

# ASCE American Society of Civil Engineers

Northwest Branch Newsletter No. 116 September 26<sup>th</sup>, 2012



## President's Message – A New Year

Dear ASCE Northwest Branch,

I am honored to serve as President of the Northwest Branch for the 2012-2013 cycle. Serving on the board for the past several years has allowed me to understand some of the strengths and challenges of the Branch. Several new initiatives were created in that time. This year the Board is looking to expand and strengthen the Branch's K-12 outreach program. With the aide of the Wisconsin Section, we are looking to award the very first Matthew Rynish Honorarium to one of our members. Our scholarship program has seen an increase in the number of applications, and the Board has had several qualified students to evaluate for the award. We have several interesting

meetings scheduled and in the works for the coming year. We are working hard to deliver value to all members.

In the last year, I have had the opportunity to attend several Section and Region conferences. I have learned of many great strategies that our Board can use for running the Branch and bringing value to all members. The board has compiled several ideas for the coming year, including providing Professional Development Hours (PDHs) at our meetings. Did you know that attendance at this past Wisconsin Section Annual Meeting provided the opportunity to earn up to 5 PDHs? One of our goals is providing you with a cost-effective and interesting way to earn your necessary PDHs for licensure renewal.

ASCE has several reports and initiatives coming out that I will try to highlight in future newsletters. ASCE will release the next *Report Card for America's Infrastructure* in 2013. You will see a greater emphasis on the 3 strategic initiatives: 1) Raise the Bar; 2) Infrastructure; and 3) Sustainability. The *Failure to Act* economic studies are great resources and eye-openers to the problems we face as a society in regards to our crumbling infrastructure.

I am excited to work with the rest of the members of the Board to provide great program in the next year. Please do not hesitate to contact any of us with meeting ideas or suggestions on how we can all improve the value the Branch brings to you. We have several meeting opportunities coming up and detailed in this newsletter. I hope you have the chance to take advantage of one or all of these events. I look forward to hearing from and meeting many more of you throughout the year.

Sincerely,

*Will Kratt, P.E.*

Northwest Branch President

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

*As always, the views expressed in the president's message are those of the author and do not necessarily represent the official positions of ASCE.*

### 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 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

### REGION 3 ASSEMBLY—CHICAGO, IL—AUGUST 10 & 11, 2012

By Jessica L. Felix, P.E.

#### Day 1:

#### **Registration, meet & greet, introductions, and lunch**

#### **Session #1 Presentation—ASCE Committee on Geographic Units Update**

There are 4 full-time people available to assist Sections and Branches with programs. The Best Practices Guide has lots of case studies on other Branch and Section practices for a variety of topics.

#### **Session #2 Michigan's Accelerated Rail Program by Tim Hoeffner, Director of Rail, MDOT**

A technical presentation on accelerated rail in Michigan—beginnings to present, and how MDOT oversees and funds their railroads.

#### **Session #3 Report Card Implementation Panel**

ASCE National issues an Infrastructure Report Card every 4 to 5 years. The next issue will be in 2013 (before the next budget bill). The report card is a measure of funding versus needs in 11 elements of infrastructure. ASCE National also issued a Failure to Act Series. There is a funding gap and the series addresses what will occur if the funding gap remains. In WI, the first state infrastructure report card was issued in 2003 and updated in 2007. The WI Section is looking for assistance in issuing the next report card.

#### **Section/Branch Best Practice Presentations**

-Dinner Etiquette Experience with Students by Giselle Rodriguez, East Branch Central IL Section

Branch held a networking event at a local restaurant with members and the student chapter. An expert was brought in to talk about dinner etiquette. The Branch re-launched their website and is offering webinars to their members on various topics.

-North Dakota Section by Region 3 Governor Frauenhoffer

Governor Frauenhoffer provided an antidotal presentation about the Section that was revitalized after a failed election of the next Section Board. One of the Best Practices that came out of this was that every Branch and Section needs a succession plan. Branches and Sections are always looking for people with fresh ideas and we all need to be brave to try something NEW.

#### **Illinois Legislative Day Presentation by Lou Arrigoni, President-Elect Illinois Section**

The Section has a government relations committee that is chaired by the past-president. The government relations committee asks that members share their networking contacts and track policy issues. It's a process as it takes time to build relationships with the private sector and government representatives. Find out who your local, state and national representative are and contact them regarding the issues that you are concerned about. The ASCE National Fly-In is in March of every year.

#### **Speakers Bureau**

A database of speakers that is willing to provide presentations to Section & Branches at minimal cost. Presentation topics include Engineers Without Borders, Forensic Engineering, Sustainable Pavement, Pavement Management, and Construction Dispute Resolution. PDHs can be earned for attending these presentations.

