

# The Nebraska Civil Engineer



Official Publication of the Nebraska Section of the American Society of Civil Engineers

## Calendar of Events:

### November:

18 - November Meeting - The Steakhouse, Lincoln

20 - Design-Build Competition  
(Boy Scouts Exploring)

### December:

10 - Comedy Night - The Funny Bone,  
Village Pointe, Omaha - 8 PM

### January:

10 - Registration Due for PE Exam

The Younger Members invite you to:

**Comedy Night**  
December 10, 8 pm

at the Funny Bone Comedy Club &  
Restaurant for Pat Godwin

Pat first broke onto the scene with his holiday classic "*Let's Put Christ Back in Christmas*" from the album Reindeer Games, which received airplay all over the country. Pat is also known for: "*Gangsta Folk*" as well as the smash hits "*First Date*," "*Nobody Speaks English, Anymore*," and "*Voices in my Head*."

Tickets available at the door for \$15 or RSVP to [yng@neasce.org](mailto:yng@neasce.org) by Nov. 23<sup>rd</sup> for a group discount.

## Highlights of This Issue:

**Project Spotlight: Trail Marking Project  
Increases Safety**

**P.E. Exam Help**

**A Piece of the National Convention  
in Baltimore**

## The Management Group Presents:

**"Civil Engineering Body of Knowledge:  
Preparing the Civil Engineer of the Future."**

Thursday, November 18th

Featuring: **Dale Jacobson, P.E., DEE**  
Jacobson Helgoth Consultants, Inc.

Dale Jacobson is a principal of Jacobson Helgoth Consultants, a multi-disciplinary environmental consulting firm with offices in Omaha and Lincoln, Nebraska; Denver, Colorado; and Sacramento, California. He is a professional engineer in Nebraska and Iowa, with 34 years of environmental engineering experience in municipal and industrial wastewater treatment, groundwater, solid waste, hazardous waste, and low-level radioactive waste.

Dale is currently serving on the ASCE Curricula Committee, one of three committees (Curricula, Licensure and Accreditation) operating under the Committee on Academic Prerequisites for Professional Practice, that is responsive for implementation of ASCE Policy Statement 465. He also serves on the ASCE National Energy and Environmental Systems Policy Committee, and has just completed service as Chair of the ASCE Task Committee on Specialty Certification. He was recently elected to serve as President of Civil Engineering Certification, Inc., the ASCE entity charged with implementing specialty certification.

**Location: The Steakhouse, 3441 Adams St.,  
Lincoln**

### Times:

Social Hour 5:30  
Dinner 6:30  
Presentation 7:30 - 9:00

**Menu: Prime Rib, Grilled Boneless Chicken  
Breast, Stuffed Sole Monterey**

Spouses and guests welcome, \$25 / person  
RSVP by Monday, November 15<sup>th</sup>

TO CRYSTAL 402.496.2498 OR  
[VP@NEASCE.ORG](mailto:VP@NEASCE.ORG) SUBJECT LINE: ASCE RSVP

# From the President

- Loras A Klostermann, P.E.

Everyone breath a collective sigh of relief. The elections are over! I hope some, if not all, of your choices were elected. It's time for everyone to again work together for the common good.

ASCE appreciates those local companies that support this organization in the form of newsletter advertisements. Unfortunately, several of the companies that usually provide advertisements have not renewed for this year. Please forward your information and payments to **Ben Higgins**, the Fund Raising Chairman immediately. You may email Ben at [fundraising@neasce.com](mailto:fundraising@neasce.com).

Sometimes it appears that the volunteer activities are largely unnoticed. Now and then, we receive thanks for our efforts. Earlier, I received a note of appreciation from **Jason Hascall**, named Outstanding Senior from the Lincoln campus this spring by the Section. A letter of thanks for our Section's efforts was also received from **Patricia Galloway**, last year's President of ASCE National. Thanks to all of you that made the past year a success, from those who simply attended meetings, to those who planned and provided outstanding assistance beyond the call of duty.

In addition to being very active in the Nebraska Section, and the current Chair of the Structural Committee, **Scott Gilliland** of Tadros Associates, has received the Russell C. Hill Award from Boy Scouts of America. This National Award is the highest recognition by the Boy Scouts of America, for individuals making an outstanding contribution to character education at the local level that has added to the quality of life for families through the Learning for Life Program. Scott was presented this award at the Silver Beaver Recognition Reception on Sunday, November 7, 2004.

The National Committee on Younger Members is actively soliciting nominations for five national younger member awards. The awards are: The Daniel W. Mead Prize, The Edmund Friedman Young Engineer Award for Professional Achievement, The Young Government Civil Engineer Award, The Younger Member Group Award, and The Collingwood Prize. The deadline for all award nominations is February 1, 2005. Contact Marie Maly at [ymg@neasce.com](mailto:ymg@neasce.com) or go to [http://www.asce.org/pressroom/honors/cym\\_awrds.cfm](http://www.asce.org/pressroom/honors/cym_awrds.cfm) for nomination forms and additional information. I know we have young engineers in the Section that are deserving of these awards, so please fill out the nomination forms.

We are appalled to hear about the vandalism of the Nelson Buck Historical Site near Marion, NE on HWY 89. Indians killed Nelson Buck and his entire survey party in 1869. The marble memorial has graffiti on it and both the marble and limestone memorials have been destroyed with a pick ax or some other type of hammer. The plaque that tells the Nelson Buck Survey Party story has a note that says ASCE prepared the historical site. Marie Maly found a website with photos of the marker and some links to the story (<http://www.rootsweb.com/~neredwil/nelsonbuck.htm>), but could not find it on the NE State Historical Society website (<http://www.nebraskahistory.org/>). If anyone has any information concerning ASCE involvement in the historic site, please contact **Brad Chambers**, History & Heritage Chairman. Thanks to **Kevin Hodgson**, LSI with Miller and Associates out of McCook, Nebraska for bringing this to our attention.

This month the Management Group is featuring **Dale Jacobson**, who will provide the most current information concerning the Civil Engineering Body of Knowledge. Be sure to attend this month's meeting.

There will be no December newsletter or Section meeting. Have a joyous holiday season with colleagues, family, and friends.

Loras A. Klostermann, P.E.  
ASCE Nebraska Section President



Loras Klostermann, P.E.  
NE-ASCE President

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## October Meeting Hosted by the Construction Group

Thanks to *Aaron Buettner* and *David Sinsheimer* for putting on a great meeting and presentation on the Oakland Bay Bridge.

The names listed below can be considered official documentation of attendance at the October meeting worth 1 PDH credit.

Mike Baumert	Brian Havens	Ray Moore
Ryan Beckhan	John Hill	Ryan Paradis
Helen Bottum	Dave Johnson	Shashindra Pradhan
Steven Bottum	Susan Jorgensen	Ed Prost
Aaron Buettner	Steve Kathol	Daryoush Razavien
Brad Chambers	Brad Levich	David Sinsheimer
Eric Dixon	Lindsey Madsen	Mark Stark
Scott Gilliland	Tom Marnik	Maher Tadros
Mike Haccarato	Dave McIvor	Larry Troutman
		Andy Wester

Susan Jorgenson was omitted from the September meeting attendance list in error.

## PE Exam Help

**Both P.E.'s and F.E.'s are encouraged to participate**

The Younger Members are compiling a list of future test-takers and "experts" (licensed engineers) to be used as a help reference. A study group may also be set up, depending on interest.

If you would like help or are willing to occasionally answer questions, please e-mail your name, phone, e-mail, license status, and area of experience to **Marie Maly** at [yng@neasce.org](mailto:yng@neasce.org). The list will be compiled and provided to those participating.



## What Goes Up...

Would you like to help teenagers learn more about engineering? Care to work with a small group of kids and a hodgepodge of materials to build something to protect a raw egg that will be launched into the air? If you would like the opportunity to do that and more – like showing kids that engineering is cool, we could use your help! **Saturday, November 20**, the NE-ASCE Younger Members will be co-hosting a Design-Build Event with the Exploring Program. If you can volunteer your morning to help mentor a team and assist in scoring, please contact **Marie Maly** at [yng@neasce.org](mailto:yng@neasce.org) or 493-4800. The event is at the **Peter Kiewit Institute at UNO**, from **8:30 am to 12:00 pm**.

The Nebraska Civil Engineer  
November 2004

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# Project Spotlight

## Premier Trail Marker Project Increases Safety

Written by: Leslie Peterson & Jenifer Schmidt  
-Lamp Rynearson & Associates, Inc.

### Challenge

The 11 Rotary Clubs in the Council Bluffs and Omaha areas and their 1000 members were faced with the challenge of commemorating Rotary International's Centennial in way that would live up to the motto, "Service Above Self". Rotary members looked no further than the city's recreational trail system. Omaha started creating a trail system in 1989, but an important component was absent...safety.

The Greater Omaha area, including Council Bluffs, has many recreational trails that are a wonderful addition to its communities, but as usage of the trails increased, timely emergency response became an issue of concern. In July of 2001, the Omaha World Herald reported a man

riding a bike was struck by lightning on a trail and stated "emergency workers would have liked to have arrived more quickly." There have also been other instances of emergencies and confusion about the exact location of the injured or issues inhibiting response time from emergency workers.

The goal is to install 1050 markers and 25 signs on all 105 miles of recre-

ational trails in Douglas, Sarpy and Pottawattamie Counties by February 2005, making it the first project of its kind in the state of Nebraska. This was agreed upon as a project for the Omaha Rotary Clubs to tackle. These mile markers will be incorporated into the 911 system so emergency responders can immediately pinpoint the location of an emergency or accident, providing safety for thousands of people who use the trails.

