

# THE PALMETTO PLANNER



A Publication of the South Carolina Chapter of the American Planning Association

## Digital Coast

*And other tools to increase community resiliency*

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## President's Message

### “One APA”

#### National conference

It has been approximately one month since I attended the APA National Conference in Los Angeles where I participated in two days of Chapter Leadership Meetings prior to the actual start of conference activities. It is always enlightening and pleasurable to meet with leaders of other chapters and discuss issues of similar concerns and opportunities. After all, we are, as APA President Mitchell Silver states, *“ONE APA. One organization with one mission. We succeed by working together to plan and advance the goals and strategies of the Association.”*



The meetings of the Chapter President's Council were evident of this co-operative directive.

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On the Summer Conference agenda: a legislative update, gambling as a “new” hot topic, and transportation planning.  
Lexington ~ July 25



## *President's Message*

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### **Election cycles in sync**

Another indication of the move toward ONE APA is the pursuit of synchronized election cycles and consolidated ballot processes for APA and all its components, including the Chapters. I have been appointed to serve on a committee of the Chapter Presidents' Council that is working to raise support and reach agreement among the Chapters. It has been noted that making any wholesale changes to the national election cycle without a commitment from all components to participate is problematic. The purpose of this committee is to talk with assigned chapters, act as a reference and resource for any by-laws amendment process, and to solicit cooperation. The goal of the committee is to obtain the agreement of at least 38 to 40 Chapters for a synchronized election cycle by adoption of a Resolution of Support. It is important to note that there will be NO COST TO THE CHAPTERS in this process. All activities will be funded through the adopted APA budget.

You may ask the question, "Why do we need to synchronize SCAPA elections with National elections and how would this change affect us?" Well, for one, SCAPA may very well see a significant increase in voter participation. Having one election process with ballots containing more positions for voters to consider have been cited as reasons why similar consolidated elections processes generate more interest and a greater voter turnout.

Another reason to consider consolidation is leadership development. Information transfer from outgoing Chapter and Division leaders to those newly elected varies widely within APA. Face-to-face meetings each year of both the Chapter President's Council and the Division Council of APA are the best opportunity for national

orientation. SCAPA is one of the few Chapters that actually have a President-Elect position and also budgets for that member to attend at least one National Leadership Meeting.

The most important result of synchronized elections is better communication between not only the APA Board and the APA component groups (including Chapters) but also the membership at large. While having a consolidated election cycle won't be a panacea for all our communication needs, it will definitely help promote APA as a unified organization and give us new outlets for maintaining contact.

As to how a consolidated process will affect SCAPA, the answer is very minimally. The National APA Consolidated Election Proposal encourages Chapters to establish a President-Elect position to provide continuity. This will have no affect on the SCAPA by-laws as this position is already established. The proposed APA National Consolidated Election Cycle calls for a late summer balloting process, which would allow the newly elected President-Elects to attend the APA Fall Leadership Meetings in Washington along with the current President. This meeting is usually held in late September or early October. This would mean that SCAPA might only need to adjust our election cycle by as little as one month. While SCAPA would see minimal effects, we would need to amend the SCAPA by-laws to reflect the proposed election cycle.

### **Summer conference**

I would also like to encourage members to attend the Summer Conference in Lexington on July 25.

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# Using Digital Coast to Inform South Carolina Planning Decisions

By Kitty Fahey  
NOAA Coastal Services Center

Allison Hardin, a planner for the City of Myrtle Beach, knows how tough the job can be for her South Carolina colleagues. Many coastal planners are wrestling with an unprecedented rise in population and development. At the same time, they are working hard to safeguard natural resources, prepare for intensified storms and floods, and adapt to climate change impacts such as sea level rise. That's why she's an enthusiastic supporter of the Digital Coast, an online suite of data, information, tools, and training for the U.S. ocean and Great Lakes coasts.

“A lot of communities like mine are strapped for cash, and purchasing data and tools for coastal planning is just not possible,” Hardin said. “Digital Coast has the products we need to tackle these issues and puts them out there for everyone! That's the beauty of it—the data layers allow planners to work more efficiently, and the trainings and other resources help them to reach decisions that are better informed.”

Many Digital Coast trainings and webinars have been approved for certification maintenance credits for planners. The American Planning Association (APA) is one of six national partners in the Digital Coast



CanVis enables viewers to visualize the scenic impact of sea level rise and other coastal changes.

