

The Nebraska

Civil

Engineer



Official Publication of the Nebraska Section of the American Society of Civil Engineers

ASCE 2006 ANNUAL MEETING & BANQUET

Location: Spezia, 3125 S. 72nd Street, Omaha

Date: Thursday, May 18th

Times: Cocktails 6:00-7:00 pm
Dinner 7:00-8:00 pm
Program 8:00-8:30 pm

Menu: Prime Lamb Sirloin, Hunters Roasted Tenderloin (Beef), or Dijon Crusted Salmon. Dessert will be Tuxedo Truffle Mousse Torte. Orders will be taken at the Banquet. 2 Free Drink Tickets Included.

Price: \$15.00 per person. Spouses and Guests Welcome

Directions: Located off Interstate 80 Exit on 72nd Street in Omaha, north of the Holiday Inn Convention Center

RSVP by May 10th to Deb 402-330-2202 or vp@neasce.org subject line: ASCE RSVP

Highlights of this Issue:

"E" Week Truss Bustin' Competition

Younger Member Employer Recognition Award

Local Seminars Coming to the Area

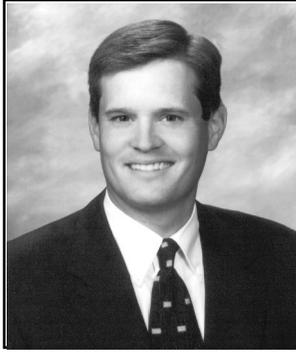


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"The NE-ASCE Website has been redesigned to provide more timely and useful information."

From the President

- Steve Kathol, P.E., S.E.



Steve Kathol, P.E., S.E.
NE-ASCE President

Greetings ASCE Nebraska Section members!

Thank you to Dave Ayala and the Transportation Group for hosting a successful April meeting in Omaha at Lo Sole Mio Villa. Tom Glow, Paving Manager, City of Omaha and Jeff Sockel, P.E., Project Manager, HWS Consulting Group, presented the many challenges associated with the 144th Street project, from Madison Street to Dayton Street. Although the project required major utility relocations, it is expected to be complete ahead of schedule.

Bruce Harris and I visited Gross, Northwest and North High Schools during the month of April to present certificates and award checks to the top three finishers in the Truss Bustin' Competition. It was very rewarding for us to see the enthusiasm and ingenuity that many students put forth in building their balsa wood trusses. I'm hopeful that the competition and our discussions with the students will encourage several of them to pursue a career in civil engineering.

Along with other Nebraska Section members, I attended a showcase that the UNL ASCE Student Chapter hosted in April. The students presented an overview of the ASCE activities that they held this year, along with their steel bridge and concrete canoe designs. I was very impressed. The future of ASCE and the civil engineering profession looks bright!

The 2nd annual Transportation Conference will be held jointly with MOVITE in Lincoln on May 10th, 11th and 12th. Many great speakers are scheduled and the conference promises to be a great success.

It is that time of year again for the Annual Meeting and Banquet. The banquet will be held at Spezia Restaurant on May 18th. Along with great food, conversation and spirits, we will elect and install new officers, recognize members who have achieved the grade of Life Member, and present awards to this year's outstanding members. Mr. Randall Perkinson, P.E., ASCE Director- District 16 (Region 7), has graciously accepted an invitation to attend and install new officers. It promises to be a must-attend event. I hope to see you all there!

My term as President will come to an end at the close of the Annual Meeting. It was a pleasure to serve the Nebraska Section members. I would like to thank all of the Nebraska Section officers, committee chairs, and volunteers. It was another successful year for the Nebraska Section and your hard work and dedication made it all possible. Also, thank you to all the section members for your support through meeting and conference attendance and paying section dues. New officers will be elected and installed at the Annual Meeting. The nomination committee offers the following individuals for your consideration: President Elect: Ed Prost; Vice President: Marie Maly; Director: Lindsay Madsen; Director: John Hill. Tom Marnik will automatically succeed to the office of President.

I hope everyone has a safe summer and I look forward to seeing you again in the fall.

Steve D. Kathol, P.E., S.E.
President, ASCE-Nebraska Section

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"E" Week Truss Bustin' Competition

The eighteenth annual "truss bustin' event during Engineers' Week was another huge success for local Omaha (and again this year one student from Lincoln) area high school students.

The Balsa Wood Truss Competition was held during Engineers' Week in February at the Westroads Mall. Altogether 128 trusses were entered in the competition from Northwest, Gross Catholic, Lincoln Southwest, Burke and North.

The students were given rules to follow that in general allowed freedom for their own creativity yet allowed some control so the truss all fit in the testing device. The testing device has a load cell and digital screen that locks in on the maximum load in pounds at failure of the truss. The load is divided by the weight of the truss in grams to the 1.25 power. The intent of the 1.25 power is to stress to the students the importance of putting material where it helps for strength and providing an economical truss. The load-to-weight ratios were expected to be lower than past competitions because a change was made in the rules three years ago that made the student consider seven potential loading conditions rather than the same loading condition year after year. The result of this change in loading has made the trusses heavier to account for the seven potential loadings when one loading is randomly selected just before testing begins. The truss device can apply up to three concentrated loads six inches apart across a 24-inch span. This year the loading condition randomly selected was two concentrated loads one 6-inches in from the left support and the other at the center of the span. This was the third year in a row that the loading condition put an unsymmetrical loading condition on the trusses. A device braces the truss laterally at the third concentrated load point, but no load vertically was applied.

