



WISCONSIN SECTION

Northwest Branch



Newsletter No. 127

November 1, 2015

President's Message – Past & Future



Dear ASCE Northwest Branch,

The time has come for me to reflect on the past year and to pass the leadership torch on to the next President. I want to thank each and every one of you for every role you had in making the Northwest Branch amazing this year. The Engineering Week socials were a blast and it was fun to see everyone. The first-ever Northwest Branch hosting of the Wisconsin Section

Spring Technical Conference received rave reviews. The planning team of Will Kratt, Mike Binsfeld and Kris Roppe set the bar high by incorporating some new ideas into how the Wisconsin Section hosts conferences. The St. Croix Crossing tour went above and beyond expectations, and is sure to be a great memory for all participants.

The Branch Board has worked so hard this year to provide you with value-added experiences, and I hope that you have taken advantage of those events when possible. If not, I encourage you to become involved in any capacity. You will certainly reap the benefits of your efforts in this organization. The Northwest Branch is always open to new ideas (and volunteers to carry out those ideas), as well as folks who'd like to step up to the plate and flex their leadership muscles.

Please enjoy this version of the newsletter, as it is packed with great information from the past few months. This issue's Engineering Highlights features a historic earthen dam in Spring Valley, and the Branch plans to follow-up with a tour and family cookout at this dam in 2016.

Finally, I want to thank all of you for electing me to be your President this past year. It has been my pleasure to serve you. I am leaving you in the best of hands with Mike Binsfeld as your next President.

I encourage you to be proud of your profession as a civil engineer, and I wish you well in life's journey. As Steve Jobs has said, "Your work is going to fill a large part of your life, and the only way to be truly satisfied is to do what you believe is great work. And the only way to do great work is to love what you do."

Sincerely,

Teresa L. Davis

Northwest Branch President

Email: brunnete.80@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.

MEMBER NEWS

Congratulations to Marty Hanson for becoming an ASCE Fellow!

Here is the blog post as written for ASCE News and what was shared in the August 2015 ASCE Wisconsin Section Newsletter Page 3:

Martin J. Hanson, P.E., F.ASCE, of Ayres Associates in Eau Claire, Wisconsin, was elevated to ASCE Fellow status by the ASCE Board of Direction.

Hanson began his career with the U.S. Department of Agriculture Forest Service in Sandpoint, Idaho, Park Falls, Wisconsin, and Milwaukee, Wisconsin, where he developed computer applications for forest roadway design. Hanson then worked in other engineering positions with transportation and water resource consulting firms. Hanson then continued his engineering career with Ayres Associates, where he served as a project manager for 2 major projects on State Highway 29. He now serves as the firm's Director of Transportation Relations.

In addition, Hanson served on Wisconsin's Transportation Finance and Policy Commission, as well as the state's professional licensing board for 8 years – including time as Engineers Section chair, and as Joint Board chair. In these roles, he was responsible for updating licensing credential requirements and creating continuing competency requirements for professional engineers in Wisconsin. He is a former chair of the American Council of Engineering Companies of Wisconsin, its Transportation Liaison Committee, and its Transportation Task Force. In 2012, Hanson received the Chairman's Award from the American Council of Engineering Companies of Wisconsin.

Hanson is an officer with the Round Lake Property Owners Association, and is president of his townhome association. He works with second-grade students in the Junior Achievement program and is a former community youth hockey coach.

Hanson earned a bachelor's degree from the University of Minnesota, and a master of business administration degree from the University of Wisconsin-Eau Claire.

Keep your eyes peeled for more Fellows. The Wisconsin Section Board recently voted on another Section member's application to become a Fellow, and the application now goes to ASCE National for their approval. The Wisconsin Section, which consists of almost 2,000 total members, currently has 68 members with Fellow status – again, congratulations to Marty for joining the exclusive club!

Go to [this link](#) for more information on the requirements and benefits of becoming an ASCE Fellow.

2015 Matthew Rynish Honorarium

The purpose of the Matthew Rynish Memorial Honorarium is to recognize and honor the contributions of Matthew Rynish to the Civil Engineering profession and the ASCE community, particularly to the Northwest Branch of the Wisconsin Section.

Matthew Thomas Rynish was born on April 6, 1984, to Lee and Christine Rynish. Matt graduated from Seymour Community High School and the University of Wisconsin - Platteville with a Civil Engineering degree. He was dedicated to his career at Ayres & Associates as a structural engineer and bridge inspector. On December 27, 2008, Matt married the love of his life Jacki and resided in Eau Claire. On January 30, 2011, Jacki and Matt welcomed their son Owen into the family.

Some of his proud accomplishments include earning the Eagle Scout Award with Troop 117 in Seymour; competing nationally in the collegiate concrete canoe racing as a co-chair, presenter, and rower; and

serving as president for the Northwest Branch of The American Society of Civil Engineers for two years. Throughout his life, Matt demonstrated his leadership ability with his faith, family, and community. Matthew was also an amazing friend, a servant leader, and such a thoughtful person that he would make sure, in group settings, that everyone felt welcomed and included.

Matthew was instrumental in the recent Northwest Branch renaissance, dedicating many hours to help the Branch grow and succeed. Matthew encouraged others to care about ASCE and become involved at the local level. The Northwest Branch is forever grateful to Matthew and his efforts.

Matthew tragically passed away due to a work accident on April 14, 2011.

The Matthew Rynish honorarium is a Northwest Branch initiative and is used to recognize Northwest Branch members for excellence in leadership; intellectual curiosity; strong interpersonal skills; personal maturity, stability, credibility, and authenticity; commitment to outside of self; recruitment; and support of Northwest Branch activities.

The Northwest Branch Board of Directors has established criteria by which a candidate for the honorarium will be judged and may put forth a candidate or candidates of its choice for consideration. The Northwest Branch Board of Directors selects each recipient.

A few of the criteria include the following:

- The recipient must be a member of ASCE and the Northwest Branch;
- The recipient must show organizational knowledge and enthusiasm toward the ASCE Wisconsin Section and Northwest Branch;
- The recipient displays values such as sensitivity to trust, ethics, and excellence in professional integrity;
- The recipient must demonstrate leadership presence, recruitment, outreach or participation in Northwest Branch efforts.

Kris Roppe was the recipient of this year's Matthew Rynish Honorarium. He was presented a certificate and a monetary gift of \$500 at the ASCE Wisconsin Section Annual Meeting on September 25th in Madison.

Kris graduated from Minnesota State University, Mankato in May of 2013 where he was a member of the student chapter of ASCE. During college, Kris participated on the steel bridge team and attended the 2012 and 2013 Regional competitions. Kris is currently with I+S Group, Inc. in the La Crosse office as part of the Civil Engineering Group. Kris' responsibilities include site design, transportation engineering, surveying, and construction inspection.

Kris has served on the Northwest Branch board as a Branch Director since 2013 and recently was elected as President-Elect of the Branch for 2015-2016. Kris was one of the leaders who planned the Spring Technical Conference in La Crosse, which was hosted by the Northwest Branch for the first time. The conference was a great success due to Kris' hard work and dedication.

Kris attends other Northwest Branch activities and tours when his schedule allows. Kris is an incredible asset to the Branch, and we are so grateful for his involvement and willingness keep increasing his leadership capacities. Kris embodies the characteristics of Matthew Rynish very well, and the Northwest Branch Board is honored to select Kris as the 2015 Matthew Rynish Honorarium recipient.



ASCE Wisconsin Section President Dan Borchardt and Kris Roppe.

PAST EVENTS

Wisconsin Destination Imagination (DI) Creativity Expo Affiliate State Tournament April 18th

More than 1,000 Wisconsin youngsters recently participated in the 2nd Wisconsin Destination Imagination (DI) Affiliate State Tournament held at UW-Stevens Point. Destination Imagination is a creative problem solving competition. Volunteers who assisted with the ASCE/WSPE exhibitor booth include Andy Walters with AET, Angie Hanz with USDA, Kevin Staus with Indian Health Services, Dan Borchardt with MSA and Scott Martin with MSA. These folks helped at the related Creativity Expo and led a skyscraper-building challenge. Dan said his unofficial record of a 57.75-inch skyscraper prepared the night before the competition was surpassed by a group that built one 62.5 inches tall. That team named their skyscraper Manolo. You can see a news article about the event [here](#).

The ASCE NW Branch and WSPE Wisconsin Valley Branch co-sponsored an exhibitor booth with a \$600 donation to the organization. Dan is President of the Wisconsin Section of the American Society of Civil Engineers and ASCE northwest Branch K-12 outreach coordinator. Keep reading to find out how you can volunteer at the next outreach event in Stevens Point.



Volunteers Andy Walters, Angie Hanz, Kevin Staus, Scott Martin, and Dan Borchardt.



Kids and adults hard at work.



Manolo's team beat Dan's design by almost five inches!



The Creativity Expo was well attended, with approximately 1,000 students participating.

2015 Goodell Scholarship

The Northwest Branch annually awards one \$1,000 scholarship to a civil engineering student that lives within the boundaries of the Northwest Branch. One deserving student was awarded a \$2,000 scholarship in 2015 only. This scholarship is to recognize the unselfish contributions to the civil engineering profession that were made by Mr. Harvey Goodell. Mr. Goodell provided leadership to the Branch for many years having been a La Crosse area director from 1976-1984. ASCE most notably recognizes him for his efforts in initiating and promoting the “Eminent Board” concept, which proposed methods for allowing private sector input in public engineering works. The hope of the Northwest Branch is that by awarding this scholarship, the spirit and enthusiasm shown by Mr. Goodell will be perpetuated.