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## Digital Coast

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effort, which is led by the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration's Coastal Services Center.

All the Digital Coast resources described below, plus many others, can be found at [www.csc.noaa.gov/digitalcoast](http://www.csc.noaa.gov/digitalcoast).

## Increasing Community Resilience to Hazards

Flooding, storm surge, hurricanes, coastal erosion—a coastal community's ability to bounce back from these and other hazards is key to its health and sustainability. Several Digital Coast tools provide easy, accessible ways to strengthen hazard resilience plans.

**Coastal County Snapshots** allows users to gain an instant picture of local hazards-related information:

- The number of critical facilities and percentage of vulnerable populations (such as seniors and those in poverty) within the county's flood zone
- Statistics on the local coastal economy
- Guidance on conducting risk assessments for hazards and climate change
- Practical community steps to become more resilient

Users of Coastal County Snapshots may want to deepen their knowledge of local risks for inundation, an event in which normally dry land is covered by water. The **Coastal Inundation Toolkit** enables planners or their technical personnel to understand the causes of inundation, visualize inundation, identify potential vulnerabilities, and communicate these risks in an effective way.

### Coastal County Snapshots:

## Horry County, South Carolina

Ocean jobs account for

**21,008**

in employees

**\$367m**

in wages

**\$881m**

in goods and services

Ocean and Great Lakes Jobs = A Healthy Economy

[www.csc.noaa.gov/snapshots/](http://www.csc.noaa.gov/snapshots/)

2009

"Anyone in a coastal planning role needs to be worried about inundation, because we don't have a lot of storage space for water in low-lying coastal communities, and development increases our hazard risks," Hardin said. "The toolkit is great because it explains in plain language how communities can help make areas safer and more resistant to floods." For technical planning personnel, the toolkit includes a Coastal Inundation Mapping course.

"Preserving the Golden Egg"—that was the title of a recent APA presentation on coastal zone management, and it sums up the economic concerns of many coastal planners, according to Jim Schwab, manager of APA's Hazards Planning Research Center. Schwab was one of the APA's earliest supporters of the Digital Coast Partnership. "No one wants the kinds of coastal development or changes that destroy the golden egg, whether it's tourism, ports, ocean jobs, natural resources, or other aspects of the local economy," he said.

The **Economics: National Ocean Watch (ENOW)** Web site can help coastal planners get the facts on any county's "golden eggs," so they can take steps to protect, or even increase, them.

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# CHAPTER ELECTIONS

SCAPA needs your talents! It is time for Chapter elections, which is a great opportunity to get more involved in the state's planning organization. Available positions include president-elect, board of directors (3 open seats), and secretary/treasurer.

If you are interested in running for an elected office on the SCAPA Board of Directors, please complete the Candidate Position Statement that was sent to Chapter members by e-mail earlier this week and send it to Robby Moody, SCAPA President-Elect, at [rmoody@catawbacog.org](mailto:rmoody@catawbacog.org) by **Monday, June 4, 2012**.

Candidates will have the opportunity to speak to the membership during the summer conference in Lexington. Ballots will be sent out in early August with election results due by mid-September. The results will be announced at the Fall Conference.

## Doing Something Noteworthy? 2 Ways to Shine

Tell SCAPA members about it through a newsletter article. Contact Leah Youngblood at [lyoungblood@cityofrockhill.com](mailto:lyoungblood@cityofrockhill.com).

Or, shoot for an award. SCAPA conducts an awards program every two years. The Chapter awards program recognizes outstanding efforts and achievements that advance the art and science of planning in the Palmetto State.

SCAPA will give seven awards this year: Outstanding Planning Project (large jurisdiction, small jurisdiction, multi-jurisdictional, and innovative use of technology); Distinguished Planner; Planning Advocate; and Planning Communicator.

Nominations must be made by early September. Be on the lookout for more information about this by e-mail. Or contact Phil Lindler, AICP, at [plindler@greenwoodsc.gov](mailto:plindler@greenwoodsc.gov).

## Job Postings

If you would like to post a job to the SCAPA Web site, [www.scapa.org](http://www.scapa.org), contact Ernie Boughman at [eboughman@bpbarber.com](mailto:eboughman@bpbarber.com).

A three-month posting is only \$50.

