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From the President

by Patrick Gay, ASLA

Last year was a fun and eventful year for the New Mexico chapter of the ASLA. I would like to start out this year by thanking Bob Oberdorfer and the Executive Committee for their dedication and generous amounts of time making it all fly. The Quarterly event format that was developed based on membership survey responses was a big success. Our events at the Albuquerque Biologic Park and in Santa Fe had lively participation. We look forward to our next quarterly event at the Mesilla Valley Bosque State Park in southern New Mexico with equal enthusiasm. I would also like to thank Tag Gay for all his hard work on the annual golf tournament, which continues to be our primary fund raiser for the chapter. Finally, I would like to thank all of our sponsors for their continuing support. I anticipate another productive year working with this year's Executive Committee to continue the previous standards of excellence in representing the professional membership of Landscape Architects in New Mexico. Currently we have

close to one hundred members and our numbers have stayed strong despite trying economic times. We anticipate that 2010 will be an equally challenging year for our state and membership, but we look forward to the opportunities to participate in and promote such a critical profession. Your Ex-Com has recently completed a strategic planning session for the upcoming year with the result being a very ambitious schedule of events. We anticipate and look forward to visiting other unique areas of the state in 2010. We also look forward to upcoming training sessions for the LARE and Sketch UP software in the next few months. We are excited about working with the landscape architecture students and SOCLAS at the UNM School of Architecture and Planning. You will be hearing more about the upcoming events in detail throughout this and future newsletters as well as our bi-monthly email blasts. Trustee Greg Miller, President-Elect Cathy Mathews, and I recently returned from the Chapter President's Council and Board of Trustees meetings as well as the national ASLA conference in Chicago. We had

**NMASLA 2008-2009
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the privilege of representing the New Mexico Chapter on a national level and I thank you all for that opportunity. It was the third highest attended conference ever and given the reality of the times, I would have to give much of the credit to the importance of our work and to the incredible host city. I would encourage all Landscape Architects to visit Chicago if you have not done so already. In closing, I would like to invite you all to contact me if you have any questions or comments about the Chapter over the next year. I am excited to serve as your President.

To comment on the President's message, please email responses to Pat:

pgay@sites-sw.com

Pat at the bean





Save the date for NMASLA's Holiday Party!

**Join us on November 28 from 5 p.m.
to 8 p.m. at the One Up Lounge located
at 301 Central NW - 2nd Floor in
Downtown Albuquerque.**

**Watch the City's Annual 'Twinkle
Light Parade' from One Up's balcony.
Appetizers & drinks provided by
NMASLA in the adjacent fireside room.
ASLA members & families welcome!**

**Please RSVP by 11/20/09. Contact Bob Oberforfer at
243-7300 or robert.oberdorfer@westonsolutions.com.**



2009 JRS Foundation Student Design Competition

by *Yekaterina Yushmanova*,
MLA Candidate

The winning design for the 2009 JRS Foundation Student Design Competition was produced during Regional studio lead by Adjunct professor John Barney and graduate teaching assistant Susan Corban at UNM SAAP. As a part of the studio the students were asked to look at the Lower Pat Hurley Neighborhood in Albuquerque and make a proposal for one intervention, approximately the size of the Old Town Plaza, which would act as a catalyst for the improvement of quality of life of the residents.

The Pat Hurley Neighborhood

is a historically agricultural community on the west bank of the Rio Grande, but in recent years most agricultural land has been sold for development. Despite the neighborhood's proximity to the river - a definite amenity in the desert southwest - the quality of the new developments is low and there is a lack of parks and recreational facilities. The riverside trail along the levee is under-used and poorly maintained. The residents prefer to use well-maintained trails and recreation facilities on the east bank of the river instead.

