This publication is produced quarterly by elected members of the Executive Committee in an effort to inform our Chapter Membership about relevant stories, opportunities, and items of interest on both the local and national levels. In the production of this publication, many contributors are often enlisted to share their professional and personal opinions. These opinions do not necessarily reflect the official position of the Georgia Chapter of the American Society of Landscape Architects (GA|ASLA) nor the national association of the American Society of Landscape Architects (ASLA). The chapter’s positions on various topics are aligned with national’s position which can be found at the ASLA website. For archived issues of the LA Letter, simply go to the chapter website at www.gaasla.org for further information. All archived issues are found in the “Publication” navigation bar and listed as “eNewsletters.” If the issue you are looking for is not found, please contact the Communications Member at Large (mal_comweb@gaasla.org).

The Georgia Chapter of the American Society of Landscape Architects seeks to support a healthy planet through environmentally conscious production and distribution of its quarterly publication. In an effort to strive for sustainable financial stewardship, the Chapter has dedicated the formerly accrued printing / mailing expenses from the LA Letter to better serving the membership.

Cover art: Four Trees (pastel) by Rich Panico Featured in UGA’s Circle Gallery

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

PRESIDENT
Jonathan Young

MAL COMMUNICATION
Nathan Aarons

PRESIDENT ELECT
Matt Cherry

MAL MEMBERSHIP
Open Position

SECRETARY
Matt Wilder

MAL PUBLIC RELATIONS CHAIR
Sam Spitale

TREASURER
Sydney Thompson

MAL NEWSLETTER
Dave Hasslinger

TRUSTEE
Brian LAhaie

ADVOCACY CHAIR
Bobby Bullard

PUBLIC RELATIONS
SECTION CHAIRS
Ben Kent, Atlanta Section
Dale Jaeger, Northeast/Athens Section
Chuck Taylor, Coastal/Savannah Section
Wimberly Treadwell, Middle Georgia Section

EDITORS
Dave Hasslinger, mal_comweb@gaasla.org
CONTENTS

NATIONAL
Trustee’s Message
ASLA Headquarters Update

CHAPTER
Presidents Message
Clermont Lee
Public Relations Update
Jon Benson

SECTION
Clermont Lee Revisited
ASLA Southeast Regional Conference
Georgia Stormwater News

ACADEMIA
GSLA News
Upcoming Events
Olmsted Scholar Nominees
Landscape, Remembrance, and Healing
The Circle Gallery
It’s always a pleasure to report on the activities at ASLA supporting our profession. As many of you know I have been fortunate to spend many years on the ASLA Board of Trustees representing practicing professionals in both Alabama and Georgia. As Trustees, we approve budgets, set programmatic priorities, and subtly define the direction of the ASLA from a national perspective. We also carry your views and opinions to the board meeting and represent state agendas and priorities.

While most of us are busy practicing the art and science of landscape architecture, Our ASLA Executive Vice President Nancy Somerville, and her capable staff are busy year round advocating for the profession, providing educational opportunities and informing the profession on current issues and priorities. The national office has never been busier or more dedicated to your profession. Here are a few priority items that they have been working on lately.

ASLA Branding and Imaging

A branding and imaging campaign has begun with further discussion to be presented at the Mid-year trustees meeting April 26–28. This initiative, on the heels of the Headquarters renovation, will seek to solidify the ASLA message, identity and graphic communication for the future. A rebranding team, Poulin + Morris of New York, has been retained and has begun preliminary studies. More to come.

Emphasis on Emerging Professionals and Diversity

The staff and elected officials of ASLA continue to develop programs and initiatives to promote the continued membership and participation of students and young emerging professionals. As an initial step, the board has opened two positions on the board and plan to appoint or elect young professionals to better inform the ASLA on policy and priorities of importance to this vital group of the profession. Additionally, the board is seeking input now available from the 4th Annual Diversity Summit held in Washington DC last June. ASLA is seeking to identify tactics that could be implemented over the next 12 months to improve diversity and diversity representation in the profession.

The Center for Landscape Architecture

After months of planning, demolition and construction, the national headquarters in Washington DC has a major makeover. After having to relocate for the past several months, the staff has returned to the newly renovated building. Fundraising continues to offset the costs incurred in this multi-million dollar building enhancement project. Donations to the building campaign now total over 1.2 million dollars – over 80% of the target goal. Look for “Open House” announcements in the near future.
Government Affairs and Advocacy

The November election brought a new administration to the white house along with new initiatives and priorities. ASLA’s Government Affairs division is working with the new leaders to advocate for the profession and to ensure our continued participation in the political process. ASLA continues to focus on Climate Change and Resilience initiatives in planning and design. As a part of the upcoming Annual Mid-year meeting, ASLA will once again participate in Advocacy Day, April 27. ASLA leaders including chapter presidents and trustees will meet in Washington DC with congressmen and representatives to advocate and inform political leaders on issues important to the practice of landscape architecture.

