

**David Driapsa, ASLA**  
**Historical Landscape Architect**  
**Naples, Florida**

### **Member at Large for Education and Research**

The economy remains lackluster; yet there is much to commemorate as ASLA celebrates fifty years as a professional society in Florida, forty years of Earth Day, and ten years of the Historic American Landscapes Survey.



ASLA members are taking personal and corporate responsibility for preserving natural and heritage environments. It ultimately is an attitude of recognizing the value and necessity of individual, local, and entrepreneurial action.

My professional practice is preserving natural and heritage environments. Last summer I led a National Park Service project in the beautiful Berkshire Mountains of up-state New York, documenting Mount Lebanon Shaker Village National Historic Landmark. This summer I am leading historical landscape documentation in Voyageurs National Park in a quarter-million acre wilderness where wolves and moose still roam free.

My ASLA volunteer activities are service, research and education. The National Park Service appointed me Florida District Officer of the Historic American Landscapes Survey and ASLA appointed me HALS Liaison to establish the survey in Florida. I served as chair, chair-elect, and vice-chair of the ASLA Historic Preservation Professional Practice Network and currently serve as Coordinator of HALS Liaisons leading the national implementation of the Historic American Landscapes Survey. Serving as a volunteer has enabled me to work with a fine group of Government Affairs staff in Washington and allied ASLA colleagues in Florida and nationwide.

The Historic American Landscapes Survey is a successful program. I worked to establish a subcommittee in the FLASLA Executive Committee three years ago and now HALS is represented statewide in the ten ASLA sections and in two universities. Dedicated members and Friends are documenting the landscapes of Florida, having fun doing it, and developing professional skills. Additionally, ASLA members are benefiting from HALS education sessions and historic landscape tours and receiving CECs for licensure renewal.

The FLASLA Project 50 Committee, which I also serve, is recording the Florida Chapter history of the past fifty years. Interestingly many of the most cherished landscapes in Florida were created long ago, such as the Spanish plaza in Saint Augustine, which is the oldest public open space in the Americas. Research and education reminds us to cherish the past and to envision a prosperous future.