

GEORGIA PLANNER



American Planning Association
Georgia Chapter

Making Great Communities Happen

Newsletter of the Georgia Chapter of the American Planning Association
Digital Vol. II - JANUARY 2010

2010 SPRING CONFERENCE!

March 25 - 26, 2010 in Macon, GA

It's already 2010 and the annual GPA Spring Conference is calling you to gather once more with your fellow professional planners, local officials and all with stake in community development!

Join us for more than 35 breakout sessions and mobile workshops that provide ample opportunity for continuing education that will aid your career, help you serve your community and excel in your next task. This year will also feature resume reviews and interview training for young planners, opportunities to participate in GPA committee activities, as well as your chance to network and the spring GPA Board meeting. The conference will be held in Macon, Georgia on March 25-26, 2010 during the Cherry Blossom Festival.

Let GPA help you in this challenging professional environment! Join us for the annual Spring Conference to increase and share your knowledge, build on your professional credits and help us all improve the state of planning in Georgia!

Conference Sponsorships Are Now Available!

Support the spring conference by becoming a sponsor. Multiple levels are available, including a new opportunity for Macon area companies and organizations! Please download the form, print it, and fax it back to the included phone number.

<http://georgiaplanning.org/conference/conference-news/>

Spring Conference Session Proposals

Session submissions will be open until Feb. 3rd, 2010. This is a great opportunity to teach fellow planners about new techniques and ideas. Sessions are needed for the conference in all tracks. If you have questions please email Jessica Gibson at executive.director@georgiaplanning.org. Submit your session at <http://georgiaplanning.org/conference/session-form/>.

Hotel Information

Make hotel reservations now!

Rooms are \$126.00 a night. Please call the hotel below and let them know you are with the Georgia Planning Association.

Macon Marriott City Center

240 Coliseum Drive, Macon, GA 31217

Phone: 478.621.5300

Schedule

The conference is March 25 - 26. The conference starts at 8am on Thursday, March 25 and runs until 5pm. There is a reception at the Georgia Sports Hall of Fame that evening starting at 5:30. Friday morning begins at 8:00am and runs until lunch at 12:30pm. There is a casual reception Wednesday evening at Luigi's Bistro.

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GPA SPONSORS

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*Thank You to All of Our Sponsors
That Help Make This Possible*

Our second "green" volume
of the Quarterly Newsletter.

Available only as an
electronic download.



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PRESIDENT'S CORNER

BY JEFF WATKINS, AICP, PRESIDENT OF THE GA CHAPTER

As we enter a new year, Georgia Planning Association remains a strong organization due to the dedication and hard work of all our members. In December, a slate of new Board members was installed to direct and lead the organization into the second decade of the new century. We owe our outgoing Board members a sincere thank you for their commitment and I hope we can be as successful as they have been in leading GPA. To my predecessor, Ellen I would like to offer my thanks for her leadership of the organization.



Jeff Watkins GPA President

New to the Board of Directors are:

- Adam Hazell, AICP, VP of Programs
- Jeff Rader, AICP, Planning Official
- Richard Osborne, AICP, District One Director
- Lynn Tully, AICP, District Two Director
- Jim Summerbell, AICP, District Three Director
- Marc Hawkins, District Nine Director
- Geoff Goins, District Ten Director



Ellen Heath Past-President

As many of you are aware, the first deadline for CM credits has past. If you don't have enough credits to maintain your AICP designation you still have time to pursue getting your credits and registering them with AICP. However, you need to seek out those opportunities now or risk losing your AICP designation. If you need assistance, you can see Gary Cornell, FAICP our Professional Development Officer.

The Spring Conference is coming very soon. This spring we will convene in Macon. We are still in need of sessions. If you have a project or program or problem you wish to present, submit a session proposal form. We realize that in these economic times, many organizations have slashed travel or training budgets which impact your ability to attend our conferences and training sessions. If this is the case for you, see the Georgia Memorial Planning Foundation for assistance.

