



## President's Letter

Arthur J. Eddy, ASLA



*"Nature is a mutable cloud,  
which is always and  
never the same.  
She casts the same thoughts  
into troops of forms,  
as a poet makes twenty  
fables with one moral.  
Beautifully shines a spirit  
through the bruteness and  
toughness of matter."*

— Ralph Waldo Emerson  
from 'Nature'

**D**ear Rhode Island Chapter Members,  
The summer is finally upon us. This is my favorite time of year, as the state of Rhode Island provides tremendous opportunities and diversity for summer relaxation and recreation. The diversity and size of our state are some of the things that make this area so great.

Along with so many great aspects of our small state, advocacy in the state of Rhode Island is something that is accessible to our chapter. Recently, during Richard Sheridan's (President Elect) and Colgate Searle's (Trustee) visit to the Mid Year Chapter President Council meeting in Washington, D.C., they had the opportunity to participate in Advocacy Day. This was a tremendous opportunity for both Richard and Colgate as they met with Senator Sheldon Whitehouse and Senator Jack Reed. Both of these meetings went extremely well as they were there to discuss H.R. 3734, The Urban Revitalization and Livable Communities Act and H.R. 4202, The Green Infrastructure for Clean Water Act. Richard's and Colgate's meetings went well and they were able to pique interest from our senators in supporting and in one case possible championing of these bills. Richard's and Colgate's efforts continue as they have been in contact with members of both Senators' staff to see how RIASLA can provide continued support.

In such a small state, our regulators are extremely accessible to us and provide the chapter the opportunity to leverage positively and impact legislation on a much larger scale. There are many issues and challenges facing landscape architects locally and nationally. Some of these decisions will have long term impacts on the future of our profession. I urge all members to use the advocacy network at <http://capwiz.com/asla/home> to stay on top of the issues that face us as landscape architects, and feel free to contact the Executive Board to help stay on top of the issues that face us.

I hope to see you all at the Matunuck Oyster Farm event in August. Make sure that you talk to Richard and Colgate as they have some great stories about their time in Washington, D.C.

Thanks and have a great summer,

Arthur J. Eddy

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Deadline Sept/Oct 2010

RIASLA Newsletter

August 1, 2010



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RIASLA  
EXECUTIVE  
COMMITTEE**

*President*  
Arthur J. Eddy  
aeddy@glala.com

*President-Elect*  
Richard E. Sheridan  
rsheridan@mail.uri.edu

*Past President*  
Michael J. Dowhan  
mjd@vwassoc.com

*Trustee*  
Colgate M. Searle II, FASLA  
searleandsearle@cox.net

*Secretary*  
Karen O'Neil  
kkareno4@gmail.com

*Treasurer*  
Marjory Myers  
mmyersla@aol.com

*Member at Large*  
Barbara Petrarca  
bpetrarca2@verizon.net

*Associate  
Members at Large*  
Edwin Sanchez  
esanchez@cleanscape.com

Josh Wheeler  
jwheeler@glala.com

*Newsletter Liaison*  
Karen Beck, FASLA  
kbeck@commonwealth-eng.com

*Newsletter Editor*  
Sallie Sirhal  
riaslanews@aol.com

## Trustee's Report

Colgate Searle, FASLA



### Headlines from the Mid-year Trustees' Meeting and Lobby Day

#### *The Good News:*

- RIASLA won the award for use of the Advocacy Network for Small Chapters (I think that Karen had a lot to do with this).
- The ASLA ended last year with a small surplus. This is due in part to the hard work and sacrifices of the ASLA staff. All staff took a three-week unpaid furlough and by year's end there were four less staff there. This year's budget is on target, both LAM and the Annual Meeting revenues are ahead of target to date.

#### *The Bad News:*

The Board of Trustees voted to raise dues by nine dollars for 2011 with no additional raises in 2012. This additional funding will enable ASLA to maintain the programs and services, cover the additional cost of healthcare, allow the replacement of one of the four staff members, and the replacement of the heat pumps. We have put off the heat pumps for two years and the maintenance is getting prohibitive. In the long run, the new efficient system will provide savings.

#### *Lobby Day:*

Richard Sheridan and I attended our first Lobby Day. We met with the staff of Representatives Langevin and Kennedy and with both Senators and their staffs. Our mission was to promote HR 3734, Urban Revitalization and Livable Communities Bill. This legislation supports the redesign of existing parks and the design of new parks along with their construction through a matching grant program.