#### **Reception**

#### Day 2:

#### **Social and breakfast**

#### **Section, Branch, and YMG Activity Reports**

Highlights of activities that various groups do are: having a common calendar on the Section website that incorporates events for the various Branches and partner Societies; competition amongst local consulting firms for a food drive; construction tours; K-12 outreach; and selling advertising space on the Branch/Section newsletter with the funds going toward scholarship funds.

#### **Presentation by Greg DiLoreto, ASCE President-Elect (now ASCE President)**

A brief on the upcoming goals of ASCE in 2012-2013 and an opportunity to answer questions from the group.

#### **Closing Luncheon**

## **WE ENERGIES AND DOMTAR BIOMASS PLANT**

By Dan Borchardt, P.E.

The ASCE NW Branch and WSPE WI Valley Chapter attended a technical presentation and toured the Domtar and We Energies Biomass Energy Project on August 28, 2012. Attendees enjoyed Ropa's pizza provided by ASCE and an assortment of drinks provided by WSPE. All the attendees received 1 PDH for their attendance at the presentation. ASCE, WSPE, and I would like to thank everyone that engaged with the well attended event and we look forward to setting up a follow up tour to witness the construction progression of the plant.

Domtar and We Energies are partnering to build a 50-MW biomass-fueled cogeneration facility on the Domtar property in Rothschild, Wis. Domtar is an international paper manufacturer with facilities across the U.S. and Canada. We Energies is a Milwaukee-based electricity, natural gas and steam service provider to residents in southeast Wisconsin, the Fox Valley and Michigan's Upper Peninsula.

Domtar currently burns 130,000 tons of clean woody biomass each year to generate steam for their paper-making process. Domtar produces 50,000 tons of biomass through their paper-making process and purchases an additional 80,000 tons annually. The new project will use an additional 370,000 tons of biomass annually from forest areas within 1.5 hours from the plant and Domtar will utilize a portion of the steam in their papermaking process. Project costs are estimated at \$255 million and the project is expected to be complete late summer of 2013.



The project is expected to create 400+ construction jobs over the 2.5-year building process and approximately 150 permanent jobs in fields supporting the operation of the biomass facility (forest management, logging, transportation). Shown below is a rendering how the site will look after the construction is complete.



**Members of the ASCE/WSPE WI Valley Chapter Tour Group at the Domtar and We Energies Biomass Energy Project.**

## WISCONSIN SECTION 2012 FALL ANNUAL MEETING

By Dan Borchart, P.E.; Andy Walters, P.E.; Will Kratt, P.E.

The ASCE Wisconsin Section Annual Meeting was hosted by the ASCE Southeast Branch in Pewaukee on September 7, 2012. The meeting had record attendance, networking opportunities and contained an itinerary packed with 5 Professional Development Hours (PDHs). Vendors attended to share their knowledge on new products in the industry. This meeting is an important meeting for several reasons. First it is the meeting where the new section and branch officers come into office and the old ones fade out of their positions. Secondly the meeting recognizes engineering achievements throughout the year. We encourage all of you to submit a project next year. Nominations for awards are due by June 1<sup>st</sup>. The nomination forms and award categories can be viewed at [http://sections.asce.org/wisconsin/section\\_awards.html#A4](http://sections.asce.org/wisconsin/section_awards.html#A4). Thirdly the meeting contained a presentation by the ASCE National President Elect – Greg DiLoreto who briefed everyone in on the upcoming year and goals of ASCE. Dan Borchart was recognized for his continued efforts in ASCE.



**Dan Borchart received a Certificate of Appreciation for being the NW Branch Director**



**From left to right: Brian Udovich – Past President Wisconsin Section, Greg DiLoreto – President Elect ASCE, and Julie Hoppe – President Wisconsin Section**

If you missed out on the annual conference this year, look into attending the Spring Technical Conference. It's worth it! These conferences are especially valuable now that the State of Wisconsin is requiring each practicing professional engineer to accumulate 30 PDH's between 2012 and 2014. ***The Wisconsin Section is looking for volunteers to assist with the ASCE Wisconsin Report Card if you are interested please contact Mark Meyers at [meyersm@uwplatt.edu](mailto:meyersm@uwplatt.edu).***

## Upcoming Meetings

WSPE WI Valley Chapter is planning a meeting for Tuesday, October 02, 2012 at 4:00 pm and NW Branch members are invited. We will learn about and tour the City of Wausau Wastewater Treatment Plant. The City recently installed micro-turbines for electric generation. The wastewater treatment plant is located at 435 Adrian St. in Wausau. A location map is below.

