



# GEORGIA PLANNER

NEWSLETTER OF THE GEORGIA PLANNING ASSOCIATION, A CHAPTER OF THE AMERICAN PLANNING ASSOCIATION  
2161 PEACHTREE ROAD, NE – SUITE 806 – ATLANTA, GEORGIA 30309

JUNE 2005

## Spring Conference Wrap-Up!

The GPA 2005 Spring Conference was held on April 28<sup>th</sup> and 29<sup>th</sup> at the Holiday Inn Select and Conference Center in Decatur. This event drew an impressive 172 registered attendees for the conference. The conference location highlighted the great success that the City of Decatur has experienced in revitalizing their downtown businesses and residences through a long history of community based planning. The conference offered 21 breakout sessions covering a variety of topics, including transportation planning, public involvement, zoning, and comprehensive planning. In addition, there were two walking tours highlighting downtown development in Decatur.

Special events included an evening reception and plenary lunch with

keynote address. The reception was held on Thursday evening in the historic Old Courthouse located on the Decatur Square. The reception featured local beer from Sweetwater Brewing Company and heavy hors d'oeuvres from a local caterer – What-A-Crock. In addition, a Team Trivia contest was held with the winners receiving a wonderful prize pack provided by the City of Decatur. The plenary lunch was held on Friday and provided the opportunity to discuss the upcoming GPA work program and encourage member involvement with GPA committees. A keynote address was given by Representative Stephanie Stuckey Benfield. Representative Benfield provided insight into the recently completed Georgia Legislative session and highlighted bills that may affect our

profession.

The success of this conference was due to the efforts of many people. Special appreciation goes out to our sponsors – PBS&J, Vinyl Siding Institute, Highway 78 CID, City of Decatur, The Collaborative Firm, Jordan Jones & Goulding, EDAW, Ross + associates, Bron Cleveland Associates, Grice & Associates, Sycamore Consulting, and URS – who provided financial support to help keep the conference economical for all attendees. Thanks also to the conference session organizers, programs committee, and numerous speakers that volunteered their time. Finally, thanks to all the conference attendees for supporting your Georgia Planning Association and advancing the interest of the planning profession by participating in the conference.



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**Do you have a SESSION idea for the 2005 Fall Conference**  
in  
Columbus  
on  
September 28<sup>th</sup> to 30<sup>th</sup>?

Now is the time to make a session proposal for a 2005 Fall Conference. Contact Rob LeBeau at [rlebeau@atlantaregional.com](mailto:rlebeau@atlantaregional.com) or visit the GPA website to receive the necessary form and submit by June 24<sup>th</sup>.



## *From The President ...*

The Board of Directors met May 13<sup>th</sup> in Macon. This was the first in-person meeting of the Board since our retreat in January. We approved an update to our strategic plan and annual work program. Dan Reuter, President-Elect, has proposed that we provide quarterly reports on implementation of the work program, and that will help us monitor and gauge progress. Current board members are near the completion of their two-year terms, and elections for the 2005-2007 board are just several weeks away now. During late summer all members will receive a ballot for the election of new board members, and I strongly encourage you to vote in the upcoming election.

GPA is increasing its presence and activities throughout the state. We continue to fill up schedules with conferences, lunches, and events. Recent events in District 5 (Macon), District 6 (Augusta), and District 4 (McIntosh Trail area) have brought planners and planning officials together. In District 3 (Atlanta), preparations continue for planner's luncheons, including a June lunch in Alpharetta with greenway planning as the topic. And the spring conference (April 28-29) in Decatur was a success, with more than 170 registrants. In addition, recent events have taken place in the coastal and southwest Georgia regions as well, including organized meetings of planners in Coastal Georgia and a historic preservation committee meeting in Thomasville. The Community Planning Institute was held in Albany in March and will next be held in Dahlonega in June. Preparations continue for our fall conference in Columbus in September. Hence, in one way or another, we are active in almost all parts of the state.

