is an important opportunity for ASLA to further establish to Congress that the profession is a leader in sustainable design techniques. Please contact your Representative and ask him/her to cosponsor H.R. 5687, the Energy Conservation Through Trees Act.

This message was sent by: ASLA PA/DE, 908 North Second Street, Harrisburg, PA 17102

**Energy Conservation Through Trees Act introduced in Congress**

ASLA is pleased to announce that on Tuesday, April 22, Rep. Doris Matsui (CA-05) introduced the Energy Conservation Through Trees Act of 2008, to help improve air quality and lower the need for energy consumption. This legislation would establish a grant program to utilize targeted residential tree planting techniques as a means of helping to reduce energy usage in homes across the country. ASLA Government Affairs staff, in conjunction with Casey Trees, a non-profit tree planting organization, began working with the Congresswoman early last year on this bill. ASLA is particularly pleased to report that the final version of the legislation includes specific recognition of landscape architects in addition to ASLA-recommended provisions, including:

- establishing an education/information campaign to encourage residents to maintain their shade trees over a long term.
- requiring monitoring and reporting on the survival, growth, overall health and estimated savings of the provided trees.
- requiring tree recipients to provide stewardship and care of the trees.
- allow ASLA to recommend a registered landscape architect to participate on the local technical advisory committees to provide advice and consultation to the program.

Landscape architects are at the forefront of sustainable design and have utilized tree canopy coverage to help reduce energy consumption and create healthy communities. ASLA is pleased that our members of Congress are recognizing and employing many of these techniques in federal legislation. ASLA is specifically mentioned in the text of the legislation on page 13 of the bill that does not currently have a number, but will be available shortly at [www.Thomas.loc.gov](http://www.Thomas.loc.gov).

**Urge Your Senators to Cosponsor Complete Streets**

Legislation that would improve pedestrian and biker safety, increase access to mass transit, and support a healthier environment and lifestyle in communities across the country is under consideration in the Senate. S. 2686, the Complete Streets Act of 2008, introduced by Senator Tom Harkin (IA), would ensure that states consider the safety, interests, and convenience of all users, including drivers, pedestrians, transit users, and bicyclists, in the design and construction of future transportation projects.
You can help by contacting your Senators today and asking them to cosponsor S.2686 because complete streets:

- Promote public health by providing pedestrian and biker friendly streets that encourage physical activity and combat obesity.
- Allow the 33% of Americans who do not drive, including many elderly and low income residents, to have safe access to get to work, school, shops and medical visits, and to take part in social, civic and volunteer activities.
- Reduce our dependency on cars, resulting in a reduction in greenhouse gas emissions, traffic congestion and costly repairs to our roads.

The streets of our cities and towns should be accessible and safe for people of all ages and levels of mobility. Please contact your Senators today ask them to cosponsor S. 2686, the Complete Streets Act of 2008.

Subject: PENNSYLVANIA –DELAWARE CHAPTER ASLA AWARDS SCHOLARSHIPS

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

CONTACT:
Kimberly Cossar
PA / DE ASLA
717-441-6041
kimberlycossar@wannerassoc.com
http://www.landscapearchitects.org

PENNSYLVANIA –DELAWARE CHAPTER ASLA AWARDS SCHOLARSHIPS OVER $5,000 AWARDED TO LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTURE SCHOOLS IN PA

Harrisburg, PA – May 05, 2008 – Lisa Kunst Vavro, President, PA/DE Chapter of the American Society for Landscape Architects is pleased to announce that in 2008 for the 2008-2009 academic year, the chapter will award over $5,000 in scholarships to the following schools in Pennsylvania: Chatham University, Pennsylvania State University, Philadelphia University, Temple University, and the University of Pennsylvania. These scholarships will be awarded by each school to at least one student that is enrolled in the landscape architecture program. The chapter provided $2,000 out of their budget for these scholarships and the other $3,000 was provided by each of the chapter’s three Pennsylvania sections, Eastern, Central and Western at $1,000 each.

Starting in the fall of 2008, applications will be available for the 2009–2010 school year. Applications are available for eligible students by going to the chapter website http://www.padeasl.org

All applications will be due to the Chapter Executive Director by January 15th of each year.

To be eligible for the scholarship, the student shall have:
1. Graduated from a high school within the Commonwealth of PA or the State of Delaware;
2. have successfully completed at least (2) years in an undergraduate landscape architecture program or (1) year in a graduate landscape architecture program;
3. be a member of the school’s Student Chapter ASLA; and
4. have maintained a grade point average of at least a 3.0 on a GPA scale of 4.0 for all courses taken to date at the college or university.
With this new process, the PA/DE Chapter Executive Committee will have final approval of the awarding of these scholarships and is responsible for notifying each student prior to April 15th of each year. Check out the PA/DE website at http://www.padeasla.org for more details on the 2009–2010 PA/DE Chapter ASLA landscape architecture scholarship opportunities.

This message was sent by: ASLA PA/DE, 908 North Second Street, Harrisburg, PA 17102

Pennsylvania Delaware Chapter
American Society of Landscape Architects
2008 Professional Awards Program

News from AIA Pittsburgh eColumns

Columns magazine on the web! Download the most recent edition of Columns magazine from the AIA Pittsburgh website!

Call for Entries - Design Pittsburgh 2008 Design Pittsburgh is here, and new this year are digital submissions. Visit the website for details and to view submission criteria. Questions? Call AIA Pittsburgh at 412-471-9548.

Research Grants for Architecture
Rafael Vinoly Architecture seeks proposals for independent research on transformations in the built environment within dynamically changing societies. Five grants of up to $60,000 are available. Proposed projects should emphasize original research focused on any region of the world, though there is particular interest in studies addressing relevant issues in China, the Middle East, Russia, and South America. The program is open to practitioners and scholars around the world. Apply by August 1 at www.rvatr.com.

Call for Entries
The Chesapeake Conservation Landscaping Council is seeking entries for its 2008 Conservation Landscaping Contest. This competition celebrates properties around the Chesapeake Bay watershed that adhere to the CCLC’s “Eight Elements of Conservation Landscaping.” These “Eight Elements” include guidelines that promote clean ground water, wildlife habitat, and healthy soils.

