

HOERRSCHAUDT

landscape architects

11 February 2010

American Society of Landscape Architects
636 Eye Street. NW
Washington, DC 20001

Re: 2010 ASLA Honorary Member Endorsement for Michael Dirr

To Whom It May Concern:

It is my honor as a fellow of the American Society of Landscape Architects to nominate Dr. Michael A. Dirr to become an honorary member of the ASLA.

It has come to my attention that this international horticulturalist that has significantly influenced generations of landscape architects has not yet been recognized or honored for his remarkable contributions to our profession. His name is Dr. Michael A. Dirr; otherwise known as Mike Dirr.

I would claim that Michael Dirr's classic, Manual of Woody Landscape Plants, first printed in 1975, is at arm's reach to every landscape architect. I would also claim his book is the most worn out book in any landscape architect's library. This book is the most authoritative text in the world for this topic. He has touched thousands of plant lovers, specifically landscape architects. His name is synonymous with plant education, the planting industry, and nurseries. Mike is a living legend in the horticultural world and in our ASLA world. I would place him in an orbit close to our prophet, F.L. Olmsted.

I am using humor to express my feelings because one of his many trademarks in the Manual are hilarious comments in the sections ending each specific plant section. The "Landscape Value," "Cultivars," and "Additional Notes" sections express his core expertise and personality. His humor is a relief from dry, technical horticultural books that have no emotion. Mike understands that gardens and plants are a subjective art form filled with various opinions with differing analysis. So why not make it fun and meaningful at the same time? This is the key to any great teacher and scholar.

I first met Mike Dirr in person at Davidson College Horticultural Symposium in 1992, when my lecture was scheduled to follow his. Imagine how it felt, following a legend like that! To this day, I will never forget that moment. After my talk, he had kind words for a young novice like me. It meant so much to me professionally. He is such a gentleman.

Fast forward to year 2007 - Mike was on a landscape planning team led by Peter Lindsay Schaudt Landscape Architecture to work on one of the most beautiful tree campuses in America - The University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill. It was a highlight of my career and for everyone else he came in contact with. Mike was responsible for the first

ever Walking Tour of Campus Trees for a campus that was founded in 1795 on an ancient forest.

Lastly, an important detail - Mike will be giving two plenary seminars at this year's ASLA Convention in Washington D.C. He rarely does this and it would be fitting to bestow this honor upon him during this convention.

Enclosed are supporting letters from Michael Van Valkenburgh, Coach Vince Dooley, James urban, J. Frank Schmidt III, Nancy Buley and Keith Warren and a bio reprinted from the Timer Press Website.

Please consider this with joy for our glorious profession, making Mike Dirr an Honorary ASLA Member. Thank you.

With respect and admiration,



Peter Lindsay Schaudt, FASLA FAAR
Partner, Hoerr Schaudt Landscape Architects



Photo of Mike Dirr and Peter Schaudt

MICHAEL VAN VALKENBURGH ASSOCIATES, LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTS

CAMBRIDGE | NEW YORK

5 February 2010

Honorary Membership Nomination
American Society of Landscape Architects
636 Eye Street
Washington, DC 20001

Dear Executive Committee members:

It does not seem possible that we have we not yet honored Michael Dirr's colossal contribution to our profession by making him an honorary member of ASLA. We cannot delay another year – let's do it now!

Landscape architects are extremely fortunate to have had the most influential North American plants author of the last 25 years be a person who has an inherent respect for the work that we do. Besides his remarkable book, which none of us could do without, his combined activities as a teacher, researcher, lecturer, and consultant means that his work touches on every aspect of plant knowledge that is important to us as a profession. He is the ideal person for an honorary membership in ASLA. In fact, the honor would be all ours. I give this nomination my highest support.

Sincerely yours,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'M Van Valkenburgh', with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Michael Van Valkenburgh

/jg



UNIVERSITY of GEORGIA ATHLETIC ASSOCIATION

February 9, 2010

American Society of Landscape Architects
636 Eye Street, NW
Washington, DC 20001-3736

To Whom It May Concern:

It is an honor to write in support of my good friend and mentor Dr. Michael A. Dirr for honorary membership in the American Society of Landscape Architects. It would be hard to imagine anyone more qualified to receive this prestigious recognition than Dr. Dirr.

Most all in the horticultural and landscape world know Dr. Dirr as an internationally world renowned teacher, writer, speaker, consultant and researcher. There are an untold number of horticultural enthusiasts and professionals that credit Dr. Dirr with being the person who most influenced their passion for plants and trees. This was certainly the case with me.

With absolutely no background in gardening I started auditing classes under Dr. Dirr at the University of Georgia to simply satisfy a horticultural curiosity. He was a superb teacher and because of his inspiration, enthusiasm, generosity, and heartfelt friendship he aroused in me a passion for plants that has not been satisfied yet. I doubt that it ever will be.

I am proud to be listed among the many Dirr disciples and commend the American Society of Landscape Architects for considering this amazing man for honorary membership.

