

CIVIL ENGINEER



T H E N E W S L E T T E R

Tacoma ♦ Olympia Section of the
American Society of Civil Engineers



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CIVIL ENGINEERS MAKE THE DIFFERENCE!

THEY PROVIDE THE QUALITY OF LIFE!

The **Civil Engineer Newsletter** is published for the Tacoma/Olympia Section of the American Society of Civil Engineers monthly from September to June.

To submit ads or articles of interest, please contact the current President of the Section or the Editor. Information must be submitted not later than the 15th of the month prior to publication.

For address changes and corrections, contact the Editor.

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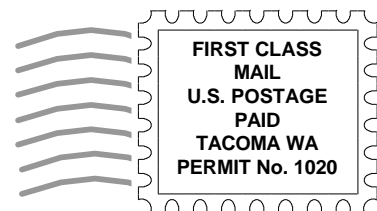
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CIVIL ENGINEER
The NEWSLETTER

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April Program

"CSR Stormceptors: Needs and Applications"

Tuesday

April 14, 1998

Worthington Center, Saint Martin's, Lacey

Social 6:00 PM

Dinner 6:30 PM

Program 7:30 PM

\$20.00 (Students half price)

Speaker: **Corky Lambert**

Mr. Lambert will be presenting this off-the-shelf stormwater quality technology that comes to us from the inventive mind of Joe Montieth of Toronto, Canada. Since this technology comes from the Atlantic side of the continent, it's no big surprise that more of these things are sold over there than out here. However, Corky will bring information on installations in the northwest, testing data available now, and testing that is underway.

You might be wondering how a guy 20 years in the precast business comes to showcase a stormwater product, but the answer is very simple. CSR bought out the old Associated Sand and Gravel of Everett, Portland, etc.

New Meeting Style

It's spring and time to get out of our rut! This is advance notice that a lunch meeting will be scheduled soon. Look for more details in the next newsletter. If folks show up for this, we will try to add a lunch meeting into the mix more

To St. Martin's Worthington Center

From Tacoma: I-5 south to Martin Way (Exit 109); bear right to College Street (the next signaled intersection); turn left on College; travel south to Pacific Avenue; turn left on Pacific to the entrance to Saint Martin's Pavilion on the left.

From Olympia: Take either Pacific Avenue to Saint Martin's or I-5 north to

Directions to Landmark Convention Center **From Tacoma or Olympia:** Take exit 133 (I-705) to downtown; take 15th Street Exit; up the hill past the Sheraton Hotel; turn right on Market Street and go three blocks past the Municipal Building. Continue onto St. Helens Avenue travel approximately 3 more blocks to the Tacoma Landmark Convention Center (old St. Helens Center) on the right at 47 St. Helens Avenue.

Attention Students

It is the Tacoma-Olympia Section's long-standing policy that your meal price is half off. Remember to say you are a student when you make your reservation. As always, there is no cost to attend the presentation.

Reservations

Reservations for dinner are strongly suggested. For your reservations please call **Chris Beckman at (253) 798-3557** (new number) or **Mark Leingang (360) 586-6163** by the close of business, Friday April 10, 1998. You can also make ~~reservations by accessing the Tacoma~~

ASCE Activities



The Committee on Professional Practice is requesting comments on ASCE Manual 73 - **Quality in the Constructed Project**. Originally published in 1990, this manual was written for all participants in the construction process (i.e. owners, design professionals, contractors and subcontractors) and describes a desirable process for complete project delivery. Since many changes in our profession and the construction environment have occurred in the last decade, the manual requires revisions and additions.

You are invited to become part of the revision and update process. Please go to ASCE's website (www.asce.org/peta/prof/cuman73.html) to learn more, offer comments, or volunteer to become an active participant in the process. If you'd rather contact a real live person, call Gretchen Hyde at



I was pleased to see in the latest edition of the Board of Registration News Bulletin that, in Case No. 97-01-004, an unspecified County was told that

they must accept responsibility for their approval process. (The investigation determined that the engineer accused of negligence and causing a drainage problem had in fact performed his work in a satisfactory manner and consistent with ex- As a consultant, I think it's high time that the people who make the rules (government agencies) have to accept the responsibility for making sure the rules work.



The following is a portion of exchanges instigated by Mark Palmer regarding last month's topic of fish protection and habitat enhancement. He gave me permission to use the material as a column. I'm thrilled to finally have a different opinion to share in the newsletter. All of my columns are starting to sound the same, even to me.

Another Fish to Fry

A Letter to the Editor (President)

Your article brings up many good questions. I am not sure where I stand on the issues. I feel we should protect the fish and their habitat, but how far should we go. And if they are endangered, how do we allow any fishing? Would we allow spotted owl hunting or bald eagle hunting? [The concept of continued harvest] doesn't quite fit.

I don't know if you are a native Washingtonian, but I recall a lot more fish in my youth. The fish were also larger than what is here today. I also had an uncle who lost a prosperous business at Westport when the salmon runs began going down hill. I would like to see healthy salmon runs return and then be managed for the survival of the fish, not the interests of salmon fishermen. But drastic action may be needed.