Input to Prioritize Operations

As a part of its strategic planning process, ASLA is constantly seeking input from its membership and leaders. Recently ASLA initiated a 2017 Member Satisfaction Survey seeking input and dialog from its members. If you have opinions, I hope that you participated by filling out the short questionnaire. In preparation for the upcoming Mid-year meeting in DC, ASLA has taken a 3-year SWAT Analysis (Strengths, Weaknesses, Opportunities and Threats). The information gathered in this self-analysis will help refine and prioritize future ASLA operations.

As always, it is an honor to represent the members of the Georgia Chapter ASLA as your Trustee. Please feel free to contact me if you have opinions, questions or concerns regarding ASLA.

Brian J. LaHaie, ASLA
Trustee, Georgia Chapter ASLA
706-542-5125

Important Upcoming Dates

- April 27 Advocacy Day
- April 28-29 ASLA Mid-Year Trustees and Chapter Presidents meeting
- May 15 ASLA Student Awards submittal deadline
- Oct. 20-23 ASLA Annual Meeting and Expo – Los Angeles, CA
You may have already visited the ASLA headquarters to see the award winning green roof designed by Michael Van Valkenburgh Associates, but you may want to start planning another trip to Washington DC. If you thought that the headquarters already included some pretty outstanding sustainability aspects, you will be impressed by its newly renovated, state-of-the-art look. After nearly two decades since the 12,600-square-foot building was built, it was due for some upgrades. Now LEED Platinum and in the pursuit of WELL Silver Certification, this office and meeting space truly embodies the core of ASLA's mission and values. The list of amazing and innovative ideas that now make the building sustainable goes on and on, but several major moves make this space eye-catching and remarkable. Working with architecture firm Gensler and landscape architecture firm Oehme van Sweden, the team formed several goals involving connectivity, water, light, energy, materials, and waste to get the job done.

Let's start with something familiar to all landscape architects and designers: water. The existing green roof that has been sitting atop the headquarters since 2006 is a powerful tool in reducing building energy use and filtering stormwater, but the potential to do even more than that was low hanging fruit for the design team. Shown to already prevent nearly 80% of precipitation hitting the roof from going into DC’s sewer system, the green roof is now linked with a 700-gallon cistern that captures all excess water from the roof and reuses it to irrigate the newly built outdoor patio space. This process is all monitored and recorded in real-time with building tech so ASLA will be able to brag about some outstanding numbers in the next few years. If that wasn’t enough, a lush new patio features many native plants and green walls, all irrigated with a Toro Sentinel system that uses soil moisture sensors for precise and efficient irrigation.

Naturally, a theme of the new space is connecting the indoor and outdoor space throughout the building and even into the larger community. This connectivity is internally achieved by a four-story atrium and skylight that visually reveals the green roof to the first floor and allows an impressive amount of daylighting. Additionally, daylight for workers is maximized by strategic office layout, many glass walls and windows, and skylights. Not only does this daylight penetrate throughout the entire building, it is also part of a supplementary circadian lighting system at each employee’s desk that emits a cool, blue light mimicking the body’s natural wake and sleep cycles and improving wellness. Glass walls, surfaces, and finishes are all low glare to keep the amount of light in the office from becoming overwhelming, and the amount of lighting at each desk space can be personally adjusted.

Many of the materials are described as “honest and natural,” and really nod to an integrated interior and exterior. American black locust wood, a local hardwood, is used throughout in addition to reclaimed wood and a pallet of other naturally inspired colors and materials.
We all know that being truly sustainable goes beyond just physical design and technology, it also means keeping your employees happy and healthy. ASLA has continually proven itself as a sustainability-minded organization, and with the new space and goals of WELL Silver Certification comes even more ambitious green office culture. When an organization offers subsidies and incentives to promote work-life balance, on-site fitness programs, readily available organic fruit, treadmill desks, standing desks, stress management classes, cooking demonstrations AND has received Best Workplace for Commuter awards annually since 2005 among other wellness awards, it seems unlikely that ASLA should need to strive for more. This is not the case in their minds. In regards to health and physical fitness, working for ASLA comes with some pretty great benefits such as gym reimbursement, transportation subsidies, entrance fees for races, subsidized fitness or training, and bike share memberships. Stressed out or worried about your well-being? No problem! ASLA puts on quarterly classes and activities on topics such as guided relaxation, ergonomics, nutrition, financial well-being, and other work/life and well-being issues. ASLA also attacks waste with an ambitious strategy of having employees recycle all paper products that come through the office, and even supplying their workers with 100% recyclable paper products. Pretty impressive!