Winning entries will showcase gardens that are both beautiful and environmentally friendly. Sites may be residential or non-residential, and must be located within the Chesapeake Bay watershed (which covers sections of MD, VA, PA, DE, WV, and NY). Novice gardeners, students, schools, businesses, and professionals are all welcome to enter up to three sites each.

Contest applications and the “Eight Elements” guideline list can be found on the CCLC website www.chespeakelandscape.org. Applications due August 1 and winners will be announced in mid-September. Winners will receive...
conservation landscape related prized, be featured on the CCLC website, and possibly be part of a conservation gardens tour with owner permission.

Calling all Conservation Landscapers!

Show off your spectacular gardens and put our guidelines to the test. Submit photos of your work and a description of how the site meets the “Eight Elements of Conservation Landscaping” and you could be chosen as one of our CCLC field trip spots for 2008!

Novice gardeners, students, schools, businesses and professionals are all welcome to enter.

Complete contest rules and entry requirements are now posted at www.ChesapeakeLandscape.org.

Application Deadline: August 1, 2008
1 design to benefit the environment. 2 use locally native plants. 3 avoid and manage invasive plants. 4 provide wildlife habitat. 5 promote good air quality. 6 conserve water / improve water quality. 7 foster healthy soils. 8 work with nature for sustainability.

Grant and Scholarship Opportunities

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.


Internship Opportunities

Mildreds’ Daughters Urban Farm seeks interns

Mildreds’ Daughters Urban Farm is offering adult internships May through October. Housing and two meals are provided. We are accepting applications for the 2008 season.

Mildreds’ Daughters Urban Farm has operated as a working farm in the city of Pittsburgh since 1875. We grow a wide variety of heirloom tomatoes as well as specialty vegetables, flowers, and herbs. We sell tomato and herb seedlings in the spring. Distribution is through our CSA; occasional overflow is taken to markets or donated to East Liberty Cooperative Ministries. We host group tours, gardening classes, tomato tastings, and cooking classes. We helped found, and remain affiliated with, Grow Pittsburgh, a nonprofit organization working to model, teach, and facilitate sustainable urban food production.

Please email us for further details: mildredsdauthters@earthlink.net.

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.
Design Opportunities

Heavenly design needed
The staff at Saint Mary of the Mount Parish is looking to improve the grounds around the church and rectory. They are looking for advice on what type of plants, shrubs etc could be utilized that would be right for the property, that would not outgrow the space. Saint Mary of the Mount Parish is located on Grandview Ave in Mt. Washington and many tourists visit on a daily basis.

Any students are interested in helping out, please contact Lisa Kunst Vavro for details: lvavro@chatham.edu.

Is anyone interested in this design project?

Residential design experience opportunities
Professor of Occupational Therapy at Chatham needs a hillside that we needs some recommendations re: ground cover, shrubs, plantings, etc for a hillside planting. The idea is a no maw solution. They will do the "labor" -- we're looking for some recommendations related to what to use.

Is anyone interested in this design project?

Pittsburgh area residential property needs landscape renovation. The owner is seeking students who may want practical experience redesigning the landscape. Please contact Lisa Kunst Vavro for details: lvavro@chatham.edu.

Is anyone interested in this design project?

Design work needed
Established residential garden in Franklin Park Borough needs design work to address damage caused by an adjacent new home development. Please contact Lisa Kunst Vavro for details: lvavro@chatham.edu.

Is anyone interested in this design project?

Job Opportunities

Urban Designer sought by Cunningham|Quill Architects
Location: Washington, D.C.
Job Status: Full Time
Cunningham l Quill Architects, an award-winning Georgetown firm with ten years of commitment to design excellence, seeks an urban designer with a background in architecture or landscape architecture. The applicant will have the opportunity to work on a wide variety of cutting edge, urban-scale projects, TOD and Smart Growth projects throughout the DC area. Applicants must have a Master's degree. The applicant should also have a strong ability to communicate graphically with hand sketching and rendering abilities and a working knowledge of CAD. Excellent salary and benefits. Please contact Chris Morrison @ cmorrison@cunninghamquill.com or visit www.cunninghamquill.com, 202-337-0090, 1054 31st St. NW Washington, D. C. 20007.

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

Volunteer Opportunities

RenPlanR REALLY needs Landscape Architects and landscape architecture students!!!!

In 1996, the Community Design Center of Pittsburgh created the RenPlan® program to help Pittsburgh-area homeowners get effective planning advice from design professionals. The goal of the program is to encourage investments in existing homes and neighborhoods in order to add value through good design. Any homeowner in the Pittsburgh region is eligible for the service, which includes the opportunity to have a one-on-one consultation with a volunteer design professional.

Our consultants are architects, landscape architects and interior designers who volunteer their time to help local property owners by providing advice on property improvement projects. In order to become consultants, our volunteers must hold a degree in their respective design field, and must attend an orientation to acquaint them with the process and priorities of the program.
If you are interested in becoming a consultant or learning more about the RenPlan® program, please contact Kate McGlynn, renplan® program manager, kmcglynn@cdcp.org and visit our website: www.cdc.org

CDCP Celebrates 40 Years of Promoting Good Design in Pittsburgh’s Neighborhoods

In partnership with TreeVitalize Pittsburgh, Friends will host the course again in, August, September, and October. Want to become a Tree Tender? http://www.pittsburghforest.org/TreeTenders

Tree Tenders are trained volunteers who are authorized to care for small city-owned trees during Tree Care Days. This special group of volunteers participate in a three-session course that equips them with the skills necessary to care for trees. Local tree experts provide instruction, and the course covers everything from tree biology to planting and pruning. Following completion of the course, Tree Tenders-in-Training participate in 10 volunteer hours (often at plantings in their neighborhoods) and a hands-on Pruning Workshop. The more card-carrying Tree Tenders a neighborhood has, the more trees we can provide!

Oakland Community Council seeks student input
From: Elan Strait
A program is underway in the Oakland neighborhood of Pittsburgh that will look at various green spaces and try to renovate them. Volunteers are needed as consultants and a team of student to help us rethink these green spaces. Contact Lisa Kunst Vavro, lvavro@chatham.edu if interested. This could be applied to community field work.