The other bill, HR4202, The Green Infrastructure for Clean Water Act, is a follow-up to the EPA's Recovery Money fund for pilot projects using best stormwater management practices. This legislation would encourage the future implementation of best practices through matching funds for design and construction.

At the time of this writing, the Urban Revitalization bill has 124 sponsors in the House of Representatives and more than 2300 advocacy letters of support through the network. The bills have not yet been introduced in the Senate. Richard and I were very convincing in our presentation to Sen. Whitehouse about the value of the proposed bill. He felt that the bill would be great for RI and that he would champion it in the Senate if he could work out some major questions that he had with the language.

After our conversation, we were successful in getting the Senator's staff and ASLA staff together to work on an acceptable bill for the Senate. My latest information is that they are very close to an agreement. Sen. Reed was also interested in the bill. It would make me very proud to have our senators introduce this legislation in the Senate.

*(Continued on page 3)*

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**RIASLA Newsletter is published bi-monthly by  
The Rhode Island Chapter – American Society of Landscape Architects**

*The newsletter will publish news of interest to Landscape Architects and allied professions, including upcoming meetings, seminars, awards, job opportunities and other appropriate information.  
RIASLA reserves the right to edit or reject any submissions.*



## China Pavilion Roof Garden

By Ron Henderson

(Continued from April/May issue)

### ARCHITECTS AND LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTS

Two architects were selected in a national design competition for the China Pavilion. Zhang Li, won the internationally juried competition with a horizontally disposed volume wrapped with an expressive skin representing seasonal fluctuations. A second architect, HE Jingtang, was selected for the iconic Oriental Crown, which sits atop the Provincial Hall designed by Zhang Li.

Several Chinese landscape architects were invited to design the roof garden but none were successful in building a favorable consensus for their concepts. The concept of *Jiuzhou*, or, Nine Continents, was proposed by ZHANG Li, the architect of the Provincial Hall.

The problem is difficult. How does one represent all of the cultures, histories, and legends of China in a single garden? By tapping into the founding saga of the Middle Kingdom, the architect was able to find the consensus that had been elusive among an array of government and design constituents whose approval was necessary to move the concept forward.

*Jiuzhou* is also the framework for one of the earliest gardens

at Beijing's Yuanming Yuan, the Garden of Eternal Brightness. The Yuanming Yuan was the summer imperial palace during the Qing Dynasty (1644-1911) and was as important a state-house as the Forbidden City. The Qianlong Emperor (who was contemporaneous with Thomas Jefferson in the United States) ruled for sixty years of prosperity and peace during which time he travelled widely and built many of the most important remaining Qing sites in China. Among those was the early *Jiuzhou* Garden in the Yuanming Yuan. Qianlong wrote elegant poems about the sites and gardens that he visited and that he created. *Jiuzhou* was no exception and a rare poem by Qianlong about the garden provided additional inspiration – and importantly, more conceptual richness that allowed the roof garden design to be approved.

In a critical meeting in June 2009, when the architect in an eleventh-hour attempt at successfully garnering support for ANY concept, the Qianlong poem was presented. I was at that meeting. The poem included an ancient character that none of those in attendance, which included learned historians and smart government officials, had ever seen. For almost an hour, a discussion ensued about the POWER of that word. The gravity of such scholarship won over the committee. Less than one month later, the roof garden was put out to bid!

### LOCAL DESIGN INSTITUTES (LDIs)

The bid for 'technical design and construction' was received on 20 July 2009 and the garden was substantially completed just seven months later, in February 2010.

The qualifications for the construction "unit" are based on a series of criteria that include the age of the business practice and grades related to the complexity of the completed projects. The Grade 1 Certificates are rarely held by others than successor firms to the state-held and administered bureaus that guided the socialist construction industry. These firms are politically entrenched with strong credentials for getting things done. The requirements for the contractor listed in the advertisement include: 1. The bidder shall have grade I certificate in the garden construction and grade A garden design; 2. Requirement of project management team: The project manager shall be grade I project manager in garden specialties issued by the Ministry of Construction. Requirement of project management personnel: The relevant resume, certificate of the project management personnel shall be provided; 3. The joint venture can attend the bids; 4. When signing up, the business license, qualification certificate, faith manual, project manager certificate, power of attorney and ID card and two sets of copies with the official seal shall be provided.