Statewide, we hope to continue work on the planning commissioner certification program and develop an advanced-level curriculum. APA National has increased its resources for legislative monitoring, and the legislative committee intends to increase its level of scrutiny of bills pending in the Georgia General Assembly in 2006, especially those that could drastically alter legal foundations for eminent domain and land use regulation. We will consider nominations and award noteworthy persons and planning projects at the fall conference in Columbus. We will continue to explore ways to maintain and increase our outreach to allied organizations and their efforts, including the Georgia Conservancy's Blueprints program, the Georgia Quality Growth Partnership (resource team visits), the Georgia Association of Zoning Administrators, and the most recent initiative to establish a Quality Growth Coalition in metro Atlanta.

Finally, the board is committed to maintaining and improving membership services. A new effort will be launched to review and upgrade our website. We are working through issues with the newsletter including timeliness of delivery and problems with our mailing lists (which are provided by APA and have not always matched the membership rosters). The Board decided on May 13 to continue efforts to provide an e-mail newsletter but also affirmed a plan to publish and mail four paper newsletters in 2006. That plan will maintain if not expand our membership services. We also reaffirmed the need to prepare and disseminate new member welcoming packets.

Thank you for your continued support. We have over 900 members now, and the near-term prospects for reaching 1,000 members look good, especially if lapsed memberships are renewed. As always, contact me or any other board member if you have concerns or suggestions about upcoming initiatives and future directions of GPA.

*Jerry Weitz*, AICP  
President

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## *BOD is the way to go*

What is BOD? Bicycle Oriented Development. We spend a lot of time discussing Transit Oriented Development (TOD) and Pedestrian Oriented Development (POD) but BOD may be a better model for Georgia. Listeners to BBC Radio 4's "You and Yours" program were invited to vote in an online survey looking at the most significant innovations since the year 1800. It was an easy victory for the bicycle which won more than half of the vote.

The transistor came second with 8% of the vote and the electro-magnetic induction ring - the means to harness electricity - came third. Computers gained just 6% of the vote and the internet trailed behind with only 4% of all votes cast. People chose the bicycle for its simplicity of design, universal use, and because it is a ecologically sound means of transport. Read more at: <http://www.energybulletin.net/5952.html>  
<<http://www.energybulletin.net/5952.html>>

What do the British know that we don't? Bicycle oriented development makes equal if not more sense than TOD and POD. Think about the last time you traveled abroad, you saw many pedestrians but also an equal number of cyclists. Bicycles are the preferred means of travel in many countries. Why? You can get further on a bike in 20 minutes than walking. Bikes are cheap. And you can sit on your bum just like a car.

Think about the MARTA rail system in Atlanta. Bikes are permitted on the trains. The reach of activities via MARTA is extended by a factor of 10 when traveling with a bike. I recently rode my bike through a particularly congested intersection. No problem, I made it through in under 20 seconds.

I admit that I hate walking. I would rather jog than walk. Biking is a serious and great alternative. Georgia planners want our state to shift from auto-oriented development to TOD or POD. Many communities do not have transit or are not sufficiently compact to permit walking to enough uses. Bikes are a more reasonable transition to encourage in our communities. So bikes are not as cool as a BMW. But with ever increasing demands on our time, biking to work is a way to get a workout and travel.

Dan Reuter  
GPA President-Elect

### EXCELLENT OFFER

We've got a deal for you! Starting this year, you can place your business card ad on GPA's website -- [www.georgiaplanning.org](http://www.georgiaplanning.org) as well as (or alternately) advertise in the bi-monthly newsletter. The prices are:

Newsletter ad placement - \$180/yr  
Website ad placement - \$360/yr

As an introductory (and maybe permanent) offer, however, you can continue your ad in the newsletter AND put it on the website for a total combined cost of \$300. YES, THAT'S RIGHT! Both ads for \$300, which is less than a web ad alone!!