After the tour, a social hour will be held at Bull Falls Brewery located at 901 E. Thomas St. Wausau. The newly elected WSPE President, Fred Groth, P.E., S.E. will give a short presentation/discussion during the social hour on the continuing education requirements for Wisconsin, which will include a discussion on how to document your hours and how to determine if a class qualifies. Food will be provided by WSPE and drinks are on your own.



### **MASONRY DAY AT THE UNIVERSITY OF WISCONSIN-STOUT**

Date & Time: Wednesday, October 10, 2012 from 12:30pm – 4:50pm

Location: Applied Arts #210, University of Wisconsin-Stout, Menomonie, WI

Program:

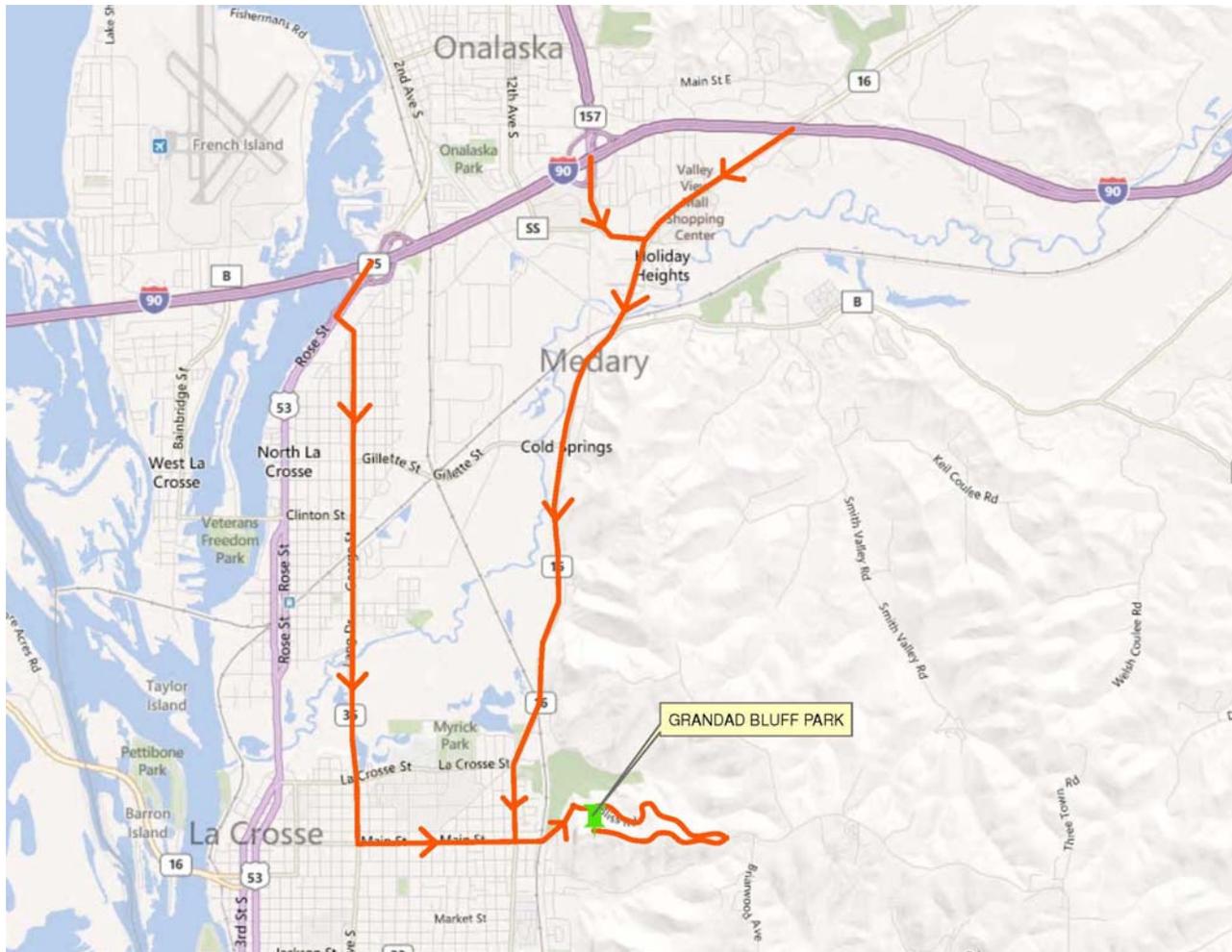
- 12:30 – 1:30pm “Building Information Modeling and IPD: What is the Future of Codes? –Case Study of Masonry Design”
  - Dr. Joseph Wright, Department of Construction, The University of Wisconsin - Stout
- 1:30 – 2:30pm “Structural Masonry Software Review & Integration with BIM”
  - Mr. Samuel Rubenzer, FORSE Consulting, Eau Claire, WI
- 2:50 – 3:50pm “Masonry Movement Joints”
  - Mr. Patrick Conway, The International Masonry Institute, Anapolis, MD
- 3:50 – 4:50pm “Masonry vs Earthquakes: Yesterday’s Lessons, Today’s Designs, and Tomorrow’s Codes”
  - Dr. Richard Klingner, Department of Civil, Architectural, and Environmental Engineering, The University of Texas at Austin