As with many projects in China, the design team completed a set of design development drawings and several project books which were then turned over to the LDIs who provide techni-

(Continued on page 5)

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## Roof Garden...

cal detailing and construction administration. The design development drawings are typically nothing more than a CAD file. The project books outline design principles but the LDIs usually have a tremendous range of interpretations and are empowered to alter the established design. For instance, at the China Pavilion roof garden, the planting design was based on specimens or small groves of iconic Chinese species such as Ginkgo biloba, Pinus bungeana, or Davidia involucrata. The installed planting, not surprisingly, ended up with a panoply of “one of everything” and the careful framing of select species is compromised beyond recognition. Although protests were voiced, the populist overtones of harmonious Chinese society seems to reside on the side of a little of everything in the current political climate.

This same sentiment expressed itself in another unusual way. The Oriental Crown is red. What red is THE Chinese red? In the same meeting where the Qianlong poem impressed the committee into approving the concept of the roof garden, the other order of business was to select the red for the Oriental Crown. A team of experts, including scholars from Beijing who have worked on restoration at the Forbidden City, had been hired and summoned to guide the committee. The experts noted that there were, in fact, several reds in the Forbidden City. Some were brighter reds for use on shaded surfaces. Some were more purple. The lacquer on the columns were



The Roof Garden of the China Pavilion of the 2010 Shanghai World Expo

more orange than the lacquer on window screens. Not surprisingly, the Oriental Crown now employs ten different reds of subtle variations according to shady or sunny aspects or to emphasize certain structural members of the composition.

The Expo runs from May 1 - October 31, 2010 during which time it is expected to draw 70 million visitors. A story about the garden can be viewed on YouTube: <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=QKboHM1syiY>

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## Student Chapter President graduates as URI's top landscape architecture student

By Todd McLeish

One of only four students to complete degree with 4.0 GPA.

Bryan Harrison chose to enroll at the University of Rhode Island in part because he liked the old granite buildings on campus and in part because its coastal location gave him an opportunity to learn to sail.

The New Milford, Conn. resident graduated on May 23 as URI's top landscape architecture student and one of only four students on campus to complete their degrees with a 4.0 grade point average.

"My first exposure to landscape architecture came in high school when I was taking classes in ecology and conservation," Harrison explained. "I found that landscape architecture brought art and design elements into my interest in ecology."

The URI student took advantage of numerous opportunities to put his budding design skills to work. He interned with the University's Coastal Landscapes Program and the state's Coastal Resources Management Council to design the restoration of

coastal buffers in the city of Warwick, and he is just completing a native plant design manual.

"That project took regulatory language and turned it into plain text that homeowners and designers can use," he said. "My task was to look at the text and see what needed graphics and then illustrate the plants and planting plans."

Harrison also worked on designing displays of naval artifacts in the landscape around the campus of the Naval War College in Newport and a siting and master plan for a sustainable high school in the URI W. Alton Jones Campus in West Greenwich.

"One of the great benefits of the URI landscape architecture program is its outreach to the community," he said. "Most recently we designed a domestic violence awareness park in Bristol in memory of a woman who was killed by her husband. We worked with the family and the town to incorporate their ideas into a practical design."

With graduation just around the corner, Harrison appears most excited about completing his second sailing class.

"I told myself when I came to URI to make sure to take these sailing classes before I graduated, and I'm just barely going to make it in time," he said with enthusiasm. "It's been a fantastic experience, and I get my skipper's card next week."

As Harrison continues his job search and considers enrolling in graduate school, he is contemplating several potential career paths.

"On one hand, I'd really like to work for the National Park Service or work for a firm that does ecological or historical restoration work," he said, noting that the Park Service is one of the nation's largest employers of landscape architects. "And then there's the complete opposite, which could have me involved with an urban design firm creating social spaces."

Social spaces are going to be vital, he said, because cities will once again become the new frontier.

"As our population continues to grow, urban centers will grow at an incredible rate, and our infrastructure is antiquated," he added. "New designs are going to be needed to design sustainable living spaces – sustainable from a human point of view as well as from an ecological point of view."