Gensler’s design of the new office space aims at creating a calming environment by means of incorporating aesthetically-pleasing elements. This is all part of satisfying the WELL Standard for mind and comfort by taking into account aspects such as thermal comfort, acoustic comfort, beauty and design, and ergonomics. The goal was to strategically lay out a space that increases productivity, social interaction, and employee satisfaction and well-being with materials, furnishings, space planning and several other strategies. The building now utilizes features such as noise absorbing materials on walls and ceilings, as-well-as a comprehensive white-noise system to minimize office noises. There is a dedicated wellness room that employees may use for quiet time, multiple showers, and bike lockers to encourage employees to bike or run to work.

In the day and age when sustainability in the built environment has become so important, it is refreshing to see an organization who promotes green building receive a truly state-of-the-art headquarters to demonstrate their commitment to the constantly progressing field of landscape architecture. If you would like to find out more regarding ASLA’s new headquarters and see a short video on the design work and construction that went into this renovation, please click the image to the right.
**Membership? I sent my check in, what more do you want?**

Membership can be a touchy subject – just recall the decision in 2012 by Augusta National to finally accept its first female members. 2012. By definition, membership means someone that “belongs to” or is “part of” a group. Does paying a membership fee make you “belong?” Can you buy “belonging?” That sounds wrong to me – it sounds like “belonging” has a financial barrier to entry: If you can pay X, then you belong. To me, belonging is significantly more than just a price tag. There is a cost to provide members certain services or conveniences, but money does not make you a member. Membership is participation, volunteerism, and dedication.

- If I buy an annual membership to a fitness center and place the membership card in my wallet, but never even park my car (or bike) and go in – am I a member? NO! I did not participate in the 5am “pilates and contortion class” or the 6am “spin your heart rate to near explosion cycle class” so I am therefore not an active member. I paid for a card with a unique ID number, but I am not a member. I did not use the services my membership offers. Are you using the services your ASLA membership offers? Are you actively participating in ASLA opportunities?

- Our membership is enhanced when we invest in the organization. Most of us can agree that feeding a meal to a homeless family is a worthwhile cause, but when we sign up and volunteer to be the person serving green beans to an 8-year-old and her family – our view of membership changes. Our personal investment of time and talent has strengthened our membership. When we get involved and invest our time, we strengthen our sense of “belonging.” How have you strengthened your ASLA membership? What have you done – criticize, blame and point vs. participate, volunteer and grow?

- Acronyms often fight for space in our email signatures – ASLA, PLA, USGBC, ULI, CNU, AIA, AICP, SITES, LEED. They signify the memberships we proclaim to clients, peers and co-workers. But am I dedicated to them all? Dedicated inherently means that I am devoted to, single-minded, focused on, and loyal. How can I be single-minded on 9 things [I think it’s time to re-think my email signature]? Dedication is not a period of time, rather dedication is over time. As an Eagle Scout, there was a time that I was not actively involved in the Boy Scouts of America (BSA). Recently, my son has joined a local Boy Scout Troop and I have found myself actively involved again. Dedication to the BSA as an organization has not wavered, yet my participation and volunteerism has. Don’t let your dedication to ASLA waiver. Is it time for you to be active again?

Throughout the diverse profession of Landscape Architecture, we have similar interests. We have all chosen to make a career out of Landscape Architecture. We all want to be recognized for our hard work and innovative designs. We all have certain aspirations that our work will have an impact on society and the world. Yet, these interests, goals and aspirations are difficult to achieve in isolation. Membership offers us an opportunity to collaborate and grow our skills. For some members, it appears to be another “beer tasting event” – but for those dedicated members who participated and volunteered, it was an opportunity to ask local vendors technical questions, a chance to peek into the firm logistics of every scale, and time to invest in professional relationships. And yes, I did have a beer or two.

Trust me, I get it. The demands on our time and resources are endless. The pie is not getting bigger, yet there seem to be more slices in the pie. Over the course of our career the number of slices in our pie have changed. As a “staff landscape designer,” the pie only had a few slices. As a “licensed PLA,” the pie was serving a lot of folks. As a “principal / owner,” it felt like we never even got a slice of our own pie. As a “sage,” the pie seemed to finally be in balance. Which pie are you?

---

**PRESIDENTS MESSAGE**

**JONATHAN YOUNG**

---

**LEAD PARTICIPATE EDUCATE**

---

Join ASLA Today.
• Staff Landscape Designer Pie – You’re young. Relatively speaking, your life is simple. You have a lot of ambition and sometimes spend too many hours in the office. When you’re not in the office, there are only a handful of things you choose to spend your time and resources on. Friendships and relationships are important and often lead the list of preferred activities. Money is tight and student loans are a bit ominous. Membership fees are way down the list of priorities. Fear not. The good news is, that most employers will pick up a portion (if not all) of your tab for professional development. Have you asked?

• Licensed PLA Pie – You’re not so young (although you think you are). Your life is getting a little complicated. You are still ambitious, but you are not sure all those hours in the office are paying off. The wisdom of working smarter not harder is beginning to manifest. Your stage of life is definitely changing – you are considering a partner in life or even a family if you haven’t already done so. Money is still tight but you are managing both your time and resources well. Your schedule is full and you decide you can’t attend any of the membership functions. The good news is, it’s not an all or nothing membership. Find one event a quarter that can fit into your schedule. Stay connected.