Lastly, I am very hopeful this year to establish new initiatives that will help to raise the status of the planning profession in Georgia. However it will take all of us to do so. I challenge each member to take some time from your routine to do something in your community that highlights the planning profession. I know I will visit the elementary and middle schools on career day to discuss planning and community development. How about you? ■



CALENDAR OF EVENTS - please visit our website for more events

February 3 – 5, 2010 GAZA Winter Conference	Athens, GA www.georgiazoning.org
February 12 – 13, 2010 AICP Exam Prep Review Session	Atlanta, GA gary.cornell@jjg.com
February 18, 2010 Ethics in Planning	Atlanta, GA ethicsinplanning.eventbrite.com
March 10 – 12, 2010 ArcGIS Desktop II	Atlanta, GA gistwospring2010.eventbrite.com
March 17, 2010 Downtown Planning for Smaller and Midsized Communities	Tuscaloosa, AL www.una.edu/continuing-studies
March 23, 2010 Training for Planning Officials	Atlanta, GA tpospring2010.eventbrite.com
March 23 – 24, 2010 The Big Deal Atlanta	Atlanta, GA www.nbabigdeal.org
March 25 – 26, 2010 GPA Spring Conference	Macon, GA www.georgiaplanning.org
April 1, 2010 Legal Concepts in Planning and Redevelopment	Atlanta, GA legalspring2010.eventbrite.com
April 9 – 11, 2010 Georgia Trust Annual Meeting	Rome, GA www.georgiatruster.org
April 10 – 13, 2010 APA National Conference	New Orleans, LA www.planning.org
April 14, 2010 Planning for Healthy Communities	Decatur, GA healthycommunities.eventbrite.com
April 24 – 27, 2010 ACCG Annual Meeting	Savannah, GA www.accg.org
May 18, 2010 Training for Planning Officials	Atlanta, GA tpospring2010.eventbrite.com

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Georgia Chapter of the American Planning Association 2009 Chapter Awards

The 2009 Georgia Planning Association Chapter Awards offered GPA the opportunity to highlight and advance important planning achievements happening within the State of Georgia. The GPA reviewed and selected award applications based on the following:

CRITERIA:

- **Innovation** of concept
- **Transferability** to other areas or projects
- **Quality** of thought, analysis and character
- Effectiveness of, or promise for, **Implementation**
- **Comprehensiveness** of principles observed
- Strong effort to solicit **Public Participation**
- Use of **Technology** in planning processes
- Demonstration of **Equity**
- Integration of **Sustainable** practices

CATEGORIES

1. Outstanding Planning Process
(Small & Large Community)
2. Outstanding Planning Document
(Small & Large Community)
3. Outstanding Initiatives/Special Project
(Small & Large Community)
4. Outstanding Student Project
5. Great Places in Georgia
6. Grassroots Initiative

Outstanding Planning Process Small Community

Chattahoochee County Safe Routes to School

- Focuses on identifying factors which impede children from walking/cycling to school
- Presents a great example of leadership, wellness and environmental consciousness
- Important partnerships led to a high level of community involvement



Outstanding Planning Process Large Community

West Bay Street Hudson Hill Study

- Interactive social media played a key role in reaching out to different areas of the community
- Technology improved outreach, interactivity, and information gathering
- Great care was taken to reach out to many people in the diverse community



Outstanding Planning Document Small Community

Oakwood 2030 The Shape of Life to Come –The City of Oakwood

- Project name tied back to county's Vision 2030 program to indicate solidarity and a unified effort
- Represents a well documented master plan that tackles critical planning issues facing many communities
- Promise for successful implementation through the passage of a SPLOST to fund various transportation elements of the Plan
- Relied on advanced technological tools such as 3-D video to allow citizens to clearly envision the Plan



Georgia Chapter of the American Planning Association *2009 Chapter Awards*

Outstanding Planning Document Large Community

Gwinnett County – 2030 Unified Plan

- Uses 5 easy to understand themes to organize the document
- Emphasizes how the plan is a guide to decisions affecting all aspects of Gwinnett life
- Maintains a regional perspective and devotes 1/3 of the plan to detailing implementation measures and the accountable party



Outstanding Planning Document Large Community - Honorable Mention

The Westobou Vision, August, GA and North Augusta SC Urban Area 2009 Master Plan for a Sustainable Future

- Westobou Plan promotes a “best practices” development approach
- Strives to make Westobou a national model for growth and development by building on inherent attributes
- Plan supports a denser urban core, a renovation of the building stock, and connected system between destinations