News of Interest

PG article featuring Chatham landscape architecture students from Joel Perkovich’s Green Roof Design Studio.

City to fund environmental programs, sustainability coordinator
Wednesday, June 18, 2008
By Rich Lord, Pittsburgh Post-Gazette
If, years from now, the roof of the City-County Building is a garden where staffers work on solar laptops while breathing markedly fresher air, someone browsing the Internet for the history of Pittsburgh eco-consciousness might find that in summer 2008, city government finally put some green behind going green.

Today Mayor Luke Ravenstahl plans to announce a $100,000 infusion of cash into a proposed Green Initiatives Trust Fund and a foundation-backed effort to hire a sustainability coordinator. It's a lead-in to the release next week of a report by the Green Government Task Force.

The money and the coordinator are expected to be the keys to implementing the task force’s recommendations, which include seeking eco-friendly certification for government properties -- including the City-County Building -- rewriting the city code to favor things like solar power, teaching employees to turn off lights and more.

"Obviously, it continues our agenda to advance green investment in Pittsburgh, and we felt it was really important to demonstrate that the city government is serious about being green," Mr. Ravenstahl said. A staff member and a trust fund dedicated to the concept should help link efforts going on in various departments, and bring about business buy-in and foundation funding, he said.

The funding comes from savings the city accrued from buying energy in an online auction with Allegheny County and some agencies. The trust fund, if City Council approves it, would cover part of the $45,000 salary of the coordinator, plus provide matching funds the city can use to land state, federal and private grants for more environmental efforts.

The Surdna Foundation is expected to pay part of the coordinator's salary.

The coordinator, once hired, won't have to look far for a to-do list. The 2-year-old task force, which the mayor co-chaired with Councilman William Peduto and state Sen. Jim Ferlo, is expected to make its recommendations to council next week.

"We want someone here with the background and the environmental education," said Deputy Chief of Staff Kristen Baginski, who along with energy and utilities manager Jim Sloss has been serving as the administration's uncredited green tandem. Though the pay is modest, she said, there are young environmental professionals "chomping at the bit to do a job like this."

Greening the City-County Building alone could be a huge job, said Mr. Sloss. "Right now, we are hemorrhaging energy," he said. "You can go in some offices with air conditioning on and a personal heater on under the desk."

The coordinator also can do the math needed to justify steps like the purchase of hybrid vehicles, Mr. Sloss said.

The coordinator will work with a "green council," including representatives from most city departments and City Council, that will set priorities and decide how to spend the trust fund. The city will replenish the fund each year.

Mr. Sloss said the city needs a fund for efforts like an ongoing push, backed by federal money and expertise, to make Pittsburgh solar friendly. The city has
missed out on opportunities to get grants because it hasn't been able to show that it can put its own money on the table.

And how much would that rooftop garden cost? That's not known, but the city is working with a Chatham University class to figure out how it could work.

**New plants from the Olivers**

Monrovia has introduced four of the Olivers' new hybrid heucheras this spring. This is part of an expanded offering for Monrovia, which has focused in the past on woody plants. The new heucheras are 'Caroline' (named for their granddaughter), 'Moonlight', 'Crystal Spires' and 'Rose Majesty'. They all have larger flowers and a more pleasing growth habit than any heucheras on the market.

For more information and photos, look at [www.theprimrosepath.com/whatsnew.htm](http://www.theprimrosepath.com/whatsnew.htm).

**Faculty and students can buy Adobe software at low rates**

Institutions that participate in the Adobe CLP Student Licensing Option now may offer the same amazingly low prices to faculty and staff. Educators can save big when purchasing Adobe software. Consider some of the advantages: Get the lowest prices on Adobe® Creative Suite® 3 Design Premium, Web Premium, Production Premium, and Master Collection. Produce engaging curricula, and give students creative freedom. Use industry-standard software — for print, web, and video — to prepare students for successful careers. Earn points toward your institution's CLP discount levels.


**CADChat**

**Users Scared by 2009**

Autodesk has launched the new look AutoCAD 2009, and to many existing users the new look and feel has them scared. Luckily you can wind back the clock and reset the software to look and feel like earlier versions of the product. The new interface is in line with Microsoft's Vista look and feel and groups the tool sets in a way that should attract new users. Existing users should be able to adapt to the new interface over time.

Looking for sustainable products to specify in your next green building project? CADdetails has uncovered the latest in green building products and environmentally friendly design practices developed to support architects, builders, building owners and designers in their efforts to build and maintain sustainable sites. Visit CADdetails.com SpecGREEN to learn about green products that may contribute towards the LEED® (Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design) certification of your next project.

Visit CADdetails.com for the most complete library of Building Product Information including thousands of brochures, CAD details and Masterformat specifications.

www.CADdetails.com

Elements of Public Places

By Stephanie Norton

"When you focus on place you do everything differently."
- Fred Kent

Placemaking has been described as the art of building a community. In essence, it implies creating public spaces that promote a strong sense of identity and a context for a high quality of life, where people can congregate, interact and engage in social activities. It recognizes the important role that public gathering places such as parks, gardens, piazzas, farmer's markets, libraries, transportation terminals and market squares play in promoting community health, happiness and well being.

Above:: Central Park, NY. Water and art attract people to this public space and invite them to rest, reflect, and socialize with one another.

Project for Public Spaces (PPS) is a nonprofit organization dedicated to helping planners, designers, architects, engineers and others create and sustain public spaces that build stronger communities. Founded in 1975, PPS embraces the insights of William H. Whyte, a pioneer in understanding the way people use public spaces. 47 states, 26 countries and nearly 2000 communities later, PPS has become an internationally recognized center for best practices, information, and resources about Placemaking.

PPS has identified 11 key elements in transforming public spaces into vibrant community place. These elements are:

1. **The Community is the Expert.** The important starting point in developing a concept for any public space is to identify the talents and assets within the community. Tapping this information will help to create a sense of community ownership in the project.
2. **Create a Place, Not a Design.** To make a space into a vital "place," physical elements must be introduced that will make people welcome and comfortable, such as attractive seating and vibrant landscaping.

