

1st COAST PLANNER

The Monthly e-Newsletter of the First Coast Section, Florida Chapter, American Planning Association



www.FirstCoastAPA.org

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First Coast APA

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Kick-off Luncheon to Feature Katrina Recovery Efforts and Florida Preparedness

Brian Teeple of the Northeast Florida Regional Planning Council and Stephen E. Tocknell of Reynolds, Smiths and Hills will be the featured speakers at the First Coast APA June luncheon. The subject of the luncheon will be hurricane preparedness and disaster relief efforts. Mr. Tocknell will be discussing his experience working in the Gulf Coast region for six months assisting in the recovery efforts after Hurricane Katrina. Mr. Teeple will be discussing the state of evacuation and disaster recovery preparedness in Florida and the First Coast region. The State of Florida tasked the Northeast Florida Regional Planning Council with evaluating the hurricane preparedness of local counties and assisting them in their efforts to plan ahead. The luncheon event will take place at 12 noon on Thursday, June 1, 2006; The University of North Florida, University Center, cost is \$30.00.

Chapter to Establish AICP Training Course

Several members have been seeking the Section's assistance in their preparation for the AICP Exam. This year, the First Coast Section will hold its fourth annual series of informal study sessions. A kick-off session will be held this July. This session will offer you insight into study techniques, generate a list of anything concerning you about the exam, and allow an opportunity for frank discussion about what others who have passed the exam did to prepare.

The Section's study sessions will emphasize contemporary public planning issues because the subject matter of the exam includes the entire planning field from a national perspective, not just Florida. The exam will test your planning experience through situational questions (practical journey, managerial, and ethical topics) where you'll be asked to determine what action should or should not be pursued.

Two sessions will be held in August and two more in September. Each session will be scheduled for Saturdays between 8:30 and 2:00. The Section's study sessions will focus on decision making, plan making and ethics rather than dates, names and history like other Sections have done. If you are interested in attending the kick-off session July, or if you're interested in sharing your perspectives on the exam, be sure to contact Tony Robbins at (904) 739-3655 or trobbins@prosserhallock.com.

From the Chairman...

Mark Major, AICP
Chairman – First Coast Section

The First Coast APA is back! In 4 months, we've reorganized the Board and begun several initiatives to better serve our members. Brian Teeple, Northeast Florida Regional Planning Council, was appointed Vice Chairman. Brian is also the FAPA Treasurer. Brian's participation will help ensure the future viability of the Section and better serve us in FAPA. After a long tenure as Treasurer, Steve Lindorff asked to step aside and Don Smith, England, Thims and Miller, agreed to pick up the mantle. I hope everyone takes an opportunity to thank Steve for his years of service to the Section. Thank you, Steve! Our former Chairman, Tony Robbins, Prosser Hallock, and Lindsay Stevens, Trust for Public Land, were appointed to a temporarily expanded Board of Directors. Don, Tony and Lindsay have already demonstrated what great assets they are for the Section. Elections will be held in September and a Nominating Committee consisting of Brian, Don and myself will be established. If you are interested in getting involved, now is the time! We are looking for a Media Coordinator and Elected Official Coordinator. Their roles are to build and maintain a database of media contacts and elected officials so we can better connect with them to promote Section activities and events. We've produced this new, monthly electronic newsletter, 1st Coast Planner, for our members.

Please see Chairman, page 2.

FIRST COAST EVENTS

First Coast APA Board Meeting
6:00 pm, Thursday
April 13, 2006

First Coast APA Board Meeting
6:00 pm, Thursday
May 11, 2006

First Coast APA Luncheon Event
UNF University Center
12 noon, Thursday
June 1, 2006

FAPA State Conference
Marco Island, FL
September 27-30, 2006

First Coast APA
AICP Training Course
Details to be announced shortly

*First Coast APA Board Meetings
are held at England, Thims &
Miller, 14775 St. Augustine Road,
Jacksonville, FL 32256*

COOL LINK OF THE MONTH

An oldie, but goodie...

UrbanPlanet

www.urbanplanet.org

Connect with planners from
around the world... or next-door

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Legislative and Policy Update

Next month, we will provide a planning-related summary of the 2006 legislative session.

