

# New Jersey ASLA Today

Supporting landscape architects in their professional endeavors

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including creating a sense of place and protecting natural systems through innovative planning and design.

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## NJASLA Annual Meeting

by Julie Nelson, ASLA

The NJASLA Annual Meeting Planning Committee, as everyone in America, has been mourning the horrific events of September 11. Our heartfelt condolences and prayers go out to all personally touched by these tragedies. While we grieve, we and our leaders try to carry on with our lives. To do otherwise would give the 'evil-doers' a victory.

We are still on schedule for the next annual meeting February 10-12, 2002. The program has been submitted to the State Board and approved for 17 Hours/Continuing Education Credits. The registration form is scheduled for mailing November 1, 2001. You should plan to register early, not only to take advantage of the discount, but also as we expect attendance to be higher than normal in light of the ASLA cancellation.

Let us come together to celebrate the strength of our people and the freedom and bravery that our nation embodies.

## Legislative Initiative Receives Funding

by Nick Tufaro

The New Jersey Chapter was awarded the full \$5,000.00 requested in our Chapter Initiative Program project for initial preparation of a defensible upgrade of state certification to a responsible practice license. This marks the highest single amount given out through the program this year. With matching funds from the local budget, we intend to identify the valid testimony and potential roadblocks to a practice law and more responsible charge positioning in the municipal approval process within the state, and hire independent counsel to assist in administrative law and legislative action issues and strategies. National will also be funding expenses a New Jersey representative to the "50 by 2010" Licensing Summit to be held in Monterey, California, Nov.2 thru 4, 2001.

Volunteers for the Site Plan Responsibilities Task Force and suggestions for legal support are welcome. Phone, write or voice your support at our next PAC Meeting will be held in Room 113 of Blake Hall, Cook Douglass College, October 16 @ 6:00 p.m.

## NJ Coalition Fall Forum

by Elaine Walker, ASLA

This year's Fall Forum, presented by the NJ Coalition of Design Professionals, will be held on Thursday, October 4 at the Holiday Inn in Jamesburg. This year's Forum has been expanded and enhanced to include exhibits, additional educational sessions, and Society governance meetings. The day will begin at 8:15 a.m. with a continental breakfast and conclude with a networking reception beginning at 4:00 p.m.

Session topics include watershed management, water quality rules implementation, traffic calming, school construction, wireless communication, copyright protection, construction qualification, green technology, and safe drinking water. Our own Henry Arnold, FASLA, will also give a presentation on guidelines for special tree planting techniques in unique urban environments.

The \$75 registration fee includes continental breakfast and lunch. Society breakout sessions, such as Henry's, are an additional \$25, which will benefit NJASLA. Application has been made for CEU credits. For more information or to register please call Vicky at NJSPE (609) 393-0099.

## Message From ASLA President

by Len Hopper, ASLA

I am writing this message to you at the end of an extremely difficult week. As many of you know, I not only worked across the street from the World Trade Center (it's the building marked as Post Office or Federal Building on the maps that appear in the newspapers) but my windows faced the towers. I was at my desk as we heard the jet bearing down on us, we got to the window just as the plane struck the first tower (just a couple of hundred feet from my window). The horror of the building being engulfed in flames so quickly as well as the sight of watching people kicking the windows out and jumping from eighty floors above the ground, is still etched in my mind. As the second jet circle from the South, it disappeared for a few seconds behind the building and then reappeared to the East. For a brief second or two, it seemed to be heading directly for my office, as we stood at the windows watching the North tower. But as news video would later show, the plane continued to turn and hit the southerly side of the South tower. We ducked behind columns as the debris and fireball came our way. It was at this point, realizing that this was not an accident that we were witnessing, that my staff and I made our way down the stairs to the street. We all were several blocks north at the time of the tower collapse.

While still struggling with the enormity of this event, the reality struck that our upcoming meeting in Montreal needed to be addressed. In keeping with the spirit in the early aftermath of not allowing this tragic event to disrupt us, ASLA issued a statement that indicated that the meeting would go forward as planned.

In the days that followed, there was a great deal of communication between those who were going to the Annual Meeting, those that help support the Annual Meeting, the ASLA staff and the volunteer leadership. As the days went by, it became increasingly clear that things were not going to return to normal as quickly as thought. Many exhibitors and registrants began to let us know that they would not be going to Montreal. Others indicated they would go if we held the meeting but would rather not have to travel. Speakers and presenters began to cancel. The meeting was quickly becoming fractured beyond repair.

As someone so close to the tragedy, I wanted to demonstrate that these terrorist acts could not keep me down, my city down or my country down. As ASLA President, I wanted the opportunity to share with you my accomplishments and fulfillment of the commitments I made to you when I became President in St. Louis. There are few among us that wanted the Annual Meeting to be held more than I did.

It was therefore, with a great deal of difficulty and emotion that I took the position that it was in the best interests of the Society and its members to cancel the Annual Meeting in Montreal. The Executive Committee had extensive and intense discussion via conference call to review the options. It was an extremely difficult decision to make, each option and position was fully explored, and at the end of the call, the Executive Committee made the unanimous decision to cancel the Annual Meeting.

