

## PRESIDENT'S ADDRESS

### Letter from Hannah Loope, Incoming VTASLA President

I write, still fresh from the ASLA annual conference in Chicago, where a huge diversity of landscape architecture work and scale was presented, analyzed, and discussed in flurries of ideas and energy. Whenever I travel, I am a wide-eyed sponge, compelled to explore a diversity of public places. I first delve into documentation mode, where I investigate the static elements of a site and marvel at elegant details, materials, and the space they create – and very quickly I shift to simply experiencing the place. To me, the true beauty and personality of a place exists in how people interact with a designed environment over time, and how that interaction evolves over time. In public spaces across our communities, I see parents and children playing together, teenage girls bustling by in a cloud of laughter, a businessman relieved to find solace in a picnic lunch spent outside, older couples walking silently hand in hand. My memories of places, such as those I experienced in Chicago, are always intertwined with these interactions and how they define that place. What a huge opportunity and responsibility we have as professionals to create space in our communities that holds up a mirror to the need, desires, and personality of the public – together, people interacting with place create culture.

Here in Vermont, I'm so inspired by the diversity of practice we undertake as designers, researchers, builders, educators, historians, and planners, each reflecting our local culture. We practice here, and collaborate with others to share our craft across the globe. As are physical forms of travel, working with other disciplines to create beautiful, functional, safe and relevant places is a vortex of information and ideas across art, science, technology, and experience. While this vortex may occasionally create turbulence, it is this fluid, complex motion of colliding ideas that also stretches and twists their interaction to create innovation and momentum into the future.



Hannah Loope

I have been carried forward on huge shoulders by the incredible energy and wisdom of the Vermont ASLA Executive Board and all of you in the membership and beyond. A huge thank you to the Executive Board members, past and present, who continue to advise and inspire me and the future Board. Thank you to our sponsors and volunteers who share their resources and help to create events for our Chapter. And thanks to all of you for your leadership in our profession and engagement in our community!

With this momentum leading into 2016, there is still much more to be done - please ask me or any other Executive Board member about how you can help us create a more vibrant design community. Let's collaborate!

Many thanks-



Hannah Loope, ASLA

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<b>President:</b> <i>Hannah Loope</i>	802.864.0010	<a href="mailto:hloope@wagnerhodgson.com">hloope@wagnerhodgson.com</a>
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## CHAPTER PRESIDENTS COUNCIL MEETING, TRUSTEES MEETING

Nearly 100 ASLA chapter leaders from across the country attended the Chapter Presidents Council (CPC) meeting in Chicago on November 5-6. Hannah Loope and Kelly Ogradnik represented the Vermont chapter, sharing their experiences as a chapter and learning from others through roundtable discussions and formal presentations on topics such as hosting a chapter meeting, advocacy and awareness, student and faculty engagement, and leadership qualities.

Simultaneously, the Board of Trustees met and approved the FY 2016 Annual Operating Plan and FY 2016 Operating and Capital Budgets, clarifications to the procedures for the Code of Professional Ethics, and revisions to the administration policy on Document Retention. The Board also reviewed the design of the Center for Landscape Architecture, discussed results of the Board assessment survey, and gave conceptual approval to Bylaws changes to add an associate director to the Board and to establish Associate and Student Advisory Councils. Adam Portz attended on behalf of the Vermont Chapter.

## RECAP: DOUG CROWELL LECTURE Rebecca Krinke "The Emotional Landscape"



Rebecca Krinke discussing "The Mapping of Joy and Pain"

Co-sponsored by Burlington City Arts, this year's Doug Crowell Lecture Series featured Rebecca Krinke, professor at the College of Design at the University of Minnesota. In a lecture titled "The Emotional Landscape," Rebecca presented her recent participatory public artworks that explore place and emotion, including: *The Mapping of Joy and Pain* and its new manifestation as an online, interactive map; *Dream Window*, a temporary installation about dream space for the city and collecting dreams; and *The Language Table*, an indigenous project for learning about the Dakota naming of places in Minnesota. Rebecca's work is based on the common thread that place and emotion are strongly intertwined, but are often overlooked in thinking about cities, design, and people's experiences. The lecture was followed by an in-depth, lively discussion about how *The Mapping of Joy and Pain* project could be broadened to map places that have emotional impact globally, and the challenges in representing this project's pathos through technology instead of physical representation.

## SAVE THE DATE: HOLIDAY PARTY

January 7, 2016

Ring in the new year with your fellow VTASLA members at the annual VTASLA Holiday Party!

