

A: History of the Workbook

The funding for the Rural Design Workbook comes from Section 604(b) of the federal Clean Water Act. Its primary purpose is to protect water quality by encouraging good site design which builds in water quality protection measures.

The idea grew out of a presentation by Max Pfeffer of Cornell University's Center for the Environment to the Upper Susquehanna Coalition (USC) in 1999. Pfeffer was interested in working with the USC on a "watershed forum." He proposed a collaboration to solve watershed issues on a site specific basis which could then be shared with others. The idea grew through meetings between the Southern Tier Central Regional Planning and Development Board (STC) and Cornell's Department of Landscape Architecture (LA) during the spring of 2000, culminating in the decision that a Fall 2000 undergraduate design studio would take on generating the designs. A small contract with STC would cover the cost of site visits, travel to the public presentation, and materials. The resulting designs would be gathered and compiled into this workbook by D.J. Chagnon, then a Masters' Student in Landscape Architecture at Cornell.

In preparation for the upcoming fall project, STC advertised in its Spring 2000 newsletter for willing landowners of large parcels (over 100 acres preferred) with environmental features in need of preservation to take part in the project. A special mailing was also sent to area developers, engineering firms, and Soil & Water Conservation District offices for recommendations. Over the summer, STC heard from landowners in Steuben County and three parcels were identified. STC, with the assistance of Cornell's John Barney, prepared the base mapping which included air photos, tax parcel boundaries and slopes.



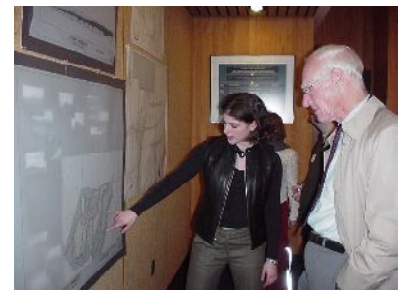
The Fall 2000 studio at an introductory meeting in the STC offices.



The Fall '00 class on a site visit to Dean Stuart's property.

The class prepared a powerpoint presentation on the "conservation subdivision" process and posted their site inventory maps and proposed designs on the walls. Landowners shared their responses to the designs with the audience of 25 landowners, planning board members, engineers, and other local officials. Students spoke one-on-one with participants after the meeting to further describe their designs and receive feedback.

In October 2000, the 20 sophomore students of LA 201 and Professor Marvin Adleman gathered at STC to meet the landowners, discuss their vision for their properties, and visit the sites. Design work on the Stuart, Stevens and Tears properties was completed over November, culminating in the Rural Design Clinic Showcase Presentation on December 6, 2000 at the Corning City Council Chambers. The class prepared a powerpoint presentation on the "conservation



Julie Canter explains her work to Ted Sprague of the Corning Planning Board at the Showcase.

The Fall 2000 LA 201 class was: Bob Bell, Julie Canter, Brook Dannemiller, Brian Dold, Nik Elkovitch, Spencer Levine, Grace Lo, Dan Malone, Julia Milliken, Misako Murata, Emily Musall, Jedd Narsavage, Isaiah Parker, Anita Roth, Dave Roth, Nadine Soubotin, Greg Sparks, Scott Taft, Megan Tomkins, and Carlos Vargas. Sherry Frear, D.J. Chagnon, and Eve Minson served as Teaching Assistants (T.A.'s) to Professor Marv Adleman.

At the April 5, 2001 Southern Tier Central Local Government Conference, STC's Jennifer Fais and Cornell's D.J. Chagnon presented the "Rural Design Clinic Showcase," featuring the Steuben County case studies, to a large audience of local officials. The students' powerpoint presentation was adapted and expanded, and an audience-participatory discussion was held.

During the summer of 2001, sites were solicited in Schuyler County for a followup round of designs to expand the proposed workbook. Danielle Hauteniemi, Schuyler County Planner, was key in locating willing landowners. Two sites were selected for study by a class of 13 sophomores during the fall semester (Mancuso and Greenwood/Brown). Again, STC provided the digital base mapping, and the class met on site with one of the landowners, Lynn Greenwood Brown, on November 12. A critique of the draft plans was held at Cornell in late November, with the final review and public meeting held at the Rural Urban Center in Montour Falls on December 12. About a dozen Schuyler County officials met to hear from the students and landowners about the recommended layouts.



(From L) Jennifer Fais and Lynn Greenwood-Brown study the work of Dustin John and Sean Corriel



(From L) Frank Mancuso talks with Anna Johansen and Blake Sanborn

Professor Adleman again ran the LA201 design studio, this year with Eun-Jin Kim as his T.A. The Fall 2001 class consisted of Benjamin Barrett, Heather Blaikie, Darragh Caldwell, Sean Corriel, Shannon Early, Kira Finney, Graham Howe, Anna Johansen, Dustin John, Elizabeth Jones, Brent Marcus, Edwina Powell, and Blake Sanborn.

