



# The Nebraska Civil Engineer

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

March 2016

## Event Calendar:

- March 5- Habitat for Humanity Omaha
- March 17- Environmental Meeting

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March Meeting **1**

Date: Thursday, March 17th, 2016  
Location: Granite City Food & Brewery  
1001 N. 102nd Street  
Omaha, NE

From the President **2**

February Meeting **3**  
Summary

Program: "NDOR Sargent Wetland Reclamation"

Presenter: Quinn Damgaard - HDR

Quinn Damgaard has worked as an Environmental Scientist with HDR for 11 years. He supports transportation clients in NEPA documentation, construction phase environmental compliance, and all facets of wetland/404 permitting including wetland mitigation development. Recently, Quinn and his multi-disciplinary HDR team, assisted NDOR in reclaiming an abandoned sewage lagoon for wetland mitigation/banking purposes.

2017 Centennial **4**  
Celebration

2016 E-Week School **5**  
Blitz

Truss Bustin! **6-7**

Upcoming Seminars **8**  
and Workshops

Times: 11:00 am Social Hour  
11:30 am Lunch  
12:00 pm Presentation

Menu/Price: Chop Salad with Chicken  
Chicken Salad Sandwich  
Overlake Sandwich  
Beda Chedda Bacon Burger  
Adult Bock Mac and Cheese  
Crispy Shrimp Taco Duo  
Chicken Caesar Wrap  
Soup and Salad Combo

\$15.00 with meal, \$10.00 without meal

Payable to NEASCE at the door (cash, check, or credit card).

**Life Members** and **Students** are FREE....but you must register.

Registration/Deadline: Register at <http://meeting.neasce.com/signup/> Sign up by 12:00 Noon Tuesday March 15, 2016.



**Joe Flaxbeard, PE,  
M.ASCE**

## From the President

Greetings Nebraska Section!

We had an action packed February this year. Thanks to all of our committee chairs and volunteers for putting together successful events including the GeoOmaha conference, E-Week School Blitz and the Truss Bustin' competition. We have more events coming up in the next few months including the Transportation Conference and our Annual Banquet, so be on the lookout for information regarding those.

As I mentioned last month, NEASCE will be celebrating its centennial in 2017. The section's current Vice President, Matt Hubel, has volunteered to champion the section's efforts in organizing some special events and promotions for this once-in-a-lifetime (or once every 100 years) occurrence. In order to pull off an amazing centennial, we need your help! If you are interested in serving on the Centennial Planning Committee, please contact Matt Hubel or me (mhubel@schemmer.com or joe.flaxbeard@LRA-INC.com) and we can get started.

Soon, the Section Board will be meeting to nominate officers and committee chairs for 2016-2017. If you are interested in getting involved in the NEASCE Board or any of our events, please contact me.

The first couple months of 2016 just flew by. If you forgot or put off renewing your ASCE membership for 2016, please do so. The Nebraska Section tries to create events and opportunities to benefit all of its members and we cannot do that without the financial support of your membership. I'd like to thank all of our members for making what we do as NEASCE possible.

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## February Meeting Summary

The Nebraska Geotechnical Group hosted dinner and presentation from Jim Theiler, CSO Program Coordinator. He spoke about the City of Omaha's Combined Sewer Overflow Program and the major construction operations associated with the project.

The list below can be considered official documentation of attendance at the February 12th, 2016 meeting and presentation worth one (1) PDH credit.

Amelia Ganze	Andrew Phillips	Bill Murphy	Brandon Gardels	Brian Havens
Bryan Kumm	Carlos Sevilla	Clinton Halverson	Dan Snyder	David Anderson
David Svingen	David Rohan	Dennis Anderson	Derek Schriner	Ed Prost
Ed Thiele	Elizabeth Kreher	Gopala Allam	Harvey Funk	Jake Sellin
Jason Herr	Jeff McClenathan	Jeremy Stromeyer	John Hill	Kevin Lakey
Kristle Beaudet	Mark Nelson	Matt Hubel	Megan Meyer	Mike Cocks
Mike Sklenar	Mike Trout	Mike Reif	Nicholas Menefee	Nick Gilles
Patricia Rohan	Patrick Kinsella	Phillip Gallet	Raed Tawadrous	Rick Donovan
Roger Helgoth	Ryan Leigh	Ryan Sisk	Scott Miller	Shane Sparks
Tom Strauss	Travis Deane	Tyler Cramer	Jim Kollbaum	Tim Bendell
Justin Anderson	Nick Nuttbrock	Patrick Poepsil	Rick Wilson	Tyler Klusaw

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**ASCE Nebraska Section – 2017 Centennial Celebration | Matt Hubel**

In case you just joined ASCE in the last 99 years or so, you probably aren't aware that the Nebraska Section of ASCE will be turning 100 in 2017! That's 100 years of providing civil engineers a place to learn, network, and give back to the community.

Our centennial in 2017 will be a time to celebrate our accomplishments, recognize the important work that civil engineers provide every day, and to look forward to the future.

Our board has put together a great list of ideas for exciting events for the year-long celebration. And in a moment of temporary delirium, I volunteered to lead up our Section's planning for these events. Long story short, I'm going to need some help, so I'm looking for volunteers to help me out. No special skills or previous experience required!

I am looking for a couple people with the following inherent skills:

- Computer hacking
- Graphic Design
- Cat Herding
- Karate

Ok, mostly just graphic design

All volunteers will be rewarded handsomely with FREE BEER at our planning sessions and gratuitous high-fives!

