

GEORGIA PLANNER

Newsletter of the Georgia Chapter of the American Planning Association
JUNE 2008



American Planning Association
Georgia Chapter

Making Great Communities Happen



ON THE TRAIL TO NORTHEASTERN GEORGIA

By Adam Hazell and Carolynn Segers (GMRDC) and Lee Carmon (NEGRDC) contributing

Northeast Georgia is already known as a haven for outdoor recreation. Buoyed by growing public demand and multiple programs for support, several communities in the region are now developing bicycle and pedestrian trails to both increase recreation opportunities and also provide transportation alternatives.

The boldest project currently on the boards is the Tallulah Falls Railroad Trail and Greenway (TFRTG). Concepts for reinventing the Tallulah Falls Railroad have evolved since a 1990's scheme to turn a portion of the abandoned rail bed into a linear park for Habersham County. Since then the vision has grown with the number of stakeholders, as a now incorporated organization of trail supporters took ownership of the idea in 2005 and committed to developing a regional corridor. With support from the Georgia Department of Transportation, the first phase of the trail is now being developed in Cornelia, running several miles north from downtown towards Demorest.

The envisioned final product would include 42 miles of both linear park space and a paved trail viable for walking, jogging and biking. The presence of other tourist attractions such as Tallulah Gorge, State parks and The Dillard House would allow the trail to connect destinations and develop a role as a true transportation route. The corridor also has great potential for the preservation and promotion of the area's rich history as it would connect many State and regional historic sites, including five train depots. The Georgia Mountains Regional Development

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PRESIDENT'S CORNER

Much is happening at both GPA and APA. Some of the highlights:

APA

Thanks to everyone who attended the Georgia reception at the national conference in Las Vegas. And thanks to Dr. Contant and Georgia Tech for co-hosting with GPA.

The conference in general was well-attended, including by GPA members. Congratulations to our four new FAICP members, who were inducted at the conference: Gary Cornell, Jerry Weitz, Larry Fonts, and Dr. Nancey Green Leigh.

I found that the sessions this year were remarkably good, and I was also able to get away from the Strip on a couple of mobile workshops; one to an African-American neighborhood in the city of Las Vegas, and another to two new communities in Clarke County. While both were interesting, they made me feel like we are very much on top of things in terms of planning and development issues and practices here in Georgia.

APA has taken on several new initiatives; of course much of the conversation at Chapter Presidents' Council was around the topic of Certification Maintenance for AICP members. As I'm sure you know there have been some growing pains with rolling out and administering the new program. The AICP Board is considering some modifications to the program, including fee structures for providers, and are expected to make changes in June. The changes mostly relate to fees for providers who offer multiple courses per year (like academic institutions), how distance learning is handled, and requirements for numbers of AICP-certified vs. non-certified courses. Keep an eye on the APA website for an announcement of modifications in the near future. Staff and APA elected bodies have pledged to continue to tweak the program as time goes on to make sure it is meeting the needs of providers as well as AICP members. The good news is that there has been a great deal of success in the first several months of the program; currently well over 100 providers have been approved for CM credit (less than half APA-affiliated).

APA Executive Director Paul Farmer also noted that APA is two years ahead of schedule on our membership growth program; currently APA has more than 44,000 members. Look soon for an introduction of advanced specialization certifications in the areas of transportation, urban design, and sustainability. APA will also roll out a new design for its web site soon. And it's not too early to think about planning events for Community Planning Month in October, and nominating neighborhoods and streets for APA's Great Places in America program.

GPA

GPA's membership continues to grow as well; we are approaching 1100 members. Our spring conference was also a great success, thanks to Laura Beall and her Programs Committee, and all of you who attended and/or gave presentations. Thanks also to our sponsors, without whom we couldn't do these events. Highlights of the conference included the first of what-I'm-sure-will-be-an-annual-event Ethics Bowl, an update of this year's General Assembly activities from State Representative Mary Margaret Oliver, and an outstanding transportation panel at Friday's lunch. Many participants were also able to take advantage of the downtown Decatur walking tour at the end of the conference sessions.