• Principal/Owner Pie – what were you thinking? Pie? You didn’t even get lunch and dinner wasn’t even in the cards until that company email came out about some leftovers from the lunch and learn that afternoon. Pie? When you do get a spare 7 minutes, you would prefer to check in with the family or close friends that forgot you still lived in Atlanta. The good news is that some of those friends are ASLA members and you may be able to catch up with them (or hire them) at an upcoming section social.

• Sage Pie – I have no idea what this pie looks like. I am only assuming it even exists. The theory is that once you have experienced a fulfilling career in Landscape Architecture, you might like to pass on some of that knowledge to a younger generation. If you are a sage, find someone that can use your wisdom and advice and mentor them. Most GAASLA events are a great opportunity to share some wisdom for the next crop of Landscape Architects. If you would consider yourself a “Sage” and you don’t see anyone in your professional circles that could benefit from your experiences – this is my hand officially raised. Call me and let’s get a bite or a beer and I can soak up some wisdom (678-925-3246).

Your Current President,
Jonathan Young
WHO WAS CLERMONT LEE AND WHY SHOULD ANYONE CARE?

She’s been called the Saint of Savannah’s Squares. She found her personal spirituality by clearing out old rural cemeteries on Sundays. She didn’t buy into any fashion trends and bought her clothes at Kmart. She was irascible and not shy about a scuffle should she need to make a point. But most of all, she was a pioneer. She was Clermont Lee (1914-2006), one of the first professional women practicing in the field of landscape architecture in Georgia, and known as the foremost expert in recreating historic landscapes during the mid-20th century in Savannah.

A stroll through almost any section of Savannah would reveal the other-worldly atmosphere of the huge trees and grassy plazas framing historic buildings, or secret gardens peeking out behind brick fences. Experiencing this today is part of experiencing historic Savannah: walking the narrow sidewalks, crossing the famous squares, feeling the awe of the beautiful architecture. Savannah didn’t always look this orderly, this well kept. Clermont Lee was instrumental in providing her professional acumen to rapidly fading landscapes surrounding the historic homes which are now famous in Savannah.

She was a leader, a pioneer if you will, in championing accurate gardens for historic homes. In spite of the popular simplified “Williamsburg” Colonial Revival viewpoint of the 1950s through the 1970s, she would design a historically correct garden. She designed gardens for the 150 year-old Owens-Thomas House on Oglethorpe Square, and the Green-Meldrim mansion. She provided oversight and maintenance for the Owens-Thomas gardens for almost 15 years. Later, she provided appropriate designs and planting plans for the now threatened Juliette Gordon Low Birthplace garden.

So why was this landscape architect called a Saint of Savannah’s Squares? She was busy recreating historic landscapes for beautiful historic houses. These squares were just seen as a remnant of old Savannah, not really historic, not worthy of city funding and were even considered dangerous after dark. Squares that had been existing for over two hundred years were suffering from neglect; they had become jumbles of pathways, playgrounds, deserted wells, utility poles and chain link fencing. Weeds grew along the curbing; petty thieves hid amongst the overgrown plantings at night.

From 1951 to 1972 Clermont Lee developed and oversaw the renovation and installation of five of Savannah’s squares: Warren, Washington, Greene, Troup and Madison. She teamed with Mills B. Lane, Jr. and often battled with the city to provide the oasis of green that visitors stroll through today. One of the problems was bus lines and emergency crews wanting to cut the squares with straight lanes, which Lee solved by rounding the corners of the squares. Her 50 year old designs are still evident today and should be jealously guarded by the city planners as assets to the historic context of Savannah.

Clermont Lee achieved remarkable success given the obstacles she faced. Again and again, she proved her professional and personal determination and pioneering spirit in her long career of more than sixty-five years. She not only made history for women in the landscape profession, but also had a lasting impact on the quality of Savannah’s historic landscapes. The Georgia Women of Achievement, an organization dedicated to recognizing important women in Georgia’s history, is honoring Clermont Huger Lee. Her induction ceremony into the Georgia Women’s Hall of Fame is March 9, 2017 in Macon. It’s been a long time coming.

[Ced Dolder, retired from the Georgia Historic Preservation Division, has researched Clermont Lee for over 19 years, beginning with a historic context report on the accomplishments of women in the built environment, completed for the Georgia National Register in 2008.]
GA ASLA Members, we have many exciting events and opportunities this coming Spring. First and foremost, April is World Landscape Architecture Month. I encourage everyone to join us in a social media photo challenge. As a chapter, we are going to promote Landscape Architecture by posting a picture a day relative to a corresponding hashtag on Facebook and Instagram. See the list below or visit us on Facebook for more details. Like years past, we will have a This is Landscape Architecture “card” available online for print or download to post with your LA pictures. We can’t wait to see the variety of photos!