If you are interested in helping out, even if just to make a few phone calls, please email me at [mhubel@schemmer.com](mailto:mhubel@schemmer.com) or give me a call at 402-769-9828. I look forward to hearing from you.

If you can't help out, no worries. Just keep your eye on upcoming newsletters, our website ([www.neasce.org](http://www.neasce.org)), and email blasts for updates on the upcoming centennial celebration!

Matt Hubel  
NEASCE Vice-President



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## 2016 E-Week School Blitz | John Smith

The Nebraska Section's second annual E-Week School Blitz was just completed and the event was again a success. This year, our volunteers presented to over 550 students in 23 different classrooms. Special thanks to Birchcrest Elementary (Bellevue), Joslyn Elementary (Omaha), and Mickle Middle School (Lincoln) for promoting E-Week in their schools and embracing our presenters.

The event followed a similar format as last year with presentations designed to show kids how engineering (with some emphasis on Civil) affects their day to day lives, to teach about the design process, and to encourage interest in science, technology, engineering, or mathematics. The students also participated in activities. For the younger grades, domes were constructed using gum drops and tooth picks, teaching students about shapes and the particular strengths of triangles. Other classrooms constructed bridges using only a sheet of paper. The paper was folded to modify its shape and increase its strength. The bridges, which spanned 8", were loaded with pennies (and other weights for the extra strong ones). This activity gave the students a chance to practice the design process as they planned out their design, tested, and then redesigned.

These presentations were especially meaningful coming from actual engineers. Thank you to the 11 volunteers who donated their time to do presentations, many times to multiple classrooms. Special thanks to Eric Derickson and Derek Schriner, civil engineering students from UNO who helped with this event.

We plan to continue the E-Week School Blitz next year so please put E-Week on your calendars (Feb. 19-25) and consider volunteering; there is never a shortage of schools and teachers looking for a professional to speak to their students. Thanks again to this year's volunteers who really made a world of difference !



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## ASCE Truss Bustin'! | Ryan Hanson

The 2016 ASCE Truss Bustin' competition is in the books, concluding another successful year! This year's competition took place on Saturday, February 27th in the atrium of the Peter Kiewit Institute (PKI) on the University of Nebraska – Omaha campus. The competition challenges Omaha-area high school students to design and construct a balsa wood bridge, simulating the engineering design process from concept through construction. In total, 84 trusses were load tested this year, constructed by 107 students from 5 Omaha-area high schools. Two schools participated in the competition for the first time, and there is a high potential for additional growth.

Congratulations to the winners! A team from Gross Catholic High School consisting of Christian Woodle, Thomas Cordwin, and Chance Sauley took 1st place with a truss that held 114.98 pounds and weighed 62.6 grams. The team of Monica Blake, Sophia Ketchmark, and James Lohans, also from Gross, took 2nd place, and Jeremiah Howard from Omaha North High School took 3rd place. Nice work guys and gals!

A brand-new load testing machine was used for the first time at the competition. This new testing machine is owned by ASCE and provides more versatility in truss geometry and load cases than the previous design. ASCE would like to give a big thank you to Paxton & Vierling Steel Company in Carter Lake, Iowa for their generous donation towards building this new machine! PVS donated the time and materials to fabricate the frame of the testing machine, while ASCE provided other parts such as the

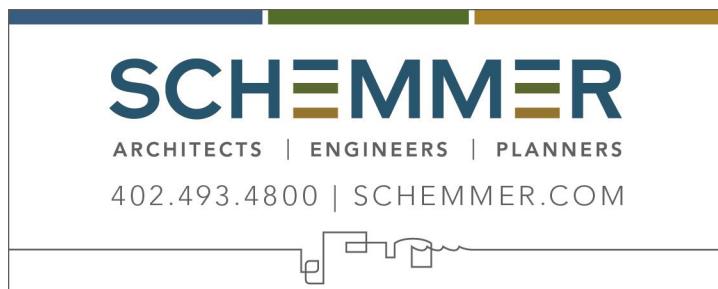


load cell and wheels. This work could not have been accomplished without their help, and it was a pleasure working with the PVS team to build this investment in the competition's future.

Thank you to all who participated and volunteered at this event, and we are already looking forward to next year's competition!



Brent Pfeiffer  
Sales Manager  
501 Avenue H  
Carter Lake, IA 51510  
712.347.4289  
bpfeiffer@pvsteel.com



## 2016 ASCE Truss Bustin Competition



**Upcoming Events and Seminars**

Region	Program	Full Dates	City/
7	Construction Dewatering and Groundwater Control: Design and Application	March 10-11, 2016	Denver, CO
7	Pumping Systems Design for Civil Engineers	March 10-11, 2016	St. Louis, MO



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402-496-2498  
joe.flaxbeard@lra-inc.com

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The Schemmer Associates, Inc.  
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Torres.asce@gmail.com

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Aaron Buettner, P.E, M.ASCE  
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402-479-2432  
ABuettner@benesch.com

**The Nebraska Civil Engineer**  
c/o Chris Podany  
HDR Inc  
8404 Indian Hills Drive,  
Omaha, NE 68114

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For underwriting information, contact Chris  
Podany, Fundraising Chair, at 402-202-0719 or  
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Deadline for articles to be published in the April newsletter will be  
April 1st. Email articles to Chris Podany at  
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