The Programs Committee is working hard on the program for the fall conference, October 1-3 in Augusta; be sure to submit your ideas for program sessions and speakers. We are also in the process of developing a schedule and criteria for this year's awards program; look on the website in July for details.

Finally, we will have an election later this summer for President-Elect. Please let me know if you would like to nominate someone (including yourself). It is a great honor to serve as president, and also lots of fun!

Happy summer to everyone and I look forward to seeing you in October in Augusta.

Ellen Heath, AICP

President, Georgia Chapter of the American Planning Association

CALENDAR OF EVENTS - please visit our website for event listings

July 11, 2008 Southface – Sustainable Atlanta Roundtable	Atlanta, GA www.southface.org
July 15 – 16, 2008 Community Planning Institute	Helen, GA lstumpff@dca.state.ga.us
July 16, 2008 Creating Walkable Communities for All	Atlanta, GA apavey@atlantaregional.com
July 16 – 18, 2008 Georgia Association of Zoning Administrators	Lake Lanier, GA www.georgiazoning.org
August 1, 2008 Southface – Sustainable Atlanta Roundtable	Atlanta, GA www.southface.org
October 1 – 3, 2008 GPA Fall Conference	Augusta, GA www.georgiaplanning.org
October 3, 2008 Southface – Sustainable Atlanta Roundtable	Atlanta, GA www.southface.org
October 7 – 8, 2008 Community Planning Institute	Washington, GA lstumpff@dca.state.ga.us
November 11 – 15, 2008 Congress of Cities and Exposition	Orlando, FL www.nlc.org

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Center is working on the final Conceptual Development Plan, and long-term aspirations call for extending the trail and greenway to the railroad's original terminus in Franklin, NC.

Part of the appeal of the TFRTG is the potential connectivity to other local trails also in development. The City of Clarkesville has completed a downtown streetscape as part of their community master plan, and now has begun construction of an ADA-accessible path linking downtown to the nearby Clarkesville Mill mixed-use development. Eventually plans call for trails connecting the TFRTG to downtown Clarkesville and publicly accessible portions of the Soque River. Similarly, the City of Clayton is developing a trail and greenway along Stekoa Creek that will also connect with the TFRTG. This would create another spur off the main corridor enabling riders to visit additional historic and commercial parts of the city. Other trails proposed to connect with the TFRTG include one from downtown Demorest and Piedmont College and scenic routes along the Tallulah River.

Closer to metropolitan Atlanta are several projects designed to increase connectivity and environmental awareness amidst rapidly developing areas that have also received funding through GDOT's Transportation Enhancement program. Long-range plans in Forsyth County include a multi-use trail along Big Creek, which traverses the county north to south and connects multiple residential and mixed-use areas. This trail will feature several foot bridges across the creek as the path switches banks in order to avoid environmentally sensitive areas while promoting conservation of the stream corridor. Meanwhile, Gainesville and Hall County are implementing plans for a number of interconnected trails that will ultimately link Gainesville's downtown and recreational parks to the Gainesville State College campus, downtown Oakwood and the Chicopee recreational area. Dawson County and the City of Dahlonega have also received support for trail projects of their own, and at least 4 more trails are being proposed in the region for the next round of TE applications.

The Northeast Georgia Regional Development Center commenced work in 2006 on the Union Point-to-Athens Rails-to-Trails project, a 39-mile multi-use path that aims to link downtown Athens with historic Union Point. The rail-trail will connect with Athens' existing North Oconee River Greenway, and figures to provide residents and visitors with opportunities for safe, healthy, and environmentally sound recreation and transportation options

while enhancing economic vitality, natural spaces, and quality of life. Preserving and restoring the historic nature of the corridor will inject interest and energy into communities along the line by promoting tourism, aesthetically and functionally compatible development, and opportunities for timeless, wholesome family and neighborly activity. Greenway expansion in Athens will connect residents and students with education and employment centers, points of interest, and other bicycling and walking



Proposed Tallulah Falls Railroad Trail and Greenway Corridor

infrastructure, as well as preserving wildlife habitat and lands critical to environmental quality and public health.