***But wait, there’s more! GAASLA will be participating in a Social Media Takeover of National. On May 9th GAASLA will post pictures directly to ASLA’s social outlets. Here is YOUR opportunity to shine. Send us photos of your latest project, award or social event for a chance to see it on ASLA National’s social media.***

Hot off the press! First edition of LAM magazine for children, YOUR LAND, is available for download on ASLA’s webpage or you may order print copies by contacting discover@asla.org. This publication is a long talked about effort to introduce a wealth of information about our profession and what we (actually) do into grades K-12; ultimately making the title, “Landscape Architect,” a household career choice for students.

Also in April, we look forward to celebrating Fredrick Law Olmsted’s birthday with a Walking Tour and Social hour at the Olmsted Linear Park Alliance April 14th.

If you were looking forward to the ASLA annual conference in Los Angeles this year, but just can’t make it to the West coast, join us in Charlotte, NC, June 8-10, for a Southeast Regional conference of our own. Hosted by South Carolina, Georgia and North Carolina, we hope to connect with members, partners and vendors from our sister chapters.

WLAM 2017
Photo Challenge
Photo a day for 30 days in April
@GAASLA

1. #UrbanLandscape
2. #HistoricPark
3. #LandscapeAndArchitecture
4. #NativeLandscape
5. #TherapeuticLandscape
6. #SketchBook
7. #LandscapeAndPeople
8. #CampusLandscape
9. #LandscapeArchitectureInfrastructure
10. #GreenRoof
11. #Cemetery
12. #UrbanStreetscape
13. #NationalPark
14. #Conservatory
15. #LandscapeAndHabitat
16. #Residential
17. #PocketPark
18. #LandscapeAndArt
19. #Plants
20. #Trails
21. #Garden
22. #Memorial
23. #MotherNature
24. #LandscapeAndTechnology
25. #CorporateLandscape
26. #MetroPark
27. #LandscapeAndTransportation
28. #LandscapeNotConstructed
29. #LandscapeAndWater
30. #UrbanPark

Connect with us on social media and stay up to date with us on Facebook, Instagram and Twitter.

Keep an eye out for our next networking social.

Hope to see you in the Spring,
Samantha Spitale
We mourn the passing of Jon Benson, a well-respected leader in his profession, founder of the landscape architecture firm jB+a, and, most recently, the Client Service Leader for the Atlanta office of Barge, Waggoner, Sumner and Cannon, Inc.

Jon was a dynamic leader among his peers. His genuine, caring, and passionate nature was deeply rooted in his planning and landscape architecture practice. His professional experience was diverse, his projects varied and his designs innovative. Nothing captured his passion for landscape architecture more than the ultimate fulfillment of observing people using the spaces that he designed in both expected and unexpected ways.

In 1999, downstairs in his basement office, Jon’s desire to start a planning and landscape architecture practice was born. He set out to surround himself with talented, creative design professionals that excelled at the highest level of client service. Jon made sure that each jB+a client received quality service and a more livable, maintainable and sustainable project long past his time. It was his foresight, toward the end of his life’s journey, to leave his company in caring, capable hands, with the ability to carry on these standards.

It was his career experiences and leadership that uniquely positioned jB+a for success, providing clients across the southeastern United States with responsive service and a lasting impact on the community’s he served. That spirit now lives on through the team at Barge, Waggoner, Sumner and Cannon, Inc.

Jon’s legacy to the profession and to the larger community will continue to be served through the Benson Family Graduate Student Support Fund. Donations may be sent in memory of Jon directly to Ms. Jennifer Messer at 285 S. Jackson Street, Athens GA. 30602 and are payable to the “UGA Foundation”.

Notable Projects

Jon was the winner of an international design competition for the Wilmington 1898 Memorial. Other notable projects include:

- The National Rose Garden – Washington, DC
- Atlanta University Streetscape – Atlanta, Georgia
- Olympic Whitewater Venue – Ducktown, Tennessee
- One Buckhead Loop – Atlanta, Georgia
- Lithonia Lighting Corporate Headquarters – Conyers, Georgia
- Dallas Downtown Streetscapes – Dallas, Georgia
- Woodruff Library Plaza – Atlanta, Georgia
CLERMONT LEE

CLERMONT LEE INDUCTED INTO THE GEORGIA WOMEN OF ACHIEVEMENT

Clermont Huger Lee (1914-2006) became the first landscape architect inducted into the Georgia Women Achievement (GWA) on March 9, 2017 in Macon. Members of the Northeast Georgia and Middle Georgia sections of GAASLA attended the induction ceremony. GAASLA also hosted a luncheon following the ceremony for chapter members and in appreciation of the GWA staff and Board of Selections.

