



Midwest **SUSTAINABILITY LEADER**
named MNLA Friend of the Environment

Jim Hagstrom, Savanna Designs, a long-time member of the Minnesota Nursery & Landscape Association, was recently named MNLA’s 2009 Friend of the Environment.



Hagstrom’s design work has been on the cutting edge since the early 1970s when he took a different track than the leading professionals of the time. His goal was to use native plants in both the corporate and private landscape in the same manner that we use cultivated plants. His work over the years refined that design concept and he has influenced the entire landscape profession in Minnesota and surrounding states.

The essence of Jim’s design work is his ability to sort out the qualities of specific native plants in prairie, woodland and wetland, and reassemble

them in massings that create award winning designs. Working with architects, he uses his native palette to extend a building’s sharp lines into the landscape and the informality of the native landscape up to the building.

According to MNLA President Van Cooley, “Jim’s prairie plantings look wild enough to be sexy, but appear maintained and in control through his use of structured elements and clear edges. The results have been stunning.

“Hagstrom’s native landscapes are so gorgeous, everyone wants one. His design talent has led to a revolution of the landscapes in the Midwest, and we are healthier for it,” Cooley said.

For 30 years, Hagstrom has spoken passionately on environmental issues and challenged members of MNLA as well as the Minnesota chapter of the American Society of Landscape Architects (MASLA) with ideas. He created seminars with renowned speakers plus has presented dozens

of presentations himself to varied audiences in the Midwest over the last 20 years. The University of Minnesota hired Hagstrom to create and teach an ecological planting design course, where he trained young landscape architects.

A past president of MASLA, Hagstrom also served on the MNLA Board of Directors and has been on the MNLA Environmental Concerns Committee for many years. He has won numerous design awards from MNLA which showcased the beauty of native plantings. His action and leadership helped to change opinions in the minds of production nurseries, his fellow landscape professionals, and the public.

MNLA values his passion to design with ecology in mind, and his dedication to mentoring young and old landscape professionals to become better stewards. 