Fostering these trails has begun to impact development and social patterns as communities utilize them to connect destinations, promote both tourism and healthy outdoor recreation, and assist with historic and environmental preservation efforts. Those types of benefits are invaluable considering the region's growth and these examples highlight the importance incorporating such projects into current planning programs. Thoughtful, coordinated planning enabled these projects to gain support from GDOT, the public and, in several cases, from multiple jurisdictions. Now the future for northeastern Georgia will provide many happy trails! ■

REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS - BUILDING YOUR PLAN

SUBMITTAL DEADLINE: 5:00 P.M., MONDAY, JUNE 30, 2008

General Project Description:

DCA's Office Planning & Quality Growth is developing a training program for planners to provide step-by-step instruction and guidance in constructing local comprehensive plan in accordance with the Local Planning Requirements (DCA Rules Chapter 110-12-1). To be held annually, the multi-day training program called "Community Planning Institute: Building Your Plan" will become an integral component of the Department's Planning & Quality Growth educational offerings. The four-day program for local staff-planners, planning commissioners and other citizen-planners, locally elected officials, and consultants will be broken into two two-day segments addressing the topic matter detailed below. The first day of the training program is currently set, tentatively, for September 2008. The sessions will be held in Central Georgia at a location to be determined. Additionally, with the intention of providing local elected officials with a very basic level of planning education and marketing of the larger product, the training program will be supplemented by a rapidly portable and easily deliverable presentation to be held at conventions, conferences and local meetings around the state.

Development of this program will require a solid understanding of the roles and responsibilities of local governments, regional development centers, consultants, and the Department of Community Affairs in the comprehensive planning process. Expertise in building and executing community involvement programs is necessary. Understanding that many of the participants in the workshop will be responsible for teaching this material to members of their own communities, a willingness to take a "train-the-trainer" approach is very important. All consultants capable of fulfilling these basic qualifications are invited to submit a proposal.

A complete RFP can be found at the following URL:

<http://www.dca.state.ga.us/development/PlanningQualityGrowth/programs/rfpbuildingyourplan.asp>



BEST WISHES!

The GPA Board of Directors sends best wishes and a warm thank you to Dr. Cheryl Contant, who is leaving us this month to become the vice chancellor for academic affairs and dean at the University of Minnesota, Morris. During her time in Georgia Dr. Contant has been a strong supporter of GPA and we will miss her sense of humor and sage advice. Our loss is Minnesota's gain, and we all look forward to seeing Cheryl at next year's APA conference in Minneapolis. Cheryl let us know if (when) you need care packages of grits, barbecue or sunshine. ■

Support Our Sponsors!!

The Georgia Planning Association is excited to recognize our 2008 Annual Sponsors. GPA has a number of renewing sponsors from 2007 and many new sponsors in 2008.

An annual sponsorship with GPA provides a company with a logo and link to the company website on the GPA website and an advertisement in the GPA quarterly newsletters. Please take time to visit the GPA website and click on the links for the sites of our sponsors, and review the ads in our newsletters.

Our annual sponsors are instrumental in helping the organization expand popular support for planning in Georgia, assisting GPA with informative Planner's Luncheons, bringing quality speakers to the spring and fall conferences, and monitoring legislation that affects planning in Georgia. The 2008 sponsors are listed below:

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We appreciate your support in 2008!
Laura Keyes, VP Chapter Services

Wanted: AICP Course Providers

Do you know of any continuing education providers in your region who may be interested in becoming a registered CM provider? If so, please share that information with your Professional Development Officer, Gary Cornell, AICP at gcornell@jjg.com or 678-333-0229. He will contact them and provide information about how their training courses can become eligible for AICP CM credits for you and your fellow AICP'ers!

AICP CM Opportunities

Visit the AICP Section at www.georgiaplanning.org for the all the details and links.