To continue advertising in the newsletter and/or add on the web, you need to send your artwork for the business card ad to me via email to: [ROSSATCR@cs.com](mailto:ROSSATCR@cs.com)

Make a check out to Georgia Planning Association as appropriate, and mail it to:

Bill Ross  
ROSS+associates  
2161 Peachtree Rd, NE Suite 806  
Atlanta, GA 30309

**Place your ad in  
the Georgia  
Planner NOW!**

## Georgia Planning Association 2005 Calendar of Planning Related Events

DATE	EVENT	LOCATION	CONTACT
June 10 <sup>th</sup>	Planners Lunch	Alpharetta	dwheeler@alpharetta.ga.us
June 16 <sup>th</sup> —17 <sup>th</sup>	Community Planning Institute	Young Harris	dsutton@whitecounty.net
June 25 <sup>th</sup> – 28 <sup>th</sup>	GMA Annual Convention	Savannah	Janice Eidson (678) 686-6256
July 31 <sup>st</sup>	Newsletter Deadline		ROSSATCR@cs.com
August 4 <sup>th</sup> – 5 <sup>th</sup>	GAZA Conference	Brasstown Valley	www.georgiazoning.org
August 11 <sup>th</sup>	Revitalization Tools: Urban Redevelopment Act / Opportunity Zones Training	Suwanee	ceidson@dca.state.ga.us
September 13 <sup>th</sup> – 14 <sup>th</sup>	Preservation Maintenance: Understanding And Preserving Historic Buildings	Austin, TX	www.npi.org
September 15 <sup>th</sup>	AICP Fall Exam Registration Deadline		AICPexam@planning.org
September 21 <sup>st</sup> – 23 <sup>rd</sup>	GEDA Annual Conference	Savannah	www.geda.org
September 28 <sup>th</sup> – 30 <sup>th</sup>	Fall GPA Conference	Columbus	rlebeau@atlantaregional.com
September 30 <sup>th</sup>	Newsletter Deadline		
November 7 <sup>th</sup> – 19 <sup>th</sup>	AICP Exam Testing Dates		
November 30 <sup>th</sup>	Newsletter Deadline		ROSSATCR@cs.com

## Save The Date

### Planning and Zoning Luncheon

September 8, 2005; 12 Noon

Willow on Fifth Restaurant ~ 325 Fifth Street  
Macon, Georgia

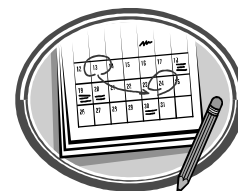
Please make reservations now. The cost of the luncheon is \$11.00 for adults and \$10.00 for seniors 62 and older. It includes the buffet, dessert, drink, tax, gratuity and the program. You will pay the restaurant during registration. RSVP by calling or e-mailing Phil Clark, GPA District Director at (478) 751-6160 or e-mail pclark@mrgdc.org

The Georgia Planning Association-Middle Georgia District invites you to attend a luncheon for Planning and Zoning officials in the middle Georgia region. The featured speaker is Ms. Kay B. Lee, Director of The Center Facilitating Community Preservation and Planning. Ms. Lee will speak on what her Center and the City of Covington are doing to resist urban sprawl and promote quality growth.

We invite all interested parties to attend:

Planning and Zoning Administrators ~ Regional and Community Planners ~ Planning Commissioners ~  
Board of Appeals ~ Elected Officials ~ Citizen Planners

