



## In This Issue :

### [Conference Highlights](#)

#### [Chattanooga Branch](#)

#### [Holston Branch](#)

#### [Knoxville Branch](#)

#### [Nashville Branch](#)

#### [West Tennessee Branch](#)

## OFFICERS

**Brandie C. Cookston, PE**

President

**Ashley T. Smith, PE**

President Elect

**Helen S. Hennon, PE**

Vice President

**Sandra Knight, PE**

Secretary

**Ted A. Kniazewycz, PE**

Treasurer

**Thomas B. Lawrence, PE**

Past President

## QUICK LINKS

[Website](#)

[Newsletter](#)

[Events](#)

## Tennessee Section Officers & Committee Chairs

**Matt Caskey, PE**

Awards Chair

**Chris Triplett, PE**

Engineering Management Discipline  
Chair

**Thomas Lawrence, PE**

Environmental Discipline Chair  
Membership Chair

Greetings!

I am pleased and honored to be writing to you as the ASCE Tennessee Section President. Having been an active ASCE member since 2001, I am excited to continue my journey to the next level of ASCE leadership with the help of the Section Officers, Branch Officers, and Tennessee Section Board.

My first order of business is to thank Tom Lawrence for his leadership over the past year as Tennessee Section President. Tom was actively engaged in advancing ASCE and its membership. Tom was integral in the success of the 2015 Tennessee Engineers Conference. This event provided a wide variety of Professional Development Hours and multiple networking opportunities for hundreds of engineers from throughout the state. ASCE would also like to thank all the sponsors, exhibitors, presenters and volunteers of the 2015 TN Engineers' Conference.

Looking forward to the coming year, we have several areas of focus for the Tennessee Section. The Tennessee Section is currently developing a pre-college outreach program to support members' efforts to promote civil engineering and inspire the next generation of engineers. We plan to implement this program during Engineers Week 2016. Our Government Affairs Team led by Ray Tant, Government Affairs Chair, and Drew Cohn, State Legislative Team Captain, will continue to build upon their efforts with the support of the Tennessee Section, both at the State and Federal levels. We are also in the process of revising the Tennessee Section Bylaws and Website, thanks to President-Elect Ashley Smith, which will be beneficial for our section for years to come.

We have a productive, prodigious year in development already. The Tennessee Section will be hosting an ASCE Public Relations University, thanks the organization efforts of Eric Gardner, Kevin McAlister, and the Nashville Branch. The Updated ASCE Infrastructure Report card, which depicts the condition and performance of the nation's infrastructure in the familiar form of a school report card-assigning letter grades based on the physical condition and needed investments for improvement, will debut in March 2016.

**Vanessa Bateman, PE**  
Geotechnical Discipline Chair

**Ray Tant, PE**  
Government Affairs Liaison

**Ken Berry, PE**  
History and Heritage Chair

**Ashley Smith, PE**  
Student Discipline Chair  
Website Manager  
Younger Member Chair

**Z John Ma, PE**  
Structural Discipline Chair

**Brian Reynolds, PE**  
Transportation Discipline Co-Chair

**Eric Gardner, PE**  
Membership Chair

**Monica Sartain**  
Report Card Chair

**Wesley Goodnight**  
Student Discipline Co-Chair



If you have any questions or would like to get more involved with our initiatives, please contact me.

Brandie C. Cookston, PE, CPESC, CPSWQ,  
M.ASCE  
CDM Smith



President, Tennessee Section ASCE

### 2015 Tennessee Engineers' Conference Highlights

On September 17 & 18, 2015, ASCE TN Section joined ACEC and TSPE for the Tennessee Engineers' Conference at the Embassy Suites Murfreesboro. 475 people, including registrants, guests, presenters, exhibitors, and students attended the conference. