

A Planner's Progress:

Lessons Learned the First 5 Years

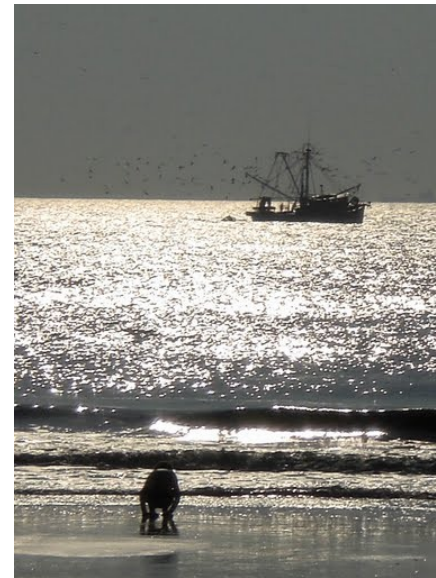
Sponsored by the young Planners Group

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Planning & Zoning Administrator | City
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Georgia Planning Association | Fall Conference | Athens, GA
September 30, 2009

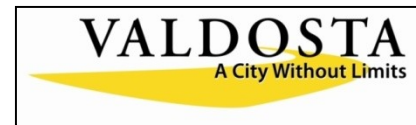
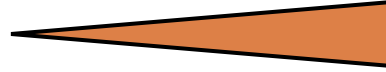
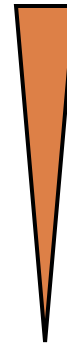
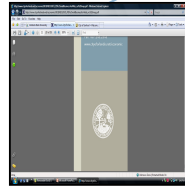
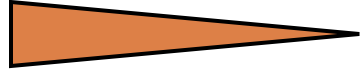
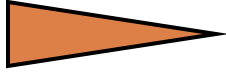
Today

- Living
- Learning
- Growing
- Knowing 'The Rules'
- Tips
- Things to Remember



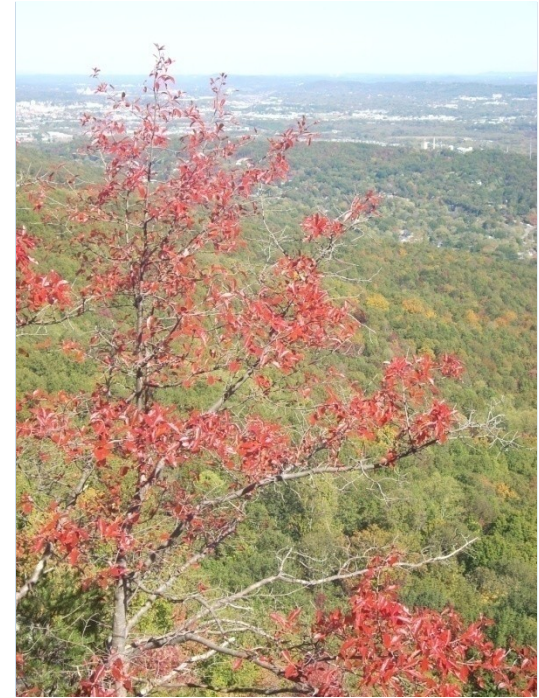
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My Progress



Living

- Love what you do



Choose a job you love, and you will never have to work a day in your life. ~Confucius

Living

- Maintain A Balanced Life
 - } Life is a marathon, not a sprint.
 - } There will always be more work than time
 - } The work will be there tomorrow



"Live a balanced life - learn some and think some and draw and paint and sing and dance and play and work every day some." - Robert Fulghum

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Living

- Keep it in perspective
 - } Your perspective
 - } Their perspective



"Live a balanced life - learn some and think some and draw and paint and sing and dance and play and work every day some." - Robert Fulghum

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Learning

- Never Stop
 - } You're not done after Graduating
 - } 30 minutes a day (morning) read newspapers, online discussions, magazines, etc.
 - } Ex) ICMA, APA, Smart Growth Network, etc.