Thursday, January 7, 2016

6:00pm - 10:00pm

Home of Jim Donovan & Patricia O'Donnell  
501 Lake Road, Charlotte, VT

RSVP to [jdonovan@gmavt.net](mailto:jdonovan@gmavt.net)

Formal invitation by email to follow

For more information, contact Kelly at [vtasla@gmail.com](mailto:vtasla@gmail.com)



## CONGRATS TO JEFF HODGSON

### 2015 ASLA Council of Fellows

The 2015 ASLA Council of Fellows class was recognized at the 2015 ASLA Annual Meeting and EXPO, November 8, 2015, in Chicago. Among those honored this year was Jeffrey Hodgson, Partner at Wagner Hodgson Landscape Architecture in Burlington.

Jeff received his nomination, in the Works category, from the Vermont Chapter. Hodgson's wide range of institutional and educational work for 29 years has been implemented from California to New England. His projects include secondary, college and university master planning and design; health care design; and university, public and private housing master planning and design. His work has been instrumental in reconnecting university communities with their natural environments while creating social spaces that foster collaboration and creativity. His team is the anchor for a collaboration among artists, engineers, architects and the client to create meaningful, contemplative spaces that reflects the merging of local history and art with innovation and ongoing research.

From all of us on the Vermont Chapter Executive Board, congratulations Jeff!



Jeff Hodgson (center), receiving his Fellows award from ASLA President K. Richard Zweifel, FASLA with Pamela Lynn, FASLA

## MEMBER PROFILE

### Jim Donovan, FASLA, AICP, Principal, Broadreach Planning & Design

#### TELL US A BIT ABOUT YOURSELF: WHERE ARE YOU FROM, WHAT THINGS DO YOU LOVE, ETC?

I grew up in Elmhurst, Illinois, a western suburb of Chicago. We moved into the house in 1960 when I was in first grade. It was a new house in a new subdivision, but with the unique aspect of having streets lined with big old elm trees. I've always assumed that it was initially a subdivision that went bankrupt in the stock market crash of 1929. The roads had all been built and the street trees planted, but no houses were ever built. By 1960, when the new houses were finally built, the street trees were old and stately, and the sidewalks were ancient and cracked, so I grew up in a new, early 60s subdivision that had the feel, once all the houses were built, of an old established neighborhood. I never realized the uniqueness of our subdivision until I went to high school in a neighboring town and visited friends' houses in other new subdivisions that had tiny street trees planted just a year or two earlier. I REALLY came to appreciate the value of trees!

I started to get interested in design in high school, designing houses for fun. I also developed a love of gardening and plants even earlier than that. My Dad let me pick out my own plant on a visit to a nursery sometime in grade school; I still remember that I bought an iris. It was a miniature, but I didn't know that and kept trying to get it to grow as big as the other irises I saw in the neighborhood.

Today I still love plants and gardening. We have a pretty big ornamental garden, a massive vegetable garden and a small orchard. Lots of work, but I enjoy it. I also love grandkids and especially like photography, cats, croquet, music, walking, bicycling, travel, and Vermont.

#### HOW DID YOU GET INTO LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTURE?

I was in my junior year at the University of Detroit in the School of Architecture. I found that I was much better at finding the best spot for buildings on the site, creating great environments around the buildings and, in general, landscape architecture than in designing buildings. I liked it more as well.

My design professor introduced me to a landscape architect that he knew and that was that. Since I had no desire to stay in school any longer than necessary, I graduated with my architecture degree. The economy was in a recession at the time so I got work as a grunt at a nursery and learned all I could about plant names and needs. I was eventually able to get a temporary job at JJR in Ann Arbor. After two years of trying unsuccessfully to find work at LA firms with an architectural degree, other than the JJR temp position, I decided I needed a masters. The University of Illinois Landscape Architecture Department said they would provide the money, so I went there for two years and got my MLA. Upon graduation, I went to work for the National Park Service Center in Denver and then for HOK's landscape architecture and planning department in



Jim Donovan and Patricia O'Donnell in the Boboli Gardens, Florence, Italy

St. Louis before heading east for a job in Westport, Connecticut.

Once I opted to move over to landscape architecture, I never looked back. I love being a landscape architect. I really enjoy my work and always have. I'm continually thankful that Professor Lodge at U of D was astute enough to realize that I needed to be introduced to this profession!

#### TELL US ABOUT YOUR PRACTICE, BROADREACH PLANNING AND DESIGN.

Broadreach Planning & Design is a one person firm that specializes in active transportation work. The projects range from large regional active transportation, bicycle, and/or pedestrian plans to figuring out the best location for a sidewalk. Projects are primarily in Vermont, Maine, New Hampshire and New York State. Recently I've started to go after international work. No real projects yet but I've had several projects for which my expenses were paid, but I've donated my time. Even if I don't realize any overseas work, I'm having a great time seeing the world, meeting some great people, and learning more about the international aspects of active transportation without major expense!