The Georgia Women of Achievement program began in 1989 at Wesleyan College in Macon, Georgia. After making an appearance at a ceremony for a similar program in Alabama, the “Women’s Hall of Fame,” First Lady Rosalyn Carter suggested that Georgia create its own program. The first GWA induction ceremony was held in 1992 and recognized such noted Georgia women as American author and essayist, Flannery O’Connor; Girl Scout Founder, Juliette Gordon Low; and educator and founder of Berry College in Rome, Georgia, Martha McChesney Berry. From artists to authors, scientists, politicians and athletes, almost 100 women to date have inducted into this prestige group.

The purpose of GWA is to honor women in Georgia’s history who have made outstanding contributions to the State of Georgia and who serve as an inspiration for present day Georgians. Nominees must have been deceased for at least ten years, and they must also be native to or clearly identified with Georgia, have made exceptional contributions, and possess a life story that inspires others to make use of their own talents. The public submits nominations with inductees selected by the Board of Selections within GWA.

Lee’s accomplishments are many. She was one of Georgia’s earliest women to practice landscape architecture. Receiving her MLA from Smith College in 1939. She established her own firm in 1949 and specialized in historic landscapes in her hometown of Savannah and throughout Georgia. Her research in garden history was noteworthy and served as the basis for countless restorations. Some of her most significant commissions included landscape designs for the Owens-Thomas House and the Juliette Gordon Low Birthplace in Savannah. Lee also was responsible for the restoration and rehabilitation of five of Savannah’s neglected squares from 1951-1973. Lee developed a Master Plan for Jekyll Island in 1967-1968 with the goal to restore the area known as “Millionaire’s Village” to its 1910-1929 era. Though not fully implemented, Lee’s plans served as a foundation in the redevelopment of today’s Jekyll Island Historic District.

Lee was an advocate for the profession of landscape architecture. She assisted in the creation of the Georgia Board of Landscape Architects, becoming Georgia’s first woman to be a Registered Landscape Architect. She was also active in and served on boards of many national and state level landscape architectural and historic preservation organizations. GASA is extremely proud to have one of its esteemed members recognized as a “Georgia Woman of Achievement.”

A short video on the life of Clermont Lee, which was prepared for the GWA ceremony, will be posted soon on the GAASLA website. Stay tuned!

Article by
Dale Jaeger, NEGA Section Chair GAASLA
Wimberly Treadwell, Middle Georgia Section Chair GAASLA

Notes:
The information on Clermont Lee was obtained from the GWA Nomination Form prepared by Ced Dolder, Historian and Preservationist. Ms. Dolder’s study of Clermont began in the 1990s as part of a National Register Historic Context Statement on Women and the Built Environment. In researching early female landscape architects, landscape architect Jim Cothran (1940-1912) suggested Clermont Lee as a good person to interview. Ms. Dolder interviewed Clermont Lee and was able to incorporate first-hand accounts of her career in the study.

Additional research on Clermont Lee is also being carried out by her niece, Alice Frazer. She is one of many family members interviewed in the video. Ms. Frazer is in the process of archiving files of Clermont Lee and to date has provided digital information to the Georgia Historical Society in Savannah.

Image Credits
Photo of Clermont Lee
Photo Credit: Ced (Cynthia E.) Dolder
Jekyll Island Master Plan
Credit: Jekyll Island State Park Authority

Dale Jaeger
The Wait Is Over!

Registration for the ASLA Southeast Regional Conference is NOW OPEN!

The conference will be held June 8 - 10, 2017 at the Charlotte Convention Center and Embassy Suites Uptown hotel in gorgeous Uptown Charlotte!
The Expo will be at the Charlotte Convention Center on June 8 & 9 with over 50 vendors participating.

Conference Schedule At A Glance
Full Conference Schedule with session details and speaker bios
Click here to register for the ASLA Southeast Regional Conference!
The conference hotel is the Embassy Suites Uptown. Please book your hotel now to take advantage of the $179 rate first come, first serve basis. Click Here for more information and the link to secure your hotel room.

Friday Keynote
David Rubin, ASLA, FAAR
DAVID RUBIN Land Collective

Thursday Keynote
Kona Gray, ASLA
Principal of EDSA

Saturday Panel Discussion
Implementation & Impacts of Regional Trail Systems - A Discussion of the Atlanta Beltline, Cross-Charlotte Trail, and the Swamp Rabbit Trail

• Paul Morris, FASLA - President and CEO Atlanta Beltline
• Michael Kirshman, CPRP Mecklenburg County Park and Recreation Deputy Director
• The Honorable Blake Sanders, ASLA Mayor of West Pelzer, SC
• Moderator Beth Poovey, ASLA - LandDesign

All images are credited to and adapted from ASLA.org
Re: Sealing stormwater plans?

On December 7, 2006, the Metropolitan North Georgia Water Planning District (MNGWPD) adopted a “model” ordinance that excluded landscape architects from sealing certain portions of stormwater plans. This model ordinance went directly against Georgia State law and other legal decisions through the years that affirmed our right as landscape architects to seal stormwater plans including stormwater management reports. Since local ordinances cannot preempt state law, Georgia Landscape Architects are fully protected by General Law to continue with their civil liberty to perform those professional services, incidental to the landscape architect profession, which includes stormwater management, and hydrological studies. (See O.C.G.A. 43-23-1(3) & O.C.G.A. 43-23-16). In addition, we are included in the definition of “Design Professional” under the State General Permit which means the National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) general permit.