This year, the Branch Board worked hard to reach out to area universities to inform eligible students about the wonderful scholarship opportunity. In total, eight applications were received, and the board enjoyed working through the process to select the next scholarship recipient.

The 2015 Goodell Scholarship recipient is Chelsea Morgan. Chelsea is currently a student at UW-Platteville studying civil engineering, with emphases in transportation and municipal engineering. She is heavily involved in the UW-Platteville student chapter of ASCE, including Concrete Canoe, community outreach, and membership involvement. Chelsea is also involved in Habitat for Humanity, Chi Epsilon, and the Women in Engineering program. Chelsea will graduate in December of 2015 and we wish her the best of luck in her future endeavors. Chelsea was presented a certificate and check at the social following the St. Croix Crossing tour on July 23rd.



Teresa Davis, President, presents the Goodell Scholarship award to Chelsea Morgan.

St. Croix Crossing Tour July 23, 2015

Approximately ten Northwest Branch members were given an amazing opportunity to take an extended engineering tour of the St. Croix Crossing project in Houlton, WI and Stillwater, MN. You can read about the project [here](#). You can also see the project in action via [webcams](#), and feel free to sign up for the [weekly project update emails](#).

ASCE members first met on the Wisconsin side of the project to learn from WisDOT engineers Devin Harings and Teresa Davis. Devin discussed the roadway grading, paving and Wisconsin abutment and roadway work, and ended his talk with a tour on the abutment trestle. Crews were working to excavate the cofferdam for the Wisconsin bridge pier. Teresa talked about the design and layout of the bicycle and pedestrian trail (the Loop Trail).

Tour attendees then traveled over to the Minnesota side of the St. Croix River to learn more detailed bridge information. WisDOT representative John Sendor hosted a riveting 3+ hour walking tour of the bridge construction, starting with the segment casting yard. Participants then climbed to the top of Pier 8 and were able to look around and watch the construction crews lift and attach a bridge segment. John then showed participants the cast-in-place approach spans, showcasing the incredible amount of rebar needed for such an undertaking.

The weather was perfect for an evening out on the bridge. Everyone had a great time and there were most likely some sore muscles the next day from all of the climbing activities. The tour ended with a fun social at the Village Inn in North Hudson. The Branch hopes to have additional tours on this project, so watch your email for the official invitation in the spring.



New WIS 64 roadway grading facing southwest (top) and northeast (bottom) from the WIS 35/County E interchange.



The tour in Wisconsin ended at the trestle next to the St. Croix River.



The segment casting yard in Minnesota.



What a happy tour group!



Lifting a segment to the pier table.



View toward Minnesota from Pier 8.



The cast-in-place approach spans with a few pieces of rebar.



Waiting in line to cross the current Stillwater Lift Bridge.

2015 Region 3 Assembly August 14 and 15, 2015

This year Teresa Davis attended the Region 3 Assembly. This event was held at the Marquette Hotel in Minneapolis, Minnesota. The assembly focused on Envision, with sessions describing the rating tool and real-world projects and applications. Other sessions focused on state-of-the-art sustainability, human infrastructure relating to building relationships and trust, and sustainable power. Friday's events ended with a fun social at the top of the IDS Tower with an impromptu sidewalk tour of the new Minnesota Vikings stadium construction.

Saturday focused on networking, sharing ideas, and presenting on each section and branch. ASCE presented on officer recruitment and the geographic services department. The day ended with ASCE President Robert Stevens presenting on the state of the Society.

The Region 3 Assembly was full of great information, and as always is a fantastic way to network and learn more about what ASCE can offer the Northwest Branch.

UPCOMING EVENTS

Call for Volunteers – STEM Exploration Day for Boys November 20th, 2015, Stevens Point

The Northwest Branch is looking for assistance on November 20th to help with facilitate Skyscraper Challenge, similar to the Destination Imagination event previously mentioned in the newsletter. The November 20th event is geared toward boys, and there will be an event geared toward girls in February. The event is focused on getting 7th and 8th grade boys interested in STEM fields of study. ASCE will need help with the Skyscraper Challenge from 10-11, 12-1 and 1:15-2:15 that day. If interested in volunteering, please email Dan Borchardt at danborchardt83@gmail.com.

NORTHWEST WISCONSIN CIVIL ENGINEERING HIGHLIGHT

Earthen Dam, Spring Valley, WI

Spring Valley is home to the Midwest's largest earthen dam. The Northwest Branch is currently working with the United States Army Corps of Engineers, St. Paul District to develop a site visit and presentation that is engineering-focused but also family-friendly. The Branch hopes to have a tour and family cookout sometime in 2016.