3. **Look for Partners.** Partners are critical to the future success and image of a public space. They can be local institutions, museums, schools and others.

4. **You Can See a Lot Just By Observing.** By looking at how people are using (or not using) public spaces and finding out what they like and don't like about them, it is possible to assess what makes them work.

5. **Have a Vision.** The specific vision needs to come out of each individual community, but it should instill a sense of pride in the people who live and work in the surrounding area.

6. **Start with the Petunias.** Simple elements such as seating, outdoor cafes, public art, striping of crosswalks and pedestrian havens, community gardens and murals are examples of improvements that can be accomplished in a short time.

7. **Triangulate.** Consider the choice and arrangement of different elements in relation to each other. For example, if a bench, a wastebasket and a telephone are placed with no connection to each other, each may receive a very limited use, but when they are arranged together along with other amenities such as a coffee cart, they will naturally bring people together.

8. **They Always Say "It Can't Be Done."** Creating good public spaces is inevitably about encountering obstacles, because no one in either the public or private sectors has the job or responsibility to "create places." Starting with small-scale community-nurturing improvements can demonstrate the importance of "places" and help to overcome objections.

9. **Form Supports Function.** The input from the community and potential partners, the understanding of how other spaces function, the experimentation, and overcoming the obstacles and naysayers provides the concept for the space. Although design is important, these other elements tell you what "form" you need to accomplish the future vision for the space.

10. **Money is not the issue.** Once you've put in the basic infrastructure of the public spaces, the elements that are added that will make it work (e.g., vendors, cafes, flowers and seating) will not be expensive. In addition, if the community and other partners are actively involved in programming and other activities, people will have so much enthusiasm for the project that the cost is viewed much more broadly and consequently as not significant when compared with the benefits.

11. **You Are Never Finished.** By nature good public spaces that respond to the needs, the opinions and the ongoing changes of the community require attention. Amenities wear out, needs change and other things happen in an urban environment. Being open to the need for change and having the management flexibility to enact that change is what builds great public spaces.
Comprehensive Erosion/Sediment Control and Turf Reinforcement Solutions

Each year, billions of dollars are spent reconstructing slopes, dredging channels, and rebuilding shorelines degraded by rainfall, storm water runoff, and sediment deposits. That is why manufacturing the highest-quality erosion and sediment control products - and backing them with unmatched customer service and technical support - is North American Green's only business.

North American Green's unique ability to develop turn-key solutions for engineers, architects, designers, specifiers, and everyone who must comply with today's strict erosion and sediment control regulations hinges upon the strength, expertise and commitment of our people, each of whom is dedicated to fulfilling one deeply rooted corporate objective: to ensure absolute customer satisfaction. North American Green's complete product line includes:

- Permanent turf reinforcement
- Biodegradable erosion control
- Photodegradable erosion control
- Hydraulic erosion control
- Sediment control

As a member of the U.S. Green Building Council (USGBC®) North American Green proudly supports the green building initiative and manufacture and distribute a full line of erosion and sediment control products that can be utilized in new construction and existing projects to help you reach your LEED Green Building Rating System® project certification goals.

North American Green's BioNet® Biodegradable Erosion Control Blanket series was named a Top 10 Green Building Product by BuildingGreen, Inc. in 2006 and The American Society of Agricultural & Biological Engineers (ASABE) named BioNet Biodegradable Erosion Control Blankets one of its 100th Anniversary Top 10 AE50 Award winners on 2007.

North American Green Erosion Solutions Specialists understand the rules-and the tools-available to help you comply with industry and regulatory standards. Erosion Solutions Specialists can specify North American Green products for every EPA-defined Structural BMP including mulch, vegetation, grassed swales, storm water wetlands, silt fencing, and sediment basins and ponds.

Want to know more? Request additional information about North American Green erosion and sediment control products at 1-800-772-2040 or visit www.nagreen.com.

Urban planning needs green rethink

VIEWPOINT

Martha Schwartz

The focus on greening homes and offices is ignoring the wider landscape of our towns and cities, argues Martha Schwartz. In this week's Green Room, she says 21st Century urban spaces must undergo a green revolution.
When it comes to environmental concerns, there has been altogether too much fragmented talk of buildings. We have consistently failed to recognize that buildings are situated in wider landscapes that desperately need greater attention. As I go about my work as a landscape architect, I regularly deal with our profession's role within the green agenda. Unfortunately, I have found that we lag behind architects when it comes to participating in the conversation around sustainability; in fact, we are often relegated to presiding over green roof technology. This is most ironic, because landscape architecture is, in fact, the profession that deals with the "green" part of the agenda.

The reason for the focus on buildings, as opposed to that of the surrounding landscape, is down to the fact that the uses of resources and energy can be addressed with a degree of simplicity and directness. Meanwhile, landscape architects are left outside looking in on the discussion because our professional remit rests outside these technologically oriented and building-focused discussions.

This is problematic because the nature of our profession is to focus on pressing environmental issues in a holistic fashion, in what I call the Softer Side of Sustainability. This approach involves creating a sense of place, identity and belonging, in order to develop sustainable communities and - I hope - improve the environment.

Living landscape

We seem to have forgotten that sustainability itself is a cultural notion, and that a building or a place must have value to people if it is to be used sustainably. It is therefore vital that landscape architects assert this both in our advocacy and in our actual work; for so long as we trail behind the architects by topping their buildings with green roofs, we are simply fiddling while Rome burns.

The landscape is the canvas upon which we live our lives, join together as communities and build our cities. Embedded and integral to the landscape are the ecological systems that must be understood and respected, as well as the infrastructural systems connecting us all together.

I am not simply referring to gardens and majestic wildernesses; in fact, the most sustainable form of human habitation is the city. This is where we collectively need focus our activities, and this is also where landscape architects can be of real use.

Encouraging people to live side by side more closely will help the local ecology to flourish, because the community can utilize superior water stations and sewage treatment plants, as well as improving electricity consumption patterns. Cities also inspire a collectivisation of wealth, allowing local governments to better build and equip schools, libraries, and performing arts buildings.

So the reward of collectivisation can be true sustainability. City inhabitants, from a variety of backgrounds, can be quickly made aware of environmentally friendly ways to live.

