



newsletter

january 2008

january meeting: romeo, juliet, and jeff stann

You don't have to be a die-hard romantic to appreciate gardens at night. With some guidance from January's speaker, LDG member Jeff Stann, anyone can make a garden more interesting and accessible after dark.

Jeff began his design practice ten years ago under the name Evening Gardens, LLC. The idea behind the name came from the number of two-income families in the Washington area, many of whom can only enjoy their gardens in the gloaming or after dark. The problem is to find ways to make clients' gardens accessible when they can use them.

Jeff will discuss the use of hardscape, sound, fragrance, color, and other elements—in addition to lighting—to make gardens more enjoyable or more easily navigable after the sun goes down. He will also give a brief introduction to his own garden, which we will be seeing in our first garden visit in April.

Jeff completed the George Washington landscape design program after a career at the Smithsonian Institution. He was for several years editor of the LDG newsletter.

We will also hear from Rich Thomas, husband of the late Sigrid Thomas regarding Sigrid's memoir, *Goodbye, Stalin*.

when: Wednesday, January 23rd at 7:00 pm. We'll socialize, and at 7:30 pm there will be the meeting and presentation by Jeff Stann.

where: McLean Community Center, 1234 Ingleside Avenue, McLean, VA 22101

directions: The McLean Community Center is located on Ingleside Avenue, one block from the intersection of Old Dominion Drive and Dolley Madison Boulevard (Route 123) adjacent to the Dolley Madison Library and McLean Central Park.

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2008 board

At the November meeting, the following Board was elected for 2008:

President - Mark Emmell

Vice President - Pat Wainwright

Secretary - Christina Del Valle

Treasurer - Jan Rothman

Program Committee - Lynley Ogilvie, Lynn Koch (both continuing), Sara Strickler and (*in absentia*) Rosie Sausa

Meeting Coordinator - Victoria Griffiths (continuing)

Hospitality Coordinators - Candy Kessel and Barbara Kulp (both continuing)

Newsletter Editor - Rob Wilkinson (continuing)

Membership Coordinator - Lauren Wheeler (continuing)

At-Large Members - Adele Ashkar (continuing), Holly Radus (who has volunteered to develop a website for us), and (*in absentia*) Alex Dickman

The Landscape Designers' Group Newsletter is published monthly except August and December by the Landscape Designers' Group of metropolitan Washington.

LDG president: Mark Emmell, 301-345-2981 or greensmiths.inc@verizon.net

Membership Coordinator: Lauren Wheeler, 202-489-6214 or

natural_resources@earthlink.net.

Editor: Rob Wilkinson, 240-271-5581 or editor@rainbowlandscape.us.

Deadline for submissions is the 25th of the month preceding the month of publication. The LDG meets the fourth Wednesday of the month except August and December.

via I-495: Take I-495 to Exit 46B - Route 123 North; merge onto Route 123 (Dolley Madison Boulevard) and continue approximately 2.2 miles to traffic light at Old Dominion Drive. Use this intersection as a landmark only; continue straight through light and make first left onto Ingleside Avenue. Go approximately 2 blocks, past the Dolley Madison Library, until you can turn left into the Center's parking lot. (Do not turn left on Oak Ridge.)

via I-66 from Fairfax and points west: Take I-66 East and merge onto I-495 North. Then follow the directions above.

via I-66 from Washington, DC or Arlington: Take I-66 West to Exit 67—Route 267 West (I-495N/Dulles Airport/Baltimore). Exit right and continue on Route 267 to exit number 19B—Route 123 North. Merge onto Route 123 (Dolley Madison Boulevard) and continue to 2nd traffic light at Old Dominion Drive. Follow the directions above from I-495.

via George Washington Memorial Parkway from points south: take the parkway to the exit for Route 123—McLean; stay to the right across the overpass; continue on 123 (Dolley Madison Boulevard) through 6th traffic light. Watch for "Old Dominion Dr. Next Signal" sign. Before Old Dominion turn right onto Ingleside Avenue. Go approximately 2 blocks, past the Dolley Madison Library, until you can turn left into the Center's parking lot. (Do not turn left on Oak Ridge.)

via Chain Bridge from Washington, DC: Cross Chain Bridge and make an immediate right onto Chain Bridge Road (Route 123); follow the directions above from the GW Parkway.

via the Dulles Toll Road from points west: Take the Dulles Toll Road to exit number 19B—Route 123 North. Merge onto Route 123 (Dolley Madison Boulevard) and continue to 2nd traffic light at Old Dominion Drive. Follow the directions above from I-495.

awards to APLD chapter members

The DC-MD-VA chapter of the Association of Professional Landscape Designers is delighted to recognize several of its members for recent awards:

Melissa Clark, of Landscape Projects, Inc. in Bethesda, Md. – a Grand Award from LCA and a Distinction Award from PLANET;

membership time

The 2008 LDG membership form is found at the back of this month's newsletter. Fill it out early and get it off your 'Things To Do List'. Remember it is due by January 15, 2008 to be included in the LDG Directory. And encourage a friend to join as well. Being a member of LDG is the best professional organization bargain in town!

