



GEORGIA PLANNER

Newsletter of the Georgia Planning Association, A Chapter of the American Planning Association
FEBRUARY 2003

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Solid Waste Minimum Planning Standards Being Re-examined

By Rick Brooks

A decade ago, solid waste management planning was a top priority for local officials across the state. Georgia had less than five years of disposal capacity and many parts of the state were struggling to provide adequate solid waste collection services. In 1990, the Solid Waste Management Act was adopted, requiring all local governments to prepare a Comprehensive Solid Waste Management Plan that demonstrated:

- a minimum of 10 years of solid waste disposal capacity,
- identified an environmentally sound solid waste collection system, and
- set forth a strategy that would help the state achieve its goal of a 25% per capita reduction in the disposal of municipal solid waste.

While the urgency to prepare and implement solid waste management plans has diminished, the need to have an up-to-date Solid Waste Management Plan (SWMP) is as strong as ever. Georgia's population continues to grow, and while over 550 local governments have implemented recycling programs, the state has fallen short of meeting its 25% waste disposal reduction goal. Many of the solid waste management services provided by the public sector have been privatized over the past decade, changing the level and type of solid waste management services available throughout the state. And while the amount of disposal capacity in the state has risen sharply over the last decade, this capacity is found in fewer, larger regional facilities.

In 2004, a new round of ten-year planning cycles will begin. The changes that have occurred in the solid waste management field in the past decade have prompted a re-examination of the Solid Waste Minimum Planning Standards. Over the past year DCA staff members have solicited comments, recommendations, and suggestions on how to improve the Standards. The time has come to convene a meeting to discuss updating the Minimum Planning Standards.

We invite everyone interested to attend a series of meetings to discuss ways to improve and update Georgia's Solid Waste Minimum Planning Standards.

The first meeting was scheduled for Friday, January 17, 2003, The second meeting is scheduled for Friday, February 14, and The third is scheduled for Wednesday, February 26.

All meetings are held at the Department of Community Affairs headquarters from 10:00 a.m. until 3:00 p.m.

At the first meeting, we provided a brief overview of the current Planning Standards, reviewed the plan update schedule recently coordinated with the Comprehensive Planning due dates, and discussed the suggested improvements and clarifications to the existing Minimum Planning Standards.



Mark your calendar

for the GPA Spring Conference scheduled for **April 17 - 18** at the Foundry Park Inn and Spa in Athens.

The program will focus both on changes to expect from the state's new Republican administration and on transportation related topics. Make your hotel reservations now. For details on the program and for hotel information, visit the Chapter's web site at:

www.georgiaplanning.org.

From the President...

We have great things to be excited about at GPA this year. We are off to an unprecedented good start thanks to great leadership and hard work by the Board of Directors. We welcomed three new Board members Lee Sutton, District 10; Sian Llewellyn, District 3; and Dan Basso, Non-AICP At Large. We will be adding to our Board by making two new positions for Planning Commissioners on the Board in the fall. - Got any names for the Nominations Committee?

Congratulations to Bill Ross, who received an Award for Outstanding Service from the President and was promptly installed as our Newsletter Editor! (Thanks!)

In December and January we had two really productive Board meetings. We adopted a Strategic Plan that sets a goal of increasing our membership from 725 to 850 this year. We set a goal to be more diversified geographically, professionally, and socioeconomically and to increase our chapter services and programs so you will get more out of membership. We can do all this because we have set loose an unlimited power YOU!

With the outreach efforts of Jerry Weitz, you have responded to help us fill out a whole new set of committees with volunteers. Many of you who volunteered (at least 150!) will be getting connected and empowered by the following committees and Chairs:

- | | |
|---|--------------------------------|
| <i>Audit Committee</i> | <i>David Kirk, Chair</i> |
| <i>Nominations and Elections Committee</i> | <i>Jerry Weitz, Chair</i> |
| <i>Fall Conference Committee</i> | <i>York Phillips, Chair</i> |
| <i>Spring Conference Committee</i> | <i>York Phillips, Chair</i> |
| <i>Planners' Luncheon Committee</i> | <i>Eric Linton, Chair</i> |
| <i>Awards Committee</i> | <i>Larry Vandenbosh, Chair</i> |
| <i>Website Committee</i> | <i>Debbie Miness, Chair</i> |
| <i>Membership Committee</i> | <i>Sian Llewellyn, Chair</i> |
| <i>Newsletter Committee</i> | <i>Bill Ross, Editor</i> |
| <i>Minorities Committee</i> | <i>Eve Brothers, Chair</i> |
| <i>Legislative Committee</i> | <i>Dan Reuter, Chair</i> |
| <i>Professional Development Committee</i> | <i>Tom Sills</i> |
| <i>Student Services Committee</i> | <i>Dan Basso</i> |
| <i>AICP College of Fellows Nominating Committee</i> | <i>Leon Eplan, Chair</i> |
| <i>Planning Officials Development Committee</i> | <i>Pat Chapman, Chair</i> |
| <i>Finance Committee</i> | <i>Pat Chapman, Chair</i> |
| <i>Historic Preservation Committee</i> | <i>Paul Forgey, Chair</i> |
| <i>Urban Design Committee</i> | <i>Paul Souidi, Chair</i> |
| <i>Economic Development Committee</i> | <i>Patti Cullen, Chair</i> |
| <i>Transportation Committee</i> | <i>Mary Huffstetler, Chair</i> |

If you already volunteered to be on one of these committees Thanks you are on! If not, and you want to join one of these committees, contact the Chair.

Finally, congratulations to our new class of Fellows of AICP:
Jack Crowley, Paul Kelman, Carl Patton, H. Randal Roark and Myles Smith

These great oaks of our profession are five of 37 new members to be inducted into the College of Fellows on March 29, 2003 at the APA National Planning Conference in Denver. Hats off to Leon Eplan, FAICP who chaired the GPA FAICP Nominations Committee and successfully assisted these five to navigate a very steep course. Every one of the five Georgia nominees were selected! This is an outstanding accomplishment that is a first for GPA!



Latino Issues in Housing and Community Development

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The Neighborhood Reinvestment Corporation is doing a major event here in Atlanta with a "Latino angle". We will be holding a major national symposium on "Latino Issues in Housing and Community Development". The "main event" is the full day Wednesday February 19th. The Latino Symposium is part of Neighborhood Reinvestment's National Training Institute which will be going on the whole week. You may want to check us out at www.nw.org or more directly:

<http://www.nw.org/network/HomeFramex.asp?searchfor=/network/aboutUs/nwNetwork/networkInTheNews/current/netNews010703sym.htm>

The night before the Symposium (Tuesday night) the Southern District of Neighborhood Reinvestment is hosting a reception at the Latin American Association. We expect many of the key participants and speakers of the Symposium (including - among others - Raul Izaguirre, Henry Cisneros, possibly Mel Martinez, and important local dignitaries) to be in attendance.

Reemberto Rodríguez
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PLANNING UNDERWAY FOR CHAPTER PROGRAMS

- Plans for the GPA Fall Conference are being made. The annual conference will be held October 22 - 24 in Savannah, and will feature forty individual sessions in several tracks (including historic preservation and transportation), as well as mobile workshops and other special activities. For more information, see the Chapter web site.
- Session proposals are due for the fall conference. The Sessions Committee is working now to select session topics and organize the conference program. A form is available for those wishing to propose a program - email York Phillips or get the form from the Chapter website. **FORMS ARE DUE MARCH 15.**
- Volunteers are still needed to help organize the fall conference. The Sessions Committee is hard at work, but other tasks also need to be performed. To volunteer to help with sponsorships, marketing, graphics, etc., please email York Phillips.
- Action needed now to set up 2004 and 2005 conferences. In a few months, the Program Committee will be reviewing plans for the spring and fall conferences for 2004. Plans will need to be approved by the GPA Board of Directors in May in order to allow the conference committees to be set up and planning to begin. Similarly, the sites for the 2005 conferences need to be identified before the end of 2003. The Board has asked that an opportunity be given to members to propose sites for these conferences. If you have a possible site in mind, please contact York Phillips for a copy of the site selection guidelines. Remember - even if a site does not work out for 2004, it may be appropriate for 2005 or a future year.

- Committee reviewing the Planners' Luncheon program. This program started to provide networking opportunities and current professional information for a broad segment of GPA members, but has not been as active in the recent past. A committee is being set up to explore ways to improve this program. If you have ideas, feel free to email them to York Phillips for further consideration.

For more information of these and other topics, contact Programs VP York Phillips, AICP, at yphillips@glynncounty.org, or visit the Chapter website at www.georgiaplanning.org.

Bill Ross Honored by GPA Board

The Board of Directors of the Georgia Planning Association, presented a plaque to Bill Ross at its January 17 meeting in Macon in recognition of his many years of outstanding service, leadership, and innovation as the Chapter President and Past President of the Association. Gary Cornell, President of GPA, presented the award.



