

WHAT ARE YOU PLANNING?

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MARK YOUR CALENDARS! THE 2006 JOINT TAPA, TN ASLA, TENNESSEE URBAN FORESTRY COUNCIL CONFERENCE WILL BE HELD SEPTEMBER 6-8 AT THE DOUBLETREE IN NASHVILLE.

THE TENNESSEE PLANNING LETTER IS GOING DIGITAL!

This will be the last print issue. Please make sure that we have your correct email address. You can email corrections to Katie Guenther at katieguenther@comcast.net.

If you would rather receive a print version, please contact Valerie Birch at birchv@pbworld.com.

INTERESTED IN TRAINING?

The Planning Official Training Program Subcommittee is looking for you!!

Please contact Michelle Kubant (kubant@pbworld.com/ 615-340-9190) or Steve Neilson (develop@johnsoncitytn.org/ 423-434-6053) ASAP.

And the Winners Are...

Mid 2005, the Tennessee Chapter of APA issued a Call for Awards to recognize excellence in planning and individual contributions. Awards were presented at the 2005 Tennessee Conference of Planning, Landscape Architecture and Transportation Engineering held in Knoxville, Tennessee September 21-23. Awards were presented for four (4) different categories: Outstanding Project, Creative Plan or Document, Distinguished Current Member and the Lifetime Achievement Award.

OUTSTANDING PROJECT

The Outstanding Project is awarded based to a project that demonstrates creative, innovative techniques; serves as a model for other projects and communities; and fits within surroundings and context of adjacent properties. The 2005 Outstanding Project award went to The 21st Century Waterfront for Chattanooga, Tennessee which was submitted by the Planning and Design Studio. The 21st Century Waterfront Project represents the latest chapter in Chattanooga's remarkable downtown renaissance. When Chattanooga's envisioned a renaissance for their city 20 years ago, they returned to the river. Now the banks of the Tennessee River flourish with an aquarium, a children's museum, a carousel, theaters, walking paths, a pedestrian bridge and a score of other projects that helped revitalize a dying downtown. For more information on this project, contact the Planning and Design Studio at (423) 668-2262.

CREATIVE PLAN OR DOCUMENT

The Creative Plan or Document award is presented to an ordinance, plan, text that has been adopted or implemented that demonstrates innovative planning, and simplicity and ease of understanding, and could be replicated elsewhere. This year's award went to the Memphis MPO Regional Bicycle and Pedestrian Plan submitted by RPM Transportation Consultants, LLC. This plan developed a comprehensive, long-range bicycle and pedestrian plan for the Memphis MPO region. The plan demonstrates innovative ways of



Rebecca Brooks, RPM Transportation Consultants, LLC, accepts Creative Plan/Document Award for the Memphis MPO Regional Bicycle and Pedestrian Plan.

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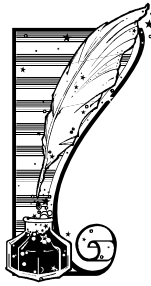
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FROM THE PRESIDENT...

THINGS ARE LOOKING UP! The Tennessee APA Chapter membership is growing. The Chapter now has 471 APA members. In addition, we have another 16 Chapter Only members. That represents a membership increase of approximately 15 percent over the past two years.

The fall conference was a great success. In all, we had over 350 people participate in the conference. I would like to thank Kelley Segars and the Knox Section for doing an outstanding job. Because we received so much positive feedback regarding the joint conference, we are going to try it again this year. This year's fall conference will be held September 6th - 8th in Nashville and will be a joint conference with TN ASLA and the Tennessee Urban Forestry Council (TUFC).

The Executive Committee has made Planning Commissioner training a high priority. The Chapter is in the process of developing a training material loan library. The Chapter will be buying some material from APA. If you have any suggestions on what type of specific material we should acquire, or if you have training material that you would like to include in the loan library, you can contact Michelle Kubant, the Chapter's new Planning Official Development Officer at kubant@pbworld.com.

Also, for those of you who are looking for education material, we have updated the Education Section on the TAPA website to include a number of PowerPoint presentations on zoning and subdivision authority. A special thanks goes to the State Local Planning Office for providing this material. These presentations can be easily downloaded and amended to address your own specific local issues and concerns.

I would also like to thank Sarah Powell for taking over the management of the TAPA website. She has completed reworked the site and it looks great. If you haven't seen it, take a look (www.tnapa.org). She has done an excellent job!

As always, I am very interested in your concerns. If you have any thoughts you would like to share, please contact me at develop@johnsoncitytn.org

Steve Neilson, AICP
Tennessee Chapter President
American Planning Association

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incorporating bicycle and pedestrian facilities into the future planning and design of transportation facilities, which is an integral part of the MPO's Long Range Transportation Plan. The plan also serves as a key building block in the region's goal of achieving a multi-modal transportation system that provides a balance between motorized and non-motorized transportation. For more information, contact RPM Transportation Consultants, LLC at (615) 370-8410.

In addition, there were three (3) Honorable Mentions awarded in this category:

Williamson County Parks and Recreation Comprehensive Master Plan

The *Williamson County Parks and Recreation Comprehensive Master Plan* is a ten-year master plan for the Williamson County, Tennessee Parks and Recreation Department. This was a particularly challenging undertaking for Williamson County, in that it is the most rapidly growing county in the state, as well as one of the wealthiest. A complete and



David Coode, Lose & Associates, accepts an Honorable Mention Award for the Williamson County Parks and Recreation Comprehensive Master Plan

detailed inventory of all recreation opportunities in the county was compiled with accompanying GIS maps showing service areas overlaid on current population. Any overlapping recreation services were identified, along with areas of service deficit. Then, future growth patterns were graphically produced with recommended new recreation facilities for the subsequent 10 years. For more information about this plan, contact Lose & Associates at (615) 242-0040.

City of Oak Ridge Landscape Ordinance

The Oak Ridge Municipal Planning Commission worked in conjunction with an advisory committee which was comprised of business representatives, real estate agents and industrial developers as well as Chamber of Commerce staff. This effort culminated in a revised Landscape Ordinance. The aesthetic quality of a community has become a hallmark requirement for economic development. In the same manner that a well-kept house will sell quicker in a real estate market, a community that exhibits a high aesthetic component reflects a community that takes pride in itself and is more attractive to business interests as well as new residents. The revised Landscape Ordinance allows flexibility for the developer in compliance with the provision. It allows alternative proposals to be presented provided they "meet the spirit and intent of the ordinance" thus allowing a base level which can be varied, with Planning Commission approval, to accommodate those sites which do not fit a "cookie cutter" format. For more information on this ordinance, contact the Oak Ridge Community Development Office at (865) 425-3531.

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The Editor's Corner...

The Tennessee Planning Letter is going digital. I have to admit that I have mixed emotions about this. On the one hand, email is a cost effective means for distributing the newsletter to chapter members and, as such, allows us to channel our limited funds to other important areas, such as training. On the other hand, many of us are overwhelmed by email. For those of you who do not want to have to deal with one more piece of email, please let me know and we will see about doing a limited print run for those of you who would prefer to receive your newsletter in the mail. If you would like to receive a digital copy of the newsletter, please make sure we have your correct email address.

**Valerie N. Birch, AICP
Editor**

**The Tennessee Planning Letter
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CONGRATULATIONS TO THOSE EARNING AICP CONTINUING PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT CERTIFICATES IN 2005!

Richard Bernhardt, FAICP
Valerie N. Birch, AICP
Lisa DeAnn Milligan, AICP
Warren W. Terry, AICP

For more information on the Continuing Professional Development Program (CPDP) visit <http://www.planning.org/cpdp/>.

The online log makes it easy to track your credits!



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Katherine Baldwin accepts an Honorable Mention Award for the City of Oak Ridge Landscape Ordinance.