Bryan Harrison

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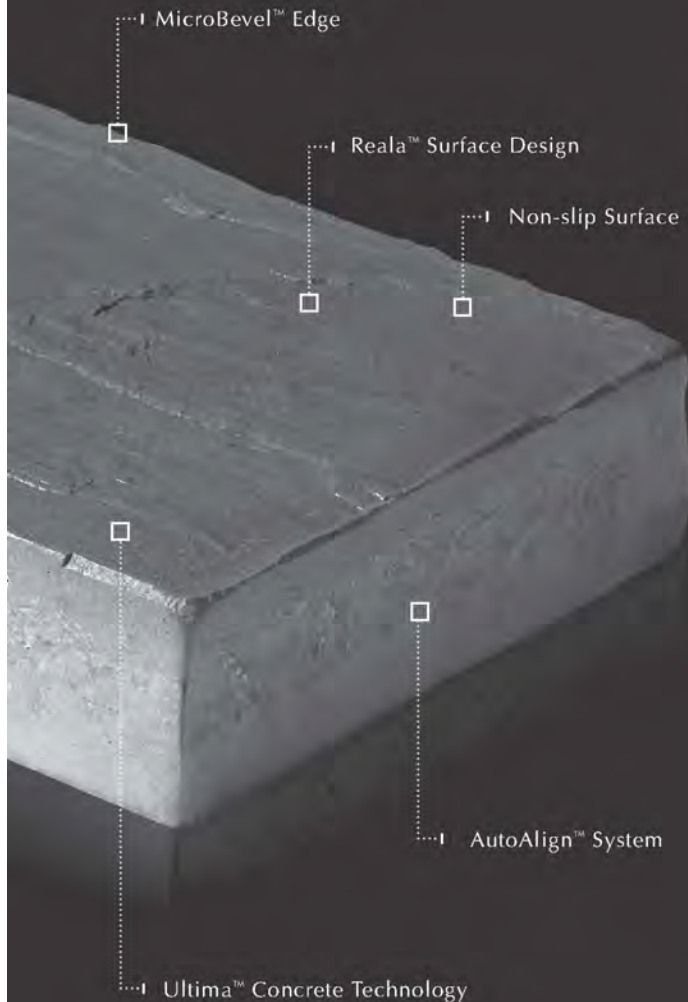
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## Invasive Species Happenings at RINHS

The RI Natural History Survey is excited to be leading the Forest Health Works Project (FHWP), a partnership with RI Department of Environmental Management. FHWP is focused on keeping priority RI forests healthy and free of invasive plants and looking out for new invasives in the state. FHWP is funded by the U.S. Forest Service through the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009.

RINHS is on the lookout for early detection species – invasive species with limited distributions already in Rhode Island, OR species found in CT and MA but not RI. PDF posters for the “Early 8” – very high priority species for control list, and reporting forms are available at [www.rinhs.org](http://www.rinhs.org). Please distrib-

ute this information widely and take the time to report species occurrences via the reporting form. *FYI:* Japanese stiltgrass and Mile-a-minute are out and growing.

For more information about the Forest Health Works Project, visit <http://www.rinhs.org/what-we-do/fhwp/>. Please be sure to check back throughout the summer for FHWP updates. Also, keep an eye out for a newly revamped “Invasives” page that will be released after this summer.

### ALB Season

Finally, adult Asian longhorn beetles will begin emerging soon. No RI infestations are known and let’s keep it that way. More info about ALB and other insect pests at: <http://www.invasivepests.org/>

## ASLA Advocacy Network

### Complete Streets – Best Practices Manual Now Available

Complete streets accommodate pedestrians, bicyclists, transit, and cars, creating multimodal transportation networks. But how do communities achieve complete streets? What are the policies and practices that need to be put into place?

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*(Continued on page 9)*



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## Complete Streets...

report also provides insight into design issues, handling costs, and ways of working with various stakeholders.

In addition, readers will learn how to build support for complete streets, adopt a policy, and integrate complete street concepts into plans, processes, and standards. Case studies highlight communities that have adopted and implemented complete streets, and model policy language provides guidance to communities interested in writing and adopting a complete streets policy.

*Complete Streets: Best Policy and Implementation Practices* is a product of a joint research project of the National Complete Streets Coalition and the American Planning Association with model policies prepared by Public Health Law and Policy. ASLA serves on the National Steering Committee for the Complete Streets Coalition.

The National Complete Streets Coalition Web site includes additional report details and purchase information – <http://www.completestreets.org>

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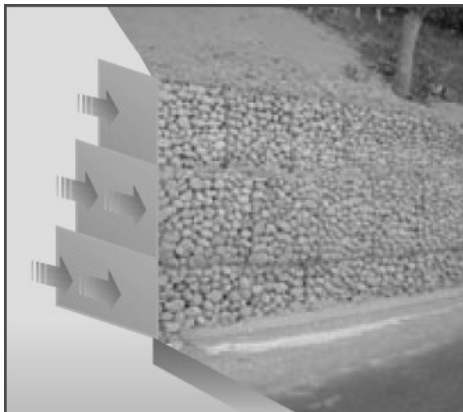
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## RIASLA calendar

