The Precast Concrete Association of Virginia

PCAV

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NEWSLETTER

Hard Facts

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The Precast Concrete Association of Virginia is dedicated to the growth of the Precast Concrete Industry. We will educate specifiers and end users as to the advantages and proper utilization of products and systems, and we will represent the industry in the Commonwealth of Virginia.

PCAV seminar gets rave review

Program heightens awareness of pre-cast products

The PCAV sponsored seminar, "New and Proven Concepts in Precast Pipe," was presented April 5 during the HRUHCA Earth Works 2000 trade show, held in the Virginia Beach Pavilion.

The how offered equipment and product displays, including a handsome showing by PCAV, and a variety of educational seminars for the consulting and agency engineers and utility contractors who attended the show.

One was the 4-hour PCAV seminar, conducted by Chuck Taylor, P.E., of Hanson Pipe & Products Co. It was designed to teach the basic hydraulic and structural design standard for storm and sanitary sewer pipe for gravity flow and present the value considerations for selecting various pipe materials.

New features of concrete pipe and instruction information about the design, selection, inspection and installation of drainage pipematerials was also included. Mr. Taylor provided comparisonson design methods and installation requirments for concrete pipe versus flexible pipe.

His PowerPoint presentation is available through PCAV. Please call if you would like the seminar presented at your office or to a group and PCAV will help you organize it.

What follows is an excerpt of an article that appeared in ***Construction*** magazine. The editor, Charlie Denn, gave the trade show high marks — and praised PCAV's efforts.

Taylor spoke at length about the latest battle in the pipe industry, whether to use conventional products such as concrete pipe, or try flexible pipe products as an alterna-

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Where we've been lately... And where we're heading

PCAV has participated in several trade shows in the last six months. Included in the PCAV itinerary has been:

❑HRUHCA Earth Works Expo 2000, Virginia Beach.

❑The 33rd Annual Mid Atlantic QA Workshop, Williamsburg.

❑APWA's regional meetings, Virginia Beach.

❑ASCE Norfolk Branch Stormwater Management Conference, Virginia Beach.

❑ VDOT/VRTBA's Contractor/Engineer Conference, Roanoke.

In coming months, our schedule of shows is almost

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NPCA education plans move forward

By Marie Derby

The National Precast Concrete Association is aggressively pushing forward its education initiative.

The organization added an education director to its professional staff last year, and offered education and training for the first time at the popular MCK Trade Show. More than 20 hours of precast-specific technical education drew nearly 1,400 attendees over the course of three days. The educational seminars were targeted primarily toward plant production personnel.

"NPCA is committed to providing affordable, pre-cast specific training that is pertinent to local needs," said NPCA President Ty E. Gable.

The organization also is moving localized educa-

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From the President



Scott Crumpler,
President, PCAV

It is a busy time for the Association as well as our members! As each of you knows, this is a double- edged sword. It's great to be busy (in a constructive way), but it always seems that for every task that you complete, two more are there to replace it! Terrific problem, right!?

I enjoyed seeing so many of our members in Kansas City for the MCX 2000 event, learning new ways of doing business and staying current with industry innovations.

You will read about our involvement with the VMI Engineering Camp in this issue of ***Hard Facts***. This is an exciting relationship for us to be able to participate in and help expose young people to our industry. Hanson was gracious enough to open their facility to the campers for tours during the session. This is a great way for folks to see up close what we do ***and*** how we do it!

We have an active Fall approaching. We will conduct our Annual Survey of Cement Usage in the industry. Please participate in this confidential fact-finding mission. I would also like to solicit negatives from our members in order that we might enhance our Display Unit.

We need photos of Storm Water Management structures to enable us to focus the content of our display to the "audience of the day." Send them to Todd Callis, Mimi Coles, or me, at your earliest convenience! Our addresses are listed in the PCAV Directory. If you need a directory, call the PCAV office at 888-503-4800.

I look forward to seeing everyone at the annual conference at Wintergreen, which is scheduled for Sept. 14-15. You can read more about conference planning in a column provided for this issue of Hard Facts by our conference coordinator Marie Derby. She's working very hard, as usual, to bring us a program worth our participation. Let's not let her down!

M. Scott Crumpler

Hard Facts is published twice a year by the Precast Concrete Association of Virginia as a service to its members. Submissions, story ideas, letters to the editor and comments are encouraged and welcomed.

Wintergreen

By Marie Derby

PCAV's membership dinner meeting, held May 23 at the Boar's Head Inn in Charlottesville, broke all attendance records, other than the annual conference. Speaker Jose Gomez from the Virginia Transportation Research Council, spoke on "High Performance Concrete Structures," and he gave an update on Bulb T design. The group's response was very favorable. The evening having been such a success, I hope to continue having the May event at the Boar's Head.