In the Spring 2002 semester, Prof. Adleman turned to his studio class of first-year Masters' students. STC selected two sites in Chemung County (Boor and Clarke) for this round. The designs were presented to the community on May 9th, 2002, at the Rural Design Clinic, which was held at the CCC Airport Corporate Park facility.

The students in the Spring 2002 semester's LA502 class were: Jeanette Ankoma-Sey, Fred Cowett, Kevin Downing, Lynne Giesecke, Caroline Havey, Masha Hranjec, Danna Kinsey, Tashya Leaman, Bret LeBleu, Shu-Fang Liu, Sue Luescher, Darlene Myrie, Christine Simpson, and Jen Thomas. Prof. Adleman's Teaching Assistant for the semester was Deina Luberts.

The Rural Design Workbook itself was prepared during the winter/spring 2002, and expanded summer 2002, under contract with D. J. Chagnon, who edited the text and digital images of student work, organized the graphic design of the pages, and worked in collaboration with Jennifer Fais, STC Principal Planner. The final version was prepared in Adobe PageMaker 6.5 on a Macintosh PowerPC, and saved as a .pdf file for easy distribution via the internet.

Future revisions to the workbook (as more sites are added) will also be made available online - check the STC website at <http://www.stcplanning.org> for updates. The new or revised chapters will be separately downloadable for easy printout and organization.

During the early fall of 2002, the Tioga County Water Quality Coordinating Committee solicited names of interested landowners and took Professor Marv Adleman of Cornell on a site selection tour to choose the two project sites. Once the sites were selected, Professor Adleman once again brought his LA201 class of sophomores from Cornell to the project. They began on October 23, 2002 with a class trip to the town of Spencer and to both the Janiak and Rautine properties. They returned on the 25th for a field visit to the Porter Sand & Gravel Mine and its associated developments. Then it was back to the studios for several weeks of design .



The students tour "The Links".



Amanda Brown (R) discuss her design with Nanette Nelson, DEC.

On November 13, the clients arrived at Cornell for the interim presentation and their first opportunity for design review. This was followed up, several weeks later, by the final presentation to the clients at Cornell on December 9th. After this, the students spent time preparing for a planned public presentation on December 11th at Spencer Town Hall, but the icy weather refused to cooperate, and the presentation was postponed to the following night, December 12th, at the Spencer-VanEtten High School.

The LA 201 class whose work is represented in the Tioga County chapters (12 and 13) consisted of Amanda Brown, Linda Ciesielski, Jeannette Compton, Sarah Donato,

Joshua Egnatz, Jon Ernsberger, Rebecca Francisco, Craig Johnson, Daniel Jost, John Knowlton, Scott Raasch, Cameron Spies, Betsy Stearns, Steve Warto, Stephanie Webster, and Blythe Yost.

Special thanks go to Wendy Walsh of Tioga County SWCD; Elaine Jardine and Bryan Coates of Tioga County Planning; and Al Evans and his fellow members of Citizens for the Catatonk Creek; who recommended excellent sites and encouraged their friends and neighbors to participate in the public presentation. Thanks also to Mr. Porter of Porter's Sand and Gravel, and to the manager and staff of The Links Golf Course for hosting the student site visit to learn about gravel mine reclamation, and to Nanette Nelson of the NYSDEC Division of Minerals for her help as a resource on constructed wetlands and mining processes.



The final presentation underway at Spencer-VanEtten High.

The Cortland County sites were undertaken in the Spring of 2003 with Professor Adleman's LA502 class of first-year MLA students. They began with an initial site visit on April 9th, 2003, touring both the Power and Slade farms and getting a sense for the regional character of Cortland County and the Tioughnioga Valley. After an intensive two weeks of work, the students presented initial site plans to the landowners and STC at Cornell in an interim critique on April 21. With these comments and suggestions in hand, the students went back to the drafting tables and fleshed out their plans further for a final client presentation on May 7th. Then, as usual, a powerpoint slideshow was prepared, and the students gave a public presentation of their work to the Cortland community at Cortlandville Fire Station in the evening of May 8th, 2003.



The students tour the Slade site amid early April snows.



Spring 03's LA 502 class.

Special thanks to Cortland County Soil and Water Conservation District staff, Will Burnell and Pat Reidy, for preparing mapping and for soliciting interest from landowners; to Dan Dineen and Tricia Sonyer-Littlejohn, Cortland County

The LA502 class that semester consisted of: Avery Armstrong, Lisa Boege, Ning Cai, Deanna Curtis, Shalie Gasper, Ted Haffner, Imogene Hatch, Moon Koh, Allison Marusic, Erin Moriarty, Dorothy Murray, Kelly Pagano, Jane Padelford, Mary Ellen Russell, Jessica Schultz, and Chris Simone. Their work is showcased in chapters 14 and 15.



The final presentation at the Cortlandville Fire Station.



Professor Adleman and two students address the audience.

Planning Department, for background mapping and planning materials; to the Town of Homer and Virgil town supervisors, _____, for meeting with the students to talk about their town master plans; and to the cooperating landowners, Gary and his brother Chuck Slade, and Jerry and his daughter Dianna Power, for offering their properties as study sites for the project.