

**President's Message – Active Membership**

Dear ASCE Northwest Branch,

Why did you join ASCE? I personally joined because I enjoyed my experience during my education with the UW-Madison student chapter, and I wanted to transition that into a promising career. The ASCE website lists the Top 5 Reasons you should join ASCE:

1. Use ASCE's career resources.
2. Access the latest technical information.
3. Engage with government relations.
4. Excite kids with K-12 outreach.
5. Extend your network, your business, and the profession.

Through active involvement at the national, state, and local level, you can participate in all of these great benefits. Most of us are too busy to use all of these benefits, so you may prefer to pick just one or two at a time. Your relationship with ASCE is beneficial both to you and the organization. Participation in ASCE helps build respect for our profession and your career.

We are seeking Northwest Branch Board Members for the 2013-2014 year. Normally this is the time of the year when we send out nomination info to our members. This year we have had no one nominated or stand up to take on a leadership role. We are making one last call for nominations for the open positions of Secretary/Treasurer, President-Elect and Director. Please consider nominating yourself or someone you know for the Board.



My favorite shot from a recent trip to the Bay Area.

Exciting things are going on in the Northwest Branch. Our website is now up and running. Please visit <http://www.ascewinw.org/> and use this great resource as a way to keep in touch with what is going on within our Branch. Also, please mark your calendars for our June 6 meeting in La Crosse with a presentation from MnDOT on the design of the Interstate 90 Mississippi River Bridge. See you there!

Sincerely,

*Will Kratt, P.E.*

Northwest Branch President  
Email: [william.kratt@gmail.com](mailto:william.kratt@gmail.com)

## **INVOLVEMENT OPPORTUNITY REQUEST**

If you have an Involvement Opportunity (example - community service event or organization) for Northwest Branch Members that you would like displayed in the Northwest Branch Newsletter, email Will Kratt at [william.kratt@gmail.com](mailto:william.kratt@gmail.com) with a detailed description of the opportunity and help needed.

## **PAST EVENTS**

### **Stevens Point Centerpoint Marketplace Redevelopment Plan**

By: Joe Behlen



John Kneer, right, of Rettler Corporation, answers questions on the staging of activities while Dan Borchardt, past President and current Wisconsin Section director, looks on.

Members of the ASCE Northwest Branch and the Wisconsin Society of Professional Engineers met in Stevens Point on April 25 to learn about the downtown redevelopment process that is currently taking place.

John Kneer is a registered landscape architect with Rettler Corporation. He and his firm are charged with developing plans for the Centerpoint Marketplace area and Square.

The Centerpoint Redevelopment is the combination of repurposing and removal of a former shopping mall. Portions of the mall are repurposed for a new location for the Midstate Technical College and other retail or commercial developments. Streets are extended across certain parts of the demolished mall along with added parking areas and areas for future green spaces. The visual barrier created by the mall of the architectural structures on Main Street and the views to the river is now gone.

The square located at the west end of Main Street is a multifunctional area that provides parking for the businesses; a space of special events, such as the farmers market; and a focal point for civic objects, such as the multiuse fountain in the summer and holiday decorations. The square project was awarded the 2012 Award of Merit by the Wisconsin Chapter of the American Society of Landscape Architects. Congratulations to John, the Rettler Corporation, and the City of Stevens Point on this award.

The meeting concluded at Graffiti's, a local food and beverage establishment located on the square.

## UPCOMING MEETINGS

### **Interstate 90 Bridge at the Mississippi River Design Presentation**

La Crosse, WI



Where: Days Inn La Crosse Conference Center  
101 Sky Harbour Dr/I-90, I-90 And Airport Exit #2  
La Crosse, WI 54603

When: Thursday, June 6, 2013  
5:00 Social Hour  
6:00 Dinner  
6:30 Presentation

Cost: \$30 (Includes Dinner Buffet and Coffee, Tea, or Milk)

MnDOT District 6 Project Manager Terry Ward, PE, MSISE, PMP will give a design presentation on the Interstate 90 Bridge that spans the Mississippi River between Dresbach, Minnesota and LaCrosse Wisconsin. The existing, facture critical bridge was built in 1967 and is 2,490 feet long and 4-lanes wide. The new bridge will improve the crossing to meet current structural and geometric standards and the reconstructed interchange will improve traffic safety, capacity, and access on and between Highway 61/14 and I-90. In addition to the highway issues being addressed, the project faces many competing interests of varying sensitivity, including lock and dam access, Traveler Information Center/Rest Area access, river user access, US Fish and Wildlife Refuge, environmentally sensitive bluffs, railroad corridor, proximity to the airport and river navigation channel, and the Mississippi River Bicycle Trail.