Sincerely,

Coach Vince Dooley
University of Georgia
Former Head Football Coach and Athletic Director

The University of Georgia Athletic Association

1 Selig Circle, Athens, Georgia 30602
P.O. Box 1472, Athens, Georgia 30603-1472
www.georgiadogs.com

Urban Trees + Soils

James Urban, FASLA, ISA

February 1, 2010

Carolyn Mitchell
American Society of Landscape Architects
636 Eye Street
Washington, DC 20001

RE: HONORARY MEMBERSHIP

Dear Carolyn:

I am writing to support the nomination of Dr. Michael A. Durr, for Honorary Membership in the ASLA.

Dr. Durr has unquestionably been one of the greatest influences in the field of landscape architecture over the past 35 or more years. His books, particularly the well-worn Manual of Woody Landscape Plants, must be on the desk of every practicing landscape architect. I have literally worn out each edition through constant use and it is always my first reference when I consider any plant for selection in the landscape. In a profession surprisingly weak in this most important of areas, plant use, Mike Durr has guided us, with the information we need, presented in a readable and delightful prose.

Collecting the vast amount of information in his books and provided in his lectures requires a level of passion and commitment that few of us can muster. Mike Durr has lead us by example, and set a bar of excellence few will ever attain. I have the greatest respect for him and his work. The profession of Landscape architecture would have far less stature without his efforts.

These efforts, over many decades, on our behalf, deserve the title of Honorary Member. Please consider this nomination seriously. I look forward to attending the awards presentation in Washington, DC, this year, where I am sure that Dr. Durr will receive one of the greatest honors from the American Society of Landscape Architects.

Sincerely:

James Urban, FASLA
Recipient - ASLA Medal of Excellence



The Wholesale Tree Growers

P.O. Box 189 • Boring, Oregon 97009 • (503) 663-4128 • FAX (503) 663-2121 • www.jfschmidt.com

February 12, 2010

American Society of Landscape Architects
636 Eye Street, NW
Washington, DC 20001

Endorsement of Michael Dirr nomination for ASLA Honorary Membership

To whom it May Concern:

We enthusiastically recommend Dr. Michael A. Dirr for election to honorary membership in the American Society of Landscape Architects. He is a world-class plantsman whose passion for trees and other plants has influenced the education of thousands of landscape architects and horticulturists.

Dr. Dirr's long career as a professor of horticulture and teacher of plant identification, propagation and culture has instilled a love and appreciation of plants in countless students. A highly respected lecturer and prolific author of scientific papers, articles and books, Mike Dirr has generously shared his encyclopedic knowledge of plants with a broad cross-section of the green industry. Landscape architects and designers, urban foresters, arborists, plant breeders, nursery producers and gardeners have all benefited from his passion for plants.

We consider Dr. Dirr's *Manual of Woody Landscape Plants* to be the most authoritative text of woody plant species and cultivars in the world. More than 250,000 copies have been sold! The recent publication of the Sixth Edition adds more than 2,000 new species and cultivars, making it an even more invaluable reference for our work as plant breeders and introducers of new tree cultivars.

Our company's relationship with Mike Dirr spans more than 20 years. This long-term collaboration has profoundly influenced our tree breeding, selection and introduction efforts. Mike's observation and evaluation of trees in our new plant development program has played an important role in the testing and release of a number of excellent urban tree cultivars.

When Mike sends us scionwood of promising trees, we propagate and grow them for observation, trial and possible introduction. Red November™ Maple, Georgia Gem™ Ash, Presidential Gold™ and Golden Colonnade™ Ginkgos were discovered by Mike Dirr and co-introduced to the nursery trade by our company and the University of Georgia. Athena Classic® Elm and Alléé® Elm are among the successful Dirr selections that have become mainstream trees specified by landscape architects.

Mike is a true scholar whose quest for new and improved trees and shrubs is both practical and pragmatic. An opinionated plantsman of discerning eye and vast experience, he is always on the lookout for useful, superior plants to add to the landscape design palette. His passion for discovering trees and shrubs of unique character, and his determination to share these superior plants with the world, are among the many reasons we endorse his nomination for Honorary Membership in ASLA.

Sincerely,

J. Frank Schmidt III
President & CEO

Nancy Buley, Honorary ASLA
Director of Communications

Keith Warren
Director of New Product Development



Bio taken from the Timber Press Website.

Michael A. Dirr

A professor of horticulture at the University of Georgia, Michael A. Dirr is a legend in the horticultural world and has tremendous energy for teaching about plants, writing about plants, and especially for growing plants. Michael worked at a nursery and garden center to pay his way through university while earning his bachelor and Master of Science degrees at Ohio State. He went on to earn a doctorate in plant physiology at the University of Massachusetts and began his teaching career in 1972 as an assistant professor at the University of Illinois. Michael has published more than 300 scientific and popular papers and articles. His teaching, lectures, seminars, garden study tours, and plant introduction programs have contributed enormously to greater horticultural awareness, and his book *Dirr's Hardy Trees and Shrubs* is one of Timber's bestselling titles. He has received numerous awards and honors during his career, most recently the Liberty Hyde Bailey Medal from the American Horticulture Society. Today, he travels widely to lecture, teach, and form new opinions of plants.

Awards for Michael A. Dirr

American Horticultural Society Liberty Hyde Bailey Medal
American Horticultural Society's Teaching Award
Arthur Hoyt Scott Garden and Horticultural Award
ASHS Undergraduate Educator Award
Medal of Honor from the Garden Clubs of America
Southern Nurseryman's Association (SNA) Slater Wight Memorial Award

