

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.