[www.scapa.org](http://www.scapa.org)

# Clemson student chapter news

## 14 graduate; Barry Nocks and Jim London retire

By Cliff Ellis, MCRP Program Director

### Graduation Day

Graduation day at Clemson was on May 11 and we had 14 students graduating; two others will finish up over the summer. While the job market is somewhat better than last year, it remains a challenge for our graduates and they are working hard to line up positions. Please contact me if you are aware of any placements for our graduates. They are well prepared to engage in planning work and have professional experience.



Nocks

May graduates from our program include: Scott Aulen, Bill Aultman, Erica Christensen, Mill Graves, Morgan Malley, Ryan Medlen, Eric Mixon, Keri Palma, Kirsty Sanchez, Jason Tanenbaum, Amanda Taylor, Natalia Valenzuela, Stephen Williams, and Jing Zhang.

### Summer Interns; Assistantships

Our first-year class of 16 students is getting ready to begin internships over the summer. Some students are still looking, so be sure to let me know if you have any opportunities. This summer we will also try to expand the number of Public Service Activities (PSA) assistantships

that we can offer to our students. These are a critical source of financial aid at a time when the cost of a graduate education is rising. The PSA assistantships go mostly to second-year students, but a few of them go to first-year students. I will be contacting planning agencies in the Upstate to determine if budgets this coming year might allow for some additional PSA assistantships for Clemson MCRP students. They are a true win-win situation, since the students acquire additional professional experience, tuition costs are reduced, and the agencies are provided with skilled labor at a very reasonable cost. Please let me know if you would like any additional information about Public Service Activities (PSA) assistantships.



London

### A Future Class

With respect to our entering class for Fall 2012, we have commitments from 11 entering students with the possibility of adding several more. We look forward to reporting the actual entering group in the next newsletter, when we see them at orientation in August.

### New Student Leadership

The student chapter has elected new leadership.

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# Conferences

## July 25 ~ Lexington

SCAPA will hold its summer conference in Lexington on Wednesday, July 25. APA President, Mitchell Silver, will deliver the keynote address and provide an update on our national organization. Sessions will include the annual legislative roundup, discussion about gaming machine activity across the state and transportation planning in SC.



## Oct. 17-19 ~ Pawley's Island

SCAPA will return to Pawley's Island's Litchfield Beach and Golf Resort for this year's annual conference. Session tracks will include economic development, professional development and Low Country-related projects. If you are interested in submitting a session proposal, please contact Robby Moody, programs chair, at [rmoody@catawbacog.org](mailto:rmoody@catawbacog.org).

## July 20, Aug. 24, Sept. 7 ~ AICP Exam Prep Class

Did you know that SCAPA offers a prep class for planners who are taking the AICP exam? The 2012 sessions will take place on July 20, Aug. 24, and Sept. 7. Information about the sessions and the registration form will be available on the SCAPA Web site, [www.scapa.org](http://www.scapa.org), the week of May 21, or from Wayne Shuler, class coordinator, at [wshuler@cmcog.org](mailto:wshuler@cmcog.org).

The cost to attend the sessions is \$110, which covers the lectures and lunches. The sessions will take place at the offices of Central Midlands Council of Governments in Columbia.

SCAPA would like to thank Barry Nocks, Tyson Smith, Gregory Sprouse, Dan Pennick, Carol Rhea, Cheryl Matheny and Ernie Boughman who have agreed to serve as class instructors again this year.

## *Clemson news*

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Chris Pettit is president, Kristen Wyche is VP, Felicia Boulware is treasurer, Jennifer Folz is secretary, Anna Whitener is media chair, and Alyson Leslie is social chair. I would like to offer special thanks to this year's student chapter leadership as they head out into the world of professional practice: Morgan Malley, Amanda Taylor, Ryan Medlen, and Keri Palma. They did an excellent job of coordinating events over the past year including student participation in the fall 2011 SCAPA conference in Anderson.

### Lee III Opens

Construction of the new, energy efficient Lee III building was completed in January and we are very pleased to have the new space after many years in cramped quarters. Please take a look at this dramatic new building if you are ever on the Clemson campus. The interior remodeling of Lee II has also greatly improved the facilities available to the planning program.

### New Faculty

We expect to welcome two new faculty members to the MCRP program next fall, one specializing in transportation planning and one in economic development. We will announce their names when contracts are finalized.

### Barry Nocks and Jim London Retire

Dr. Barry Nocks is retiring after 33 years of service to Clemson University. He has had a profound influence on planning education in South Carolina and has played a role in the education of hundreds of city planners. We wish him the best as he relaxes a little after decades of hard work as a teacher and administrator. Fortunately, Barry will continue to teach a few

courses in the MCRP Program and will remain actively engaged in SCAPA and national planning activities.

