



New Jersey Agricultural  
Experiment Station



FEBRUARY 2022 ~ *LATE EDITION*

## WATER PAGES eNEWSLETTER

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### **NJASLA annual conference goes 100% virtual again in 2022!**



The Annual Conference for the New Jersey American Society of Landscape Architects (NJASLA) never seems to disappoint. After a year of planning for the conference to be in-person in early February, the NJASLA Annual Planning Committee and the NJASLA Executive Board decided it would be safer to host the conference virtually due to the spike in COVID-19 cases. This was yet again another huge undertaking for the NJASLA Annual Meeting Planning Committee to switch all sessions virtually within less than a month. The number of registered online attendees was almost 600 compared to the previous year of 700.

The virtual conference consisted of live student introductions for each speaker session following a pre-recorded lecture, concluding with a live Q and A between the speaker, student, and live virtual audience. Attendees could put up questions in the live chat saved at the end of each lecture. The education lecture sessions throughout the conference discussed various topics with the focus of the legacy of Fredrick Law Olmstead. This year marks the father of landscape architecture's 200th birthday on April 26, 2022.

Education sessions revolved around the landscape, advocacy, and communication from Olmstead's life work and the introduction of landscape architecture in America.

Some well-known professionals talked about Olmstead's work included Charles Birnbaum, Faye Harwell, and Anne Neal Petri.

The conference was another complete success overcoming all the current challenges during the pandemic. Attendees were satisfied with the programming and setup of the conference and gave feedback on what they thought went well and what could be improved. Stay tuned to see if the 2023 conference will be held in a hybrid style or virtually! Either way, it's highly encouraged to attend and learn more on how landscape architecture shapes the world!

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### **Green Infrastructure in Response to Climate Change ~ The 2022 Taiwan EPA and Rutgers Cooperative Extension Water Resources Program Virtual Seminar**

In November 2019, the Water Resources Program was invited to Taipei, Taiwan by

the Taiwan Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) for an intellectual exchange around green stormwater infrastructure. Dr. Kenneth Lin helped coordinate this effort and has been helping the Water Resources Program as our Director of International Business Development as well as our direct connection to Rutgers Global. Dr. Kenneth Lin, Mr. Chih Wei (Zack) Chen, a Program Associate-Engineer for the Water Resources Program, and Dr. Christopher Obropta went to Taiwan in 2019 and gave several presentations on our green infrastructure efforts in New Jersey. Our work was well received. While in Taiwan, EPA showed us the city of Taipei and its surrounding suburbs. Visits were made to a few of the green infrastructure practices that have already been installed in Taiwan. The Taiwan trip concluded with the two-day 2019 Water Environmental Symposium hosted by the National Taipei University of Technology where Mr. Chen and Dr. Obropta presented their work in New Jersey.

The visit to Taiwan was fruitful and resulted in the Taiwan EPA providing the Water Resources Program with a contract to partner on exploring the ability of green infrastructure to manage larger storm events such as the hurricanes we get in New Jersey and the typhoons that occur in Taiwan. This work culminated in a two-day virtual seminar on February 23-24, 2022. On the first day, Dr. Michael Dietz from the University of Connecticut provided an overview of green infrastructure in the United States, and Dr. James Houle from the University of New Hampshire (UNH) shared information on his Stormwater Certification Program at the UNH Stormwater Center. On day two, Dr. Thomas Ballestero from the UNH presented his work on green infrastructure in response to climate change, and Mr. Chen and Dr. Obropta gave a presentation on coupling green infrastructure with gray infrastructure for large storms.

The two-day seminar was well attended by professionals in Taiwan and the United States. Dr. Eric Garfunkel of Rutgers Global provided some closing remarks, and Dr. Lin-Yi Tsai, the Director of the Climate Change Office at Taiwan EPA, finished the evening with her reflection on managing climate change with green infrastructure. We hope to continue to work together with the Taiwan EPA in years to come. We have a lot to learn from them and hope they can benefit from our research as well as our implementation experiences.

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