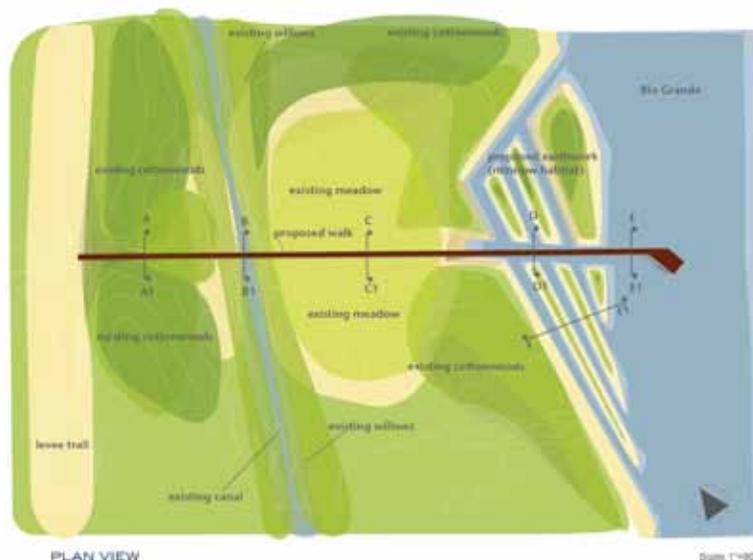
The land use analysis showed that the under-used area along the northeastern edge of the neighborhood had the greatest potential for overlapping recreational uses and habitat restoration. The context analysis revealed the lack of connec-

tivity and destinations along the riverside trail. The site at the northeastern corner of the neighborhood, where the riverside trail, riverside drain and an irrigation canal dead-end was identified as a good location for the intervention, which will become a destination and an activating element for the trails.

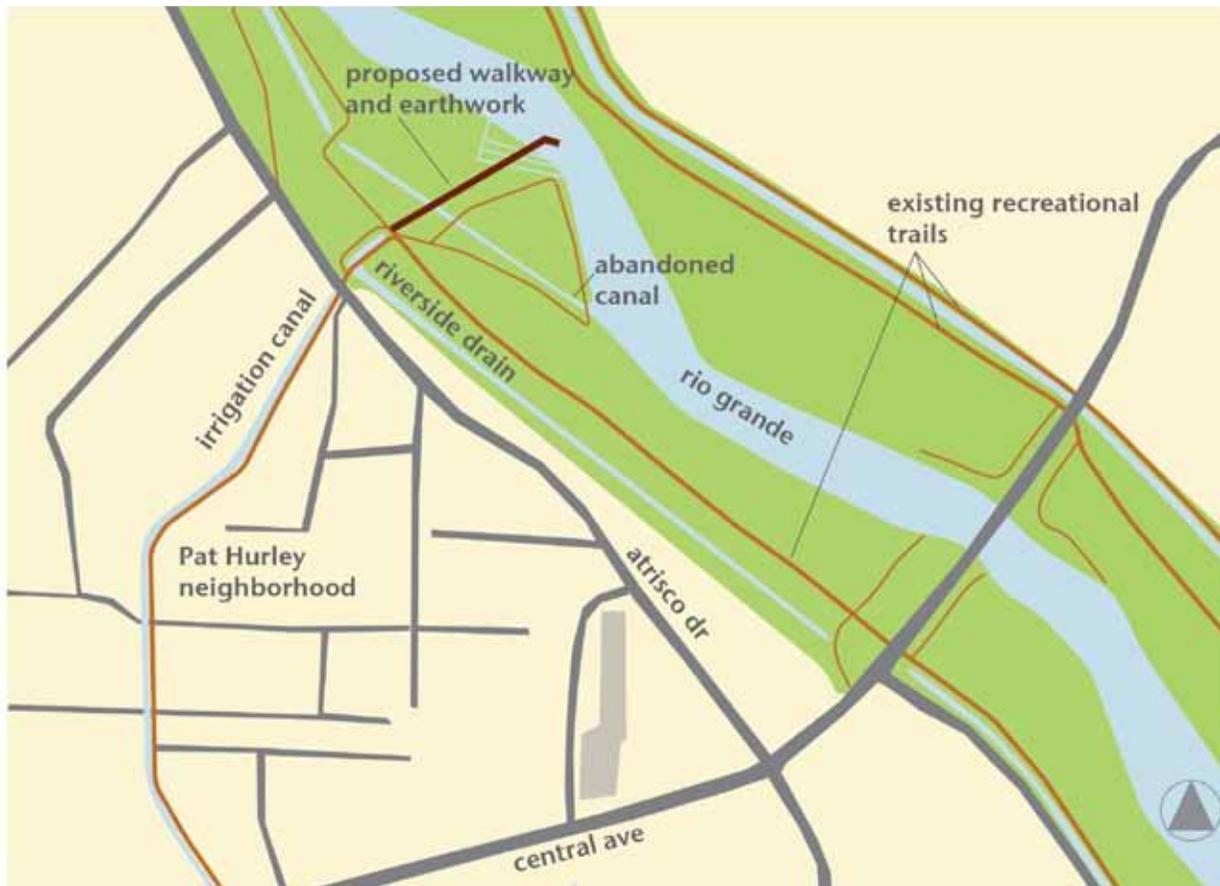
A site visit revealed an abandoned canal, which traverses the site. The extra few feet of depth cause the canal to flood during high water, thus allowing for increased biodiversity and conditions favorable for establishment of native plants. This canal is an example of how human activity can create hybrid environments and it served as an inspiration for the project. Further research showed that artificial shallow channels have been used as a part of bosque restoration to mimic the missing braided streams. Though invaluable as habitat, such new channels either remain unnoticed or are perceived as natural by the public. Making such channels more recognizable and accessible can potentially increase ecological awareness among community members and to show that the bosque is a result of complex interaction between natural processes and disturbance from human activity.