Bill Ross (r) receiving recognition award from Gary Cornell (l), GPA President

DCA Adopts Revised Minimum Standards for Local Government Planning

Following a public review period, during which two public hearings were held, the Board of Directors of DCA took action to adopt revised Minimum Standards for Local Government Planning at its meeting of November 13, 2002. The revised minimum standards will go into effect on January 1, 2004. The Georgia Department of Community Affairs has published the revised minimum standards on its web site www.georgiaplanning.com.

DCA was authorized to establish minimum planning standards by the 1989 Planning Act, which set up a statewide coordinated planning program, known as Georgia's Growth Strategies system. The system has three levels, local, regional and state, with a strong emphasis on the local level. Virtually all of Georgia's local governments have adopted comprehensive plans approved by DCA as meeting the current minimum standards. Not every government has a separate plan, however, as DCA encourages joint planning between cities and counties, and many smaller local governments plan jointly with the county in which they are located. The comprehensive regional plans of the sixteen Regional Development Centers in the state are also in place (some RDCs plan jointly with a neighboring RDC). The third level is a State Plan to be put into place by the Governor, to guide state agency actions and provide policy guidance for the rest of the system.

By early 1998, it was felt the time had come to reassess the entire Growth Strategies Program and identify any needs for improvement. The DCA Board appointed a blue-ribbon Task Force representing key interests in the arena of growth strategies to conduct the review. The report of the commission contained eight major recommendations, including some that would require legislative action or action by others. The key recommendation a state vision or plan would require action by the Governor. Only some of the recommendations could be addressed through revisions to DCA's minimum planning standards. Two key ones were: (1) Tier the minimum standards to correspond more closely to the needs of different sizes and types of communities; (2) Enhance community involvement and the participation of other important actors at the local level (such as school boards and development authorities) in the government's comprehensive planning process.

In January 2002, the DCA Board appointed a 22-member Task Force, chaired by Harry Hayes of the University of Georgia Institute of Government, to review and recommend changes to the current minimum standards. In its charge to the Task Force, the DCA Board included the two recommendations of the Reassessment report and also directed the Task Force to address other related programs or policies that have arisen since the minimum standards were first adopted. These included incorporating DCA's adopted Quality Community Objectives (QCOs) into the standards, and providing for coordination of local comprehensive planning with other related programs (such as the Service Delivery Strategies program, the Governor's Greenspace Program, etc.).

