

ASCE *American Society of Civil Engineers*

Northwest Branch Newsletter No. 117 December 10th, 2012



President's Message – The Infrastructure Cliff

Dear ASCE Northwest Branch,

If you were hoping that there would be a little certainty with infrastructure investment after the passage of spending bills in the past few months and November elections, I am guessing you are disappointed. While MAP-21 was a compromise that many in our industry welcomed, it falls well short of what many experts and policy makers say is necessary to sustain just the transportation infrastructure that we already have in place. In 2009, ASCE's Report Card for America's Infrastructure gave America's Infrastructure an overall grade of D with an estimated 5-year investment need of \$2.2 Trillion. With the work already underway to produce the 2013 Report Card for America's

Infrastructure, it's hard to believe we'll see much improvement from the past 4 years based on past investment.

What can and should we as civil engineers do to make this issue part of the discussion when it comes to our future? My simple answer is, talk about it. For the last several elections in which I have paid attention to infrastructure as a campaign issue, I have seldom heard it mentioned. I was delighted to hear infrastructure come up briefly at times during the presidential race. A few other candidates discussed it occasionally. I noted this as a big change from previous years, where I can't recall infrastructure investment ever seriously mentioned.

The place where your knowledge and insight has the biggest impact can often be during a social gathering. People love to talk, but often we're afraid to discuss what we do every day. Part of it may be that we are afraid that we'll be painted as nerds or uninteresting, the engineering stereotype. Another reason the infrastructure may not be discussed is because it's easy for people to take infrastructure for granted. Therefore, there isn't an emotional attachment to it like health care or a child's education. Maybe civil engineers are doing their jobs too well. Society seems to believe that the roads, bridges, transit systems, transmission and distribution systems and other parts of our infrastructure that impact our way of life everyday aren't an important topic and in need of continuous investment. Many professions claim their work has the greatest impact on our way of life. But can you think of anything you do that doesn't in some way involve infrastructure?

Another great way to bring infrastructure investment to the forefront is by contacting your legislators and local officials. Don't wait for the fiscal cliff or the next congressional bill to expire. Make your representatives know that infrastructure investment is always important and is vital to our way of life. Visit <http://capwiz.com/asce/home/> for tools to contact your elected officials. Have a great holiday season!

Sincerely,

Will Kratt, P.E.

Northwest Branch President

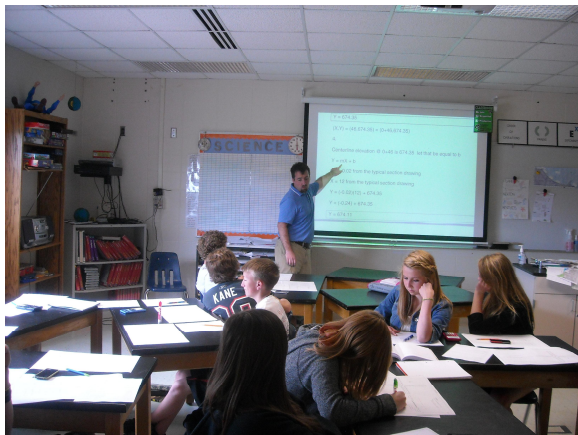
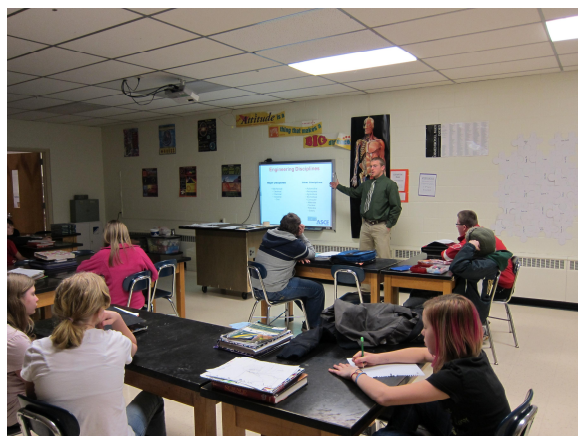
Email: william.kratt@gmail.com

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 Opportunities

INVOLVEMENT OPPORTUNITY FOR K-12 OUTREACH

The week of February 17-23, 2013 is designated as National Engineers week. The Northwest Branch is planning another large campaign. The goal of this campaign is to create a public awareness of engineers, spread the knowledge of sustainability, and showcase to students in our region the broad and exciting work of engineering. The campaign will involve presenting in schools, acting as a classroom resource, connecting promotional materials ASCE offers to a classroom, and ultimately raise awareness of the vital work engineers do for our society on a daily basis. Below are a few photos of fellow members, Dan and Andy, presenting at the 2012 K-12 Outreach events. If you are interested in becoming involved with ASCE outreach or have children in school with a teacher that would like to have an engineer in the classroom, please contact Will Kratt at 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 with a detailed description of the opportunity and help needed.

Past Events

CITY OF WAUSAU WASTEWATER TREATMENT PLANT TOUR

By Dan Borchardt, P.E.