*The Downtown Plan
Chattanooga, Tennessee*

Chattanooga's last downtown plan was published in 1993. Over the course of a decade, planners developers, neighborhood organizers and civic leaders collectively implemented virtually every plan recommendation. The Downtown Plan sets the course for the next 20 years. The goal of the plan is to create a document which will serve as a road map for the future physical development of the downtown area. The Downtown Plan will be utilized as a tool for elected officials, government decision makers, private developers and citizens at large. For more information, contact the Planning and Design Studio at (423) 668-2262.



**THE TENNESSEE PLANNING
LETTER IS GOING DIGITAL!**



Pam Glaser accepts an Honorable Mention Award for the Chattanooga Downtown Plan.

PLANNER OF THE YEAR

The Planner of the Year Award is awarded to a planner who has contributed to state and local planning efforts and is a current member of TAPA. The 2005 Planner of the Year was awarded to Dan C. Hawk, Jr., AICP, Director of the State's Local Planning Agency. Dan has been a very active member in the Chapter and has provided distinguished leadership in advancing the field of planning throughout the State. His list of accomplishments and involvement with numerous organizations, committees and boards to support all planning efforts throughout the State demonstrate his commitment to the field of planning.

In addition, one Honorable Mention was awarded for this category. Kelley Segars, a Senior Transportation Planner for the Knoxville/Knox County Metropolitan Planning Commission (MPC), received the Honorable Mention. Kelley has been with the MPC since 2001 and immediately made an impact on promoting alternative

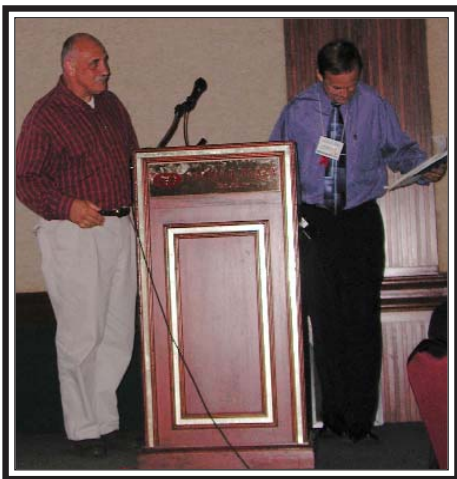
transportation choices within the Knoxville Regional Transportation Planning Organization (TPO) area. Kelley recently served as the Knox Section Director and was instrumental in the planning of the 2005 Tennessee Conference of Planning, Landscape Architecture and Transportation Engineering. The conference success speaks for itself and the bar was set high for the next fall conference.

LIFETIME ACHIEVEMENT

The Lifetime Achievement Award is awarded to an individual who has worked for state, local, and national planning and has a minimum of 15 years of service and involvement in the planning field. The 2005 Lifetime Achievement award went to James Spencer, FAICP. James Spencer has served as a faculty member and director of The University of Tennessee School of Planning since 1968. Mr. Spencer is best known for the Spencer reports, which significantly impacted planning school accreditation and AICP credentialing. He has also served his community and chapter in numerous roles to further promote the planning field. In 1999, he was inducted to the Fellows of the American Institute of Certified Planners. Election to Fellow in AICP is one of the highest honors that the American Institute of Certified Planners (AICP) bestows upon a member.

All submittals for the 2005 Call for Awards are available for review. You may contact the TAPA Public Official Development Officer, Michelle Kubant via email at kubant@pbworld.com or by phone at 615-340-9190.

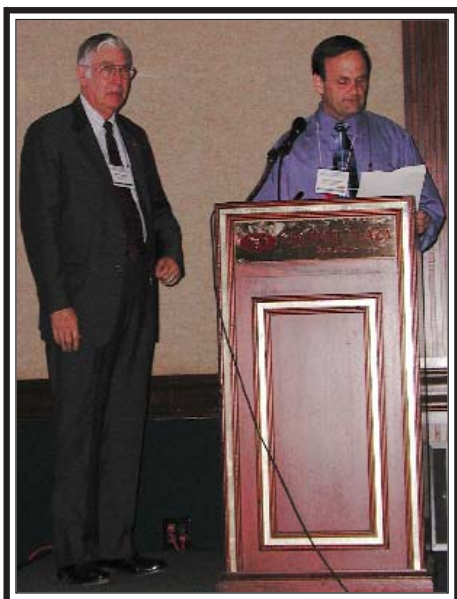
**Monica Austin, AICP
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maustin@cornn.org**



Dan Hawk accepts the Planner of the Year Award.