By 1895, Spring Valley had become incorporated and boasted a population of about 1000 souls. Probably the only serious local fiasco was the flood problem. Bridges, railroad beds and trees sustained varying degrees of destruction, depending upon the size of the flood. Major floods occurred in 1894, 1896, 1903, 1907, 1934, 1938 and 1942. There were, in fact, three floods in 1942 and the one that washed through on the night of September 17, 1942 was, you might say, "the mother of all floods" in Spring Valley. That night was pitch black with no electricity and the floodwaters moved at 12 to 15 miles per hour. By dawn the valley floor was underwater up to depths of 20 feet. The flood quickly receded, but now villagers had to

decide whether to relocate Spring Valley or build a dam. Frank Lloyd Wright visited in 1943 and offered to design the first-ever village-as-a-mall. Instead of rebuilding on West Hill, now the site of Spring Valley Golf Course, the residents went to the Army Corps of Engineers and asked for a flood control game plan.

The Eau Galle Flood Control Project, with its dam, lake, recreation areas and channel improvements, was authorized by the Flood Control Act of 1958 as a result of repeated flooding in the Spring Valley area. The 630- acre project was built from 1965-1968 and is located just north of Spring Valley, 50 miles east of the Twin Cities and 40 miles west of Eau Claire, Wis. The Eau Galle Project is operated by the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, St. Paul District. On September 21, 1968, the completed project was dedicated during the first "Dam Days" celebration and Spring Valley became known as "The Town that Wouldn't be Licked."

The large rolled-earth and rock-filled dam manages a 64-square-mile drainage basin of the Eau Galle River, which flows into the Chippewa River and eventually enters the Mississippi River. The outlet structures include an uncontrolled morning glory inlet that releases water from the surface and a vertical slide gate that releases water from the bottom.

In addition to providing downstream flood protection, the Eau Galle Flood Control Project provides numerous recreational opportunities and valuable habitat for native plants and animals.



Spring Valley experiencing yet another devastating flood.



Spring Valley's earthen dam. The northern cardinal direction is to the left. (Source: Google Earth)



View of the dam from the upstream side.



The dam's intake structure.

Article sources:

<http://www.mvp.usace.army.mil/Portals/57/docs/Recreation/brochures/2015%20brochures/150408-A-FW121-002.pdf>

<http://www.usgennet.org/usa/wi/county/eauclaire/history/ourstory/vol5/springvalley.html>

Renew your ASCE Membership for 2016



Online, in person, and wherever your membership takes you, ASCE benefits every Civil Engineer. See the ways you benefit from your ASCE membership, such as **5 free PDHs**, savings with car rentals and United Parcel Service (UPS), and technology discounts with HP and DataSource Mobility. Keep your benefits and [renew today!](#) Renew early to win great prizes!

UPDATE ASCE ONLINE PROFILE REGULARLY

Please update your ASCE online profile with current E-mail 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.

2015-2016 Calendar of Events

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

OCTOBER 2015:

- Northwest Branch Board Meeting
- October 30 – PE, PS, and SE Vertical Exam (offered in Madison, Milwaukee and Platteville)
- October 31 – SE Lateral Exam (offered in Madison, Milwaukee and Platteville)

NOVEMBER:

- Northwest Branch Board Meeting
- November 20th: Call for Volunteers – STEM Exploration Day for Boys, Stevens Point

DECEMBER:

- Northwest Branch Board Meeting

JANUARY 2016:

- Northwest Branch Board Meeting
- Tour and Possible Presentation of Lock #6, Trempealeau

FEBRUARY:

- Northwest Branch Board Meeting

MARCH:

- Northwest Branch Board Meeting

APRIL:

- Northwest Branch Board Meeting
- April 15 – PE, PS, and SE Vertical Exam (offered in Madison, Milwaukee and Platteville)
- April 16 – SE Lateral Exam (offered in Madison, Milwaukee and Platteville)

CURRENT NORTHWEST BRANCH OFFICERS

President: Mike Binsfeld, J.F. Brennan Company: La Crosse, WI; (608) 386-2119, mikebinsfeld@jfbrennan.com

President-Elect: Kris Roppe, I&S Group, Inc.: La Crosse; (608) 789-2034, kris.roppe@is-grp.com

Secretary-Treasurer: Andy Walters, American Engineering Testing, Inc., Wausau, WI; (715) 359-3534 awalters@amengtest.com

Past President: Teresa Davis, WisDOT Northwest Region: Eau Claire; (715) 836-7277; brunnete.80@gmail.com

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Northwest Branch Directors-At-Large:

1. Jessica Felix, WisDOT Northwest Region: Eau Claire; (715) 225-9302; jessica.felix@dot.wi.gov
2. Marissa Wildeck, I&S Group, Inc.: La Crosse; (608) 789-2034, marissa.wildeck@is-grp.com
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