



THE FORGE

Newsletter of the Birmingham Branch of ASCE

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Meeting Information for March

Our monthly meetings are held at the Altadena Valley Golf and Country Club off of the Acton Road exit on I-459. The meeting will start at 11:30 am as always.

The Branch is responsible for lunch, so we need an accurate head count a week before the meeting which means we have to let the club know the **Thursday before** each meeting. The price is \$14.00 which you can pay to the Branch Secretary/Treasurer at the meeting or online at our website.

The Club's address is 2651 Alta Vista Drive, Birmingham, Alabama 35243 and can be reached from the Acton Road exit just west of Highway 280 on I-459. The club's phone number is 205.967.5322. Please visit the website for maps and directions from your location.

Presenters Lined Up So Far

Month	Speaker	Topic
March, '08	L'Tryce Slade	Alabama Environmental Regulations for Engineers
April, '08	Bobby Nolen	Threading a Needle - A Drainage Dilemma One way to drain runoff from a 58-acre basin unattenuated through an 8" opening.

A Message from the President

By Jonathan Byrd



*"I love deadlines. I love the whooshing sound they make as they fly by." –
Douglas Adams*

Each month when the time for writing a new article for this newsletter comes it seems so far off that I will never have a bit of problem in finishing it up before I get phone calls and emails telling me it is time to submit. Usually that gets my mind working, and I start composing an article. A few days later someone will call or email to remind me and I can honestly tell them that I started working on it already. As the deadline looms closer and closer, sometimes I actually start typing, other times I re-compose the whole thing in my head. Then suddenly the day it has to be in arrives, and I am again late. One of my favorite authors is Douglas Adams. Wonderful author, great dry sense of humour, horribly agnostic, and also quite dead. One of my favorite quotes from his is "I love deadlines. I love the whooshing sound they make as they fly by."

Usually when we try to solve a problem, the best way to start is to figure out what caused the problem. I am not sure how we ever got to the stage where we have so many things to do and so little time to get them done in. It does not matter if it is for a newsletter article, a work deadline, or something we need to do before we take a family vacation. We all simply seem to be in such a big rush that there is no time to do anything but get further and further behind. I am frantically looking for someone who is not so far behind, not so much because I want to give them some of what I have to do, but just to be able to see how they do it. Well, that and I would like to find a volunteer who has enough time to be the Branch's Student Practitioner Advisor for the UAB Student Branch.

The Advisor is in a unique position to help prospective engineers understand a little more about what goes on from day to day in an engineer's life. This can help them prepare for what they will be facing upon graduation. They also are able to meet up and coming engineers and have an excellent method to plug in to an employment database—in case anyone needed to hire an engineer. We need a volunteer, who is willing to help encourage, teach and train some new engineers to get ready for the everyday hustle and bustle that is the whirlwind of engineering in the twenty-first century.

Did I mention the deadline has already passed and we are late?

Scholarship Golf Tournament

By Andrew Faulk

We are approximately two months away from another tournament. I'm sure everyone has had scads of free time to practice; so, dust off the shoes and wipe the cobwebs from the clubs... it's time to put your teams together for the 2008 Scholarship Tournament.

This year's tournament is graciously sponsored by Saiia Construction, L.L.C. and DUNN Construction Company. The tournament will be held at the Altadena Valley Country Club on Monday, May 5th, 2008 with lunch and registration starting at 11:30 a.m. A shotgun start will be at 1:00 p.m.

The registration fee is \$500.00 for a team of four and that includes greens fee, cart, lunch, two mulligans per player and a few drinks during play. The beverage cart will be on hand doling out our beverages until they run out at which time you may purchase drinks from the cart. The individual registration fee is \$150 per person. Individuals will be assigned to a team the day of the tournament.

This year the form may be downloaded from the branch website at <http://branches.asce.org/birmingham>. The forms will be accepted by fax, snail-mail or email. Registration forms are due by the 11th of April, 2008. If you have any questions about the tournament please contact Dwight Turnipseed at 205-329-3464 or by email to dturnipseed@gallet.com. The registration forms should be on the website by the 29th of February, 2008.

REGISTRATION FORM

The Birmingham Branch of the American Society of Civil Engineers would like to invite you to the 2008 Scholarship Golf Tournament on behalf of SAIIA Construction and DUNN Construction, this years generous sponsors.

Tournament Date: Monday, May 5th, 2008
 Location: Altadena Valley Country Club
 Check-in/Lunch: 11:30 a.m.
 Tee-off: 1:00 p.m.
Registration Forms Due by 2:00 p.m., April 11, 2008
 Registration includes greens fee, cart, lunch, 2 mulligans per player and drinks during play.

Company/Team Name: _____
 Players (Capt.): 1: _____ Phone: _____
 2: _____ Phone: _____
 3: _____ Phone: _____
 4: _____ Phone: _____

Team Captain/Contact's email address: _____
 Mailing Address: _____

Team Registration Fee: \$500.00 (If entering more than one team, please use a separate form)
 Individual Registration Fee: \$150.00
 Amount: \$ _____ Check Credit Card At Door
 Check Number: _____ Name on Credit Card: _____

You may pay online through the branch website, <http://branches.asce.org/birmingham> and follow the link to the online payment screen or by check made payable to **ASCE Birmingham Branch** c/o Wiser Company, LLC, 201 London Parkway, Suite 100, Birmingham, Alabama 35211. You may fax this form to 205-942-2832, electronically submit the form online, or mail to the above address. For Questions about the tournament please call Dwight Turnipseed at 205-355-1212 or send email to dturnipseed@gallet.com. Credit card payment is available online only. Only cash or check can be accepted the day of the tournament *At Door*.