This year also marks the retirement of Dr. Jim London, who has been at Clemson since 1985 and has served as program director of the MCRP Program and most recently as an associate dean.

### New Architecture Center in Charleston

Jim will continue to be involved with Clemson activities as he helps to guide the design and construction of the new architecture center in Charleston, to be known as the Spaulding Paolozzi Center. This new facility will create a permanent home for the university's historic preservation and architecture programs in Charleston. It will also provide space for collaborative activities with the city and regional planning, landscape architecture, and real estate development programs. The Center is expected to open in the fall of 2015.

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### *President's Message*

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The keynote speaker will be none other than APA President, Mitchell Silver. In addition, Mitch will also present a session during the educational portion of the conference. Mitch is an excellent and knowledgeable presenter with a varied and wide experience in planning on a national and local level. Don't miss this opportunity!

As always, please don't hesitate to contact me if you have any questions, comments, or concerns.

Sincerely,

*Susan Britt*

## Digital Coast

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ENOW describes six economic sectors that depend on the oceans and Great Lakes. In addition, the Web site contains annual time-series data for 448 coastal counties, 30 coastal states, and the nation from the Bureau of Labor Statistics and the Bureau of Economic Analysis. Four economic indicators are provided:

- Establishments
- Employment
- Wages
- Gross Domestic Product

## Enhancing Adaptation to Climate Change Impacts

A rising tide of respected climate scientists and coastal experts agree—now is the time to craft plans that will enable coastal communities to adapt and thrive despite sea level rise, intensified storms and floods, and other impacts associated with climate change.

Where can individuals with a role in planning go to get the adaptation information they need? The **Coastal Climate Adaptation Web site** is a good place to start, providing access to hundreds of case studies, guidebooks, and outreach and training materials.

The Web-based training **Roadmap for Adapting to Coastal Risk** can also help planners and other officials who want to learn how to assess their local exposure to current and future hazard and climate threats. In addition, course participants consider how plans and policies already on the books can address local hazard vulnerabilities and jump-start adaptation strategies.

Simulated visual images can be much more effective than charts and graphs in drawing an audience's attention to coast-related issues, including those related to climate change. With the **CanVis** visualization tool (see photos on page 3), personal digital photos or images provide the backdrop, and an image library of more than 700 items contains objects that can be added—examples include water, docks, offshore wind turbines, vegetation, and sea walls. Web-based CanVis training is regularly available, too.

“It can be very difficult for people to wrap their heads around the facts when you talk in abstract terms about a projected sea level rise of six inches,” Schwab said. “But if you show a CanVis simulation of that projection, with water levels creeping up the foundation of a local building, it makes the whole issue more real and urgent.”

Using a “one size fits all” approach to planning for sea level rise can be a big mistake. Universal sea level rise projections often cannot be applied to unique, local variables such as river flows, oceanographic factors, and even the community's will to tackle the issue. *Incorporating Sea Level Change Scenarios at the Local Level*, a new publication, provides a common sense, eight-step approach to understanding and planning for the local impacts of sea level change.

## Conserving Natural Resources

When planners help conserve strategically important coastal lands, habitat, and other resources, they are not just protecting quality of life. Lands with little or no development are often capable of storing more storm water, thereby lessening storm and flood damage. And preserving strategic coastal wetlands can lessen an area's hurricane damage while sustaining the

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# 2012 Legislative Update

By Tyson Smith, AICP, Esq.

The South Carolina General Assembly is in the second year of its 119<sup>th</sup> Session. The session started in January and will end on June 7. The Legislative Committee of SCAPA continues to monitor pending and proposed legislation pertinent to planners in the state.

Recent legislative sessions have been dominated by matters related to the economy and the budget, and while these remain “hot topics” this year, a number of bills are pending that would impact planners and developers in the state.

Please note, legislation changes frequently and the General Assembly may be considering bills that affect your jurisdiction that are not covered in this article. If any pending bills interest you, please follow the legislation at [www.scstatehouse.gov](http://www.scstatehouse.gov). The S.C. Association of Counties and the Municipal Association of South Carolina are excellent resources as well.

Attendees of SCAPA’s summer conference on July 25 in Lexington will learn about the legislation that gets enacted.