This, in turn, can result in people influencing one another as they incorporate progressive lifestyle changes into the fabric of their diverse daily lives.

Landscape architects ought to help to make cities better places for all who live within them through the establishment of good connectivity and open spaces, the
promotion of public transportation and, very importantly, ensuring water is used responsibly, with run-off being managed and put back into the ground. In addition, landscape architects ought to ensure developers plant as much as possible so that we have an abundance of trees and permeable surfaces. Careful and inspired design can make all the difference between a place that is viewed as no real significance to anyone, and a place that attracts people, creates vitality, and is cherished by its inhabitants. The design of Exchange Square in Manchester, UK, is a good example of how careful attention to a community's history and a site's geology can foster the sort of intellectual and emotional investment in a place that leads to real sustainability. Exchange Square is a wonderful outdoor living room created from a space that was formerly an ignored and ugly traffic intersection, bombed by the IRA in 1996. The revamped square is now hugely successful; a vibrant and well-used space for everything from watching soap operas during the lunch hour to greeting the Queen.  

10-minute rule  
Currently, some urban authorities, such as New York, fall short of implementing the issues around the Softer Side of Sustainability, but they are heading in the right direction. For example, PLAN NYC, the sustainability agenda for the eastern US concrete jungle, includes a proposal to ensure that all New Yorkers live within a 10-minute walk of a park. But this reference to parks is the only mention of the landscape in the NYC sustainability agenda. PLAN NYC is certainly a marvellous commitment to improving the lives of citizens by giving them access to fresh, green, open spaces. But it does not push the envelope quite far enough. It does not advocate the vital commitment to landscapes that reflects the most forward visual thinking, through dynamic, inspirational design, and structured attentiveness to community histories. The role of landscape architecture is once again one of green embellishment, adding parks here and there, rather than sustainability agenda-setting through thought-provoking design. Although NYC embraces its image as the centre of the global contemporary art scene, it has supported neither adventurous architecture nor landscape architecture. For the best examples of this, we have to look to areas like Germany's Duisberg Nord Parc in the Ruhr Valley, or the beautiful green spaces of the Park Andre Citroen in Paris. So how are we to implement The Softer Side of Sustainability? 

First, we should incorporate the expertise of landscape architects into the planning process leading up to the establishment of sustainability agendas such as PLAN NYC. This planning process should include measures to encourage compaction of the urban landscape, along with more efficient public transportation. Secondly, we should increase sustainability education for students of landscape architecture, architecture, and urban development. Finally, American builders should learn from the design overviews used in much European urban planning, but extend their minds to reflect the sophistication of landscape thinking. Three straightforward steps, but they are key to deciding whether cities can
develop effectively for the 21st Century, or remain mired in yesterday's thinking. Martha Schwartz is a US-based landscape architect specialising in master plans, art commissions, urban renewal, reclamation and redevelopment

The Green Room is a series of opinion pieces on environmental topics running weekly on the BBC News website

Do you agree with Martha Schwartz? Is there too much focus on "green" buildings and parks, at the expense of the wider landscape? Will more compact cities improve the sense of community? Or are there more pressing needs, such as affordable homes and crime reduction?

Good article, although it seems a little light on simple, practical steps that can be taken to improve the situation. It's all very well talk about co-ordinated, holistic solutions but that does not and will not happen everywhere so there must be other things that can be done.

Dave J, London

The idea of having more parks in the cities is fine but begs the "real" question. Physical closeness does not make a community. Nor is bigger necessarily better in terms of schools and socialization of our children. Size allows them to blend into the crowd, while at the same time encouraging ever stranger ways of stating their individuality. I personally have opted for life in a very small town of 1000 where individuals are still that, an individual. My background includes a Master's degree, development work, teaching, extensive world travel, living in several world capitals and a couple large American cities. Yes there is less intellectual stimulation (conversation) here but with the web, cell phones and travel I certainly don't feel "left out". My range of friends is much wider and I am learning things that simply would not be available in an urban or suburban situation. And my use of resources is down due to the enforced simpler life style.

Thank you. Beve Teasley, Arco Idaho USA

Time someone pushed this further in the public forum. absoultely agree with the opinion. Crime reduction will happen automatically if we have compact cities with a sense of community. Gaurang Khemka, singapore

Although much of what Ms Schwartz say is relevant and enlightened I find her statement below to be complete troll op. "Although NYC embraces its image as the centre of the global contemporary art scene, it has supported neither adventurous architecture nor landscape architecture." NYC is the most adventurous experiment in architecture and landscape architecture on the planet. ANTHONY, auckland NZ

Ms Schwartz is absolutely on target-most sustainability talk is focused on hardware and gadgets large and small. The next stage in the sustainability discussion should be about our human resources, the young who are our future, and the disaffected, who are the greatest threat to our future-in seeking to direct their energies to positive means. This means designing education and justice systems that address the human potential in those govern over to their care.

Frank Greene, New York, NY

Martha accurately conveys the erroneous perception of our work -- that we essentially decorate outdoor spaces conceived by others. I think the reality she is
conveying rightly implies that "landscape thinking" is a conceptual framework for applying a systems view of the workings of nature and culture in the urban environment, much the same way that "landscape ecology" implies a scalable spatial and temporal framework to the study of ecology, and the way that "landscape urbanism" applies (at last!) a natural systems view of the workings of the city to solving urban spatial issues. This framework will inform allocation and design issues at a range of scales including buildings and parks predominantly in my view by what is happening at both higher and lower orders of scales. Certainly there are pressing needs, but I think our sense of connection is the keystone need that will lead to other needs being experienced as feeling met. Our sense of connection IS a Softer Side of Sustainability, as Martha describes. The human part of the equation, and the intuitive/feeling side of our minds, are where connections are made and are often lost in our formulaic, hyper-rational culture. We often neglect to consider that our original connection to the land and the landscape has not likely been evolved out of our consciousness of being. The systems that support us globally and in our cities are all connected. Sadly, our cultural dispositions drive us to sever connected natural systems and connections with each other. If we were to include these concepts in our notions of sustainability, we might then propagate a culture tolerant of diversity in nature and cities, of honoring the half of our minds devoted to how we feel about our world and others, and we might begin a less destructive journey into the future.