Outstanding Plan Implementation

Warm Springs Road Bicycle and Pedestrian Trail, Columbus, GA

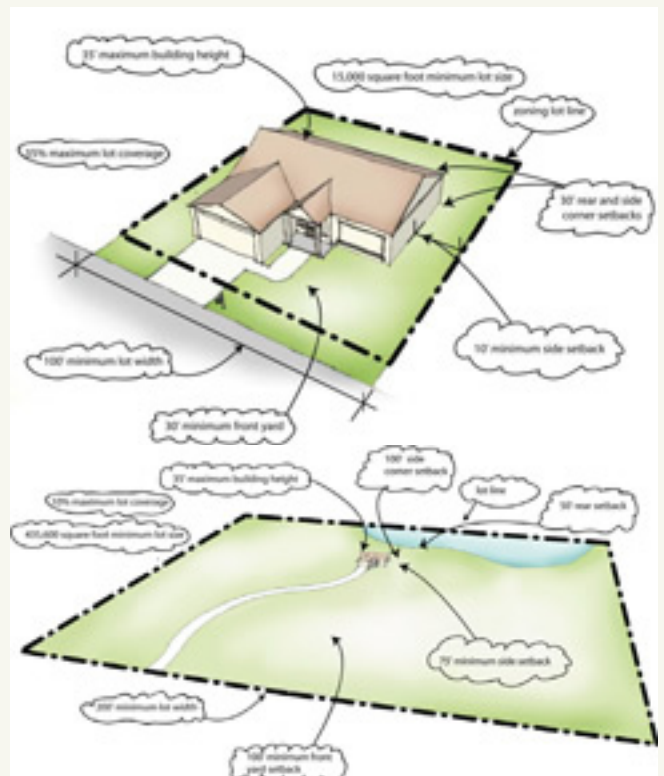
- Trail will provide alternate transportation connectivity to the urban core of Columbus
- Public enthusiasm was reflected through the donation and construction of a playground adjacent to the trail
- Citizen support for implementation reflected in passage of SPLOST



Outstanding Educational Tool

Zoning Handbook, Columbus, GA

- Uses images along with explanation of the different zoning districts to appeal to all users
-
- Provides information that comprises the most common zoning and land uses in the community
- Accessible free of charge to the public on the County website in downloadable PDF format

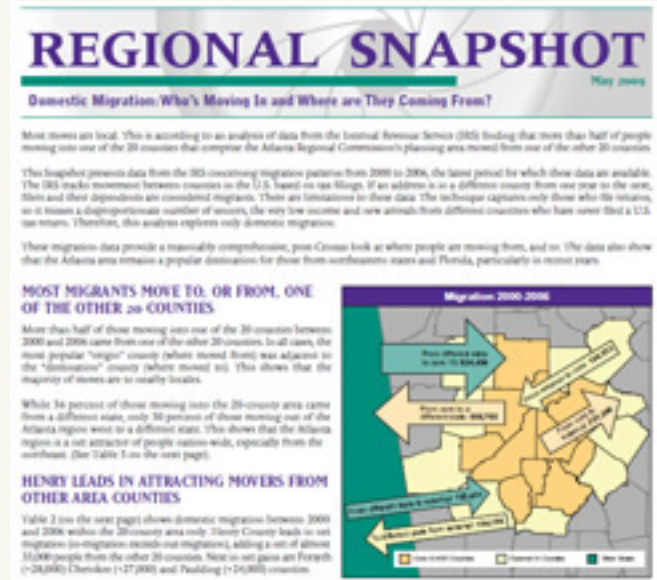


Georgia Chapter of the American Planning Association 2009 Chapter Awards

Outstanding Educational Tool - Honorable Mention

Regional Snapshots, Atlanta Regional Commission

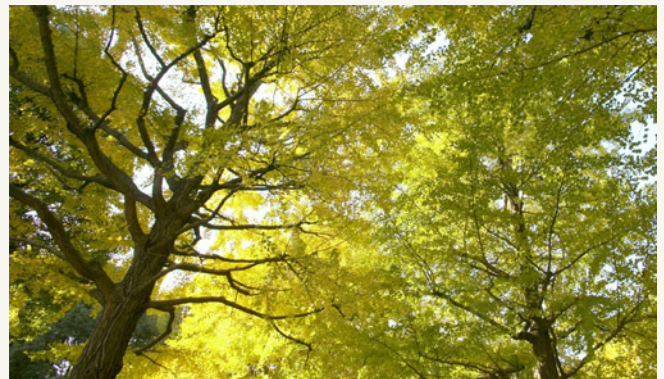
- Explores the most current data to help readers understand the trends shaping the region
- Accessible to non-planners
- Focuses on showing trends rather than explaining trends
- Uses the latest data analysis and manipulation tools
- Serves as the “go-to” places for regional data and research



Outstanding Initiatives / Special Project

Atlanta Regional Commission Green Communities Program

- Fosters civic pride
- Creates a positive image of a place to live or conduct a business
- Sets an example for business and organizations to reduce their environmental impact
- Leads to a great quality of life