The concept for the proposal contains two integral parts:

Plan View



The concept for the proposal contains two integral parts: “changing perspective” and “farming habitat”...



Site Context

“changing perspective” and “farming habitat” which respond to the findings of the context analysis.

“Changing perspective” is an elevated walkway that will take a visitor from the top of the levee, through several existing native plant communities, across the proposed earthwork, and into the middle of the river. This walkway will serve as a destination for the riverside trails, and will create a unique recreational facility for the neighborhood and city residents. The elevation change of approximately 10

feet between top of the levee and the average water level in the Rio Grande, will allow a regular visitor to witness water level changes, as the lower part of the walkway floods during high-water periods. Low-impact methods similar to those used for bridge construction over wetlands will be used to minimize disturbance during walkway construction.

“Farming habitat” is a series of abstracted braided channels, which will serve as habitat for the endangered silvery minnow. The geometry of the channels will be recognizable

as a product of human activity and will be visible from the proposed walkway. As the channels silt up over time they will host a succession of native plant communities, eventually becoming a cottonwood grove. The channels and their change over time can serve as an educational tool, which shows on a small scale the connection between river floods and plant and animal communities.

Changing Perspective: Farming Habitat engages design methods that intend to create hybrid environments based on the interaction of natural and

human processes, and to make these interactions visible to the public.

The JSR Foundation awards scholarships to students who demonstrate a passion for preserving, improving and enhancing public spaces through responsible and innovative land use and design. The foundation and scholarship are named in honor of Jane Silverstein Ries, FASLA; the first woman to pursue a career in landscape architecture in Colorado.

detura@unm.edu



Cottonwood Canopy

Perspective Looking East



The 24th Annual



Think Trees Conference

January 28—29, 2010

Albuquerque, New Mexico

Featured Speakers:

Eric Duchinsky ISA/SCA

James Urban

Dr. Larry Costello, UCA

Dr. Gary Johnson, Univ. of MN

Butch Blazer, NM State Forestry

Dr. Tessa Grasswitz, NMSU

Melissa Barker, NM OSHA

Dr. Jamshid Ashigh, NMSU

A Special Presentation on:

Sustainable Sites Initiative, LEED is Coming

CEUs Offered

12 ISA, 4 NMDA, Landscape Architects

ISA Arborist Certification Exam on Friday, January 29th

Sponsored by Think Trees NM in cooperation with:



International Society of Arboriculture
Rocky Mountain Chapter

New Mexico State University
Cooperative Extension Service

City of Albuquerque Parks &
Recreation Department

University of New Mexico



For registration information visit:

www.thinktreesnm.org

Annual Board of Trustees Meeting 2009 – Chicago

By Greg Miller

By all accounts, the 2009 meeting was a great success. The true testament is that Chicago drew the third largest attendance (behind San Francisco and Philadelphia) amidst an uncertain economy. While other conventions have experienced significant declines in attendance, ASLA was extremely pleased to avoid that situation.

The agenda for the BOT meetings was light, with most of the focus on membership, budget and the Sustainable Sites Initiative.

Membership numbers seem to have stabilized, coming back to over 17,000 members. There's been a drop in student, student affiliate, and affiliate membership, which has lowered the total number. Consequently, ASLA is encouraging chapters to reach out to the student chapters help increase involvement.