Calling all Committed Planning Professionals

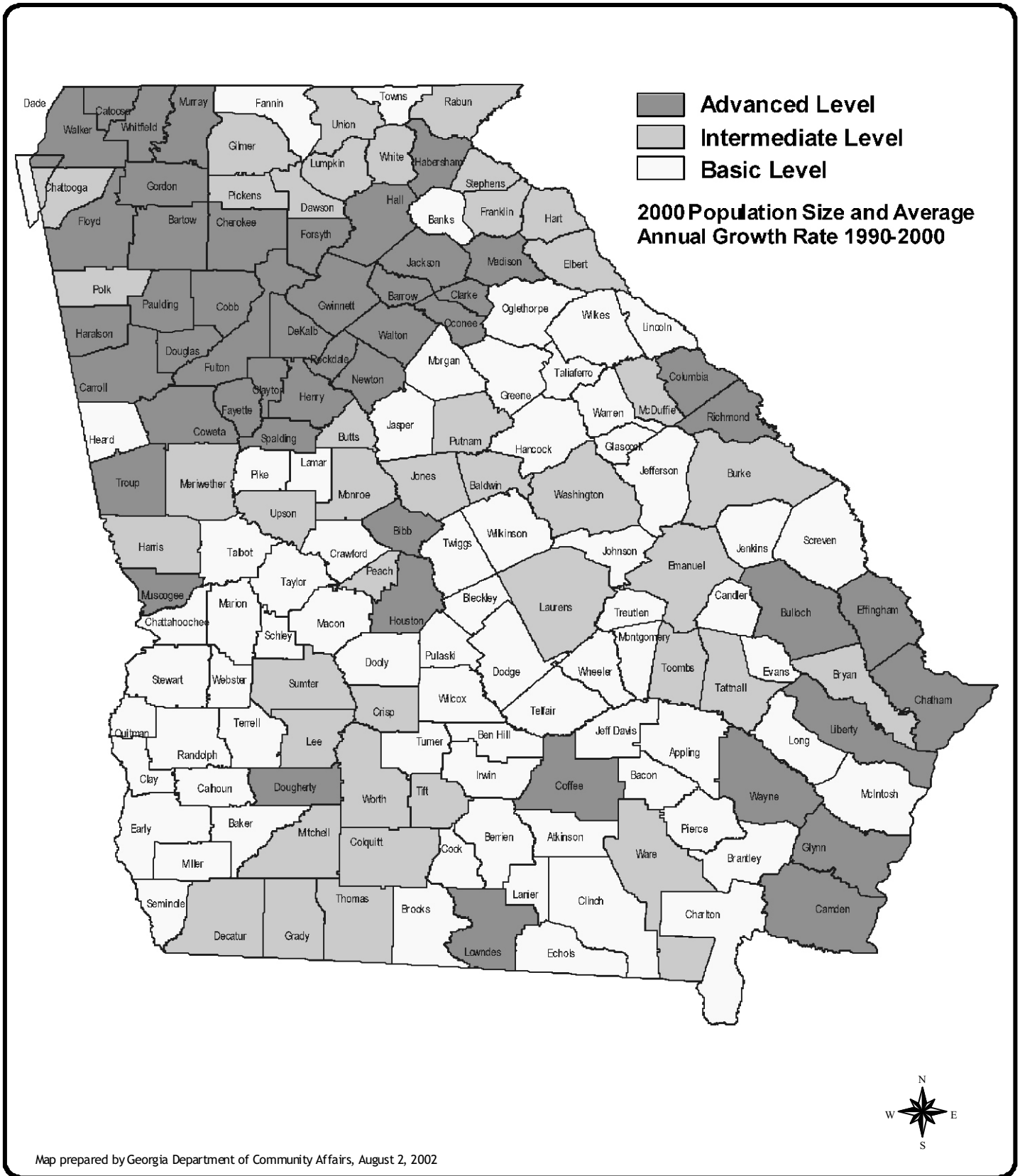
Please share the following information about the AICP Community Planning Team Charrette with your fellow professionals! It is a great opportunity for planners to participate in a pro bono planning activity.

The CPT charrette will take place at the National Planning Conference in Denver, Colorado on Saturday, March 29 from 8:00 a.m. 4:00 p.m. Planners participating in this day-long activity will work with various stakeholders developing workable solutions to the redevelopment challenges in one of Denver's Uptown Neighborhoods. This workshop is designed to provide planners with hands-on, problem-solving experience. More details about the charrette, as well as information about registration, can be found at <http://www.planning.org/2003conference/saturday.htm>.

Using a facilitated process and a consensus approach, the Task Force met seven times over a seven-month period. Their final recommendations included changes of two basic types. One was to divide local governments into three Planning Levels (Basic, Intermediate, and Advanced) based on their population size (Census 2000) and growth rate (annualized average for 1990-2000), and adjust the minimum standards to meet the needs of each group. Under the proposed revisions, all local governments must meet the Basic Planning Level requirements. Local governments in the Intermediate Planning Level must meet a substantially higher level of requirements. The State's largest and fastest growing communities, which are in the Advanced Planning Level, must address requirements in addition to those applicable to the Intermediate and Basic Planning Levels. The other type of recommendation was a general elevation of the standards, including among other changes, increased requirements for public participation and community involvement.

SEE ASSOCIATED MAP on page 7.

County Planning Levels



CHAPTER ASSISTS AICP CANDIDATES

Many practicing planners want to pursue professional accreditation and recognition for their efforts. Membership in the American Institute of Certified Planners is one way of achieving this goal. The Professional Development Committee of the Georgia Chapter offers several avenues to assist those seeking AICP accreditation.

For several years, the Chapter has offered a one-day AICP Examination Preparation Workshop. This year, the workshop is scheduled for Friday, February 21st at the Georgia Tech campus in Atlanta. Starting at 9:00 AM, the full day workshop covers the mechanics of taking the test and offers a brief overview of the examination content, including a discussion of the AICP Code of Ethics. While of specific interest to those already registered to take the exam, the workshop is open to anyone who is interested. There is a nominal fee associated with the workshop. For further information, please contact Tom Sills, Vice-President for Professional Development by phone at 770.854.6026 or via email at tsills@cfrdc.org.

For those not interested in taking the workshop, there are several resources for potential candidates to draw upon. Information about the examination and online registration are

available through the APA website: www.planning.org. Look under the drop-down menu labeled "About APA" for information on AICP certification. A self-study course and test simulations has recently been made available on CD-Rom and is available through the APA Bookstore.