The Georgia Coastal Water Planning District (GCWPD) recognized the error and adopted a stormwater ordinance that specifically includes landscape architects as professionals qualified to seal storm water plans. In addition, many of the local jurisdictions in the MNWPD, after legal counsel, have determined that the model district’s recommendations to exclude landscape architects were legally erroneous and either adopted regulations contrary to the district’s ordinance, or have administratively continued to allow landscape architects to seal stormwater plans. Gwinnett County, Rockdale County, Athens Clarke County, Oconee County, Walton County, The City of Loganville, The City of Monroe, and The City of Sugar Hill are just a few of the jurisdictions that have elected to write ordinances specifically allowing landscape architects to seal stormwater plans.

With the discipline of stormwater management shifting more towards water quality, it is very critical that landscape architects stay at the helm of this special discipline. Landscape architecture education curriculums throughout the country, and locally at the University of Georgia, have been, and continue to be, the leaders and pioneers in this area of water quality treatment and control. In fact, several nationally renowned experts and authors on the latest water quality and stormwater practices are currently serving as professors at the University of Georgia. In addition the 2001 EP&SC (Dry II) report, the UGA SED publication on Water Quality in Georgia, and the Final Technical Advisory Planning Committee Report, dated Jan, 2006 were all publications where landscape architects took the lead in recommending, shaping and implementing better water quality management practices in Georgia. To exclude landscape architects from Stormwater management would be a detriment to the health, safety, and welfare of our communities. We on the Georgia Chapter of the American Society of Landscape Architects have vigorously fought to retain our rights both locally and legally.

Although we continue to hope for a complete legal turnaround on this issue, and are continuing to work toward this end, we need landscape architects to take this issue to the public. Those of you who emphasize stormwater management in your firms continue to fight for your right to seal these plans at the local level. If you have an issue with a district that will not receive your stormwater seal, please let us know. We have developed a strong legal precedent, and have materials that will help you educate governments at a local level as to, not just our legal right to seal the plans, but our moral obligation to do so. For the sake of our environment, it is essential that we stay at the forefront of this critical area of our practice, not just in academia, but also at the local jurisdictional level.

Again, please contact us with any questions or issues that may arise in your professional practice. My contact information is listed below, and we would love to hear from you.

Thank you,

Robert F. Bullard, FASLA
GAASLA Advocacy Chair

Bullard Land Planning, Inc.
3790 Cannonwolde Drive
Snellville, Ga 30039
(770) 334-8714
bblbobby@bellsouth.net
Web Site: Bullardandplanning.com

Donn Mann, Rain Bird Corporation
(520) 904-1146 mobile • Dmann@rainbird.com
www.rainbird.com

GEORGIA STORMWATER NEWS

Preserving beauty while conserving water. That’s intelligent.

From water-saving nozzles to sprays with pressure-regulating stems to leading-edge Smart Control Technology, Rain Bird products deliver superior results with less water.

Rain Bird
The Georgia Students of Landscape Architecture Chapter partnered with the UGA Career Center to put on a Landscape Architecture Internship and Career Fair at the College of Environment + Design. The event was held on February 9th in the crit space of Jackson Street Studio with 25 firms in attendance. This year’s fair was a huge success with over 100 students who turned out. 8 firms came for portfolio reviews, before the fair, where students could get objective feedback on their portfolios. Employers, faculty, and students all had an enthusiastic and positive response from the event. It was a great experience for the CE+D and plans are already in the making for next year’s Career Fair to be even better!

March 23-25: LABash
March 18: Parking Day Charrette at Broad St. Studios
March 31: Experience UGA – GSLA partnered with Experience UGA to bring 200 tenth grade students from Clarke Central to the CE+D. This was GSLA’s chance to enlighten young people about the profession of Landscape Architecture and engage teens who tend to fall into the shadow of the university by showing them that college is an option. We are super excited about this!! Student volunteers and the local 10th graders interacted with enthusiasm and sowed seeds for more successful, educational events like this in the future.

April 14: GSLA Sketch Crawl with Thomas Baker – Thomas Baker, recent graduate from UGA’s MLA program flew down from D.C. to lead us in a sketch crawl (like the one they did at ASLA last year).

April 21: Honors day and Neil Reed Lecture

April 28: Landscape, Remembrance, and Healing - exhibit ends

April 28: Landie Prom & Senior Send-off

May 5: CED Graduation (1:30pm - 2:30 pm)
Congratulations to Danielle Schwartz (right), candidate for Master of Landscape Architecture, and Chloe Weigle (left), candidate for Bachelor of Landscape Architecture, for being chosen this year’s CED Olmsted Scholar nominees.