Regarding the budget, the BOT approved the liquidation of a portion of the long-term reserves to short-term reserves. This allows ASLA to function as our own line of credit. This money will be returned to long-term reserves as the budget allows. The 2009 budget currently is tracking to be in the black by \$100,000. As budget allows, ASLA will seek to repeal some of the cuts that were made during 2009. Eliminating

staff furloughs, filling the vacant government affairs position, and restoring the reimbursement amount for chapters for leadership travel are all potential items for budget reinstatement. Most other programs and operation will be maintained at current rates.

The Sustainable Sites Initiative guidelines and performance benchmarks have been completed. The pilot project phase will begin soon to test the rating system against sample projects. The BOT discussed the future of SITES and reached the consensus that integration with the LEED rating system was desirable. The exact

relationship between LEED and SITES hasn't yet been determined, but it is clear that both systems will benefit from combining interests.

ASLA continues to promote green building principles. The online advocacy efforts have been quite effective, and will continue to be a valuable tool for reaching elected officials.

If you'd like any more detail on any of the activities of the BOT, please don't hesitate to ask.

gregmiller@mrwnm.com

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Chapter Events

Las Cruces – Mesilla Valley Bosque State Park.

Date/Time: November 6, 2009 –
All Day Event!

Location: Las Cruces, NM

Note: Bus transportation will be provided from Albuquerque. If you are traveling from Northern NM, consider carpooling or taking the train (spend the night in Albuquerque!). The bus will pick us up at Sites Southwest – plentiful parking and a short walk from the train station.

NMASLA Holiday Party

Date/Time: Nov. 28, 2009- 5pm

Location: One Up Lounge, Albuquerque

Note: Join your fellow NMASLA members on the One Up Lounge Balcony to watch the Twinkle Light Parade and enjoy festive libations! More information to come.

Membership & Address Changes

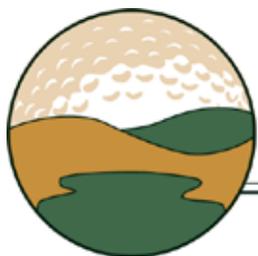
Please email Amy Duckert:
aduckert@mrwnm.com

Newsletter

The NMASLA newsletter is produced by students in the MLA program at the University of New Mexico School of Architecture and Planning. Please submit articles, news, photos, corrections, etc., to the editor:
Ryan Anderson
ry.anders@gmail.com

Website

<http://nmasla.org/>



Mountain West GolfScapes, Inc.

2009

Q4

NMASLA's
4th-Quarter Mtg.

join us for a park tour and education sessions in

las cruces / mesilla valley

RSVP by Oct. 30th!



Friday, November 6th, 2009
FREE for NMASLA members
\$25/non-members

-see attached form for full schedule and to RSVP

HUGE thanks to our event sponsors:



Gutierrez Landscape Associates



For those traveling from the north:

Ride via chartered bus to Las Cruces

▪ leave Albuquerque at 8:30am

Lunch @ Mesilla Valley Bosque State Park

Education Session 1: Chemistry of Southwestern Medicinal Plants

Tour of the new Bosque State Park

Education Session 2: Butterfly Landscape of NM

No-Host Happy Hour

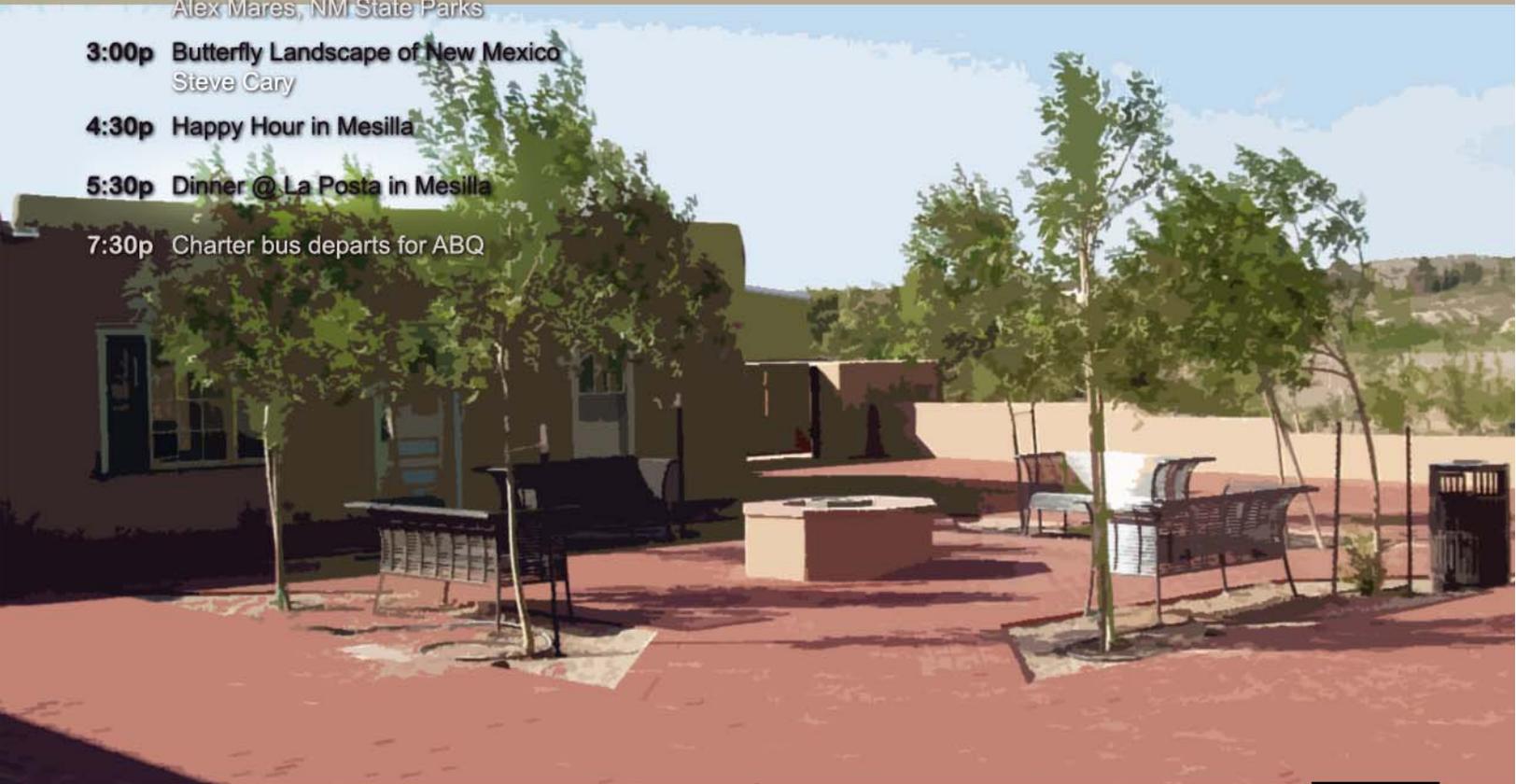
Dinner @ La Posta in Mesilla

▪ chartered bus leaves for Albuquerque around 7:30pm

schedule of events

friday november 6th 2009

- 8:30a Charter Bus leaves downtown ABQ**
Free parking @ Site Southwest
- 11:30a Lunch and history of Bosque State Park**
Judy Kowalski, NM State Parks
Alex Mares, NM State Parks
- 1:00p Chemistry of Southwestern Medicinal Plants**
Mary O'Connell
- 2:00p Tour Bosque State Mark**
Alex Mares, NM State Parks
- 3:00p Butterfly Landscape of New Mexico**
Steve Cary
- 4:30p Happy Hour in Mesilla**
- 5:30p Dinner @ La Posta in Mesilla**
- 7:30p Charter bus departs for ABQ**



rsvp by Friday, October 30th, 2009

Fax this form to Amy Duckert @ 265-9637
-OR- email to aduckert@mrwnm.com

Questions? Call Amy at 268-2266

This event is **FREE** for current NMASLA members, but friends, family, and colleagues are encouraged to attend for \$25/person. Payment is due at the event. Make checks payable to "NMASLA".

Participants riding the chartered bus should plan to park at Sites Southwest in downtown Albuquerque (121 Tijeras NE, at the intersection of Tijeras and Commercial). This location is also within walking distance of the Rail Runner Station for anyone making connections from the north. **The bus will depart at 8:30am.** Space on the bus is limited- RSVP today to reserve your spot!

box lunch order

- Herbed Chicken Medallions _____ qty
- Beef Pita _____ qty
- Vegetarian Pita _____ qty

Your Name: _____
Email: _____
Phone #: _____
Address: _____
Company: _____

Will you be riding the bus?

yes no qty _____

Will you be joining us for dinner?

yes no qty _____

2009
Q4
NMASLA's
4th-Quarter Mtg.