Kelley Segars accepts the Honorable Mention Award in the Planner of the Year Category.



**WE'RE ALL CONNECTED
2006 JOINT TAPA, TN
ASLA, TN URBAN
FORESTRY COUNCIL
CONFERENCE**

September 6-8, 2006

Mark your calendars! The 2006 conference will be in Nashville September 6-8 at the Doubletree. The conference is shaping up to be an exciting one! The theme is "We're All Connected." The opening reception will be held at the Parthenon. TAPA will be presenting awards again this year--the call for nominations will be sent out soon. Keep watching the TAPA website (www.tnapa.org) for updates and more details as they become available.



**TRANSPORTATION
PLANNING COORDINATOR
NEEDED**

The City of Johnson City is currently accepting applications for the position of Transportation Planning Coordinator. The Transportation Planning Coordinator performs difficult professional work conducting transportation planning and project development activities within the Johnson City Urbanized Area and coordinates the financial and administrative functions of the Metropolitan Transportation Planning Organization. The works involves the application of specialized knowledge in the field of transportation planning, project implementation, and financial management. The Transportation Planning Coordinator acts as technical advisor to MTPO member

James Spencer accepts the Lifetime Achievement Award.

jurisdictions on matters relating to capital project funding and programming. Requirements include graduation from a college or university of recognized standing with a degree in planning, civil engineering or related field and progressively responsible experience working in a metropolitan planning organization.

Annual Salary Range: \$37,893 - \$57,130

Apply to:
Department of Human Resources
City of Johnson City
601 East Main St.
P.O. Box 2150
Johnson City, TN 37605
EEO/AA

SECTION NEWS

KNOX SECTION

Congratulations to the new Knox Section officers!
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Vice Director
Dawn-Michelle Foster
865-963-4300
dfoster@wilbursmith.com
Secretary/Treasurer
Monica Austin, AICP
865-425-3581
maustin@cortn.org

Looking Back... Moving Forward

By all accounts, the first-ever joint conference of TAPA, ASLA, and TSITE was a huge success! We had over 350 participants. The theme was "Looking Back, Moving Forward" and addressed how the past has been borrowed from and adapted for today's trends in planning, landscape architecture and transportation. The joint forum provided an exciting opportunity for discussion among the three fields.

The conference opened Wednesday with a choice of mobile workshops--attendees toured the City of Norris, canoed down the French Broad River blueway, walked around the 4th and Gill and Mechanicsville neighborhoods, and toured the TDOT Traffic Management Center. The mobile workshops were followed by an opening

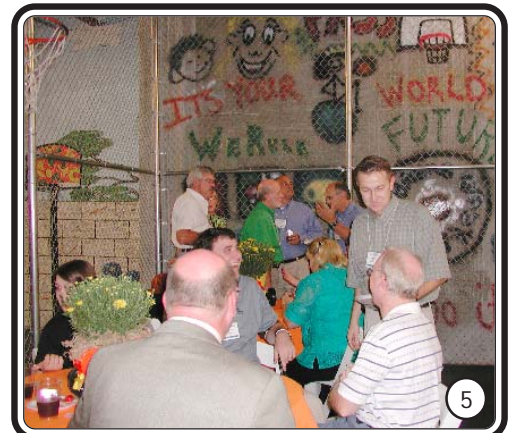
1. Kelley Segars, Katie Guenther and volunteers attend to last minute details.
2. Tour of the historic 4th and Gill Neighborhood.
3. Slow Blind Hill play the blues.
4. House in the historic 4th and Gill neighborhood.
5. Kick-off reception.
6. Kick-off reception.



reception at the Women's Basketball Hall of Fame.