Other AICP examination study guidance is also available through private vendors. These include the following:

Michael R. Waiczis, AICP ph 559.495.0604 email: mrw36@csufresno.edu
www.planningprep.com
 new website begun this year that offers interactive learning

Your chapter officers also stand ready to offer suggestions and advice. Please contact the following for additional assistance:
 Tom Sills, VP-Professional Development
 770.854.6026
tsills@cfrdc.org
 Larry Keating, Professional Development Officer
 404.894.0642
larry.keating@arch.gatech.edu

Congratulations!!

Congratulations to you on behalf of GPA as we are proud to have your names added to the College of Fellows of AICP from Georgia!

Jack Crowley, FAICP
 Paul Kelman, FAICP
 Carl V. Patton, FAICP

H. Randal Roark, FAICP
 Myles Smith, FAICP

We are proud of you, and we are also proud of our AICP Committee, headed by Leon Eplan, FAICP including Tom Roberts, FAICP, Ray White, and Larry Keating for having the foresight to choose this slate and win 100% approval! We also owe a debt of gratitude to Tom Sills, AICP who prepared nomination letters for several of the successful candidates! Who will be next?

Induction into the AICP College of Fellows is no small accomplishment

Selection is based on "outstanding contributions to the profession over an extended period of time." Fellows must exhibit:

- Exceptional leadership;
- Innovations and excellence; "cutting-edge" throughout their career
- A record of creating a legacy for their profession, community and society;
- Risk-taking; and
- Sustainability and followthrough.
- Nominees can be in one of four categories:
- Professional Practice (Advancing the Profession),
- Teaching and Mentoring,
- Research, or
- Public / Community Service and Leadership.

Our oversight!

The article "Blueprints for the Future: Managing Growth for Healthier Communities" in December's Georgia Planner was reprinted by permission of the Georgia Conservancy.

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NEW YORK TIMES Wetlands Guidelines Are Revised

By KATHARINE Q. SEELYE

WASHINGTON, Dec. 27 - In response to criticism that the federal government was failing to meet its goals for wetlands conservation, the Bush administration today revised its guidelines to the Army Corps of Engineers for mitigating the loss of wetlands from development.

The new guidelines require a "watershed-based" approach in which the wetland needs of an entire watershed are taken into account, rather than only the site of the development.

For example, if a developer destroys 10 acres of wetlands, he can no longer just plant 10 acres of trees nearby. Instead, the corps must advise the developer if other, more potentially valuable areas in the watershed need replenishing, even if the acreage does not match precisely what would be lost.

"It's an effort to look at the overall need within the watershed and go through a process to restore the functions and values of the types of wetlands that are being lost," said Ben Grumbles, assistant administrator for water at the Environmental Protection Agency.

But environmentalists said that the new guidelines were not binding and that they gave too much leeway to developers.

"They've left a lot of room for abuse," said Julie Sibbing of the

National Wildlife Federation. "There isn't the technology to determine the trade-off in wetlands functions, so you don't know if what you're building will be successful or better than the wetland. This is a fancy way of couching the watershed approach, but it will result in losses."

Wetlands, which include bogs, marshes and swamps, are essential to well-functioning ecosystems because they filter drinking water, retain flood waters, support a diverse array of wildlife and provide homes to fish and shellfish. Destroying wetlands can increase floods, cause stream pollution and result in the loss of valuable habitat.

Along with the E.P.A., the Agriculture, Commerce, Interior and Transportation Departments reworked the guidelines in the face of criticism of the Bush administration's policy.

The National Academy of Sciences and the General Accounting Office, the investigative arm of Congress, had long criticized the government's approach to wetlands. When the Bush administration announced a new policy in October 2001, though, it did not include recommendations from these reports, thus drawing complaints that Mr. Bush was straying too far from the goals - set by his father's administration in 1989 - that there be no net loss of wetlands. The administration's revised guidelines include 16 new steps to improve the restoration of wetlands.



GEORGIA CHAPTER TO SURVEY AICP CANDIDATES

The Professional Development Committee is sending out a questionnaire to all former and current applicants for the AICP Examination. The purpose of the survey is to determine how the Chapter can best serve those individual members seeking AICP certification. Nationally, the focus of the examination is being revised to favor questions about the operational issues faced by planning administrators as opposed to the knowledge of specific facts or techniques. In addition, beginning next year the examination will also be administered more than once per year and be taken through the use of computer terminals. Over the course of the past year, study materials for exam preparation have been made available in CD-ROM and online formats.