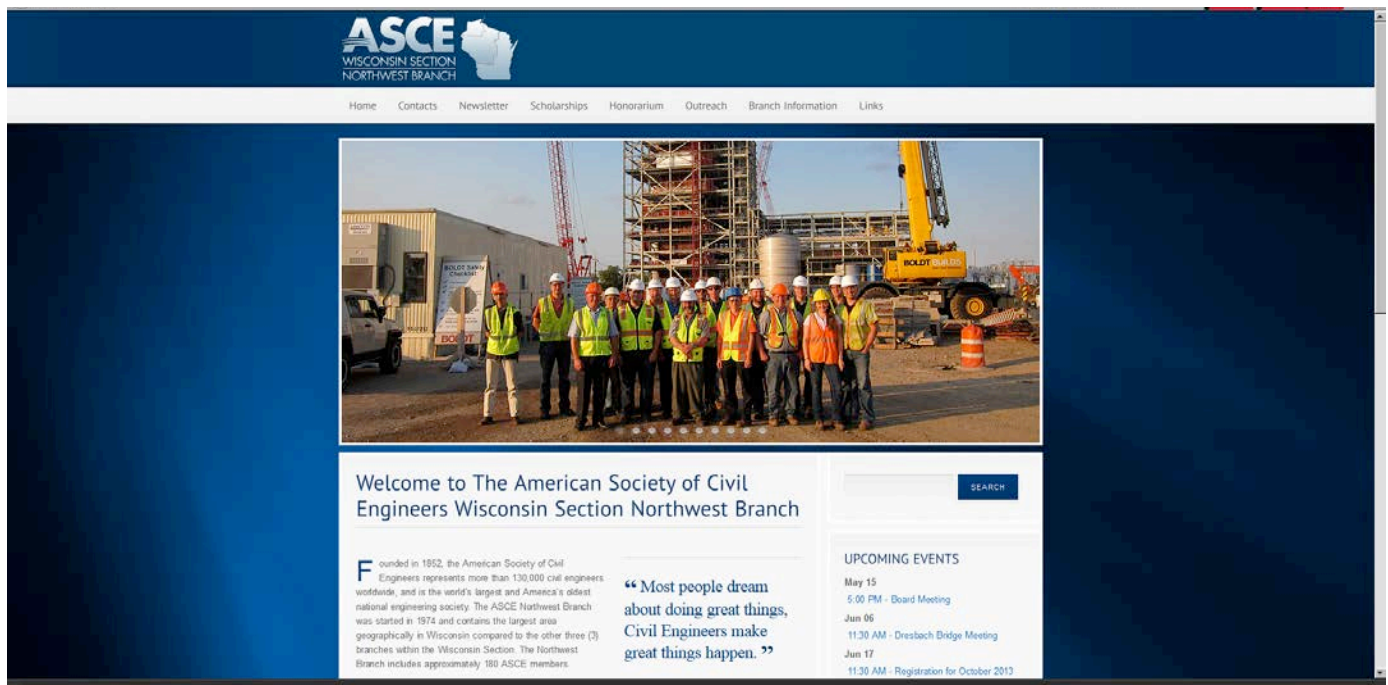
Register by **Thursday, May 30, 2013** through the Constant Contact invite or contacting Will Kratt at 608-498-0940 or [william.kratt@gmail.com](mailto:william.kratt@gmail.com).

The Northwest Branch of ASCE welcomes non-members and all ASCE members to attend this presentation/dinner meeting. Please pass along the invitation to your colleagues and any engineering students. A construction tour of the new bridge is tentatively scheduled for Summer of 2014.

## OTHER NEWS

### **New Branch Website!**

The Northwest Branch is proud to announce the launch of our very own website. Getting information out to members is sometimes a struggle with contact information constantly changing and members coming and going. Our new website will serve as a one-stop shop for Branch information. We hope you take the time to look through some of the information we have made available on the website. We will keep it updated with current information and events. Many people also put in significant time and effort to gather some Branch history and past newsletters. Also, information on our scholarship, honorarium, outreach, and other useful links are available. Special thanks to Dan Borchardt for spearheading the website development effort!



## OUTREACH

### **K-12 Outreach**

By: Angel Gebeau

Angel from AECOM performed K-12 outreach in two 8<sup>th</sup> grade science classes at St. Peter Middle School in Stevens Point. She discussed drinking water treatment and what the vital work for communities that she does as an engineer. Similar to school dress codes Angel explained that adults in professional careers still have dress codes for their work. The students engaged in an experiment to illustrate settling and filtration of dirty water and were shown a virtual water system tour online. The class passed around samples of raw, treated, and backwash wastewater for the students to visually see the differences between them. The class discussed why a water tower is high in the sky. Finally the class discussed some inventive ways that engineers are solving problems including an example from the Los Angeles water utility who have over a million 6 inch black balls that they're using for treatment. Angel explained the shortage of clean water in other parts of the world and the work some Wisconsinites are trying to do to help. Note that the National Drinking Water Week is next week is May 5-May 11. Have you thanked those responsible for giving you clean drinking water yet?