*Mark Your  
Calendar!*



## 2005 GPA Awards Program Georgia Planning Association

### INSTRUCTIONS

1. **Application.** Complete the application form. Use a separate form for each nomination. Provide a one-page summary to explain why the nomination should win the award, and how it relates to the evaluation criteria.
2. **Category of Award.** Choose the category of award that most closely fits the application. Projects may be nominated for more than one category. The awards jury reserves the right to reassign the application to a more appropriate category in cases where warranted.
3. **Media Copy to Submit.** Submit one (1) complete hard copy of the application form, and all relevant attachments including the plan, regulation, document, or other information supporting the application. Also, submit one (1) electronic copy of the regulation, document, or other information supporting the application, which can be forwarded to awards jurors via e-mail or CD.
4. **Summary of Project/Plan.** Provide a one-page summary to explain why the nomination should win the award, and how it relates to the evaluation criteria.
5. **Project Time Frame.** Projects should be in progress by July 1, 2005. Eligible comprehensive plans are those adopted between September 1, 2003 and June 30, 2005.
4. **Geographic Requirement.** Nominees must either reside or practice in Georgia. Projects or primary contributor(s) must be located in Georgia. Both GPA members, local governments, and the public are invited to submit nominations.
7. **Application Deadline.** Applications must be returned to GPA by Friday, July 30, 2004. Plan documents, publications, photographs, slides, maps and any other supporting documentation to be considered by the judges in making above awards must be submitted at the same time.
8. **Contact for Questions.** If you have any questions, contact Jerry Weitz, Chair, GPA Awards Committee, at 770-751-1203 or email: [Jerryweitz@aol.com](mailto:Jerryweitz@aol.com).
9. **Mailing Address.** Address applications and supporting materials to: Attn: GPA Awards, Jerry Weitz, Chair, 1225 Rucker Road, Alpharetta, Georgia 30004.
10. **Announcement of Awards.** Recipients of awards will be announced at the Awards Program at the Georgia Planning Association's Fall Conference in Columbus, GA, September 2005.

### GENERAL EVALUATION CRITERIA

The GPA awards program is intended to recognize individuals, studies, processes and projects that demonstrate an exceptional level of excellence, and to recognize persons who have made outstanding contributions to the field of planning. An unbiased jury of professional planners will be responsible for selecting award recipients. The following general criteria will be used to evaluate each project nominated and the work of individuals nominated.

- ◆ **Innovation** - Originality of concept or appreciable refinement of existing techniques or procedures.
- ◆ **Transferability** - Potential application in other areas or to other projects.
- ◆ **Quality** - Excellence of thought, analysis, writing, graphics and character of presentation.
- ◆ **Implementation** - Effectiveness: Proposals either carried out or show promise of doing so.
- ◆ **Comprehensiveness** - Planning principles observed, especially their effects on other public objectives.

### GPA AWARDS CATEGORIES AND CRITERIA FOR EACH CATEGORY

#### 1. OUTSTANDING PLANNING PROJECTS

##### A. Outstanding Planning Document

This category will be awarded to acknowledge the best planning document. In nominating such plans, the following will be included: comprehensive plans, solid waste management plans, historic preservation, environmental protection, site/area plans, transportation plans, parks plans, and other planning documents.

(Continued on page 6)



(Continued from page 5)

**B. Outstanding Plan Implementation**

This category of nomination is aimed at awarding the successful implementation of a plan. For example, the realization of a historic district preservation plan, the implementation of a fiscal management plan, and/or the achievement of a community vision would all fall under this category.

**C. Outstanding Student Project**

This award is given in recognition of an outstanding paper or project by a student or class of students of city planning, urban studies or related discipline.

**2. OUTSTANDING PLANNING PROCESS**

**A. Innovative and Effective Planning Process**

This award is intended to recognize a distinguished planning activity that demonstrates distinction and exceptional planning character. The category includes citizen participation, dispute resolution, interagency coordination, financing, etc.

**B. Media Involvement**

This award will be used to acknowledge the successful use of media coverage to support public education efforts for a planning project. It will recognize the outstanding individual or media program that has informed and educated the public.

**C. Educational Tool**

This award is given for a creative educational project/program or tool that promotes planning. It will recognize a program, project or tool that makes a significant contribution to the planning process.