American Planning Association



ICMA

Leaders at the Core of Better Communities



SMART GROWTH
NETWORK

“Anyone who stops learning is old, whether at twenty or eighty.” Henry Ford

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Learning

- Learn From Others
 - } Seasoned Professionals
 - } Co-Workers
 - } Ask Questions
- Learn From Mistakes
 - } Yours
 - } Others - Be observant, watch, listen

*“Get over the idea that only children should spend their time in study.
Be a student so long as you still have something to learn,
and this will mean all your life.” ~Henry L. Dole, 10/8/09*

Growing

- Ask for Help
- Build Bridges, Don't Burn Them
 - } You never know when you'll need those relationships
 - } Collaborate
 - } Conferences, Business Cards
- Trust
 - } Without trust your work will be much more challenging
 - } Needed from elected officials, community, co-workers

"You learn something every day if you pay attention." 10/8/09 Ray LeBlond

Growing

- Communicate
 - } Over Communicate
 - } Face-to-Face, Phone, Email
 - } Meetings (but avoid death by meetings)
- Little Things Matter
 - } Say Thank You
 - Committee members, speakers, meetings, etc
 - } Remember Birthdays
 - Co-workers, boss, people you come in contact with through work
 - } Be willing to help
 - Avoid the 'That's not my job' syndrome

Knowing the Rules

- The 8 letter word
 - } POLITICS
- Personal v. Professional
- Get a seat at the table
- Speak their language
- Playing the game

"You learn something every day if you pay attention." 10/8/09 eBlond

Tips

- Pleasing Everyone Leads to Pleasing No One
- Perfection isn't always Perfect
- There's no such thing as off the record
- Be organized
- Document, Document, Document
 - } Policies and Procedures

*“We are what we repeatedly do. Excellence then, is not an act, but a habit.”
~ Aristotle*

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Tips

- Create a Bubble of Excellence
 - } Starting small will grow into something big
- Start Good Habits Now
 - } Learning
 - } Following up on emails, phone messages, etc.
 - } Proofreading

*“Sow a thought, and you reap an act. Sow an act, and you reap a habit.
Sow a habit, and you reap a character. Sow a character, and you reap a destiny.”*
~ Charles Reader

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And Remember...

- Laugh!
- Celebrate your successes
- Celebrate the success of others
- Dream big

“Go confidently in the direction of your dreams! Live the life you’ve imagined.”
~ Thoreau

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So how do we do all this?



There is help!

Young Professional Organizations

- Local
- ICMA - Next Generation Initiative
- APA - GPA Young Planners Group

What is YPG?



YPG

Young Planners Group

- Up and Coming Leaders
- Innovative thinkers
- Students and young professionals
- Young Planners age 35 and under; Planners above age 35 can serve as mentors

YPG members include a broad range of professionals, including:

- Local government officials
- City planners
- County planners
- Private sector planning consultants
- Transportation planners
- Environmental planners
- Economists
- Legislative analysts
- Lobbyists
- Attorneys

How Did YPG Get Started?



Northern Section Young Planners Group

Please join us for an evening of social networking and a chance to learn more about the Northern Section Young Planners Group (YPG). The YPG provides young professionals and students in planning and related occupations the opportunity to interact with their peers and other professionals in the Northern Section region. The YPG seeks to cultivate young professionals through career building programs, social and professional events, and mentoring opportunities.

The YPG is open to any young planning professional 35 years and under and to planning students. If you are interested in learning more, the Northern Section YPG will host a social networking and informational happy hour on **Thursday, April 2, 2009**, in San Francisco (location TBD). If you are interested in attending or would like more information about the Northern Section YPG, please contact Kimberly Comacho and Roscoe Mata at norapaypg@gmail.com.

- APA recognized that it was not meeting needs of young professionals.
- Created a Young Professional Task Force to investigate the need.
- The Sacramento Valley Section of the California APA Chapter started the first YPG in the Summer of 2008.
- Since then nine other States have joined

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The Georgia YPG Mission

“The Georgia YPG focus is on helping young professional planners establish social and professional relationships with their peers and experienced planning professional through career building, program, social events, and mentoring. The Georgia YPG will strive to cultivate the minds of young planning professionals through educational programs on the issues and trends that are relevant to the planning the communities of tomorrow.”

