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Richmond Branch - ASCE  
<http://www.ascevirginia.org>

## INSIDE THIS ISSUE

- 1 March Meeting Information
- 2 A Message from the President
- 3 Popsicle Stick Bridge Competition
- 4 Capital Region Employment Transition Center

## The James River Green Building Council (JRGBC) Update

Date: March 26, 2009 (note this is a Thursday evening)  
Place: Westwood Club  
Time: 5:30 Social hour, 6:30 dinner, 7:15 speaker  
Costs: \$25.00  
Menu:

Contact Leslie West at 804-307-3282 or email her at [csirichmond@comcast.net](mailto:csirichmond@comcast.net) by March 19, 2009.

*The local chapters of **ASCE** and the **Construction Specifications Institute (CSI)** join forces for an **evening** meeting at the Westwood Club*

The JRGBC is working to promote its vision of a sustainable built environment in central Virginia. This program will highlight the efforts of the JRGBC including an update on the action committees the JRGBC has developed to address issues such as public awareness of green building, professional education and training, advocacy, and green market development.

The evening's speaker will be R. Scott Wheeler (Project Manager/Project Designer/LEED AP for BCWH Architects.) Mr. Wheeler was a founding board member of JRGBC and serves as the program chair. Prior to being involved with the JRGBC, Mr. Wheeler was a founding board member and program chair for the Atlanta Regional Green Building Council (ARGBC) and also served as the program chair for the Atlanta American Institute of Architects (AIA) Committee on the Environment (COTE).

## A Message from the President

By Bryan Stevenson



As March rolled in, the Richmond branch (specifically the Younger Member group) dealt with a couple storms. There was the 10" of snow that canceled the Younger member bowling night and also the news that the YM Chair Lee Ann Gudorp was relocating to Tyson's Corner.

Lee Ann will surely be missed. As mentioned in articles in this space prior, Lee Ann breathed new life into our Younger Member efforts.

The group has grown tremendously under her guidance and several events and activities have taken place. Though Lee Ann may be gone, her legacy remains among our active Younger Members. We wish the best to Lee Ann and thank her for her service to the Branch.

Prior to all of that, your Branch had an active participation in Engineers Week. Once again, we were well represented at the annual Richmond Joint Engineer Council Engineer Banquet. As you saw in the last newsletter, we also had an amazing amount of interest in the popsicle stick bridge competition that is run every year in conjunction with the Career Day. Make sure you read Mike Howell's article in this newsletter. Thanks to Mike, all of the volunteers, the Richmond Joint Engineer Council and The Science Museum for all the hard work.

The General Assembly had an active short session, addressing some issues that affect our field. A good summary of a handful of the bills that passed (and failed) can be found in the Session Highlights 2009 at <http://dls.state.va.us/pubs/hilights/2009/Highlights2009.pdf>

I will be heading to the Region 4 Governors conference in Indianapolis at the end of the month. I should be able to give you a brief update on this conference after I get back. I imagine it will be a busy two days.

Are you interested in getting involved? If so, we have a variety of ways you can participate. Contact Paul Hinson at (804) 200-1914 or [phinson@koontzbryant.com](mailto:phinson@koontzbryant.com) or me at (804) 330-8040 or [bryan.stevenson@aesva.com](mailto:bryan.stevenson@aesva.com)

## The Popsicle Stick Bridge Competition

*By Mike Howell*

On February 22<sup>nd</sup> ASCE hosted its annual Popsicle Bridge Contest at the Science Museum of Virginia. Over 100 students representing 20 Richmond area schools entered over 50 bridges into the competition this year. This was the largest turnout that the event has had yet in its history. ASCE members Craig Ponte and Howie Kallman created the ASCE Bridge and were on hand to demonstrate an “engineers” approach to creating a bridge which was entertaining and educational for all. The winning teams were based on an “Efficiency Rating”. The rating was calculated as a ratio of the amount of weight a bridge could hold divided by the weight of the bridge. The winning bridges held over 200 lbs before the capacity of the testing apparatus was exceeded. A special thanks to all of the ASCE members and other volunteers who made the event successful.

Below are the this year’s winners. An asterisk next to the student’s name indicates that their score at least matched the score of the ASCE Bridge before loading was stopped.

### High School

*Tied 1<sup>st</sup> Place*

Neil O’Patrick \*

Appomattox Regional Governors School

*Tied 1<sup>st</sup> Place*

William Bannard, Chris Delaney, Patrick Delaney \*  
St. Christophers

*2<sup>nd</sup> Place*

Matt Yurcaba, Lauren Estep, Thomas Trimmer  
Manchester High School

### Most Aesthetic

Neil O’Patrick

Appomattox Regional Governors School

### Most Innovative

Sarah Aboulhosn, Sijil Butt, Hunter Wells  
Manchester High School

### Middle School

*1<sup>st</sup> Place*

Michael Muller II \*

Matoaca Middle School

*2<sup>nd</sup> Place*

Tahj Jackson, Marcus Sanuders  
Henderson Middle School

## The Capital Region Employment Transition Center opens in Innsbrook

The Capital Region Employment Transition Center recently opened in Innsbrook. The Center is a joint venture between localities in the greater Richmond area (Richmond, Henrico, Chesterfield, Hanover, Goochland, Powhatan, New Kent and Charles City.)

The Center will be a valuable resource for those in need of a job that were laid off after December 1, 2008. Among the resources will be assistance in applying for unemployment benefits, resume development and work force related workshops.

The center is open Monday through Friday from 9 a.m. to 6 p.m. at the former Innsbrook Public Library in western Henrico (4060 Innslake Drive.) The phone number for the center is (804) 273-6260.

Employers are also encouraged to participate.

Similar services to the above can be found at any of the Capital Region Workforce Centers at the following locations (with phone numbers): 5410 Williamsburg Road (226-1941); 6301 Midlothian Turnpike (675-9910); and 7333 Whitepine Road (271-8510.)

**Support your branch! Would you like to advertise your company's logo in next month's issue? The cost is \$10 (checks only, made payable to ASCE Richmond Branch). Contact any board member for details.**

Did you know there are over 200 active members of the Richmond Branch! Do you have something to say? Would you like to contribute an article? Let's hear from you, and maybe your thoughts will be in the next newsletter. Contact Bryan Stevenson at 330-8040.