Professional Ethics Seminar - (3 CM Credits)

The cost is only \$80 for members and \$95 for non-members. Three hours of CM credit have been approved. Interested persons can request a password to access the workshop via "Video on Demand" or purchase a DVD. In either situation, an entire department can earn their ethics credits by watching this DVD and pay only \$80. Read more about how you can purchase the DVD or Video on Demand of this seminar on the GPA site.

GPA Spring Conference Luncheon and Keynote Address

APA has approved the GPA Spring Conference Luncheon and Keynote Address. Please log your credit for attending this event at www.planning.org.

Introduction to ArcGIS I - (16 CM Hours)

July 14-15, 2008 at Keck & Wood, Inc. in Duluth, GA.

This two-day course introduces participants to ArcGIS™ Desktop 9.2 and provides the foundation for becoming a successful user. Participants learn how to use ArcMap™, ArcCatalog™, and ArcToolbox™ and explore how these applications work together to provide a complete GIS software solution. The course covers fundamental GIS concepts as well as how to create, edit, and work with georeferenced spatial data. Participants learn how to manipulate tabular data, query a GIS database, and present data clearly and efficiently using maps and charts.



How to Log Your AICP CM Credits

by Laura Keyes, VP Chapter Services

Step 1

Open <http://www.planning.org/cm/> in your favorite browser.

Step 2

Login to the site with your ID or E-mail and Password

Step 3

Now select the “AICP Members” button in the middle of the page.

Step 4

Click the “Report CM Credits” link located next to your CM Status Report Log

Step 5

Click “Report New CM credits”

Step 6

Search for your events for which you have earned CM credits.

Note: Do not search using GPA. Use APA Georgia Chapter Conference or try the city or date of the event.

Step 7

Log your credits

Please contact me at chapter.services@georgiaplanning.org if you need further assistance.

RECENT LEGAL DEVELOPMENT IN LAND USE PLANNING

The University of West Georgia’s Program in Rural and Small Town Planning and the Department of Continuing Education offered a course on Recent Legal Developments in Land Use Planning. The course was approved by the American Institute of Certified Planners for three hours of certificate maintenance credits in legal education. The course was held from on Friday, June 27, 2008, at the University of West Georgia Campus in Newnan, GA. The Newnan Campus is located conveniently near Interstate Highway 85. The cost for the course was \$30.00.

The course covered the latest case and statutory laws related to land use planning. New laws impacting traditional concerns of land use planners such as comprehensive plans, zoning ordinances and subdivision regulations were also discussed. Additionally, topics covered included transfer of development rights, development agreements, and impact fees, and independent development districts. The course combined the traditional lecture approach

with hypothetical scenarios to demonstrate legal principles as applied to evidence and market trends in the western metropolitan area of Atlanta.

Mr. David Basil is the course instructor. Mr. Basil is a partner in the law firm of Lim & Basil, LLC. He represents governmental bodies and private clients. He is a Local Government Fellow as designated by the International Municipal Lawyers Association. Mr. Basil has published numerous articles in the area of land use law and has served as an Adjunct Instructor at the University of West Georgia and instructor with the University of Georgia Carl Vinson Institute for Local Government Studies. Mr. Basil received a B.S. in Chemical Engineering from Clemson University in 1986, a B.A. in English from the University of South Carolina in 1993, and J.D. degree from University of South Carolina School of Law in 1994. ■

CM CHANGES - *FACT, FIGURES, FEE STRUCTURE*

Facts and Figures

We know that the current Certification Maintenance program fee structure works for many providers. Since last fall, more than 225 providers have registered their activities for CM credit (78 percent are non-APA, and 22 percent are APA National, Chapters, or Divisions). Some 832 events are in the system, offering AICP members a total of 7,287 CM credits (25 percent APA National, 29 percent APA Chapters and Divisions, 46 percent outside providers).

Although these numbers are well above expectations, we know that there are some providers and types of training models that simply don't work well with our current fee structure.

