



## MEMBER SPOTLIGHT

**Katie Udell**

PLA, ASLA, LEED AP

Landscape Architect

Firm: Angus-Young

Alma Mater: University of Wisconsin-Madison

Years in Practice: 18 years

Member of ASLA: 15 years

### Service to WI ASLA

Wayyyy back when I was a student, I was part of the Student Chapter ASLA, serving as president for part of that time. I was Secretary of WI ASLA from 2010 to 2013 and helped organize the Spring WI ASLA Conference. In my community, I have spoken at several elementary schools about Landscape Architecture, and have had several job shadows. I was inspired by Nicole Plunkett's talk at Nashville's ASLA conference on her dedication to share her passion about Landscape Architecture with K-12 students, and hope to do more of this in my community. And a big thank you to the dedicated Wisconsin LA's that volunteer their time to keep WI ASLA going!

### What attracted you to Landscape Architecture?

After bouncing around my freshman year of college, I found Landscape Architecture – my first class was the History of Landscape Architecture class, which I loved. I didn't look back after that.

### Why is being an ASLA member important to you?

ASLA works to protect our licensure, provides amazing educational opportunities, and unifies our profession. I have met some wonderful people through ASLA, and am proud to be a member. We have a great profession.

### What are your favorite natural and designed spaces?

One of my favorite natural places to visit is Dorothy Carnes County Park outside Fort Atkinson, only about 30 minutes from my home, so I try to get there a few times a year. One of my favorite designed spaces is probably the Biltmore Estate. I love how you wind through the woods before the view opens up to the house – very effective!

### About you

I am a wife, mom of a 10-year old daughter and black lab. My husband and I built what we like to call our "passive house inspired house" in 2015-16, only subbing out electrical, plumbing and mechanical, and excavation for the basement. We are nearly net zero – solar PV on the garage roof and electric only house. We built a rain garden in the back yard 2 years ago, and each year I add more paths and gardens. Hobbies – I love to learn, and this year I took the training to become a Wisconsin Master Naturalist at the UW-Arboretum. That was great! I also returned to UW this semester to try out an undergrad class – LA 363 Earth Partnership, which has been wonderful. I also enjoy landscaping, reading, hiking (especially in prairies), having bubble tea with my daughter and traveling.