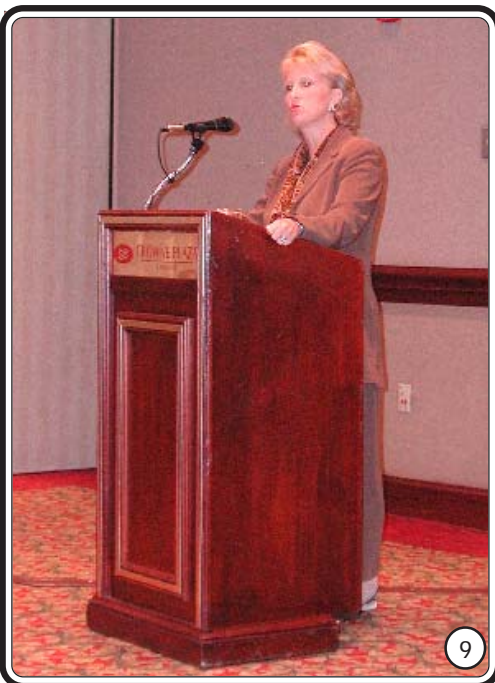
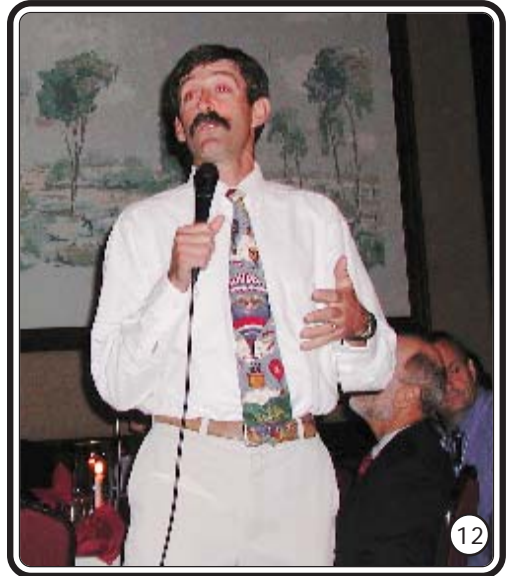
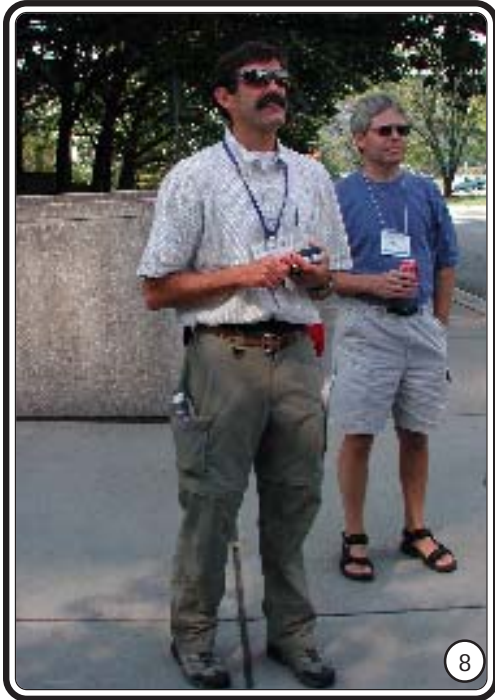
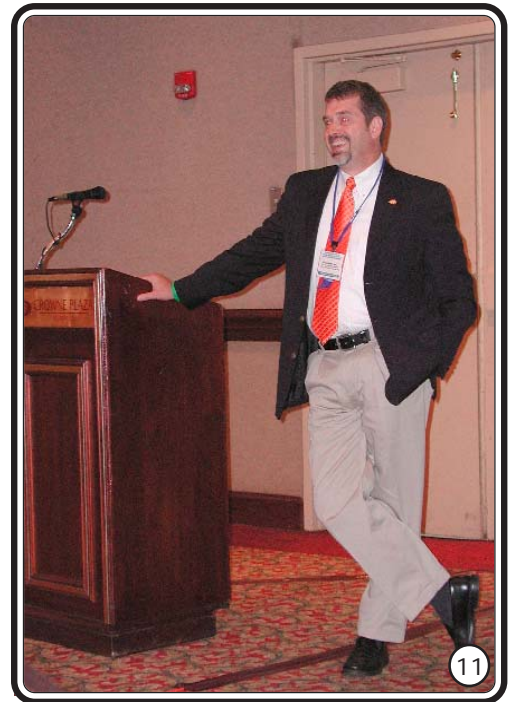
Conference sessions included presentations on traffic calming, context sensitive solutions, growth readiness, public involvement, urban redevelopment, corridor planning, strategies for big box retail, effective media relations, urban freeways, planned communities, safe routes to school, implementing a successful bicycle and pedestrian program, public wayfinding, innovative planning products, and freight and goods movement.