## Landfills

H3615 was introduced last year, but has seen little activity since then. If passed, this bill would require landfill applicants to enter into a “host agreement” with the local government in which the landfill is proposed, before applying to the Department of Health and Environmental Control. In addition, the bill requires the applicant and the host government to be represented by separate legal counsel in the development of the agreement. If they do have the same counsel, the bill requires the state Attorney General to assume representation of the host government.

## Airports

H3918 (see similar S707) was introduced last year, as well, and passed the House in February. However, it remains in the Senate’s Committee on Transportation since mid-March, where a similar bill (S707) also has been under review since last year.

The bill is the product of years of discussion and addresses many aspects of airport regulation. The bill, principally, shifts the Division of Aeronautics from the Department of Commerce to the Department of Transportation. However, it includes several land use planning subjects that will impact planning practices.

For example, the bill authorizes cost recovery by state and local government resulting from the removal or abatement of an “airport hazard” on private property. The bill expressly authorizes local governments to use zoning to regulate “airport hazard areas.” Within these areas, zones can be established to: “specify the land uses permitted, and regulate and restrict, for the purpose of preventing airport hazards, the height to which structures and trees may be erected or permitted to grow.”

This bill is more than 90 pages and if you’re in a jurisdiction with an airport, you and local counsel should familiarize yourselves with its content. The bill appears to have support.

## Annexation

As usual, several bills are pending that relate to annexation. H4098 (see similar 4425) would prohibit a municipality from requiring annexation as a precondition to providing utilities to a property outside its existing corporate limits.

H4427 provides an exception to the “contiguity” rule by allowing annexation of noncontiguous,

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## Legislation

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relatively dense land (300 people per square mile and 3 units per acre) that are either: (a) located on the same island or (b) “linked together so that any one area to be incorporated is within one-half of a mile of the next closest area to be incorporated.” H 427 also provides that contiguity is not interrupted by intervening parcels “annexed or obtained” by another municipality within the prior year. H4427 was pre-filed last November and was referred to the House Judiciary Committee in January, where it remains.

S313 (see similar H3247) requires annexing municipalities to prepare a “plan of services” setting out a timeframe for providing certain public facilities needed to serve the area proposed for annexation, estimating the costs to provide said services, and a financial plan for covering those costs. In addition, both the annexing municipality and the county would have to make a determination that the annexation is consistent with their comprehensive plans. The bill also expands the list of parties having standing to challenge an annexation, expands notice requirements, and specifies additional “contiguity” requirements and “urban area” thresholds. The bills remain in committee.

## Fireworks

S 1066 purports to authorize local governments to regulate the discharge of fireworks. In its initial form, the bill authorized local government to provide “for reasonable limits regarding the time *and place* in which the fireworks may be discharged. Such ordinance may only provide for civil penalties, not to exceed the jurisdiction of magistrates courts.” (emphasis added). However, on March 14, the Senate Judiciary Committee recommended the bill, but limited the grant of

authority to the time (and *not* the place) in which fireworks can be discharged.

S1163 (see similar H4718) preempts local government regulation over the retail sale of fireworks. Both bills remain in committee.

## Shopping Center Retrofits

Joint resolution 3604 passed the House and was referred to the Senate last year, where the Senate Judiciary Subcommittee submitted a favorable report in April 2012. The resolution encourages the Councils of Government to prepare policies and model ordinances that encourage “the retrofitting of shopping malls and shopping centers into dense, walkable, mixed-use town centers.” The resolution encourages “municipalities” to incorporate these policies into their zoning codes, subdivision regulations, and comprehensive plans. Finally, the resolution urges the COGs to develop “urban complete streets” in coordination with the SCDOT and to incentivize transit and mobility in these infill areas.

## Tax Increment Financing

S1167 clarifies the authority of a taxing entity (like the school board) to agree, for example, to dedicate less than 100% of their tax increment to a TIF redevelopment plan and area. The bill states that it is simply clarifying an existing authority. This bill also addresses the process required to amend a TIF redevelopment plan according to the extent and nature of the change. S1167 passed the Senate in March and has been introduced in the House, where it is with the Committee on Ways and Means.

S1002 requires municipalities establishing a redevelopment area to specify what redevelopment projects are to be built and how

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## Legislation

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they will be paid for in the adopting TIF ordinance. The bill further requires "surplus funds" to be returned to the taxing districts each year if not spent. However, the bill expressly is limited to ordinances passed after July 1, 2012, and allows local tax entities and the city to come to other arrangements and a city to budget for multi-year redevelopment projects so that running balances for longer term projects are not required to be considered surplus. S1002 was introduced in the Senate this year and received a favorable report from the Finance Committee in March.