*Lauren Wheeler
Membership Coordinator*

[Note: checks sent in earlier should have been cashed by now; there was a delay due to the uncertain continuation of the LDG, and due to the transition from one Treasurer to another. Contact Treasurer Jan Rothman directly with any questions.

*Jan's e-mail address is
janr22@verizon.net—Ed.]*

Cathy Petrillo, of Garden Gate Landscaping, Inc. in Silver Spring, Md. – 3 projects selected for a Grand Award from LCA, and 2 projects selected for a Merit Award from PLANET;

Tom Mannion, of Tom Mannion Landscape Design, Inc. in Arlington, Va. – a Grand Award from LCA.

You will also notice that one of Melissa's gardens is featured in the latest APLD calendar.

Congratulations, Melissa, Cathy, and Tom!

*Toni Bailey, Secretary
DC.MD.VA Chapter, APLD
www.dcmdva-apld.org*

a note from our outgoing prez

The beginning of a new year often includes some moments for reflection. Here's one of mine. I have truly enjoyed the privilege of serving as your president in 2006 and 2007. When I first joined the group as a total novice, I was intimidated by all the knowledge and experience and skill that you represent and was pleasantly surprised at the friendships that eased my transition to this profession and have warmed my soul ever since. And I'm still intimidated and amazed!

With my heartfelt thanks to all the officers past and present I'd like to offer a toast the Landscape Designers' Group! You, the members, have been a great group doing together what's impossible for us to do individually. Your meetings and social gatherings have been a source of inspiration and professional camaraderie for all of us. Your enthusiasm and sharing of knowledge have helped many of us 'newbies' as we continue learning and developing our self-confidence. And, since there is no end to learning and loving this profession, I raise my glass to your continued health and happiness. Please keep on keepin' on! Happy New Year!

John Gordon

the story of stuff

Check out *The Story of Stuff* at storyofstuff.com

The Story of Stuff is a 20-minute film that takes viewers on a provocative and eye-opening tour of the real costs of our consumer driven culture—from resource extraction to iPod incineration.

Annie Leonard, an activist who has spent the past 10 years traveling the globe fighting environmental threats, narrates *The Story of Stuff*, delivering a rapid-fire, often humorous and always engaging story about “all our stuff—where it comes from and where it goes when we throw it away.” Leonard examines the real costs of extraction, production, distribution, consumption and disposal, and she isolates the moment in history where she says the trend of consumption mania began. *The Story of Stuff* examines how economic policies of the post-World War II era ushered in notions of “planned obsolescence” and “perceived obsolescence” — and how these notions are still driving much of the U.S. and global economies today.

Leonard's inspiration for the film began as a personal musing over the question, “Where does all the stuff we buy come from, and where does it go when we throw it out?” She trav-

eled the world in pursuit of the answer to this seemingly innocent question, and what she found along the way were some very guilty participants and their unfortunate victims.

Written by Leonard, the film was produced by Free Range Studios, the makers of other highly popular web-based films such as “The Meatrix” and “Grocery Store Wars.” Funding for the project came from the Sustainability Funders (The Funders Workgroup for Sustainable Production and Consumption) and Tides Foundation.

*From the Chesapeake Ecology
Center newsletter*

O winter! frozen pulse and heart of fire,
What loss is theirs who from thy kingdom turn
Dismayed, and think thy snow a sculptured urn
Of death! Far sooner in midsummer tire
The streams than under ice. June could not hire
Her roses to forego the strength they learn
In sleeping on thy breast. No fires can burn
The bridges thou dost lay where men desire
In vain to build.
O Heart, when Love's sun goes
To northward, and the sounds of singing cease,
Keep warm by inner fires, and rest in peace.
Sleep on content, as sleeps the patient rose.
Walk boldly on the white untrodden snows,
The winter is the winter's own release.

Helen Hunt Jackson, 1830-1885
A Calendar of Sonnets: January

sticks and stones of winter

by Elinor Bennett Markle

It is the duty of winter to set us dreaming. Long hours without the sun prevail, and the quality of the daylight at noon on December 22 is stingy. We stay outdoors or scoop up the mood-enhancing effects of any sunlight for as long as our frostbitten fingers will allow. We drive or walk along the streets, hoping for an uplifting view. We gaze out windows upon the bones of the landscapes we planted last summer.

It is the first official day of winter. The deciduous trees and shrubs have lost their leaves; their silhouettes and branching patterns are all that remains to give them distinction. Blocky bark, peeling bark, colorful twigs and skeletal forms are placeholders now for the six previous months' riot of bud and bloom and the scalding hot colors of fall. Evergreens have been there all along, but they are the quiet ones, the solid, sturdy pillars of the landscape design. They are not so noticeable until the leafy ones take their time off.

What is left for us in the view of the landscape when the leaves and the blooms have gone? The bare branches have

less mass, and the starkness of the evergreens, the lines of the planting beds, the walkways and the fences, arbors and walls take on more importance when there is no distraction of color. Look with analytical concern at the forms and textures in that winterscape. Do you see the bare branches against the gray or blue sky? Do you still see the curve of a well-shaped planting bed against the light drift of snow? Do you watch the birds and squirrels take the last berries from the shrubs and trees? Look closely at the shape you have given to the land. When summer has gone, is it still a beautiful piece of work?