Outstanding Initiatives / Special Project

Sustainable Fellwood, Savannah, GA

- Recognized as a model for how to redevelop existing low-income housing developments
- Represents dedications to sustainability by commitment to green building, engagement of community, incorporation of open space and access to transportation options
- Represents a pedestrian-oriented mixed use development
- Incorporates all elements of quality growth
- Catalysts to redevelopment of W. Savannah neighborhood



Outstanding Initiatives / Special Project - Honorable Mention

Atlanta Regional Commission's Comprehensive Transportation Plan Program

- Stimulates the discussion of regional planning concepts and policies at the local level
- Encourages the use of modeling and scenarios to evaluate growth trends and travel patterns and the connection between land use and transportation
- Must be adopted by the local government



Georgia Chapter of the American Planning Association *2009 Chapter Awards*

Outstanding Student Project

GA Tech Community Development Planning Studio on the English Ave. Neighborhood

- Represents a parcel condition assessment and analysis of options for the 3-acre Proctor Village Apartment Complex
- Students marshaled community opinion on priorities through a survey and visioning exercise at Lindsay Street Baptist Church
- Developed notable products for the community like the “Resource Book”



Grassroots Initiative

One Town, One Goal, Thomaston Mill Neighborhood

- Represents public/private initiative to revitalize neighborhoods in Griffin and Spalding County
- Upgrades the play space to make a safe and attractive places for families Represents broad community support to signal that everyone is part of the community
- Examples of partners includes Kiwanis, Spalding 4-H, Griffin Tech and UGA Griffin Campus



Great Places in Georgia

Downtown Newnan

- Founded in 1828 downtown is defined by history, strong sense of place and engaged community
- Antebellum architecture remains intact
- Recently selected as Georgia's representative for This Old House's Best Old House Neighborhoods for 2009
- Downtown has a wide variety of retail, restaurants, offices, industrial, and public uses
- City and County governments remain committed and have continuously kept administrative offices downtown



GPMF NEWS

2009 was a banner year for the Georgia Planning Memorial Foundation!

Created in 2008 with an endowment donated by generous friends and colleagues in the memory of Denise Bonotto Abboud, fundraising through the annual auction at the past two GPA conferences generated a total of more than \$6,500 in available grant monies. These funds enabled the Foundation, through the Denise Abboud Fund, to make grants available for the 2009 GPA Conference and to continue grant funding into 2010. The 2009 grant program focused on offsetting travel expenses for planners who serve eligible cities and counties to attend the GPA Annual Conference in Athens, and the GPA Board generously agreed to waive the conference registration fee for recipients that were GPA members.

Also in 2009, the Board of Directors of the Foundation was expanded numerically and geographically with the addition of three new members: **Brian Shuler**, AICP (Colquitt County Administrator), **Daryll Simmons** (Kennesaw Planning Director) and **Tom Couch**, AICP (Bulloch County Manager).

Special 'thanks' go to **Steve Cover** and **Todd Barker** for their selfless assistance this past year. Todd (with a tip of the hat to the graphic departments

of StreetSmarts and Urban Collage) put together a killer display panel for the GPA conference, and a beautiful hand-out brochure, with information on the Denise Abboud Fund. Todd is currently working with Ecological Solutions and can be reached at 678-469-1600. Steve Cover, an accomplished auctioneer (who knew!?), performed yeoman's service leading our Annual Fundraising Auction at the last GPA Conference to a resounding success. Steve is now with HOK in Atlanta. And, as always, the Foundation especially thanks the many individuals and companies that open their hearts each year with donations that make our auctions so successful.

The Board would also like to extend a thank you to the highly creative folks that submitted ideas for the Foundation's logo. While we have not yet made a final decision on our logo, we were certainly inspired by the designs submitted by **Charlie Hall**, **Andrew Lentini**, and **Diana Wheeler**.

Remember – information on the Georgia Planning Memorial Foundation and eligibility and grant selection criteria for the Denise Abboud Fund can be found on the GPA web site at georgiaplanning.org. ■

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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: 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 email addresses inside on pages 2 & 3.

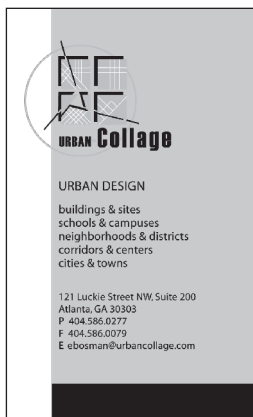
SUBMISSION

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, 2010**.

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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GEORGIA PLANNER – January 2010 Newsletter of the Georgia Chapter of the American Planning Association



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