Attendees will receive four (4) PDH credits. For credit toward continuing education, please send an email to Dr. Charalambides at [jason@alumni.utexas.edu](mailto:jason@alumni.utexas.edu), under the title “Continuing Education Credit-Masonry Day” indicating your name and ASCE number. A certificate of attendance will be provided at the seminar.

For further information regarding the program, speaker bios, and parking, please see the flyer:  
[http://www.avant-garde-engineering.com/Flyer\\_Masonry\\_Day.pdf](http://www.avant-garde-engineering.com/Flyer_Masonry_Day.pdf)

### **GRANDAD BLUFF PARK RESTORATION TOUR – LA CROSSE**

The City of La Crosse recently completed a \$1.4 million renovation of Grandad Bluff Park, high above the city. The overlook provides some of the most majestic views of the Mississippi River Valley in the country. Come join the Northwest Branch at 5:00 PM on Thursday, October 18<sup>th</sup> for a tour of the site with Michael W. Swinghamer, AIA, Principal at River Architects. Earn 1 PDH by attending. Families and guests are welcome, and a picnic dinner will be provided after the tour. Hopefully the event will include fall colors near their peak! Directions are provided on the map below. Take any north-south route from North or East of La Crosse to Main Street. Turn East towards the bluffs on Main Street. Main Street turns into Bliss Road at the base of Grandad Bluff and the road to the park is at the top of the bluff. We will meet near the shelter house at the overlook. Please contact Will Kratt at (608) 498-0940 or [william.kratt@gmail.com](mailto:william.kratt@gmail.com) with any questions about the event.



### **ASCE HISTORY DOCUMENTS - PAST OFFICER AND NEWSLETTER DOCUMENTS**

The board has worked diligently over the past year to preserve the history of the Northwest Branch and convert paper copies of old newsletters into electronic copies. In addition to creating an electronic compilation of newsletters from 1974 the board has created a spreadsheet document showing who held leadership positions and during what years they served the Branch. This information is available to any member who would like an electronic copy of it. The branch is looking into placing the documents on the Wisconsin section website for everyone to access. If you have a piece of history from the Northwest Branch that you would like to see preserved please contact Will Kratt at [william.kratt@gmail.com](mailto:william.kratt@gmail.com).

## 2012- 2013 Calendar of Events

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

### OCTOBER:

- October 2<sup>nd</sup> –WSPE WI Valley Chapter Tour of the City of Wausau Wastewater Treatment Plant at 4pm
- October 10<sup>th</sup> – Masonry Day at University of Wisconsin-Stout from 12:30-4:50pm
- October 18<sup>th</sup> – Grandad Bluff Park Restoration Tour in La Crosse at 5pm
- October 26<sup>th</sup> –PE , PS, and SE Vertical Exam
- October 27<sup>th</sup> –FE, FS, and SE Lateral Exam

### NOVEMBER:

### DECEMBER:

### JANUARY:

- January 11-12 2013 : Regions 3, 6, & 7 Multi-Region Leadership Conference, Milwaukee, WI
- January 12, 2013: Registration Deadline to take WI Professional Engineering Exam (90 days prior to exam)

### FEBRUARY:

- National Engineers Week February 17-23, 2013

### MARCH:

- March 14<sup>th</sup> ASCE Wisconsin Section Annual Spring Technical Conference – Lambeau Field

### APRIL:

- April 12<sup>th</sup> –PE, PS, and SE Vertical Exam
- April 13<sup>th</sup> –FE, FS and SE Lateral Exam

### 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.

### CURRENT NORTHWEST BRANCH OFFICERS

**President:** Will Kratt, Mead and Hunt, Inc.: La Crosse; (608) 784-6040  
**President-Elect:** Jessica Felix, WisDOT Northwest Region: Eau Claire; (715) 577-4365  
**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, Tetra Tech, Wausau, WI; (715) 355-4180  
 2. Lucas Budden, WisDOT Northwest Region: Eau Claire, WI; (715) 836-2889  
 3. Joe Behlen, WDNR: Wisconsin Rapids; (715) 421-9940

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