First woman ASLA president named

Darwina L. Neal, FASLA, a senior landscape architect with the National Park Service in Washington, D.C., was installed as the new president of the American Society of Landscape Architects at the 1983 Annual Meeting recently. She is the first woman president of the organization, succeeding 35 consecutive male presidents.

Neal’s goal is to stress the need to strengthen the role of landscape architects in influencing public decision-making to ensure full consideration of environmental issues.

Neal succeeds Theodore J. Wirth of Wirth Associates, Billings, MT. President-elect is Robert Mortensen, FASLA, Mortensen Associates, Falls Church, VA.

Cleveland architect awarded President’s Medal

William A. Behnke, FASLA, president of Behnke Associates, a Cleveland landscape architecture firm, was awarded the American Society of Landscape Architects’ President’s Medal recently.

The ASLA President’s Medal is given each year to an ASLA member in recognition of unselfish and devoted service to the national society.

In presenting the medal to Behnke, outgoing ASLA president Theodore J. Wirth said, “Bill’s dedication to the advancement of the profession and the Society has been a continual inspiration to us all. This award is offered in special recognition of his outstanding accomplishments, which have contributed greatly to the growth of ASLA over the last decade.”

A past national president of ASLA, Behnke has served on most major committees of the professional association and was elected a Fellow in 1975.

Dave Harmon

Harmon suggested the following areas as starting points to a more professional image:

- Make sure the lane to the maintenance headquarters is clean and neat. This may be the first impression a visitor gets of the maintenance operation.
- Make sure your clothes are neat and clean and wear a shirt with the club’s monogram on it.
- Organize your office files.
- Foster a good relationship with your golf pro. Initiate a weekly round of golf or lunch to get to know each other.
- Make sure you take the time to train your crew properly. Encourage employees to attend special schools.