

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE (May)
World Landscape Architecture Month
David Ferris

April was World Landscape Architecture Month. There were great things happening all across Florida to celebrate our month. From an Olmsted birthday party in West Palm Beach to proclamation signings. Members all across the state blitz social media with their "Designed By a Landscape Architect" (#WLAM2015). Thank you to our Section Chairs and other members of the Executive Committee for all of the proclamations. In my 10 years serving on the EXCOM I have never seen so many proclamations signed and read at municipal council meetings throughout the state including: Royal Palm Beach, Miami, Miami Beach, West Palm Beach, Jupiter, Ft. Lauderdale, Broward County, Palm Beach Gardens, Tallahassee, Longwood, Orlando and the State of Florida.



Left: Thanking West Palm Beach City Council. Also in attendance Michelle Regan, Son Truong, Rebecca Williams, Scott Mosolf and Colleen Walter. Right: Town of Jupiter proclamation with Nicole Plunkett, Scott Mosolf, Emily O'Mahoney, Mayor Golonka, me, Dan Sorrow and Donald Hearing

ASLA's Midyear meetings usually take place in May but this year the President Elect, Trustee and myself traveled to DC in April. Chapter Presidents Council meetings are always a great way to understand what other Chapters doing and explore new ideas that could potentially be beneficial to us here in Florida. Did you know that the Boston Chapter climbed out of financial hole three years ago by writing/producing their own printed magazine or that the Prairie Gateway Chapter is under the same roof and shares an Executive Director/staff with AIA and interior designers. That said I don't foresee us joining forces with another organization but I would like to see us return to publishing our design magazine again.

During this year's Midyear meeting there was an epic 'good versus villain' battle that played out under the Washington Monument. It is with heavy



heart the CPC suffered a kickball lose to much much much older Trustees. It was the elders that used knowledge and strategy instead of relying on pure athleticism. Still reeling from defeat the members of CPC were greet the next morning with the a signed home plate in the meeting room threshold and a note that read "since none of you got to cross this yesterday". CPC is hoping the rematch next year will be dodgeball.

Fun aside the most important part of the Midyear meetings was Advocacy Day, where ASLA takes to the hill to advocate for items National has found important. We were joined by Kay Williams (UF), who is serving as ASLA's VP of Education, and two students; Veronika Schunk from FIU and JoJo Tolentino from UF. Together we meet with staff from Senator Rubio's and Senator Nelson's offices. These were followed by meetings with our congressmen. This year's advocacy efforts were focused on continuing Transportation Alternatives Program, Land and Water Conservation Fund and the National Parks Service Centennial Challenge. I have learned from doing this in the past that examples of successful project back home really gets everyone's attention. To that end I assembled a presentation ([insert link](#)). I also have informational handouts that I can forward to our members upon request (#BHeardonthe23rd).



Jonathan Haigh, Emily O'Mahoney, U.S. Rep Patrick Murphy join me in a quick selfie at the Capitol.

My 2 previous reports were not included with the newsletter but please find them herewith.

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE (April)

The Successful Deregulation of Our License
David Ferris

The legislative agenda came to fruition last week as our representatives voted to deregulate timeshare agents, used car salesmen, hair braiders, reindeer embalmers, oyster growers and landscape architects. The house majority leader said "this is a great day and a great victory. This bold move will save the state 100s of dollars and eliminate countless jobs"

In the spirit of April....April Fools! Of course this didn't happen but the threat against our license does rear its ugly head from time to time. It is this organization that is the watch dog looking out for you by fighting for your right to practice and promoting the profession. Without your membership we cannot accomplish these efforts.

April is National Landscape Architecture Month. It is a celebration of our profession and an opportunity to showcase our projects and talents to our communities, legislators, allied professionals and the world. This April help us take a new step in reaching out to the 800 licensed Landscape Architects in our state that are not members. If you know a Landscape Architect that is not a member remind them that they are receiving the benefits of our endeavors without contributing to the cause please reach out and remind them their membership is vital to the continued strengthening of our license and profession.

Later this month I will be traveling to Washington DC to advocate on behalf of the profession for the continued funding of Complete Streets, TAP, and Map 21. When meeting with US Representatives and Senators it helps to provide examples of related projects. Please forward any examples you or your firm has completed utilizing these funds to president@flasla.org.

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE (March)

Spring Renewal

David Ferris

Spring is upon us. For those living in the Northeast I am sure it can't be here fast enough. I remember the days of anxiously waiting for the melting snow to give way to the tulips and forsythias...when life seemed to renew itself.

In the last few months I feel there is a sense of renewal amongst us. We have bright energetic young members that have joined the Executive Committee. There are exciting events taking place across the state. Our website has been updated with lots of new information and a new calendar. After years of limited use our Twitter and Facebook page we are now constantly adding new content.

This sense of renewal can also be found outside the Chapter Leadership. In January I sent out a call for volunteers to represent our Chapter and profession by way of appointment to the Florida Urban Forestry Council's Board, along with being a de facto member of our Government Affairs Committee (GAC). Thank you to 12 Chapter members who responded to the call (Dylan Roden, Victor Borges, Michael Pape, Michael Schulte, Juan Antonio Bueno, Brian Dick, Peg Bors, Ted Baker, Johan Bueno, Brad Smith, Rick Conant and Jim Klement). Michael Schulte was recommended by his predecessor (David Crawley) and the GAC to the FLASLA Executive Committee (EXCOM). The EXCOM felt his background as a Registered Landscape Architect, a Chapter member and a Certified Arborist would prove to be helpful on Urban Forestry issues and voted to approve his appointment at the February meeting.

There is also a new opportunity dawning for our Chapter. I have been discussing with Dale Allen, Executive Director for Florida Greenways and Trails Foundation (Facebook Link). I am scheduled to make a presentation at their early June meeting and FLASLA will hopefully be granted a place on their Board.

Thank you to all who give so much to the Chapter and the profession. Let's keep the momentum going. Please contact me if you would like to learn more.