As for hatchery fish, I have heard a lot of speculation from biologists and others that these fish are weaker than their native brothers, more susceptible to disease and just plain dumber than wild run fish. I do know that there is significant risk in relying on hatchery fish to maintain runs. While I worked at the Corps of Engineers in Walla Walla (13-15 years ago), one of the persistent and unsolved problems was mass fish kills at the hatchery at Dworshak reservoir. The event happened annually while I was there. To my recollection, the losses ranged anywhere from 25-75% of the total population

cannot do with land.

[President's note: I think Orange County already faces urban land use restriction due to some Endangered Species restrictions.]

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Check it Out

The Tacoma Narrows project, if approved by voters, is going to show that engineers can make huge, costly mistakes by refusing to look beyond artificially restricted design criteria. In this case, the GMA stops planning at 20 years, so the bridge people do too, and in 20 years the new bridges are just as bad as it is now, or worse. Why should we build a bridge with a 20-year effective life? Unless the world really does end in year 21, this is terribly shortsighted for a structure that won't even be paid for in year 21 and is expected to be in service for 75 or 100 years.

Yes, after a new span is constructed, it will slow down the rate at which traffic continues to get worse. This is about as attractive as saying "Join our weight-loss program for only \$3 a day, and you won't gain weight as fast as you do now."

Nominations Open

The following 1998 local and zonal positions and awards are open for nominations.

Local—April is the season when the ASCE Tacoma Olympia Section begins to prepare for the annual elections. We are in need of members who are willing to attend a board meeting each month, and most, if not all section meetings, while serving in one of the administrative positions. The group is informal and on-the-job training is provided.

A nominating committee, headed by Richard Swanson, Past President, can give you more information about what nominations are still needed. Call him or e-mail him at the address on the cover to find out more—like how to nominate that person you really want to get back at!

National—Additional information about the national awards can be obtained from Rebecca Vader at (253) 272-3343 or at <timv@halcyon.com>

Employer Recognition Program—For Exemplary Support of Younger Member Involvement in ASCE activities. Entries must be in by August 1, 1998.

Edmund Friedman Professional Recognition

Award—For significant contributions to improving civil engineering education, guidance of young civil engineers, objective and lasting achievement in improving the conditions for engineers.

Parcel-Sverdrup CE Management Award—The winner of this award delivers the Engineering Management Lecture at next year's Annual Convention in Boston. In addition, high character, wide professional reputation, and significant contributions to advancing engineering management are required.

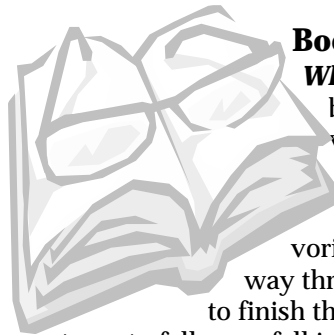
Civil Government Award—This award is intended to recognize public service by professional engineers in such positions as City Council Member, Mayor, Governor, Legislator, etc.

Government Agency Employer Recognition

Award—For recognition of agencies that participate in ASCE activities, allow engineers time off the attend meetings and seminars, assist in payment of dues, encourage

Section Resume Policy

Our section newsletter will provide free space for ASCE students and members to advertise their qualifications. The resume information needs to be received by the 20th of the month to make the next newsletter. If you still don't have a job, send it again the next month. The resume information is limited to: Name, engineering degree/year, position desired, years of related experience, membership status ASCE section, address to obtain more information, and daytime phone.



Book Review

Why Buildings Fall Down

by Matthys Levy and Mario Salvadori \$13.00

Of all the books I've read for the book reviews, this is my favorite. Although I'm only about half way through the 334 pages, I do intend to finish this study of what causes structures to fall over, fall in, or fall off. The book conveys ideas that were difficult to grasp, but doesn't talk down to the audience either.

The authors use what I think of as forensic engineering of actual failures to illustrate the five basic factors that may be totally or partly responsible for structural safety: Structural theories; Calculations techniques; Material Properties; Communication procedures; and Economic Factors.

The book starts with the Pyramids in Egypt and hits the best disasters from then to the Loma Prieta Earthquake. For easy analysis and reading, the failures are grouped by type of structure (domes, etc.) or by failure mode. Numer-

ASCE Calendar

April 1 Board Meeting, Tacoma
14 Section Meeting, Olympia

May 6 Board Meeting, Engine House #9, Tacoma 5:30 PM
12 Section Meeting, Tacoma, (time and place to be announced and subject to change based on availability).

June 3 Board Meeting,
9 Section Meeting

July and August
Summer Recess

PELP Programs

For additional information about these or other PELP courses or to have your name added to the course announcement bulletin mailing list, contact Ron Bucknam, PELP Program Director.

Design and Retrofit for Fish Passage

April 22 and 23
8:30 - 4:30 (new dates) \$375
(early registration-\$345)