Young Planners Group Taskforce - “Blueprint for Change” (April 25, 2009)

What APA can do for Young Planners

- Create a Young Planners Interest Group within APA to address the needs and issues of young planners
- Integrate the voice of young planners at multiple organizational levels
- Enhance the APA Webpage to provide more resources geared toward young planners
- Provide continued APA marketing and outreach to students at universities to engage young planners before entering or re-entering the work force
- Provide ongoing training and education to meet the needs of new professionals
- Encourage the participation and recruitment of young planners at networking events at the local, state and national levels
- Mentorship opportunities including: Student to Young Planner and Young Planner to Experienced Planner

What Young Planners can do for APA

- Expand the YPG membership
- Means of identifying leaders
- Participate in Leadership Shadow Program
- Bring other young planner members to APA
- Volunteer at the chapter level
- Serve in a leadership position in a Division

2009 YPG Goals

- Host a number of meetings and social events geared toward networking and professional development
- Identify issues and opportunities for young planners
- Solicit new planning ideas
- Establish 2010 goals

YPG Kickoff Meeting



Kickoff took place August 7th, 2009 at Manuel's Tavern

We had a great turnout of approximately 30 young planners attending.

During the meeting we brainstormed challenges that young planners face and opportunities for YPG over the coming year

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Outcomes from the Kickoff Meeting:

YPG Challenges

- Refocus on “Hot Topics”
- Lack of connections to “big picture”
- Navigating the political scene
- Not knowing what jobs/ opportunities are out there
- Learning to deal with hostile atmospheres
- Tuning into the planning network

Outcomes from the Kickoff Meeting:

YPG Opportunities

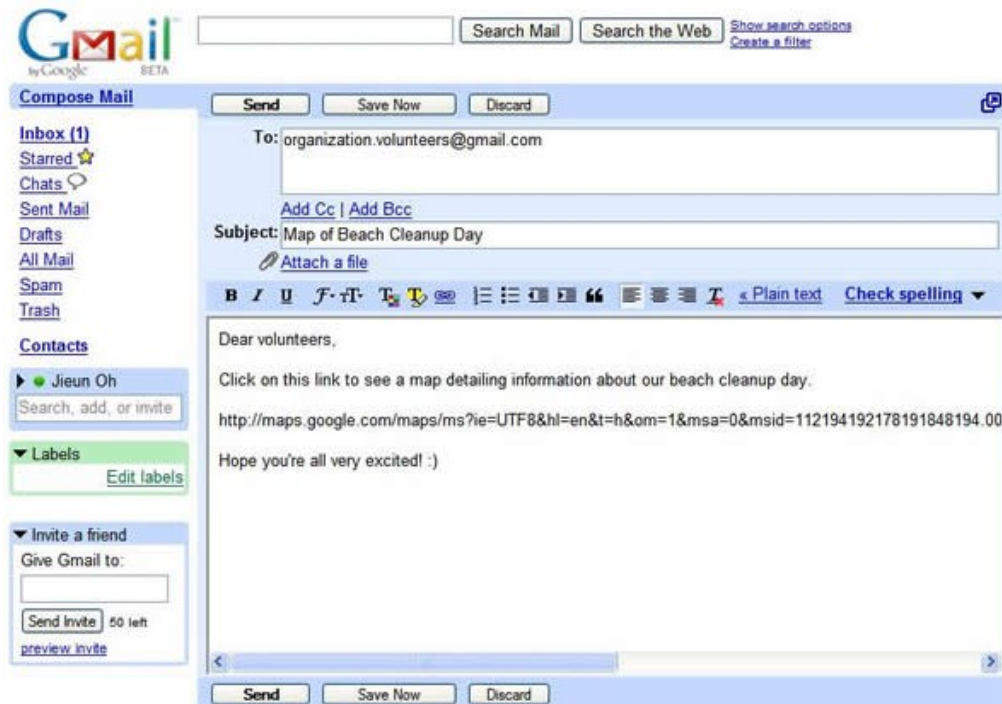
- Session focusing on the Atlanta Mayor's race
- Event Calendar
- Facebook or other social networking
- Database of Best Practices
- Forum for questions (i.e. google wave)
- Networking events
- Formal competitions for professional development
- Forum of best practices (both in and out of Atlanta)
- Support for AICP certification

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YPG Connections

□ Come to a Meeting

Keep an eye out for our friendly emails for updates on meeting times and locations...