**3. OUTSTANDING SPECIAL COMMUNITY INITIATIVE**

**A. Creative Use of the Planning Process to Address a Need Outside the Normal Sphere of Planning**

This award is intended for an initiative that illustrates how a community or jurisdiction used the planning process to address a need outside the normal sphere of planning. Emphasis is placed on the success of planning in a non-traditional settings. The award seeks to recognize projects that expand public understanding of planners and the planning process. Eligible projects include, but not limited to, efforts aimed at community policing or drug prevention; neighborhood outreach initiatives or community-based capacity building; programs designed for specialized population; public art or cultural efforts; or initiatives for youth.

**5. DISTINGUISHED ACHIEVEMENT IN PLANNING**

This award is given to a professional planner who has promoted good planning practices and rendered outstanding technical assistance to Georgia communities in the past year. The individual should demonstrate work of a high level of excellence and effectiveness through distinctive practice, writing or teaching.

**6. ELECTED OFFICIALS AND LOCAL GOVERNMENT**

**A. Distinguished Leadership Award**

This award is presented to an individual elected to public office for a significant contribution to planning. The individual should demonstrate effectiveness in formulating ideas and policies that further the cause of planning. The individual should also show within what sphere of influence his or her effectiveness has been realized.

**B. City or County Outstanding Commitment to Planning**

This award is presented to a city, county, or other unit of government (special district, state agency, etc.) that has exhibited outstanding commitment to planning principles during the past year. The awards jury will look for multiple reasons why the local or other government stands out above others in terms of its commitment to planning. Such commitments may be demonstrated by one or more of the following: maintaining planning commissioner memberships in the Georgia Planning Association and American Planning Association; provision of budget for regular or specialized training of planning commissioners, members of board of zoning appeals, historic preservation commissions, etc.; adoption and implementation of innovative policies in a comprehensive plan in the face of community opposition, commitment to staffing/personnel for planning; capital improvement programming and budgeting; and significant growth management and quality growth activities. The local governing body or chief executive should consent to submission of the application the face of community opposition, commitment to staffing/personnel for planning; capital improvement programming and budgeting; and significant growth management and quality growth activities. The local governing body or chief executive should consent to submission of the application

## GPA AWARD APPLICATION FORM

1. Nominee:

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2. Phone:

---

3. Project Name:

---

4. Address:

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5. Nominator:

---

6. Phone:

---

7. Address:

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## 8. Signature of

Nominator:

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**LIST AWARD CATEGORY:**

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Explain why this nomination should win the award in this category and how it relates to the evaluation criteria (Attach Additional sheets as needed).

This image shows a blank sheet of white paper with horizontal ruling lines. The lines are evenly spaced and run across the width of the page. There are no margins, text, or other markings on the paper.

This image shows a single sheet of white paper with horizontal blue ruling lines. The lines are evenly spaced and run across the width of the page. There are approximately 20 lines visible. The paper has a slight shadow on the right side, suggesting it's resting on a surface.

This image shows a blank sheet of white paper with horizontal ruling lines. The lines are evenly spaced and extend across the width of the page. There are no margins, text, or other markings on the paper.



## SDS On-Line

The DCA, Office of Planning and Quality Growth (OPQG) has prepared an on-line application to expedite inquiries regarding water and sewer services in the Service Delivery Strategies of local governments. The on-line application allows a user to select a county or input a municipality in order to access the appropriate Strategy. Once accessed, the user can view a brief description of water and sewer providers in the Strategy with links to a downloadable map or more detailed information. This type of information may be especially useful for local governments considering revisions which will affect water and sewer service providers and service areas as well as for local governments applying for water or sewer grants, loans or permits. This application is available on line at: <http://www.georgiaplanning.com/planners/SDmaps/>.