So many clients ask for year round interest, and often our response is to design with plants



that have berries, interesting bark or striking branching patterns. That is a great part of the design, but it should not be our starting point. Those plants are actually the icing on the cake. The foundation of good design comes from the ground itself. Although the ground form may be a subtle visual element, it serves your design well if you preserve or enhance any opportunity in its existing shape. Perhaps a waterfall really is just the thing, coming out from a high grade on your site. If it fits well, its forms and textures in the winter will tell you.

Abstract all the design elements you plan to use into simple geometric forms to understand how the massing of forms will look (see illustration). Each vertical form that you place in the design will become a focal point unless it is part of a group. Masses of shrubs placed too close or tightly around a tree look like frightened children hugging the legs of parents. Groups of boulders or shrubs of too many species jumbled together remind me of brawl after a ball game. Plan for relaxed and confident forms that belong in their places.

A fence or wall will read as a stronger line if there are no leaves or berries growing there to give it the special interest of a focal point. Your eyes will travel down that line, to what, from what? The endpoints of that manmade structure should either lead our view off to a place where we cannot see the end, or end in something that is interesting without the benefit of blooms. If the arbors and fences you have placed in the landscape work with the land forms and tie them to the rest of the landscape or building elements, you will see that best in the wintertime.

Reach out from the manmade structures to the land with strong visual lines of the planting bed edges. Good edges are practical alright, but when applied in an appropriate, well-defined line or curve, they have a beauty of their own, and the bleakness of winter is a perfect time to observe this. Hardscape planting bed edges of brick or stone that repeat the construction elements found elsewhere on the property give us continuity of texture and color. Like the ribbon of a well-packaged present, these crisp edges contain the plants and lead our eyes through the composition. They make maintenance a lot easier too, but that is a thought for practical days, and today, we are dreaming.

Elinor Bennett Markle (right), RLA, ASLA, is a landscape architect practicing in Kentucky and Tennessee. She can be reached via e-mail at lnrmarkle@yahoo.com.

This article originally appeared in the December 2007 issue of *Landscape and Irrigation* magazine. It is reprinted by permission.

sustainable landscapes symposium at brookside gardens

Carbon footprint... global warming... going green at home...

These are all buzz words and phrases we're hearing a lot about in the news. But how do our gardens and landscapes fit in with efforts to preserve the environment? Just because they are part of nature doesn't mean they're "green." Attend the next *Green Matters* symposium to get cutting edge information on the first Sustainable Sites Initiative report and specific information on ways you can green your landscape's footprint.

what: *Green Matters* symposium
where: Brookside Gardens, Wheaton, Maryland
when: February 22, 2008

All the relevant information and a registration form is at the website, www.mc-mncppc.org/parks/brookside/greenmatters/greenmatters.shtm. Early registration (by January 14th) is \$79. After that it's \$89.



The Landscape Designers' Group, Inc.

2008 MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION

(Please note Directory inclusion due date at bottom!)

- New Member* *Student* (Student dues: \$15.00)
 Renewing Membership (Same Contact Info as last year - pls. fill in just your name)

Directory information: (Please ensure all applicable information is included and boxes checked)

Last Name _____ First Name _____

Business or Employer Name _____

Street Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Home tel: _____ Office tel: _____

Cell tel: _____ Fax tel: _____

Newsletters will sent by Email. Email: _____

UNLESS YOU REQUEST NEWSLETTER MAILINGS by USPS.

- Please send LDG Newsletters by USPS. I can only receive your Newsletters by USPS. I understand my membership dues are increased to \$45.00. to cover the costs of printing and mailing the Newsletters.

Website: www. _____

Services you or your employer offer, in addition to, or other than design and/or installation, that may be of interest to other LDG members or their clients:

- | | | |
|--|--|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> IPM | <input type="checkbox"/> Shrub and Perennial Maintenance | <input type="checkbox"/> Certified Arborist Tree Care |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Water Garden Installation | <input type="checkbox"/> Hardscape Installation | <input type="checkbox"/> Custom Woodworking |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Landscape Lighting | <input type="checkbox"/> Masonry | <input type="checkbox"/> Custom Pruning |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Other _____ | | |

Please give us your opinion on the following items:

- Preferable meeting time for me: 4th Wed. eve. of month (as usual)
 Other weeknight _____ Alternate weeknights and Saturdays
 Other _____

Meeting Suggestion / Garden to visit:

As a Landscape Artisan, I would like to learn more about:

Annual dues: \$35 / year **(Newsletter delivery by USPS: \$45 / year)** (Student dues: \$15 / year)

Dues are payable annually and must be received by **January 15, 2008** to ensure your listing in the LDG Directory. **All information provided above will be used for the Directory and is for the exclusive use of the LDG membership.** Mail your check, payable to Landscape Designers Group, with this application to:

Lauren Wheeler, LDG,
Natural Resources Design, Inc.
402 Boyd Ave.
Takoma Park, MD 20912