ALL PROFITS FROM THE TOURNAMENT GO TO THE ASCE ENGINEERING SCHOLARSHIP FUND

2008 Registration Form

On the Agenda

By Andrew Faulk

There are a few items I want to discuss with everyone at the March meeting. Please consider the following topics and bring your comments with you:

1. Younger Member Committee
2. October Costume Party (Admission proceeds to go to Scholarship)
3. Winter Dinner (Admission proceeds to go to Scholarship)
4. Having one meeting per quarter at night for those that have trouble making it to lunch meetings.

I know all of us have an opinion, so be ready to share yours.

Bass Pro Shop on the Green Path

By Ty West, Reprinted from Birmingham Business Journal

As Findley Frazier points out some of the unique features of the new Bass Pro Shop development in Leeds, it's easy to forget that he's describing a retail establishment.

Between the discussion about water conservation, the preservation of hardwood trees and wetlands, the development sounds almost more like a nature preserve than a shopping destination.

And like many projects in today's increasingly environmentally conscious world, that is by design.

Frazier, head of Goodwyn Mills & Cawood Inc.'s environmental engineering division, said engineering firms are now taking a more proactive approach to the environmental impact of design.

For projects like the Bass Pro Shop in Leeds, which is part of a multimillion dollar, 100-acre development, Findley said that means evaluating the environmental impact in the conceptual stage long before sitework even begins.

"We were onsite before anything had been graded out there," Frazier said. "We found what natural resources are out there and what we would need to have a permit for."

It's a much different approach than would have been encountered 20 years ago.

"There were no environmental considerations," Frazier said. "What you had was civil firms that would complete a site design, then as an afterthought would say, 'Here's our design, what permits do we need.'"

In the past, projects would become more costly due to hang-ups with regards to the environment that weren't planned for. Permits would be required and plans could be altered, which could add both time and money to the process.

John Stewart, Gresham Smith & Partners' division vice president, said the sooner is the better when addressing engineering concerns.

More Development Near Bass Pro Shop

A developer plans to build 940 homes and an outlet mall near the Bass Pro Shop complex in Leeds, and is pledging an environmentally friendly design in harmony with the nearby Cahaba River.

The \$135 million Grand River project will be developed by Daniel Corp. on land owned by USS Real Estate.

Groundbreaking is expected early next year for a 340,000-square-foot outlet center near Exit 140 on Interstate 20, followed later with residential construction of up to 940 houses in the first phase. The outlet center would open in the fall of 2009.

Upcoming Learning Opportunities

Soil & Rock Stability - Nashville, TN [29-30, May 2008]

WEWRC 2008 - Honolulu, Hawai'i [12-16, May 2008]

LID Applications for Water Resource Management - Charleston, SC [29-30 May 2008]

Design of Foundations for Dynamic Loads - Atlanta, GA [28-30, May 2008]

Summer Conference 2008

WHEN: Wednesday July 30, 2008 - Friday August 1, 2008

WHERE: Perdido Beach Resort, 27200 Perdido Beach Boulevard, Orange Beach, AL 36561

Phone: (251) 981-9811

Toll Free: (800) 634-8001

www.perdidobeachresort.com

Block rates available, ask for American Society of Civil Engineers

We are currently filling the speaker slots if anyone has a topic or speaker they would like to hear we will try to include it as a technical presentation. For suggestions, please contact Kendall Kilpatrick at

Kendall.Kilpatrick@hatchmott.com

Student Chapter Update

The student chapter from UAB will head to the Regional ASCE Southeast Student Conference & Competition in Orlando, Florida (March 28-31st). They plan to take 20 students and 2 faculty members this year.

The students will participate in the Concrete Canoe (1st time in 4 years), Geotechnical competition, Environmental/Survey competition, Balsa Tower competition, Concrete Strength Cylinder competition, the Concrete Golf Ball & Steel Club competition, Professional Paper, Visual Display and T-shirt competition. The T-shirt will be on sale if anyone is interested.

For more information on how you can help or support the student chapter, or to purchase your T-shirt contact Blair Minyard at futureegr@yahoo.com.

UAB Info:

Faculty Advisor: Dr. Jason T. Kirby

Officers

President: W. Blair Minyard

Vice President: Stephen Gremmels

Secretary: Jon Maddox

Treasurer: Laura Tedder

Public Relations: Alan Duke

Web Design: Kim Obradovich

Coloring Book Update

The Coloring Book Competition committee needs your help...

They are short a couple of judges and need some volunteers to look at sheets colored by ten year olds for a few hours on Saturday 8, March 2008. If you are interested in helping your comrades at ASCE help these little kids, then please call or email Bobby Nolen at 205.529.3390 or reepicheep@charter.net.

Newsletter Sponsors – Thank You



www.saiia.com

Don't see your company's name here? Support your branch! If you would like to advertise in next month's issue, please contact John Clark @205.321.1320. The newsletter reaches over 500 engineers, scientists and potential clients in the Birmingham area every month.

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“Engineering is the art of modeling materials we do not wholly understand, into shapes we cannot precisely analyze so as to withstand forces we cannot properly assess, in such a way that the public has no reason to suspect the extent of our ignorance.”

- Dr AR Dykes

Do you have something to say? Let's hear it, and maybe your thoughts will be in the next newsletter.

PLEASE RETURN THIS STUB WITH PAYMENT:

DUES: ASCE Birmingham Branch (2008) Total Due: \$10.00(Tax Id. No.63-0371391)

MAKE CHECK PAYABLE TO: ASCE-Birmingham Branch

P.O. Box 190366, Birmingham, AL 35219

Name: _____ email: _____

Company: _____ Phone: _____

Interested in volunteering your time? _____