By canceling the Meeting, we were dealing with a known number of issues that would need to be addressed. By moving forward, the best we could hope for would have been a broken and somber meeting with an unknown number of variables to deal with, many of which might have been out of our control. Not the least among them being the safety and concern for our members. There are those that believe this is not yet over. It is clear that America will strike back and there may be repercussions from that action. As America readies itself for war, to bring so many of you away from your homes and families in such a time of need was not a responsible position to take. There are those that agree and support the decision to cancel the

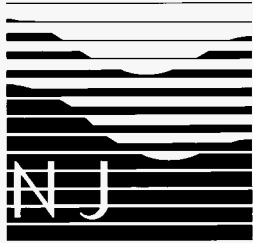
Annual Meeting and those that disagree. I can assure you that either decision was not considered a good one. The one we made, was the one with the less potential risk for our members and this Society. If we are to be second guessed as being too cautious, I can more easily live with that, then if we were to move forward with a meeting with potential for greater risk.

ASLA is working very hard to find other alternatives that will recognize those that were to be honored in Montreal as well as for us all to celebrate the profession that we all love. We are looking for a way to do this that will be meaningful for all participants. We are working on ways to take care of the governance issues and the business of the Society that would have taken place in Montreal. And last but certainly not least, we are working to ensure that our members do not suffer financial burden from the cancellation of the Annual Meeting. The ASLA staff, Executive Committee, Board of Trustees, Chapter Presidents and other members of the volunteer leadership have exhibited tremendous strength and determination in making difficult decisions and in implementing all the necessary actions that are needed. My heartfelt thanks goes out to all of them. I ask for your understanding and patience during this difficult time. There will be communication going to you on all of these items in the coming days and weeks.

One final thought. In the days following the disaster, there was a great deal of attention focused on getting the stock exchange up and running. It was as if this economic center was the very heart that pumped life through the veins of this city. If the stock exchange plays that role, then certainly Landscape Architecture is the conscious and very soul of this city and our country. As people gathered in the great parks and open spaces, especially here in NYC where we have been so deeply touched, they were able to share as one community the grief, feel the support, receive comfort and the reassurance that we will find a way to move on with our lives. The memorials set up in places like Union Square Park are tributes to those lost and those rescue workers who are continuing their work. The work we do and spaces we create are so very versatile. They function in times of joy and in times of sorrow. They allow us to come together in extremely emotional times. They allow us to connect with nature and feel that we are connected to a greater spirit beyond. I feel so very proud of what we do. The examples of our work are serving to help in the recovery and healing process this past week. It is a reaffirmation of how important a role Landscape Architecture plays in creating a sense of community and in strengthening society.

In closing, I would ask that we all take a moment to remember those that have died and especially important, love those that are living.

Len Hopper  
ASLA President



ASLA

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**ASLA** Today

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## Annual Gold Outing

by Joseph Perello, ASLA

The NJASLA "Tournament of Professionals" Golf Outing was held on Monday, September 17, 2001 at Minebrook Golf Club in Hackettstown, NJ. All those attending enjoyed the absolutely perfect weather, the scenic golf course with rolling topography and mature vegetation, and the scrumptious lunch and dinner buffets. A total of 53 attendees participated in this NJASLA Golf Outing, and it was a social and financial success! Thanks to all who attended, sponsored or assisted with the event! Numerous door prizes were distributed to attendees, and awards were presented to the following individuals in the designated category:

### 1st Place Lowest Team Gross, with a score of 61 (9 under par)

Russ Walters / Bill Aspal / John Darlington / Andy Nehlia

### Longest Drive, Hole #9

Brian Gates

### Closest to the Pin, Hole # 17

Rick Barrett (9'-4")

### NJASLA Would Like To Thank The Following Sponsors For Supporting This Outing

Boyce Associates	Tom Brennan / Brian Sherry	800-441-9400
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Urban Accessories / Super Secure Structures	Joe Fasanella	800-544-7529

## Executive Committee Meeting

by Elaine Walker, ASLA

The next NJASLA Executive Committee Meeting will be held on Thursday, October 11 at 6:00 pm. The meeting will feature a Public Forum section in which Chapter members can bring forward new issues that are of concern to them. All students and professionals are encouraged to attend this meeting, which will be held in Blake Hall at Rutgers University in New Brunswick. Please RSVP your attendance to Elaine Walker at elainewalker@mindspring.com.

## New Trends in Paris Parks & Open Spaces Lecture

by Pam Stewart, Rutgers University

The Department of Landscape Architecture at Rutgers University presents the first annual "Margaret O. Cekada Memorial Lecture". Margaret Cekada was a promising student who died of cancer last year. The lecture entitled "New Trends in Paris Parks and Open Spaces" will be presented by Marilyn Clemens. Marilyn is an Urban Designer at the Maryland National Capital Park and Planning Commission.

The lecture will take place Wednesday, October 17, 2001 at 8:00 p.m. in the Art History Building, Room 200 on the Douglass Campus of Rutgers University. Donations made in Margaret Cekada's memory will sponsor upcoming lectures.