In recognition of these changes and the past history of the chapter's examination preparation program, the Professional Development Committee is seeking input from those affected by the AICP certification process to determine: 1) what the general levels of education and experience are of those seeking

professional accreditation; 2) how much effort and what resources are generally considered necessary for adequate exam preparation; and 3) whether substantive changes need to be made to the Chapter's one-day workshop.

These surveys are being sent via mail to the address listed on this year's listing of AICP candidates. If you are not on that list but still would like to participate in the survey, please feel free to contact Tom Sills at tsills@cfrdc.org and a copy of the survey instrument will be forwarded to you. The survey results will be available in early spring.

For more information, contact:

Tom Sills, AICP
VP-Professional Development
Chattahoochee-Flint Regional Development Center
706/675-6721 or 770/854-6026



Change of Address: The Georgia Chapter does not maintain address lists. All lists are maintained at the national office and are mailed to the local chapters each month. If you have moved, e-mail: addresschange@planning.org, go to Member Login at www.planning.org, or write to:

Membership Department
APA National Headquarters
122 South Michigan, Suite 1600
Chicago, Illinois 60603-6107

Membership Information: If you are interested in joining GPA or the American Planning Association, contact the national headquarters at the address above or call (312) 431-9100.

Submission: The Georgia Planning Association welcomes articles, letters to the editor, photos of planning events or state happenings, calendar listings, job notices, planners on the move, etc. We are always interested in publishing items you think may be of interest to others throughout the state. Graphics are especially welcome. Articles may be edited for space. Articles printed in any issue of The Georgia Planner are not the expressed opinion of the Chapter.

Deadline: The deadline for the next issue is March 31, 2003.

Send Items for the newsletter to:

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GEORGIA PLANNER

Newsletter of the Georgia Planning Association, A Chapter of the American Planning Association

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APA... Making Great Communities Happen

Georgia Urban Forest Council, Inc. (GUFC)
 Georgia Cooperative Extension Service (CES)
 Georgia Forestry Commission (GFC)

2003 BASIC TREE CARE WORKSHOPS

by Dr. Kim Coder

Professor of Forest Resources, UGA Warnell School of Forest Resources
 Continuing education credits will be available

February 19 and 20 • March 17, 18 and 20 • April 24

Who Should Attend?

Public Works, Engineering, Building, Planning and Zoning Departments • Landscape architects • Utility contractors and companies • Municipal and consulting arborists • Golf course superintendents • State and federal agencies (such as USDA Forest service, NRCS, Department of Community Affairs, Keep Georgia Beautiful DOT, etc.) • Tree care workers • Urban Foresters • Landscape contracting firms

“What value! A great investment for your community trees.”

“Money may not grow on trees, but trees can cost you lots of money if you don't know how to take care of them.”

“I was amazed by how much I didn't know about basic tree care and glad to learn in the classroom than from a mistake on the job.”

Dr. Coder is a great presenter- knows his stuff and keeps things very entertaining.”

“The best time and money you can spend for your community trees.”

“Every year, we send our entire department to these workshops. My staff learns more here in three hours than they could in a week somewhere else.”

“Practical, common-sense information”

“I haven't missed one of these since they began in 1999. Every spring, these workshops are on my calendar.”

**For additional info, contact:
 Georgia Urban Forest Council**

P. O. Box 961 Macon, GA 31202 • 800-994-4832 • 912-691-2574 • gufc@comcast.net www.gufc.org

Continued from page 1

These suggestions are the result of one-on-one meetings with RDC staff members, local government planners, and other individuals in the solid waste management arena. A draft version of the Standards with incorporated revisions and an agenda for the second meeting will be e-mailed or faxed to meeting members prior to the second meeting.

At the second meeting, revisions suggested during the first meeting will be quickly reviewed. The discussion will then progress to the more substantive topics, proposed revisions in the planning standards that will require more in-depth discussion than the issues covered in the first meeting. The

third meeting will be a final opportunity for meeting members to make comments and suggestions before DCA staff makes final recommendations to the DCA Board to update the Minimum Standards.

To attend the meetings or if you have any questions about any aspect of the meetings, please contact Mary Harrington at (404) 679-3144 or mharrington@dca.state.ga.us.

Rick Brooks is the Director of the Planning and Environmental Management Division at the Department of Community Affairs

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