## DISTRICT 5 PLANNING AND ZONING LUNCHEON A SUCCESS

*By Phil Clark, District 5 Director*

The first District 5 Planning and Zoning Luncheon held on May 11 in Macon was an outstanding success. There were over 40 people in attendance that included representatives from every county in the region. Those in attendance included planning and zoning staff, planning commissioners and elected officials. After Phil Clark and Dr. Jerry Weitz welcomed the attendees, Bill Ross gave a superior presentation (of course that is what you come to expect from Mr. Ross) entitled "Getting What You Want-Linking the Comprehensive Plan to Actual Development." Mr. Ross discussed concepts that were very familiar to the audience, but most importantly, he exposed the audience to new themes, such as character areas and various examples they can use in their development regulations to promote the development patterns they want to see in those character areas.

Mr. Ross left them knowing that the rules have changed, and there are more approaches to solving land development issues beyond the standard zoning ordinance. It will force the planning and zoning officials in our region to "think outside the box" more than they have ever done. That is what we are trying to achieve with these lunches; by giving them not what they want, but what they need to make more effective planning and zoning decisions. I strongly encourage you to have such luncheons in your region. They are excellent opportunities for learning and networking.

Our next luncheon will be Thursday, September 8 at Noon in the Willow on Fifth Restaurant in Macon. Our guest speaker will be Kay B. Lee, Director of the Center for Facilitating Preservation and Planning in Covington. This community is finding ways to resist urban sprawl and promote quality growth. We want to know how.

## Georgia Planning Association (GPA) T-Shirt Design Competition

It is easy to participate! Go to [www.uberprints.com](http://www.uberprints.com). Login under "My Account" with Dan Reuter's e-mail address "[dreuter@atlantaregional.com](mailto:dreuter@atlantaregional.com)" and the password "GPA2005". Password is case sensitive. Go to "My Account" tab and then "Design Studio". Follow the steps and design your own GPA T-Shirt! Be sure to save your design.

Every planner who submits a legitimate t-shirt design entry will receive a free t-shirt of the winning design. "Legitimate entries" mean it took you more than 5 minutes and demonstrated some creativity. T-shirts will not be mailed or delivered but can be picked up at the GPA Fall Conference held in Columbus, GA on September 28 to 30.

**Contest Deadline: June 30<sup>th</sup>, 2005**



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## *Historic Preservation Planners Wanted!*

GPA's Historic Preservation Committee is looking for participants. If you work, or have an interest in historic preservation, we need your input. The purpose of the committee is to serve as a forum for preservation issues and strengthen the relationships within the larger realm of planning. Two of the primary tasks of the committee are generating historic preservation related conference sessions and award applications. As you all are probably aware, the time is now for both of these activities!

In recent developments, the GPA board determined to eliminate the separate award category for historic preservation projects. It was felt there was no reason to single out preservation over other issues such as transportation or housing. Preservation projects will now compete with other planning projects in the appropriate award category.

The Board also decided to merge the Urban Design and Historic Preservation Committees, reflecting the organizational model of the American Planning Association. This will not change the ability of either subject to meet independently of the other, but should strengthen the impact of both of these related fields.

If you would like to participate in this committee, or have questions, please send an email to Paul Forgey at [pforgey@swgrdc.org](mailto:pforgey@swgrdc.org) to add your name to the list.



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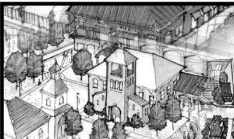


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**CHANGE OF ADDRESS:** The Georgia Chapter does not maintain address lists. All lists are maintained at the national office and are mailed to the local chapters each month. If you have moved, e-mail: [address-change@planning.org](mailto:address-change@planning.org), go to Member Login at [www.planning.org](http://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.

**CONTACTS:** Direct financial inquiries and address payments to the Treasurer. Direct questions about chapter records to the Secretary. Direct matters for the Board of Directors to the President. See mailing and email addresses inside.

**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 **July 31, 2005**.  
Send items for the newsletter to:

William F. Ross  
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2161 Peachtree Road, NE Suite 806  
Atlanta, Georgia 30309  
[Bill@planross.com](mailto:Bill@planross.com)



**DEADLINE: JULY 31, 2005.**



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