

# **ASCE** *American Society of Civil Engineers*

**Northwest Branch Newsletter No. 118 March 8<sup>th</sup>, 2013**



## **President's Message – Mentoring**

Dear ASCE Northwest Branch,

If you are like me, you owe some credit for your learning and development during your career to a mentor. While our formal education gives us the foundations of what we need to know as civil engineers, it cannot fully prepare us for our future responsibilities. In Wisconsin, professional engineering licensure requires a combined total of eight years of education and experience. Those years of post-education experience can be much more fulfilling and useful if performed with the aid of a mentor. While, earning individual experiences and learning to find solutions on your own is important, mentors can add to that experience to develop a well-rounded professional engineer.

While the Northwest Branch does not have a formal mentoring program, mentoring can and does happen throughout the Branch all the time. Some employers have formal mentoring programs developed to pair mentors and protégés. Also, whether realized or not, normal everyday relationships amongst engineers are often mentoring relationships. Each individual needs to decide the level of mentoring they desire. Both the mentor and protégé need to be active participants to get the most development and learning out of the relationship. Communication and trust are keys to good mentoring.

If you have developed great experience throughout your civil engineering career, please consider becoming a mentor. Make yourself available to another engineer within your employment organization or the industry as a whole. I would like to say thank you to those already helping to improve another's experience and career. If you are having a hard time finding a protégé, ASCE does provide resources for mentors to become paired with someone.

It's important to note that mentoring is a two-way street. If you are a potential protégé, you often need to seek out mentoring. There are many tips available at <http://www.asce.org/Mentoring/> for both mentors and protégé. Some ideas that may aid in your mentoring are having a personal vision, eagerness to seek out opportunities, and taking a listen first approach to your mentoring relationship.

Mentoring relationships can start early in one's engineering education through internships. I applaud those employers who provide this great opportunity to the future members of our engineering teams. I myself owe a lot of my career development to interning experience. However, in our industry, we are always learning new methods and ways of solving the problems presented to us. No matter where you are in your career path, now is a great time to become a mentor or protégé or both. Please consider entering a mentoring relationship for the development of yourself, a fellow civil engineer, and all of us.

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 Opportunities

### **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

#### **4<sup>th</sup> Annual Sylvan Hill Tubing Event**

By Will Kratt, P.E.

The 4<sup>th</sup> Annual Sylvan Hill event took place on Friday, January 25, 2013 in Wausau. Members and guests made several trips down the runs and enjoyed food provided by ASCE and beverages provided by WSPE. A recent snowfall and cold temperatures made for slow conditions on the hill, but the event was very enjoyable.



## **K-12 OUTREACH**

By Dan Borchardt, P.E.

On Friday, March 1<sup>st</sup>, Dan Borchardt taught 5 – 41 minute class periods filled with about 30 students a class at John Muir Middle school in Wausau. Working with John Muir Middle School was a great success. Ken Hopperdietzel and his students had a great time learning about engineering. Ken teaches Introductory Engineering for the “Project Lead the Way” program the school has just started. The students received an introductory presentation that explained what engineering is; how it affects their day to day lives; and the design process, that we as engineers go through when we start a project. Needless to say, the students soaked up a lot of information that day. Ken enjoyed the presentation so much that he had the principal of the middle school come and listen. Ken has expressed significant interest in continuing to have guest-engineering speakers and would like a return visit from engineers to perform hands on projects in the future. He stated that he has already recommended and promoted the Northwest Branch’s K-12 Outreach program to other schools in school district. ASCE’s K-12 Outreach is starting to make an impact on our communities.

Additional K-12 Outreach throughout the Branch will be taking place during the months of March and April, so look for K-12 Outreach follow-up articles in the next newsletter. The Northwest Branch has seen an increase in outreach requests this year, and is receiving rave reviews from the schools we have attended. Please help us publicize this great opportunity for our local schools and consider being a part of the effort as we continue to grow this program!



## Upcoming Meetings

### **2013 Wisconsin Section Spring Technical Conference**

2013 Spring Technical Conference

# History & Heritage

Celebrating 90 Years of the Wisconsin Section of ASCE

**Thursday, March 14, 2013**  
Lambeau Field Atrium, Green Bay, WI

**ASCE**  
AMERICAN SOCIETY OF CIVIL ENGINEERS

**CONFERENCE PROGRAM AND REGISTRATION BROCHURE**

**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.

**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. We are currently taking nominations for the 2013-2014NW Board. Please contact any one of the NW Branch officers if you are interested.

**RENEW YOUR ASCE MEMBERSHIP**

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

## 2013 Calendar of Events

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

### MARCH:

- March 14 ASCE Wisconsin Section Annual Spring Technical Conference – Lambeau Field, Green Bay
- Board Meeting March 14

### APRIL:

- Board Meeting April 11
- April 12 – PE, PS, and SE Vertical Exam (offered in Madison, Milwaukee and Platteville)
- April 13 – FE, FS and SE Lateral Exam (offered in Madison, Milwaukee and Platteville)

### MAY:

- 2013 – 2014 Ballots for Northwest Branch officers are sent to members
- TBD – Branch Social – Eau Claire Area
- Board Meeting May 15

### JUNE:

- TBD – Dresbach Bridge Meeting – La Crosse
- Board Meeting June 12
- June 17 – Registration for October 2013 FE, PE, PS, and SE Exams will open

### JULY:

- Board Meeting

### AUGUST:

- 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

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