The WSPE WI Valley Chapter hosted a joint meeting with ASCE on Tuesday, October 02, 2012 at 4:00 pm. The meeting consisted of City of Wausau Wastewater Treatment Plant tour, given by plant superintendent Dave Erickson, and a presentation given by newly elected WSPE President, Fred Groth. P.E., S.E. at a social meeting after the tour at Bull Falls Brewery.

Wausau's water treatment plant received a \$241,000 in state grant money to help improve its facilities with micro-turbines for electric generation. The money came from a Focus on Energy grant in order to improve the efficiency of blowers by using the water treatments plants own emissions to generate power. The plant will utilize their own bio-gas to run the micro-turbines, which will help us keep energy costs down and save on maintaining the plant.

The total cost of the project was 1.5 million dollars, a figure which was already added to the proposed rate increases for water treatment in Wausau. The treatment plant estimates the new equipment will save \$180,000 a year. They say that should take six to eight years to pay off. The city got help for the grants through Becher Hoppe.

After the tour WSPE provided subs, chips and cookies while everyone enjoyed a micro-brew and short presentation/discussion, on the continuing education requirements for Wisconsin, during the social hour. The discussion covered how to document your hours and how to determine if a class qualifies. Fred Groth P.E., S.E. has been an integral part of initiating continuing education in Wisconsin by being part of the Wisconsin Continuing Education committee. Fred stated that organizations such as WSPE and ASCE are great ways to gain PDHs. Look for upcoming meeting opportunities for continuing education!



GRANDAD BLUFF PARK RESTORATION TOUR – LA CROSSE

By Will Kratt, P.E.

The City of La Crosse recently completed a \$1.4 million renovation of Grandad Bluff Park. The overlook provides some of the most majestic views of the Mississippi River Valley in the country. ASCE members and guests were treated to a tour of the site with Michael W. Swinghamer, AIA, Principal at River Architects. The weather was seasonal with some wind and drizzle and the trees in the area were just past their fall peak.

The tour began in the shelter with a discussion of the history of the structure and the decision made to update and preserve the building. Attendees were shown pictures and plans of the slope reinforcement along the south side of the bluff. The selection of materials and suppliers explained how the City was able to achieve the look they had in mind for the project. The tour led down the path with a detailed discussion of the contents of the interpretive signs throughout the project. The signs explain the significance of the bluffs to local Native American Tribes and early settlers. Aggregate mining is also part of the history of Grandad Bluff, and photos show how rails and trams carried rock down the steep bluffs into the valley. The tour ended with discussion and subs, chips, cookies, and soda.



MASONRY DAY AT THE UNIVERSITY OF WISCONSIN-STOUT

By Jason E. Charalambides, PhD

Masonry Day on October 10 at the University of Wisconsin-Stout was successful, and we had an excellent set of presentations. All the way from the first to the last, there was very interesting and very applicable information to the professionals and to the academicians indicating trends and latest research results. The event started with the presentation of Dr. Wright on Building Information Modeling and Integrated Project Delivery. Mr. Rubenzer's presentation shifted us from the Building Information Modeling to more Masonry specific applications that deal with Masonry design within computer interface, and Mr. Conway led us to purely masonry design with his presentation on Designing and Detailing of Masonry for durability. The event closed with Dr. Klingner who was the main speaker of the event. His presentation was on the design of Masonry structures for earthquake loads.

The audience received the material very well, and it was clear that such events would be very beneficial for our region. There were PDHs for all professionals attending, and the presentations of Dr. Wright and Dr. Klingner are public domain, so they are available for everyone at the following web addresses:

<http://www.avant-garde-engineering.com/BIM%20Presentation%20Stout.pdf>

http://www.avant-garde-engineering.com/Univ%20of%20Wisconsin%20Stout%20Masonry%20Day%20R_Klingner%20presentation.pdf

Upcoming Meetings

4th Annual Sylvan Hill Tubing Event

ASCE American Society
of Civil Engineers



Wisconsin Society of
Professional Engineers



Have the need of speed? Or just want to get out of the house?
Bring the family out for a night of tubing fun with ASCE and WSPE.

Address: 1329 Sylvan Street, Wausau, WI 54403
When: Friday, January 25, 2013 (6:00-9:30)
Cost: Adults \$8.50 (age 14 and older)
 ASCE will cover the \$6.00 cost of youths (Youth must be height of 42")

Food will be provided by ASCE in the lower level of the Chalet. WSPE will be providing beverages (non-alcoholic). Alcohol is not allowed at Sylvan Hill during public events.