Jeff Lakey, Denver Colorado USA

"The landscape is the canvas upon which we live our lives, join together as communities and build our cities" Good. However compaction and efficient transport just makes the green spaces a weekend event. Young people need to develop away from the public gaze otherwise they clump together in packs in the squares and malls for self-confidence against authority. Young couples need to be able to have spontaneous sex away from families, friends and again, public view. Children need to go out and play for an hour or two. These are fundamentals. Compaction and transport do not address the spontaneity or the inertia in most people. Unfortunately the reality is, developers have limited funds, architects are constrained by this brief and what is natural and normal for people will ALWAYS come last in the search for profit and the compromise of legislation and planning rules. So so sad. The youth of Britain becoming feral?? This is where it stems from.

Rod Mcleod, Ostrava czech Rep

I work in a planning department in central London dealing with landscape issues and I think although what Martha says is true, the value of green roofs if focussed on biodiversity should not be underestimated. In a densely inner city area this is one landscape feature which should be exploited to the maximum.

Alex, London

I agree, sustainable landscapes are a cultural notion, but a notion which is learned through exposure and education. We can talk and write about encouraging urban compaction, but the first thing policy makers can’t visualize is what happens to MY parking space, MY yard and MY two acre lot. Landscape architects, planners, and architects need to educate policy makers by exposing them to real examples and conditions of compaction not through photos, but first hand experience. Urban space is much more dynamic than what a photo or article can ever capture. Sincerely, Eric Schuchardt University of Wisconsin-Madison Landscape Architecture Student

Eric Schuchardt, Madison, WI USA

So many words to say nothing. "Plant more trees". Amazing! Its no wonder the
I agree with your views that landscape architecture is important to the development of livable urban spaces. I cannot agree, however, with your brash statement that landscape architecture has been ignored in PLAN NYC, and that New York "has supported neither adventurous architecture nor landscape architecture." PLAN NYC contains explicit reference to increasing greenery throughout the city, with benchmarks for the number of trees planted in each neighborhood (crude, but implementable and measurable, much like the 10 minute rule), NYC parks and recreation have been involved in many substantial projects including extending waterfront access around Manhattan, the new Brooklyn Bridge park, etc. The High Line is in my opinion one of the most innovative public spaces developed in a major city in recent years. Finally, the notion that New York hasn't supported adventurous architecture is laughable.

Matthew Blaschko, Tübingen, Germany

As a LEED Certified landscape designer, I certainly agree that much of the sustainability attention goes to buildings and structures. There's a bigger idea out there that's getting over looked and that's how the buildings relate to each other and to the people and landscape....Oh and we need to start planning the Car-Free city soon too.

Eric Sargeant, Portland, Oregon, USA

I absolutely agree. I live in a rural area of Washington State that is so behind the times. The city is stressful to navigate, rather than a pleasure. This is one reason why people, in my opinion, choose to live away from the city and commute, which increases global warming gass, and decreases time with family and friends. I have looked for a city in which I can walk to the store, library, etc. Often there aren't even sidewalks and when there are, I have to breath the combined exhaust of noisy traffic. Not healthy or fun.

Lorie Phillips, Yakima, WA USA

Every space in cities that can harbor living plants should do so. If community fruit trees were planted about for people to enjoy, the sense of health and community would increase. Crime exists because of ill health, disconnect and desperation. What color do they paint a room to calm people down? Green.

Vivian, Victorville, USA

Martha, I agree with you entirely. Too many decent residential and commercial developments in NYC are ruined by uninspired asphalt parking lots on the street level. Excellent landscaping and public space has to become a higher priority because it is so essential to quality of life, and Plan NYC needs to reflect this. More high-quality parks need to be implemented and connected by greenways for cyclists and pedestrians as well as high-quality public transport.

Jonas Hagen, New York City

Some insightful comments on the use of urban landscape to improve the environment for humans, however Martha's definition of 'sustainability' is extremely narrow. It is hard to see how the concrete coated, neon lit Exchange Square with its massive plasma screen tv contributes to sustainability. Sustainability, in any meaningful definition means practices, construction, activities which can be continued indefinitely with the resources available to us.

Ewan, Cambridge, UK

Council Planning departments do little more than legitimise the activities of 'developers' and farmers to make a quick buck at the expense of local communities. Local Area and Structure Plans are a load of hogwash and waste of money - I suspect developments go ahead on the basis of profit to the
developed and bribes to planners, councillors and politicians. Ever tried to oppose a development on ‘environmental / amenity grounds’ - you just get labelled a ‘nimby’

*Mike, Scotland*

Ms Schwartz's comments on the contribution to the sustainability agenda that can be made by Landscape Architects is to be welcomed. I think from a UK or European perspective the article does not tally with the importance of the planning process in shaping one's environment. The British planning system is an intricate set of laws dating back over 150 years that is designed so that decisions are made in the best interests of the public, including those affected by development. However, the planning system can only deliver sustainable, progressive and positive development if members of the public participate in it. Too often County Halls across the UK ring to the voices of NIMBYist closed-mindedness and the vocal minority. The principle of sustainability, using the Kitzhaber definition, means to deliver changes that improve the environment, the economy and the community. This can only be achieved by community participation, and by embracing the need for change not only in the environments we live in, but in how we live and how we work.

*Kris H, Cardiff, UK*

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**Asphalt Getting Greener**

A researcher at the University of Wisconsin-Madison, Dr. Hussain Bahia, intends to adapt African and Indian cold mix asphalt techniques – techniques developed by road-builders who couldn't afford to heat asphalt to 300 degrees Fahrenheit to make it pliable - for use here.

When it comes to greening America's transportation system, most people focus on cars – producing their fuel differently, using different forms of energy, or shifting commutes away from them entirely. But what of the roads we drive on?

Asphalt, which is used to pave over 90 percent of American roads, is processed in Western countries through a process requiring the tar-like substance to be heated to 300 degrees Fahrenheit, an energy-intensive procedure that also produces carbon emissions. In less wealthy parts of the world, though, a “cold mix” approach has long been used; the asphalt isn’t heated, but is sheared into fine particles and mixed with water and surfactants so it can be spread across a road’s surface until it hardens.