Plans for the annual convention, scheduled for Sept. 14-15 at Wintergreen Resort, are progressing nicely. Larry Sabato will speak at the General Session. Larry is a nationally renowned political scientist and election analyst, who has made his mark in academia, government and the media. His insights into the current state of American politics have made him, in the words of ***The Wall Street Journal,*** "probably the most-quoted college professor in the land."

The conference agenda also will include several presentations by PCAV associate members. The conference format, which has proven highly successful in past years, will remain the same.

Member Company News Briefs

Smith-Midland Corp. has completed a new production plant, which nearly doubles the firm's precast manufacturing capacity. The plant produces patented J-J Hooks precast concrete barrier product and the patented Slenderwall Exterior wall panel system.

Congratulations to **Smith-Midland Corp**. for recognition by the American Concrete Institute for the creative use of concrete in the Magellan Health Services Building. The Annual Excellence in Concrete Awards recognize projects whose design and construction represent the best in concept, originality and application of structural concrete.

CSR Hydro Conduit has relocated its Northern Virginia sales office. The new address is 4331 Ridgewood Center Drive, Woodbridge, VA 22192.

CSR Hydro Conduit has begun production on its new plant in Frederick, Md.

Northeast Cement Shippers Association (NESCA) has relocated to 1493 US Route 9, Castleton, NY 12033. The new phone number is (518) 732-0168. The new fax is (518) 732-0261. The company's e-mail and website addresses have remained the same.

Camp introduced youth to engineering job options

During a week in June, PCAV paid for several students to attend the 3rd annual Engineering Camp at Virginia Military Institute.

E-Camp, designed to highlight career opportunities in the world of engineering and the physical sciences, was open to rising 9th and 10th grade boys and girls. Dr. John Reister, a VMI civil engineering professor and camp director, guided students who designed projects and gained hands-on experience. The students lived in VMI barracks and ate in the VMI dining hall.

The program included physics demonstrations, computer sessions on internet search techniques, construction and launch of model rockets and work in a chemical analysis lab. The camp also featured field trips. This year's program enabled students to tour the PCAV member facility of Hanson Pipe & Products Co. plant in Salem, Va., where students spent the morning watching precast products being made.

Dear Mr. Crumpler,

Hello! My name is Heidi Welsh. I'm writing to tell you how camp was. I loved it! So thank you for paying for me to go.

I met a new friend, Andrea Johnson, and we are like best friends now. Hopefully, I can get a summer job so I can pay part of the camp fee next year. I know I want to go back! Thank you again.

The camp was a hit as a note we got from one participant demonstrates. The student was appreciative of the opportunity as a very special summer learning experience.

PCAV hopes to be able to continue to sponsor important educational opportunities for students who show interest in fields related to our industry. Through scholarships and programs in our schools, we can help educate engineers and precasters of tomorrow.



Calendar of Events

DATE	*EVENT*
July 18	Joint meeting with VDOT
Aug. 14	Executive Committee Meeting
Sept. 14-15	Annual Meeting, Wintergreen Resort
Oct. 10	Executive Committee Meeting
Nov. 14	Committees & Board Meetings
Dec. 12	Executive Committee Meeting

Seminar

Continued from front page

tive. He did numerous comparisons of the expectations and durability of the competing products.

"We don't know a lot about the performance of flexible pipe" Taylor noted. "The product is fairly new to the market and frankly, the only thing that will tell us about howcompetitive it is with concrete pipe is time. To this point, there hasn't been enough time to see how well flexible pipe holds up on a job site because it is so new."

Concrete pipe, of course, has been around for generations and its performance has been well-documented. It has been proven to be reliable, dependable and very long-lasting...

"There are a number of things we already know about concrete pipe," Taylor said. "For instance, tests in the field have shown it to be minimally affected by abrasion, while early results on flexible pipe show that it, too, is resistant to abrasion but that was when the product was new in the ground...

"Again, because it hasn't been around as long, we don't know how the surface of flexible pipe will hold up as it wears thin with time."

Concrete pipe is also extremely dependable. Its long history is well documented.

The battle fornow will continue. And like any good struggle, time will be the ultimate test of longevity. Just as time has proven the regional trade show of the Hampton Roads Utility & Heavy Contractors Association such a success.

Where we're going

Continued from front page

as busy as it has been over the last half a year. PCAV will be represented at:

- ❑ PCAV Annual Meeting, Wintergreen, Sept. 14-15.
- ❑ ASCE State Conference, Virginia Beach, Oct. 2-3.
- ❑ 50th Virginia Transportation Conference, Lexington, Oct. 19-20.

NPCA

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tional programming. For example, in cooperation with the Ohio Department of Transportation, NPCA has announced plans to conduct a new training course specifically for precasters who supply to ODOT. The course will enable precasters to meet new ODOT regulations that require plants to be certified and have a certified Quality Control Inspector.

The course, entitled "Fundamentals of Quality Concrete for DOT Precasters," will be a two-day program covering the four core areas of materials, concrete production practices, and quality control. Participants will get lab time and will be required to pass a written exam in order to qualify for their certification.

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