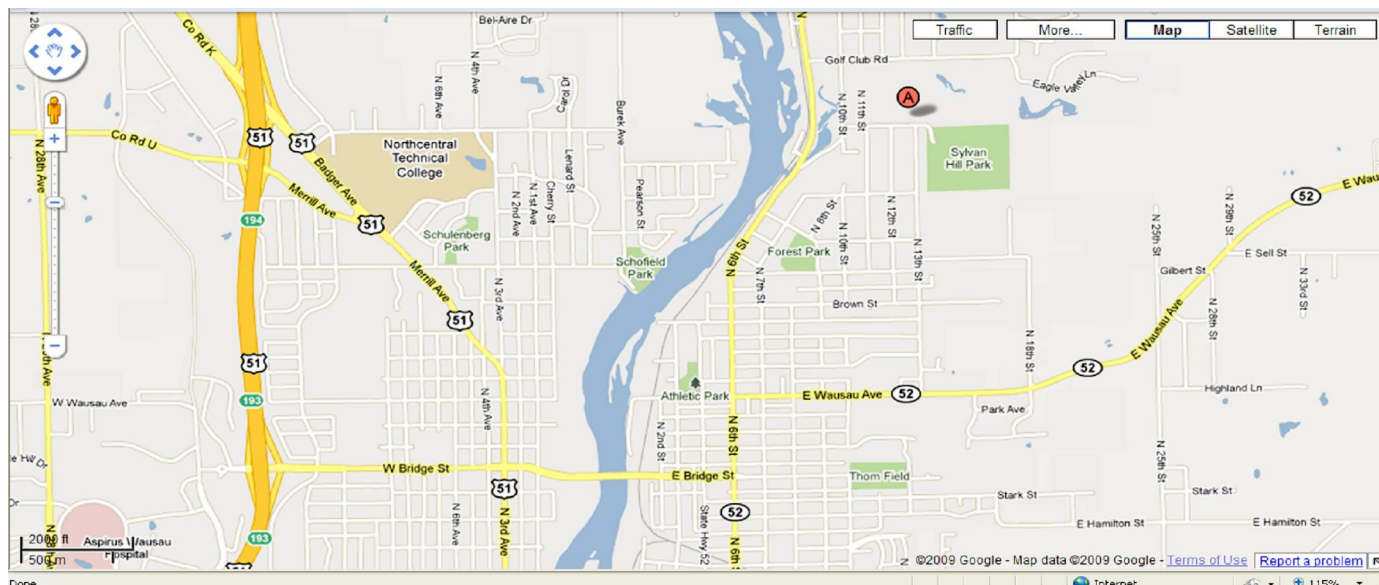
What to expect: A night of fun with the family, networking, and tube racing!

Hill Details: Vertical drop: 120 ft; Hill Length: 1,200 ft; Number of Chutes: 6

Hill Restrictions: All riders must have a minimum height of 42+ to ride a tube
 No riding double in tubes. This includes holding small children on your lap

Directions and Map

From I39/US51 North, go east on Bridge Street through Wausau, to left (north) on 6th Street to right (northeast) on Horseshoe Spring Road to right (east) on Sylvan Street to park.



Questions? Contact: Northwest Branch Direct Andy Walters at 715-573-1443

The event may be postponed if temperatures are "unbearable".

Minnesota Section ASCE Dinner Meeting

Topic: The November 2012 Elections – Effect on Transportation Infrastructure Funding

Date	Thursday, December 13	
Social	5:30	Rose Vine Hall Banquet Center Located in Grumpy\$ in Roseville 2801 Snelling Ave North, Roseville
Dinner	6:30	\$30/member; \$35/nonmember; \$10/student
Presentation	7:15	

Please RSVP online at <http://www.ascemn.org/> by Monday, December 9.



SWE Region H Conference

February 8-10, 2013
University of Minnesota; Minneapolis, MN
Registration Open: November 12-December 23
<http://www.swe.org/regionh/>

RENEW YOUR ASCE MEMBERSHIP

Don't forget to renew your ASCE membership TODAY! You can log in to your account at www.asce.org or you can call (800) 548-2723 to speak with an ASCE representative. The New Year is coming up fast. ASCE is a great way to stimulate your passion for Civil Engineering as it keep you on the cutting edge in your career.

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 or call (800) 548-2723.

2012- 2013 Calendar of Events

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

DECEMBER:

- Board Meeting December 19

JANUARY:

- Board Meeting January 10
- 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)
- January 25: 4th Annual Sylvan Hill Tubing Event, Wausau, WI

FEBRUARY:

- February 8-10, 2013 SWE Region H Conference, Minneapolis, MN
- Board Meeting February 14
- National Engineers Week February 17-23, 2013
 - Northwest Branch K-12 Outreach Events

MARCH:

- TBD . PE Exam Helpful Hints. Eau Claire/Menomone area
- March 14 ASCE Wisconsin Section Annual Spring Technical Conference . Lambeau Field
- Board Meeting March 14

APRIL:

- Board Meeting April 11
- April 12 . PE, PS, and SE Vertical Exam
- April 13 . FE, FS and SE Lateral Exam

CALL FOR NORTHWEST BRANCH BOARD 2013-2014 MEMBERS

DO YOU HAVE NEW IDEAS OF WAYS TO SERVE YOUR FELLOW ASCE MEMBERS?
DO YOU WANT TO BE INVOLVED IN A PROFESSIONAL COMMUNITY?
DO YOU WANT TO BE A VOICE IN YOUR COMMUNITY?

It's never too early to start considering serving on the 2013-2014 Northwest Branch Board. Please contact any one of the NW Branch officers if you are interested.

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

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