Each year, the CED faculty chooses one graduate student and one undergraduate student to represent UGA CED in the national competition, which is sponsored by the Landscape Architecture Foundation (LAF) Olmsted Scholars Program. The program recognizes one graduate and one undergraduate student from an accredited landscape architecture program in the United States and Canada to receive scholarships, totaling $25,000 and $15,000 respectively. According to the LAF, the Olmsted Scholars Program recognizes students with “exceptional leadership potential who are using ideas, influence, communication, service and leadership to advance sustainable design and foster human and societal benefits.”

Danielle Schwartz is a second year MLA student interested in social justice issues, particularly with regards to immigration and Latin American communities. Chloe Weigle is a senior BLA student, minoring in horticulture and has a particular interest in community-based design. Both women represent outstanding scholarship and professionalism at the CED and are active within CED and UGA.

As a graduate of UGA’s College of Environment and Design, I can truly say that every time a new artist’s work showed up at the studio I would find myself making several trips to The Circle Gallery to get inspiration or just to take a break from working. The Circle Gallery is an asset to the CE+D and brings in work from many talented individuals. If you end up in the Athens area, I highly recommend stopping by to take a glance at whomever’s work is on display! The current artist on display is Rich Panico who’s work is featured on the cover of this quarter’s newsletter.

Rich Panico is an esteemed physician, yogi and artist who has successfully engaged in a complex career in Athens for over 40 years. He is currently practicing mind-body medicine part time, teaching integrative medicine to physicians, and is a non-degree graduate student in the Lamar Dodd School of Art at UGA. He is a board certified psychiatrist, the founder and former director of the Mind-Body Institute at Athens Regional Medical Center, former medical director of Advantage Behavioral Health Systems and was division chief of psychiatry at Athens Regional Medical Center for many years. He is a long time student and practitioner of classical yoga and its therapeutic applications and has taught this older interior form of yoga and meditation for three decades. His training in art was through an apprenticeship in oriental high fire ceramics and he has worked for over thirty years with indigenous clays and glaze materials, ultimately creating a large body of work inspired by Neolithic animal effigy vessels. In 2003 he taught himself to draw and paint with pastels, developing an avid interest in landscape and figurative work which complement his work in ceramics.

Circle Gallery Exhibit: March 16-April 28, 2017
College of Environment + Design
285 South Jackson Street
The University of Georgia
Athens, GA 30602 USA
The Circle Gallery at the UGA College of Environment and Design

Named for the holistic nature of design, the Circle Gallery remains an interesting hub of activity and inspiration at the College. With its perfect location just inside the main entrance of the Jackson Street Building, and the dramatic glass wall that allows us to view the artwork even when the gallery is closed, it also becomes a bridge to the whole UGA community and Athens.

We now have five exhibits per year; the first four feature artists outside our college and the fifth is the annual student exit show, often displaying the capstone projects of our graduating BLA students. Throughout the summer, this display, and the attending displays throughout the building help communicate to parents and potential students the kinds of projects we work on.

This year we featured first the works of four practitioners: Chris Hite, Anne Daigh, Rob Fisher, and Brent LLoyd. The second show was an installation created by environmental artist Chris Taylor, who used venues of Southern spectatorship (stadiums, churches, race tracks, etc.) to inspire his sculpture. In January and February we hosted a traveling photography exhibit by Vaughn Sills that featured gardens of African Americans, many of them from Athens and surrounding counties. The last professional exhibit of the year was titled Landscape, Remembrance, and Healing by Athens artist and psychiatrist Rich Panico. Panico’s exhibit was accompanied by an intriguing lecture about the physical and emotional responses to one’s place, a kind of remembrance of our true self, which is never separate from nature. All of the artists generously donate 10% of their sales in the Circle Gallery to the CED.

Plans for the coming year include exhibits about earlier practitioners Warren Manning and modernist James Rose; an exhibit of paintings by professor emerita Cecile Martin; and the sculptures of Jean Westmacott, which will be accompanied by photographs that show the sites where her pieces are installed on campuses and around town. A more detailed schedule will be available this summer.

As advised by a board comprised of CED faculty, we try to display art and works that are a compendium of design efforts, from individual artists who may or may not have literal interpretations to preservation through art, such as archival photographs and maps. We welcome the general public to the gallery weekdays from 9 a.m. to 6 p.m., and to our opening receptions.

For more information, call Melissa Tufts at 706-542-8292 or go to the CED website and click on the News and Events tab: ced.uga.edu.
OUR SPONSORS

Bob Scott - CID, ASIC, EPA WaterSense Partner

Farm Fresh Sod • 10+ Varieties
Delivered Where & When You Need It

- Delivery or Pickup
- 1 Pallet Minimum
- Farm Fresh Quality
- Certified Turf Professionals
- 10+ Varieties of Sod

770-832-8608
NGTurf.com