**Brett Wawers, P.E.;** Lamp Rynearson & Associates, Inc. is chairman of the project. LRA is an Omaha-based civil engineering firm that has departments dedicated to GIS

(Geographic Information Services), Survey, Land Planning, and Transportation. Brett was a natural choice to lead the Trail Marking Project and soon became immersed in this meaningful goal. Brett noted, "The LRA



team really enjoyed this project and our employees were excited to make this project happen. So many of our employees and their families are trail users. It was neat to have a positive effect on our community."

### Solution

It was determined that eight-inch markers would be placed at each mile of the trail and five-inch markers every tenth of a mile. Not only are the markers essential for emergency response and safety on the trails, but they also allow the users to know the distance they have traveled or provide identification for a meeting place for friends. Each marker is easy to read and includes a directional name: north, south, east, or west. They are weatherproof, have multidirectional text, and are mounted so the face is flush with the trail surface, allowing for minimal maintenance, easy snow removal and mowing, and are not obstructive to the trail user.

There was an estimated 105 miles of trails to be surveyed using aerial interpretation to digitize the trails. From the aeriels, LRA is capable of mapping 60 % of the trail network. Global Positioning System (GPS) would be used to map the remaining areas. The aerial photos were obtained from the Counties' websites, in which the areas trail systems are found. The center of each trail was located, traced, and then translated to AutoCAD. Obstructions along the trails that would prohibit emergency response vehicles from arriving to their destination were mapped and included. This valuable information will aid the 911 dispatchers in giving the EMT's (Emergency Medical Technicians) the quickest route to the emergency. In addition to 911, Fire and Rescue and local police and sheriff departments were solidly behind this project. "As Fire Chief where several trails cross our fire district, I am writing to compliment the Papio-Missouri River NRD and the Rotary Clubs of Omaha for the foresight in marking the Omaha Trails. This is a superb step forward in being able to render emergency services to us-

*Continued on Page 5*



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A Brief Overview of the Presentation:

## **"Evolving from Designer to Trusted Advisor: Elevating the Role of the Engineer"**

Where does your engineering firm fit into the construction market; as consultants to an architectural firm or as tradesmen trying to get the lowest bid? Is that the position we as a profession want to be, or do we want to be the leaders and trusted advisors in our projects and communities?

"Our own behavior will impact how others view us and define our role." If we allow ourselves to play the game of the low bidder, or wait to be asked to do something and are not proactively understanding the client's needs, the view we are giving our clients is that engineers are no different than contractors or tradesmen. Why shouldn't they search for the lowest bidder? The value of the engineer will be dramatically cut.

To elevate our profession we "need to first convince ourselves of the rightful role of engineers in the world at-large." As active members in Civil Engineering, we should strive for a qualifications-based selection process for all of our projects. As quality professionals, we should be *selected* for projects based on our firm's qualifications. "Being a Trusted Advisor means we develop the projects as an extension of our ongoing relationship with the owner." Through our own innovation and understanding of our clients needs, we can produce "sole-sourced, high fee work." This not only elevates the consulting firm, but the engineering profession as a whole. To achieve this level of respect with our clients and within our communities we must:

- "Foster an environment of trust and communication among all parties"
- "Assure responsiveness to the needs of all stakeholders"
- "Meet the owner's project quality objectives"
- "Protect the public's interest"

We as engineers should become proactive within our profession and the community. Present projects that benefit our community to developers and our cities become leaders in our projects and Trusted Advisors to our communities and clients.

-Overview written by Peggy Meyers, E.I.  
Lamp Rynearson & Associates, Inc.  
NE-ASCE Editor, and Younger Member

-Presentation given by Erick Flicker, P.E.;  
CFO Pennoni Associates Inc.  
at the 2004 ASCE Younger Member Leadership Symposium, Baltimore MD.

## **Continued ... Premier Trail Marker Project Increases Safety**

ers of the Omaha Trails. The trail markers will make our task considerably easier," said Dale Tedder, Fire Chief, Bellevue Nebraska Volunteer Fire Department.

### **Funding**

Funding for the project has come from various entities. Area Rotarians pledged over \$108,000. Contributions have also been received from non-Rotarians in the amount of \$3,000. Omaha Peddlers, a cycling organization, also contributed \$500.

Rotarians received a Grant from the Peter Kiewit Foundation in the amount of \$35,000. The Peter Kiewit Foundation, an Omaha philanthropic organization, has a long tradition of investing in projects that will benefit all Nebraskans and advance the state's economy.

Donations can be made at any time to the Omaha Rotary Trails Marking Fund, West Omaha Rotary Foundation, 16468 Pierce St., Omaha, NE 68130-1338.

### **Conclusion**

The Rotary Trail Marker project for the Greater Omaha area and Council Bluffs is 45% complete and will be finished in the year 2005. The project has received attention from local and regional rotary clubs and trail enthusiasts. The team members who volunteered their time and energy for the project have only to look to the thousands of recreational trail users to realize the end result is worth the investment.

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