Under the auspices of the Asphalt Research Consortium (a group working with the Federal Highway Administration to improve road-surface performance), he has established a Modified Asphalt Research Center with the goal of improving asphalt in
various ways by developing cold mixtures that blend polymers or plastics with crude oil-derived asphalt.

A prerequisite to such innovation, though – and to the acceptance of cold-mix asphalt here – is the development of solid laboratory tests to evaluate each new mixture’s safety and durability. Bahia’s team is at work now developing the tests and standards that will allow American engineers and chemists to weigh greener asphalt against conventional mixes.

He sums up his mission, which recently received $5 million in funding, this way: “Why are we spending so much money on something [other than cold-mix]? I think there’s a very good reason: lack of sufficient knowledge. And our job as a university is to provide the knowledge that will hopefully one day get us there.”

Source: ENN: Environmental News Network

Climate Change Feeds Weeds

As the climate and carbon dioxide levels change, we can no longer assume the weed control strategies we used in the past will continue to work. Not only are some of the nation’s most invasive weeds spreading, but they are becoming more difficult and costly to control.

Is global warming fueling a new generation of more aggressive weeds? According to recent research, the answer may be yes.

One of the major characteristics of a warming planet is an increase in the amount of carbon dioxide in the atmosphere. Rising carbon dioxide has been shown to help vegetable and grain crops grow more quickly, become more drought-resistant and produce potentially higher yields. Unfortunately, though, the impact of rising carbon dioxide seems to be far more pronounced in the weeds that compete with crops than in the crops themselves.

“Weeds are survivors,” said Lee Van Wychen, director of science policy for the Weed Science Society of America. “They can fill various niches and thrive under a wide range of conditions. While we have about 45 major crops in the U.S., there are more than 400 species of different weeds associated with those crops. There is always another weed species ready to become a major competitor with a crop if growing conditions change, such as an increase in carbon dioxide levels.”

The impact of rising carbon dioxide levels on weeds can be striking. In a study conducted by Lewis Ziska, PhD., of the U.S. Department of Agriculture’s Agricultural Research Service, weeds grown under urban conditions of warmer temperatures and more carbon dioxide – conditions anticipated for the rest of the world in 50 years – grew to four times the height of those in a country plot 40 miles outside the city, where carbon dioxide and temperature reflected background conditions.

So what if there are a few more weeds? Well, Ziska’s research shows that common ragweed plants exposed to higher levels of carbon dioxide dramatically increased the amount of pollen they produced. A doubling in carbon dioxide led to a quadrupling of pollen. Some people are allergic to ragweed pollen, resulting in the “hay fever” response, including sneezing and watery eyes. Additional work by Ziska also suggests that even recent increases in carbon dioxide during the last 50 years may have led to bigger poison ivy plants with a more virulent form of the oil that causes people to break out in a rash.
Understanding the impact of increasing carbon dioxide on weed control is still in its infancy. While researchers explore new approaches, we will need to mix and match the strategies currently available.

Visit http://www.wssa.net

Forget food miles and take a look at what's on your plate.

by Adam Stein

I've been digging more deeply into the question of what you should eat if you're looking to lower your carbon footprint. I'll have a few posts on this topic coming up, because it's one of those vexed issues with lots of tradeoffs and corner cases and tricky considerations. But let's start off by keeping it simple: eat less red meat and dairy.

A lot of people, myself included, happen to enjoy eating meat and dairy. Take solace in fact that “less meat” isn’t necessarily the same as “no meat.” Take further solace in the fact that chicken, fish, and eggs aren’t nearly as problematic as beef. In some future posts, I’ll try to ease the pain with practical tips. For now, though, let’s look at the data.

A recent study dug into the “food miles” debate with a more a comprehensive analysis of the climate impact of food production and transportation, based on the consumption of a typical U.S. household. The results were surprising: although food travels on average over 1,000 miles from farm to plate, this transportation accounts for only 4% of the carbon impact of the average American meal. In other words, even in the ideal scenario that you lived on a farm, you’d only be shaving 4% off your food footprint by eating locally — the rough equivalent of driving 1,000 miles less per year.

On the other hand, shifting just one day per week of red meat consumption to chicken, fish, or eggs achieves a reduction equivalent to 760 miles of driving. Shifting one day of red meat per week to fruits and veggies is the equivalent of 1,160 miles of driving. Swapping red meat entirely for other meats reduces the equivalent of 5,340 miles of driving. And going fully vegetarian is practically like giving up a car: 8,100 miles of driving. And when you think about it, this is good news for most of us. Cutting down food miles can actually be rather difficult. Cutting back on meat is fairly simple.

It’s worth unpacking the study a bit further. First, some perspective: local food devotees have motivations beyond just greenhouse gas emissions. There are plenty of good environmental, economic, social, and culinary reasons for favoring food grown nearby.
Likewise, many considerations beyond climate change affect people’s personal decisions around meat consumption. Food can’t be reduced to a single issue.

And now some subtler considerations:

- The study considered the case of the average American household. If you’re reading this blog, there’s a good chance you’re not the average American household. You may already take steps to green your consumption choices, in which case the savings available to you from cutting meat consumption are smaller. Still, reducing your intake of beef and dairy is one of the simplest ways to shed CO2 from your diet.

- The study looks at aggregate food groups, which is entirely unhelpful if you’re trying to figure out how the organic raspberries from Chile compare to the conventionally grown peaches from California; or how the grass-fed, pasture-raised beef compares to that farmed salmon. Needless to say, there is considerable variation in production techniques within food groups. On the other hand, most of us aren’t cooking most of our meals, so the broad rules of thumb are still generally quite useful.

- Beef is even worse than the study makes it appear. The life cycle analysis doesn’t account for land use changes from beef production. A lot of rain forest gets chopped down to make way for cows.

- Consider skipping the soda. The beverage category isn’t a huge source of emissions, but I suspect it’s one of the easiest to cut. (And of course you’ve already given up the bottled water, right?)