Chairman continued from page 1:

We are looking for contributors, so send your articles, opinions, and news. We've designed a First Coast APA website (www.FirstCoastAPA.org) and it will be available online shortly. The website will provide information about who we are, our mission, how to join, our bylaws, useful links, and information about upcoming events. FirstCoastAPA.org will also link to our section page on the FAPA website. Available on the website will be our 5-year business plan, which sets goals and objectives for our Section from membership levels to bringing the State FAPA Conference back to the First Coast.

We recently secured \$1,500 in grants from FAPA for our section rebate and AICP Training Course. The teaching material Tony has collected during the past several years of running the course will be updated, organized, printed and bound to serve as the foundation of the AICP Training Course for years to come. It will be available free to First Coast planners attending the course in preparation for the exam. As Chairman, I recognize AICP as the foundation of the First Coast APA in preparing planners for the AICP examination and continuing professional development. CPD credits will be available to AICP planners who contribute to the course.

Finally, we are holding our first luncheon in two years on Thursday, June 1st at the University of North Florida. Stephen Tocknell, Reynolds, Smith and Hills, will discuss his experiences in the Gulf Coast recovery efforts after Katrina. Brian Teeple will discuss hazard mitigation in the First Coast and how ready we are for a Katrina-like event in the future. Space will be limited, so I encourage you all to register early!

Brick by brick, we are rebuilding the First Coast APA house. We need your support, to get involved and stay involved. An active and robust First Coast APA is a benefit to us all.

Member Spotlight

Beginning next month, we will feature a member of the First Coast Section. We are always looking for new or interesting folks to meet. To volunteer to be featured in the Spotlight, please contact Lindsay Stevens at lindsay.stevens@tpl.org.

Selected Planning News in the First Coast

- Wal-Mart Loses Battle for Site: http://www.jacksonville.com/tu-online/stories/032206/met_21420255.shtml
- SilverLeaf Clears St. Johns County Commission Hurdle: http://www.jacksonville.com/tu-online/stories/032406/nes_21428375.shtml
- Nassau County Considers North-South Road Linking County Lines: http://www.jacksonville.com/tu-online/stories/040506/nen_21535549.shtml
- St. Johns County Commission Supports Alignment for New Bridge: http://www.jacksonville.com/tu-online/stories/032406/nes_21428367.shtml
- Volusia County Receives County Leadership Award from National Assn of Counties: http://www.tpl.org/tier3_cd.cfm?content_item_id=20498&folder_id=186
- Special Report on Florida's Water Future: How Long Will It Last?: <http://www.news-journalonline.com/special/waterfuture/>

April Editorial

Lindsay Stevens, AICP
Editor, 1st Coast Planner

For those of you who don't know me - and I suspect there are a lot of you - allow me briefly introduce myself to you. I work with the The Trust for Public Land's ("TPL") Northeast Florida Office as a Project Manager. TPL is a national non-profit conservation real estate organization that acquires land and historic places for people to enjoy as conservation areas, parks and other public spaces to create livable communities. Prior to moving to Jacksonville and working with TPL, I practiced land use and real estate law with Baker & Hostetler LLP in Orlando.

When I moved to Jacksonville four years ago, I had heard rumors that the First Coast Section of the APA existed. However, as many of you know, the First Coast Section has been largely dormant the past few years. This lack of activity has created a void for professional planners seeking out professional development and continuing education opportunities on the First Coast. Now, a very dedicated group of people believes that the First Coast Section must be revived so that it can fulfill the important role of providing professional development opportunities for AICP and aspiring-AICP members of the American Planning Association.

In an obvious moment of delirium, I accepted the duty to be the editor of the monthly eNewsletter for the First Coast Section. From time to time, I may be calling upon various members of the First Coast Section to assist me in creating an eNewsletter to deliver what I hope will be a concentrated amount of useful planning information to our members. I also welcome the opportunity to hear from you on what information you may find helpful or useful - or if you'd like to volunteer to write an article for the eNewsletter. (Please!) I hope that you will join me in the effort to re-establish the First Coast Section... we need your input and involvement to be successful.