Changes to the Fee Structure

In response to feedback received from both members and providers about the current fee schedules, a proposal to change the fee structure was created. This proposal was considered by the AICP Commission on Saturday, April 26, at the National Planning Conference in Las Vegas, and the following decision was reached:

Although Commissioners felt that the proposal generally reflected the direction in which they would like to go, the Commission requested extra time to consider three key issues:

1. Qualifications and standards for online products, such as online courses, podcasts, webcasts, etc., and whether these types of training should be considered as part of the unlimited annual organizational fees.
2. Additional pricing options for nonprofits with total annual gross receipts of less than \$1 million.
3. Increasing the number of CM credits that a member may self-report from 4 to 8 per reporting period.

The AICP Commission will be taking under advisement the feedback received from Division and Chapter leadership and will deliberate on these findings in the next few weeks. APA staff will host a series of conference calls with Chapter Presidents Council and Divisions Council leadership during this time.

Updated information will be posted to the website as soon as the Commission reaches a final decision.



Qualifications and standards for online products, such as online courses, podcasts, webcasts, etc., and whether these types of training should be considered as part of the unlimited annual organizational fees.

Additional pricing options for nonprofits with total annual gross receipts of less than \$1 million.

Increasing the number of CM credits that a member may self-report from 4 to 8 per reporting period.

Proposed New Fee Structures for CM Providers

The new fee schedules are broken down into three parts:

- 1.0 — per credit fee packages
- 2.0 — unlimited daily and weekly fees packages designed for conferences
- 3.0 — unlimited annual organizational fees

1.0 Per-Credit Fees or Bundled Packages

Providers would pay the \$95 registration fee and choose to pay per-credit fees or purchase a bundled package.

1.1 Per-Credit Fees (same as existing fee structure)

- \$50 for every hour of training the provider offers for CM credit in face-to-face activities, such as single workshops or conferences.
- \$50 for every hour of training the provider offers for CM credit in distance learning, online courses, and self-study activities, to be paid in each quarter of the year in which the training is offered.

1.2 Bundled Packages

- \$2,250 for 50 credits (equivalent to 50 hours of training offered for CM credit) — providers choosing this option would save 10 percent compared with the per-credit fees option 1.1 above.
- \$4,000 for 100 credits (equivalent to 100 hours of training offered for CM credit) — providers choosing this option would save 20 percent compared to the per-credit fees option 1.1 above.

2.0 Fees for Conferences

Providers hosting conferences would pay the \$95 registration fee and pay a flat fee for each day or week of the conference, regardless of the number of activities offered for CM credit on each day or during each week. This option is for face-to-face training at conferences only. This option does not apply to CD or DVD recordings of a conference or recordings available online and web-based training.

2.1 Unlimited Daily or Weekly Offerings

- \$700 per day.
- \$2,000 per week (seven consecutive days).

3.0 Unlimited Annual Organizational Fees

Certain providers can choose to pay an annual flat organizational fee, in addition to the \$95 registration fee. When an organization has more than one location, an additional \$95 fee will be assessed for each additional location. Providers will be asked to register using their own tax ID numbers.

3.1 In-House Training

Providers who offer training exclusively to their own employees can choose this option. It is open to for-profit, nonprofit, and government organizations.

- \$450 per year.

3.2 Governments and Universities

Face to face only, offered directly by a government agency or university and not by a partner or through a partner not meeting this definition.

- \$2,000 per year.

3.3 Not for profit entities

Not affiliated with a governmental, university, or for-profit entity. Face to face only, offered directly by a not for profit and not by a partner or through a partner not meeting this definition.

- Total Annual Gross Receipts of less than \$5 M. \$2,000 per year
- Total Annual Gross Receipts of between \$5 M and \$15 M. \$3,000 per year
- Total Annual Gross Receipts greater than \$15 M. \$5,000 per year.

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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: American Planning Association, 97774 Eagle Way, Chicago, IL 60678-9770

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 or visit their website at www.planning.org.

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 **August 31, 2008**.

Send items for the newsletter to: William F. Ross, ROSS+associates, 2161 Peachtree Road, NE Suite 806, Atlanta, Georgia 30309, Bill@planross.com

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