## Internet sweepstakes

In response to the growing controversy related to gaming in South Carolina and, in particular, the growing interest in "Internet cafes," H4675 passed the House this year and has been introduced in the Senate. The bill, similar to S1065, purports to clarify that certain games of chance are prohibited. Both bills have received majority favorable reports from the Senate Judiciary Committee, as well as minority unfavorable reports. Two pending magistrate decisions and an appeal by the Attorney General also relate to this topic.

## Digital Coast

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local fishing industry, the creatures harvested, and the marine habitat.

Planners with reliable data on the land's characteristics and changes over time can make wiser conservation decisions. With the **Land Cover Atlas**, users select a county of interest and the tool automatically creates county-specific maps and charts detailing local intertidal areas, wetlands, and adjacent uplands. Data sets are updated every five years, so changes or trends can be detected.

The **Habitat Priority Planner** tool is easy for community groups to use, because it requires just one person who has intermediate experience with ArcGIS software. Training is available for the tool, which uses data to help communities check off the following tasks:

- **Inventory** specific habitat or land-use types
- **Assess** habitat or land-use conditions
- **Analyze** "what if" scenarios such as the impact of new development or how restoration might change overall habitat function
- **Create** maps, reports, and data tables to improve communication and decisions

## More Offerings to Come

Additional resources are constantly being added to the Digital Coast. Increasingly, data, tools, trainings, and materials will explore "the interplay among social, environmental, and economic factors within coastal communities," Schwab said. "Planners and other officials are constantly interacting with the community, not just educating but listening as well. The more we know about people in our communities—demographic and sociological factors, as well as how they react to coastal hazards—the better off we'll be when making planning decisions."

# Thank you



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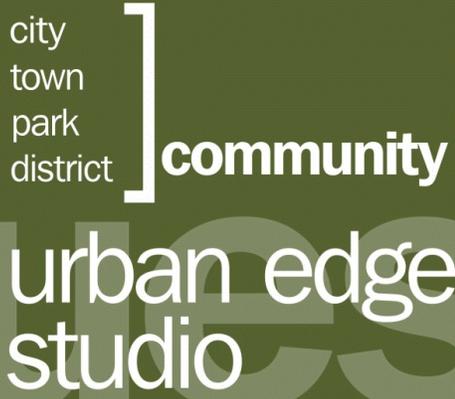


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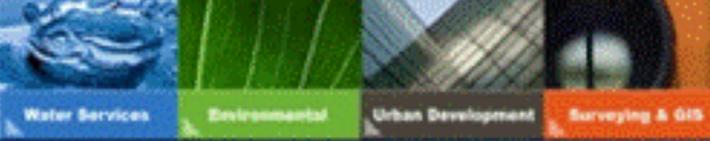
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### SPONSOR A CONFERENCE

When you sponsor a SCAPA conference, you will meet local, state, and federal government leaders who make decisions about which consultants to hire for planning, transportation, engineering, and related needs. More than one third of SCAPA members hold key management positions in government agencies. These are people who can help you grow your business.

Additionally, when you sponsor a SCAPA conference, you will meet others from the private sector, with whom you might be able to partner on projects in the future. Twenty percent of SCAPA's members—90 people—work in the private sector.

Planning professionals from all regions of South Carolina, as well as from North Carolina, Georgia, and beyond come together at SCAPA's three annual conferences. All sponsorship levels receive exhibitor space and prominent recognition during the conference. Depending on sponsorship level, other benefits include a listing in the conference program, conference registrations, an ad on the SCAPA Web site, and more.

### ADVERTISE IN THE PALMETTO PLANNER AND ON THE SCAPA WEB SITE

Did you know that you can advertise in the Palmetto Planner and on the SCAPA Web site for one low amount? The newsletter and Web site both provide information about current planning topics, chapter conferences and activities, and job opportunities.

Advertisement space in the Palmetto Planner (four issues) and the SCAPA Web site, [www.scapa.org](http://www.scapa.org), is available for \$200 per year.

Pat Collins: 864-221-1433 / [jpcol44@bellsouth.net](mailto:jpcol44@bellsouth.net)

# Executive Committee

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