## **NORTHWEST BRANCH GOODELL SCHOLARSHIP AWARD**

CONGRATULATIONS to the 2013 Northwest Branch of the American Society of Civil Engineers Mr. Harvey Goodell scholarship recipient, Greg Schanen. Greg currently attends UW-Platteville and is a student member of the ASCE chapter. He has been very active with Concrete Canoe and k-12 outreach. Greg has a summer position with the DOT in Wisconsin Rapids. Greg has chosen the engineering profession because he has, "marveled at how engineers design sky scrapers in the City of Chicago to support the loads it does and withstand the beating of the wind." Greg has been inspired by the profession and has demonstrated the spirit and enthusiasm shown by Mr. Goodell and will be awarded the \$1,000 scholarship at the June Northwest Branch meeting.

## **SUMMER EVENTS/CONFERENCES**

### **2013 AASHTO Value Engineering Peer Exchange Workshop**

July 9 – 12, 2013  
Minneapolis, MN



<http://design.transportation.org/Pages/VEConference.aspx>

The AASHTO Value Engineering Technical Committee and workshop co-sponsors will host four days of educational sessions that will provide the latest best practices, case studies, and lessons learned on Value Engineering.

### **104<sup>th</sup> Annual Meeting of the Mid America Association of State Transportation Officials**

July 16 – 18, 2013  
Milwaukee, Wisconsin



[http://www.maasto.net/annual\\_meeting.html](http://www.maasto.net/annual_meeting.html)

Welcoming delegates from Illinois, Indiana, Iowa, Kansas, Kentucky, Michigan, Minnesota, Missouri, Ohio and Wisconsin. The conference provides the delegates with the latest in upcoming trends and an opportunity to network and exchange ideas for the benefit of the transportation industry.

### **UPDATE ASCE ONLINE PROFILE REGULARLY**

Please update your ASCE Online Profile with current email and mailing addresses to guarantee you receive ASCE Newsletters and important information. As a reminder, those of you that have passed your PE exam, make sure to change your account with ASCE National. To update your ASCE profile, go to [www.asce.org](http://www.asce.org) or call (800) 548-2723.

## **2013 Calendar of Events**

The calendar is just a guide and may change throughout the year

### **MAY:**

- Board Meeting May 15

### **JUNE:**

- June 6 – Interstate 90 Mississippi River Bridge Meeting – La Crosse
- Board Meeting June 12
- June 17 – Registration for October 2013 FE, PE, PS, and SE Exams will open

### **JULY:**

- TBD – Branch Social – Eau Claire Area
- July 9-12, 2013 – 2013 AASHTO Value Engineering Peer Exchange Workshop – Minneapolis, MN
- July 16-19, 2013 – 2013 Mid America Association of State Transportation Officials (MAASTO) Conference – Milwaukee (hosted by WisDOT)
- July 16, 2013 – 2013 WTS/MAASTO Golf Outing – Bog Golf Course in Saukville, WI
- Board Meeting

### **AUGUST:**

- August 16-17 – Region 3 Assembly – Chicago, IL
- Board Meeting

### **SEPTEMBER:**

- TBD – PE Exam Helpful Hints & Review– Eau Claire/Menomonie Area
- September 13 -- ASCE Wisconsin Sectional Annual Meeting – Monona Terrace, Madison
- Board Meeting

### **OCTOBER:**

- October 25 – PE, PS, and SE Vertical Exam (offered in Madison, Milwaukee and Platteville)
- October 26 – FE, FS and SE Lateral Exam (offered in Madison, Milwaukee and Platteville)
- Board Meeting

### **NOVEMBER:**

- Board Meeting

### **DECEMBER:**

- Board Meeting

### **CURRENT NORTHWEST BRANCH OFFICERS**

**President:** Will Kratt, I&S Group, Inc.: La Crosse; (608) 789-2034

**President-Elect:** Jessica Felix, WisDOT Northwest Region: Eau Claire; (715) 836-5170

**Secretary-Treasurer:** Lisa Fleming, Ayres Associates, Inc.: Eau Claire; (715) 831-7677

**Past President:** Dan Borchardt, MSA Professional Services: Marshfield (715) 216-3601

**Wisconsin Section Northwest Branch Representative:** Dan Borchardt, MSA Professional Services, Marshfield: (715) 216-3601

#### **Northwest Branch Directors-At-Large:**

1. Andy Walters, American Engineering Testing, Inc., Wausau, WI; (715) 359-3534
2. Lucas Budden, WisDOT Northwest Region: Eau Claire, WI; (715) 836-2889
3. Joe Behlen, WDNR: Wisconsin Rapids; (715) 421-9940

#### **Newsletter Editors:**

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[felix.jessica@att.net](mailto:felix.jessica@att.net)