**July 20 – 6 P.M.**

**RIASLA Board Meeting**

All members are invited. To be held at Gates, Leighton & Associates, 865A Waterman Ave., East Providence, RI. For more information contact Arthur Eddy at: aeddy@glala.com

**July 10 – 10 A.M. to 3:30 P.M.**

**Sustainable Landscape Design – An Inspiring Day in the Berkshires**

To be held at 719 Barnes Road, Shelburne Falls, MA. Join Eco-Tour guide, Marie Stella, for an in-depth tour of Beaver Lodge, her LEED Platinum certified home and hands-on sustainable laboratory. Tour will begin with an overview of the house design and then concentrate on the sustainable landscape design elements. For registration information visit [www.ecolandscaping.org](http://www.ecolandscaping.org) or call 617-436-5838. \$65 ELA Member or \$75 Non-Member (includes lunch).

**July 15 – 2 to 6 P.M.**

**UNH Stormwater Center and Land Planning**

To be held at the University of New Hampshire, Durham, NH. Ecological Landscaping Association, in collaboration with the Thompson School of Applied Science, offers this two-part, professionally guided

tour. Tour will include the BMP solutions at the UNH Stormwater Center, a national research site for the effects of stormwater runoff on downstream ecosystems. The tour will also include review and site visits of the UNH Master Plan, a model of sustainable planning for New England. For registration information visit [www.ecolandscaping.org](http://www.ecolandscaping.org) or call 617-436-5838. \$20 ELA Member or \$25 Non-Member.

**July 28 – 8:30 A.M. to 4 P.M.**

**91st annual Summer Meeting & Trade Show**

Sponsored by RI Nursery & Landscape Association. To be held at Schartner Farms, Route 2, Exeter, with a full day of activities. Pre-registration requested. \$50 per person before July 20; \$60 per person after July 20. For more information, visit [www.rinla.org](http://www.rinla.org) or contact RINLA at 401-874-5220 or 800-758-9260.

**August 17 – 6 P.M.**

**RIASLA Board Meeting**

All members are invited. To be held at Gates, Leighton & Associates, 865A Waterman Ave., East Providence, RI. For more information contact Arthur Eddy at: aeddy@glala.com

*(Continued on page 11)*



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*Calendar...*

**August 26 – 3 P.M.**

**RIASLA Oyster Outing**

Meet at the Matunuck Oyster Bar and be prepared to go wading. \$10 per person. For reservations, contact Karen Beck at kbeck@commonwealth-eng.com

**September 10 – 13**

**ASLA Annual Meeting**

To be held at Walter E. Washington Convention Center, Washington, DC. Earn up to 21 professional development hours. For more information, visit [www.asla.org](http://www.asla.org)

**September 21 – 6 P.M.**

**RIASLA Board Meeting**

All members are invited. To be held at Gates, Leighton & Associates, 865A Waterman Ave., East Providence, RI. For more information contact Arthur Eddy at: aeddy@glala.com

**November 4 – 6 to 9 P.M.**

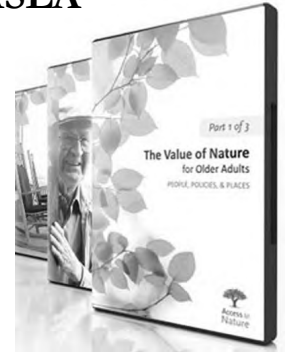
**“A Toast for Trees”**

Annual fundraiser, to be held at Roger Williams Park Botanical Center, Providence, RI. Sponsored by RI Tree Council. **Tax deductible donations are needed for the silent action. Please call 401-764-5885 to donate items or services.**

**To list an event e-mail: [riaslanews@aol.com](mailto:riaslanews@aol.com)**

**DVD Series Wins ASLA Excellence Award**

One of the 2010 ASLA Award winners is the excellent new DVD series, “Access to Nature for Older Adults: Promoting Health Through Landscape Design.”



*“Many of the features that were found beneficial, if included in all landscape design activity, would result in superior design and experience for us all. Improving our interactions with our world and better mental health all around! Talks about landscape design specific to an older population, proving a point of the importance of landscape architects. It sets up a design hypothesis that is in need of proving. Everything it applies to older population also applies to everyone. The research has a much broader application than just the elderly population.” – 2010 Professional Awards Jury*

And to celebrate, Therapeutic Landscapes Network is offering a 15% discount off any or all three “Access to Nature” DVDs. Visit the Access to Nature website, ([www.accesstonature.org](http://www.accesstonature.org)) and at the checkout, enter the promotional code TLNA2N.

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