#### YOU'VE RECENTLY BEEN ELECTED TO PRESIDENT-ELECT OF THE VTASLA EXECUTIVE BOARD; WHAT ARE SOME OF YOUR IDEAS FOR THE CHAPTER?

I'm hoping to continue to follow the directives of our Strategic Plan. I'm thinking it might also soon be time to revisit it to make sure we are still working on the things that are most important to our members. Among the things I would like to focus on as we follow the directives of our plan are:

- Adding a few more educational/social events that we sponsor or co-sponsor to our yearly calendar, hopefully being able to offer continuing education credits in the process;

*continue reading on page 5*



## VTASLA SPONSORS EVENT

### Emerging Professionals in Development



Caitlin Pierce of VHB and Richard Amore of VTASLA EB & DHCD

VTASLA was represented as a sponsor of White+Burke Real Estate Investments Advisors' networking event *Emerging Professionals in Development and Land Use*. Hannah, Michael and Richard from the executive board along with several VTASLA members attended the event - the first in a new series - that drew over 80 professionals including planners, developers, LAs, engineers, attorneys, and other professional consultants. A goal for the event series is to improve communication and break down the silos in the development and design community. Photos from the event can be found [here](#).

Stephanie T. Hainley, Chief Operating Officer & Senior Project Manager at White+Burke, is working to foster a strong network of young leaders in development and land use. To share and stay informed of issues in Vermont development, [sign up for the VT Development Listserv](#).

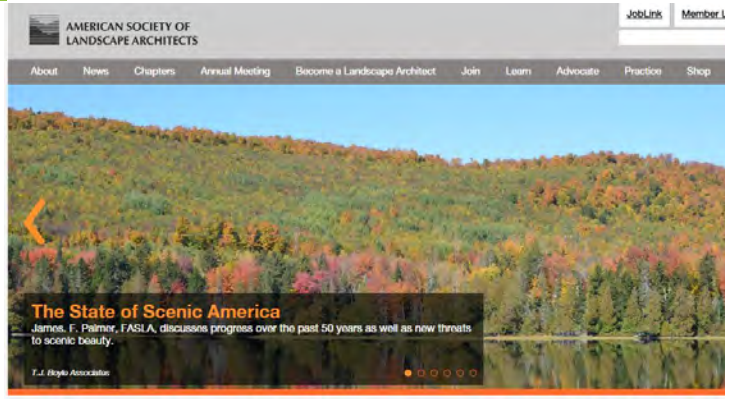
## BUILDING FLOOD RESILIENT COMMUNITIES



DHCD released the final report on the [Vermont Economic Resiliency Initiative](#) that identifies [Vermont's top 32 communities](#) where economic activity and associated infrastructure are at high risk of flooding. The report also provides on the ground analysis and recommendations in five communities and lays out the [steps](#) and [tools](#) any city or town can take to protect their economies from future floods. The report was recently featured on [VPR's Vermont Edition](#) as well as a [Smart Growth America webinar](#).

## INTERVIEW WITH JAMES PALMER

### Featured on [www.asla.org](http://www.asla.org)



Snapshot from [www.asla.org](http://www.asla.org) featuring James F. Palmer's, FASLA, work

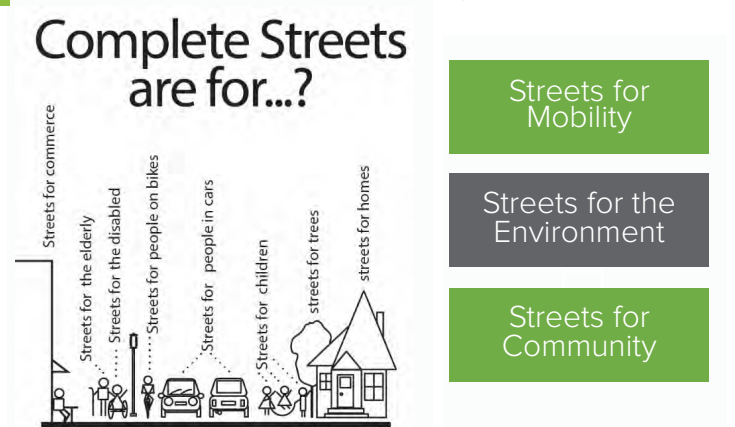
Vermont's own James F. Palmer, FASLA, is currently featured on the ASLA website for his work on scenic beauty. His interview, entitled "The State of Scenic America" discusses the value of our country's scenic assets, research related to it, and how his firm and landscape architects are working to promote it.

James F. Palmer, PhD, PLA, FASLA, is the owner of Scenic Quality Consultants and senior landscape architect with T. J. Boyle Associates, both in Burlington, Vermont. He is professor emeritus at SUNY College of Environmental Science and Forestry.