The load-to-weight ratio of the winning truss was 2.44. The winning truss from North High School weighed 21.93 grams (0.76 ounces) and carried a total load at failure of 116 pounds.

The top three places in the Eighteenth Annual Balsa Wood Truss Competition for 2006 went to:

- 1st Justin Duster, North High: \$150 prize and certificate
- 2nd Jeff Berger, Northwest High: \$75 and certificate
- 3rd Andrea Ciurej & Jason Hennings, Gross Catholic: \$50 and certificate

Steve Kathol, President NE ASCE and Bruce Harris, "E" Week and High School Chairman, participated in presenting the prizes and framed certificates to the students at their High Schools.

A special thanks to all the Nebraska Section members and others that helped to contact the metro area high schools and assisted during the truss testing, the Student Chapter of ASCE, President Cody Bandars, Vice President David Harnisch, and Dr Chris Tuan Faculty Advisor from UNO that helped with weighing trusses, testing documentation during the contest. Thanks to the Civil Engineering Round Table for the prime location at the Westroads Mall and those High Schools that participated. We look forward to more participation from other metro high schools and possibly expanding to include the Lincoln High Schools in the years ahead.

(See Pictures of Top Three Winners of the Truss Bustin' Competition Page 4)

Seminars Coming to the Area

In our continuing effort to enhance communications between ASCE's Sections, Branches and ASCE National, Geographic Services is pleased to advise you of the following seminars scheduled in your geographic area from May through June 2006:

May 18-19, 2006 Denver, CO
Earth Retaining Structures, Selection, Design, Construction and Inspection

May 25-26, 2006 Kansas City, MO
Comprehensive Site Design Workshop

Detailed descriptions of the seminars (by title) are available on ASCE's website at www.asce.org/conted/seminars.

If you have questions or need assistance, please contact Kelly Jarvis, Continuing Education Registrar at kjarvis@asce.org, or Michael Cook, Manager, Geographic Services at mcook@asce.org.

NE-ASCE News

ASCE Younger members Nebraska

Committee on Younger Members Employer Recognition Award

ASCE's Committee on Younger Members (CYM) has a great opportunity to recognize employers who acknowledge that young engineers are tomorrow's leaders and provide support for and assistance with their personal and professional development. If your employer does things like encourage and support young engineers to attend ASCE meetings, encourage young engineers to write articles for publication in ASCE journals, assist in dues payment for ASCE, or provide a model for involvement in ASCE, please nominate your employer for the CYM Employer Recognition Award. Multiple employers will be selected for the honor and they will be listed in ASCE News or Civil Engineering magazine, as well as the Younger Member Newsletter. One nominee will be selected to receive the Superior Employer Recognition Award.

A copy of the nomination form can be found accessed at www.neasce.org/YM/Awards.htm. Nominations must be submitted through the Section, so please email all completed forms to Marie at yng@neasce.org no later than July 25th. Thanks and good luck!

Since this is an official ASCE Award, remember that "Younger Member" includes those 35 and younger. If you have any questions or need assistance, contact Marie (yng@neasce.org).

Need an idea for a group volunteer project this summer? Help Keep Omaha Beautiful by stenciling reminders not to dump trash in storm drains. Take care of the environment and the infrastructure we civil engineers design! For more information, see <http://www.keepomahabeautiful.org/docs/stormdrain.doc>



Photo 1 – From Left to Right - Lee Kallstrom, Instructor North High School, Gene Haynes, Principal North High School, Steve Kathol, President NE Section ASCE, Justin Duster, North High Student, and Bruce Harris NE Section ASCE.



Photo 2 - From Left to Right - Randy Flanagan, Instructor Northwest High School, Jeff Berger, Northwest Student, Steve Kathol, President NE Section ASCE, and Bruce Harris NE Section ASCE.



Photo 3 – From Left to Right – Bruce Harris NE Section ASCE, Andrea Ciurej (Jason Hennings Not Pictured) Daniel Gross High School Student's, Steve Kathol, President NE Section ASCE, and Steve Hamersky, Instructor Daniel Gross High School.

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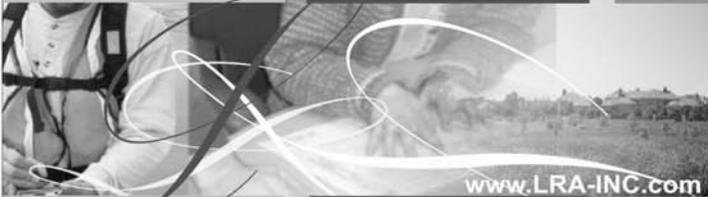
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NE-ASCE News

Thanks to Dave Ayala for hosting the April Meeting. Tom Glow and Jeff Sockel gave an excellent presentation on the 144th Street Improvements Project. The names listed below can be considered official documentation of attendances at the April meeting worth 1 PDH credit.

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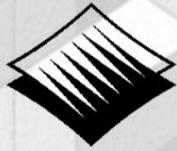
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