YPG Connections

□ Join a YPG Committee

Leadership:

- o Maintain database of membership and continually solicit new members or organizational partners
- o Maintain social networking sites (i.e. Facebook, Linked in) and strive to find new ways to keep existing members informed and solicited new members
- o Serve as link to the wider APA, GPA, and Georgia Tech communities
- o Coordinate and keep up with other local young professional groups

Program Planning:

- o Coordinate YPG events ranging from potential speakers, panels, tours or social networking events
- o Develop, enable and manage an online discussion forum
- o Formulate YPG led AICP-oriented events such as test preps, review sessions or certification credit events
- o Develop, maintain and regularly update a database of best practices or case studies of planning exercises from both in and outside of Atlanta

Current Events:

- o Develop, maintain and regularly update an external event calendar
- o Seek out events to add to the calendar (public meetings, speakers, forums, etc.)
- o Keep membership informed of multidisciplinary planning topics, including news updates or interesting best practices from both in and outside of Atlanta

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YPG Connections

Monthly Newsletter

Review GPA Newsletter

E-Newsletters



GEORGIA PLANNER

Newsletter of the Georgia Chapter of the American Planning Association
SEPTEMBER 2009

APA
GA
American Planning Association
Georgia Chapter
Making Great Communities Happen

FREE FALL OVER — WELCOME TO THE NEW NORMAL

By Dan Reister

Anyone who has tried to keep up with the news about the national economy and issues of growth in Georgia during the past two years is probably still nursing a headache. The news has been coming fast and most of it fairly negative. On August 26th, 2009, Rajeev Dhaswan, Director of the Economic Forecasting Center at Georgia State University's Robinson College of Business provided the most recent assessment of metro Atlanta and Georgia's economy and where we are headed in the short term. The press release is available online at: <http://robinson.gsu.edu/news/09/efc/09.html>



Building demolition in Atlanta on September 26, 2006, making way for new construction.

The full GSU report is very enlightening in many ways but a few points hit the issues home:

- Georgia has experienced 16 bank failures or 25% of total national closings.
- Between 2001 and 2006, metro Atlanta was building 68,000 housing units annually when its annual job growth was only 20,000.
- Expect metro Atlanta building permits around 6,000 total for 2010 and 2011.
- More job losses expected for 2010 and tax revenues will remain very challenged.

So what can local governments and planners expect in the short term? We should brace for more difficult times ahead. A stock market rebound will not necessarily mean our troubles are over in Georgia.

Bruce Gunter, President of Progressive Redevelopment, recently wrote a letter to the Atlanta Business Chronicle providing his views of the "new normal". His opinions and comments follow.

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*Message from Ellen Heath, AICP,
President of the GA Chapter*

FALL 2009 CONFERENCE
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*Listing of Sessions and Tracks
Descriptions*

MOBILE WORKSHOPS
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*Listing of Mobile Workshops for
This Fall's GPA Conference*

BALLOT! BALLOT! BALLOT!
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*It's Election Time and the
GPA Needs Your Vote*

PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT
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*News About AICP Featuring New
Members, Exam Reviews, & More*

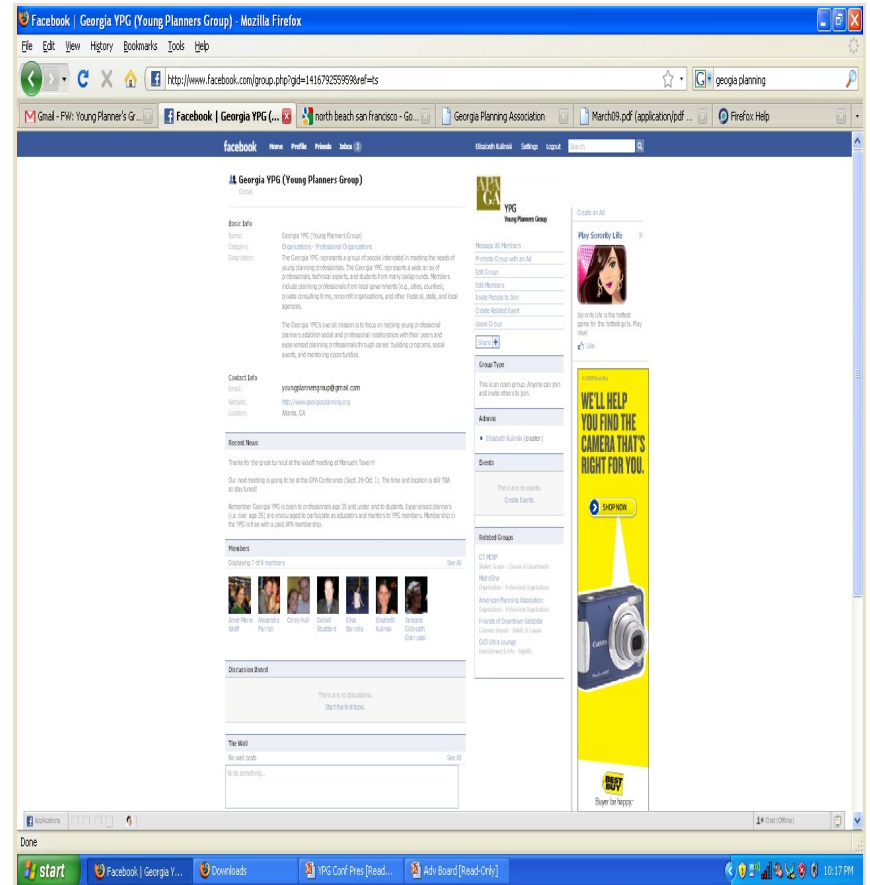
CALENDAR OF EVENTS
PAGE NINE
*List of Upcoming Planning
Events from Across the Country*