Congratulations, James! [Read his interview here](#).

## COMPLETE STREETS ARE GREEN

### STREETS New Community Resources



The Vermont Department of Housing and Community Development, in partnership with Agency of Natural Resources and VTrans, developed new resources to help Vermont communities realize the potential for 'complete' and 'green' streets that achieve multiple goals to improve water quality, expand transportation options and add vibrancy to the streetscape. To learn more, [click here](#) or view a presentation of the benefits of complete and green streets [here](#).

## MEMBER PROFILE

### Jim Donovan, FASLA, AICP

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- Increasing our presence in the Vermont Statehouse. Last year Senator Snelling asked us for input on legislature about locating clean energy projects, and she eventually included a VTASLA representative in a legislative study committee that is looking at this issues now. Having a continued presence at the statehouse will let us weigh in on more of these issues that are important to our State and directly in line with our skills and knowledge base as LAs; and
- Finding additional sources of income to allow us to do more - one possibility is to start aggressively marketing our Sabra Field print, of which we still have quite a few.

#### IS THERE SOMEONE WHO HAS INFLUENCED YOU THE MOST PROFESSIONALLY?

Yes! Dickson DeMarche, the landscape architect that took a chance on me early in my career and hired me to join his tiny office in Westport, Connecticut. I became the third person in the office which eventually grew to four people. The actual working relationship did not last that long because our working styles proved to be too far apart to mesh well. However, he taught me a lot about being a landscape architect in the time that I was with his office, things I've never forgotten. Among other things, he urged me to:

- Become involved in my community by serving on local boards,
- Be an active member of ASLA,
- Pay scrupulous attention to ethics and fair play, and
- Be ready to work cooperatively with everyone.

I probably only worked there for a little more than a year, but we became and remained friends, even after Patricia and I moved to Vermont.

In 2005 I was honored to become a Fellow of ASLA. To my delight, Dickson was also in the Class of Fellows that year.

Patricia O'Donnell, FASLA, my wife, has also had a huge impact on my career. I continually learn from her studious, careful approach to all of the work she does. It was her work and influence that has led me to begin to move into the international market. Quite simply, I would not be the landscape architect that I am today without her input, support, and inspiration. She was elected a Fellow in ASLA years before I was and for good reason! When you are inducted as a Fellow, you are escorted up to the stage by an existing Fellow of your choice. One of my fondest memories is having her as my escort down the aisle on my way to being inducted.

#### WHAT IS THE MOST INTERESTING OR UNIQUE PROJECT YOU HAVE WORKED ON PROFESSIONALLY?

Hard to say! I've had several really interesting projects, but I guess two stand out at this particular moment.

One is the Bicycle and Pedestrian Plan that I recently completed for Montpelier. I had the chance to work with a tremendous steering committee of local officials, volunteers, residents and business owners. I learned a lot and enjoyed the entire project. What really sticks out, however, is at the end of the project, the steering committee decided that final presentation of the plan would have a much bigger impact if they presented it. They followed through and did two separate presentations to the Montpelier City Council, clearly showing that the plan emerged from the community and was not some outsiders recommendations of what the City should do. I've never had another steering committee that was so committed to the project and it was truly inspiring.

The second was a few years ago in Thailand at the Sukhothai World Heritage Site (WHS). I had the chance to lead an international team of bicycle enthusiasts that tried to find new bicycle routes in and around the separate pieces of the WHS. I made new friends from around the world and had fun while still providing much needed assistance.

#### IF YOU HAD ADVICE FOR SOMEONE JUST ENTERING THE PROFESSION, WHAT WOULD IT BE?

Know your plants! I hardly ever work with plants on my projects, but people EXPECT me to know plants. If I let them down on that expectation, I have found that it is hard to make them think I might be competent in anything else. I think we need to meet and then far exceed the public's common belief of what our profession is.

#### WHAT IS YOUR FAVORITE PLANT?

Again, hard to say. My favorite keeps changing, but a few that stick out are, as noted before, Irises in all shapes and sizes, *Amelanchiers*, *Cercis canadensis*, *Fraxinus americana* 'Autumn Purple', *Abies balsamea*, *Acer griseum* and *Chionanthus virginicus*.

## CALENDAR

### Upcoming Events

#### GREEN WORKS/VERMONT NURSERY & LANDSCAPE ASSOC. ANNUAL WINTER MEETING AND TRADE SHOW

**DATE:** February 12, 2016

**LOCATION:** Sheraton Burlington Hotel & Conference Ctr  
870 Williston Road, S. Burlington, VT 05403

**MORE INFO:** [Click here for more information](#)




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