The highlight of the conference was the Awards Banquet with a keynote address by Mark Fenton, host of the PBS series *America's Walking*.



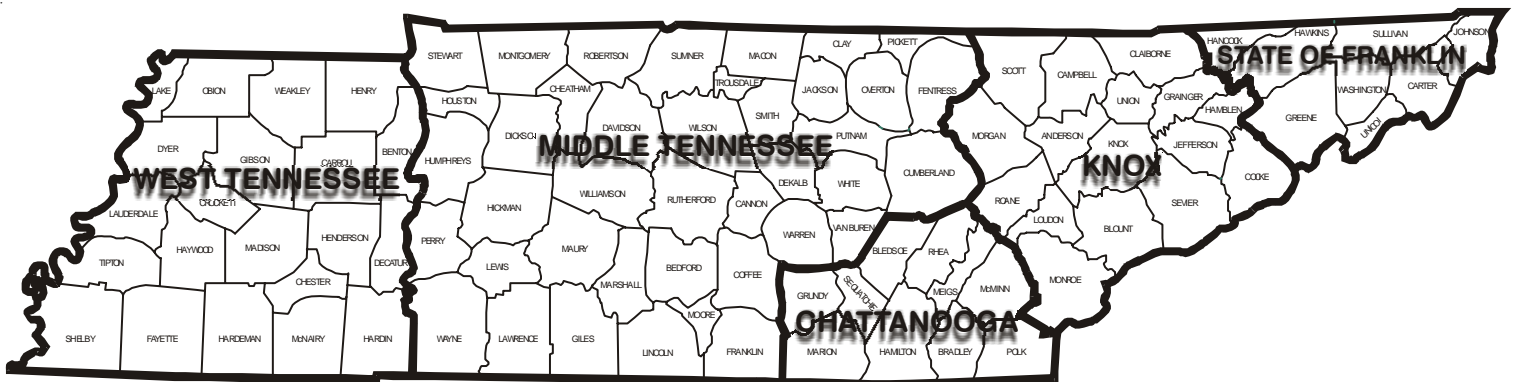


7. Kelley Segars, conference coordinator, welcomes everyone to the conference.
8. Mark Fenton leads a group on a community walkability assessment around downtown Knoxville.
9. Lynn Fugate talks about the public involvement for Nine Counties, One Vision.
10. Paul Morris, Keynote luncheon speaker, talks about creating sustainable communities from the grassroots up.
11. Bill Eubanks talks about community participation in the design process.
12. Mark Fenton, Keynote speaker at the awards banquet, talks about active living by community design.
13. Downtown Knoxville Redevelopment Walking Tour.



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YOUR NEXT ISSUE OF THE TENNESSEE PLANNING LETTER WILL BE DIGITAL!



TAPA SECTION LOCATIONS

Change of Address?

Please send the information to:
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Email: membership@planning.org
Telephone: 312-431-9100

Deadline for Submissions

The next issue of the Tennessee Planning Letter will be emailed in May. The deadline for submission of articles, information and other tidbits is April 21, 2006. For more information, contact Valerie Birch: birchv@pbworld.com or 615-340-9186.