BOARD OF DIRECTORS
BALLOT INCLUDED!
*State Meeting of the Board of Directors of YPA,
and more*

YPG Connections

- Join our new Facebook page

It's a great way to help us stay connected



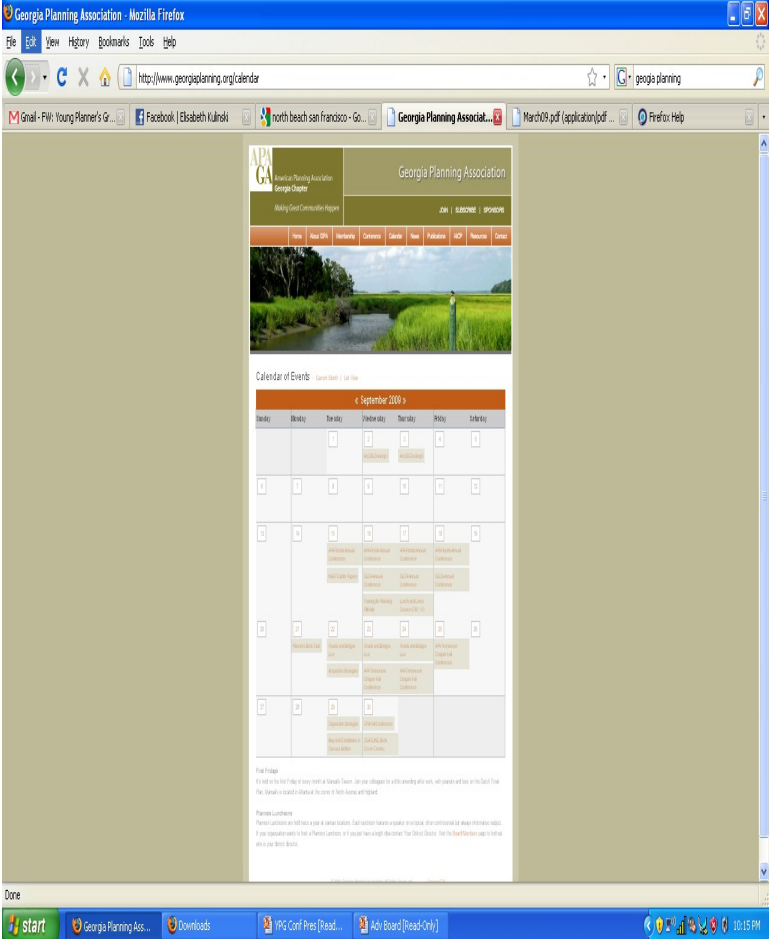
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YPG Connections

- Look for YPG Events on the GPA Website Calendar

Also find out about events at GPA as well as the whole Southern Region.

Let us know if you know of an event that might interest other YPGers



The screenshot shows a Mozilla Firefox browser window displaying the Georgia Planning Association website. The address bar shows the URL <http://www.georgiaplanning.org/calendar>. The website header includes the GPA logo and navigation links: Home, About GPA, Members, Contact, Career, News, Activities, YPG, Resource, and Contact. Below the header is a large image of a river and green fields. The main content area is titled "Calendar of Events" and shows a calendar for September 2009. The calendar grid has columns for Sunday through Saturday. Several dates have event listings, such as "September 1st" with "2009 YPG Conference" and "September 2nd" with "2009 YPG Conference".

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How Do I Get Involved?



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