- The study contains some unintentional weight-loss advice. Dairy (milk, butter, and cheese) is CO2-intensive and also quite energy dense. Shifting dollars into fruits and vegetables will cut not just carbon but calories from your diet.

- If you’re already a vegetarian, considerations such as food miles and organic farming techniques become proportionately more important. The absolute amount of carbon reductions available don’t change, but the relative importance of these factors increases.

- Globalization of the food supply doesn’t appear to be the big deal you might think, because trucking is so much worse, from an emissions perspective, than ocean shipping. (Planes, of course, are dreadful.)

**News from the Green Building Alliance:**

**Climate Action Plan for Pittsburgh**

As a member of the Pittsburgh Climate Initiative (formerly the Green Government Task Force), Sustainable Pittsburgh was recently involved in the resolution introduced to City Council that would generate a 20-percent reduction in Pittsburgh’s greenhouse gas emissions by 2023. The Pittsburgh Climate Initiative is a coalition of local, state and federal officials as well as representatives from businesses, universities, foundations and non-profit organizations, developed the resolution and its Climate Action Plan.

The Climate Action Plan details specific actions municipal government should take while endorsing a series of recommendations for community organizations, businesses and
institutions of higher education. A collaborative project of the Green Building Alliance, the Climate Action Plan will assist all sectors and their subcommittees in the implementation of recommended actions and ongoing monitoring of progress.

"Pittsburgh has a well-earned reputation for environmental leadership, and our decision to reduce greenhouse gas emissions locally sends a powerful message globally that we are committed to being good stewards of our natural resources," Mayor Ravenstahl said. "The fact the [PCI] enjoys broad support, from all levels of government and from a wide variety of institutions and individuals, is proof that reducing greenhouse gases and their impact on climate change is worthy of our city's support."

For more information and to see a copy of the Climate Action Plan, visit www.pittsburghclimate.org.

Read a related article from the Pittsburgh Post-Gazette: Climate action: Pittsburgh has a progressive plan for the future

$25 Million Approved by State for Green Building Projects

While we were all celebrating our Independence, the Pennsylvania legislature and governor agreed to a package of programs that will invest $650 million in alternative and renewable energy deployment, conservation and efficiency, and innovative research and development.

Special Session House Bill 1 was approved by the PA House and Senate on July 4th and includes $25 million for green building projects. This component was added as a result of the leadership and advocacy of the Green Building Forum, a statewide coalition with which GBA has been active and assumed a leadership role.

This success could not have been accomplished without the strong support of green building champions in the legislature such as Sen. Jim Ferlo, Sen. John Pippy, and Rep. Matt Smith. House Democratic Whip Rep. Keith McCall should also be thanked for his strong and unwavering advocacy of the GBA and Green Building Forum's position during negotiations on the energy bill (HB 1).

In addition to the $25 million included specifically for green buildings, the bill also sets aside $165 million to encourage alternative energy projects. It should be noted that green buildings are included in the definition of an alternative energy project. Other components of the bill are:

- $180 million for solar energy;
- $25 million for pollution control;
- $40 million for emergency energy assistance;
- $40 million to support early-stage activities related to energy efficiency technologies; and
- $25 million for wind and geothermal.
- $150 million will be available over seven years to help consumers and small businesses weatherize their homes and adopt conservation tools, and offer tax credits to businesses developing and building alternative energy projects in the Commonwealth.

We encourage you to contact your senators and representative in the General Assembly to thank them for their support of green buildings and the Green Building Alliance.
Green Building Alliance has moved
New address:
Green Building Alliance
River Walk Corporate Centre
333 East Carson Street, Suite 331
Pittsburgh, PA 15219
Full details, news and events online at www.gbapgh.org/events.asp

News from Sustainable Pittsburgh:

PUMPing up Pittsburgh - Nonprofit's programs aim to attract more young residents to the area while keeping those who are already here

This summer, the draw is Stay and Play Fridays, the latest initiative of the Pittsburgh Urban Magnet Program to encourage young people not only to stay Downtown after business hours -- but ultimately to stay in Pittsburgh. . . The region's job growth has picked up in comparison to many metro areas in the past year, and growth in the professional and business services arena where many young professionals gravitate actually has run well ahead, according to the nonprofit Pittsburgh Regional Indicators Initiative, which benchmarks the region against 14 other metro areas on a range of factors. . . But Ms. Mayes believes that the region must embrace more diversity to retain young people -- a theme many experts say is crucial if the region is to keep and lure the necessary immigrants to offset a stagnant population that is seeing deaths outpacing births.

Schenley High School -- a 'Green Building' ahead of its time

"Green Schools" are being built across the nation in an effort to provide the healthiest and most productive classrooms for our children. The attributes of Green Schools are many, embodied in national standards such as CHPS (Collaborative for High Performance Schools) and LEED (Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design). Some of the most significant characteristics of sustainable, green and healthy schools are embodied in our own Schenley High School. The quality and invention of Schenley could never be afforded today. It should be a centerpiece for the Pittsburgh Public Schools for tomorrow.

Foundation grant to help launch Phipps building

By The Tribune-Review
Tuesday, June 17, 2008

Phipps Conservatory and Botanical Gardens has received $5 million from the Richard King Mellon Foundation to help pay for design and construction of a building that is touted to become the world's greenest building when it opens, officials said today.

The "living building," the Center for Sustainable Landscapes, will be used for education, research and administration.

A "living building" exceeds the industry's highest certification for green buildings, Phipps
officials said in a news release.

Richard Piacentini, Phipps executive director, said the building and its programs are expected to bring international recognition to Phipps and Pittsburgh, "and will set the standard for green building practices and operations henceforth."

The building will be a zero net energy building that generates its own energy with renewable resources. It will capture and treat its water on site.

Phipps opened the first certified "green" visitor center in a public garden in 2005 and an energy-efficient conservatory in 2006. The Center for Sustainable Landscapes represents the third phase of a multi-year expansion.

Assisting with the project are Pittsburgh’s Green Building Alliance, Carnegie Mellon University’s Center for Building Performance and Diagnostics, and the University of Pittsburgh’s Mascaro Sustainability Initiative.

The Design Alliance will be the architect for the project. Construction is scheduled to begin in September.

Enjoy the remainder of the summer!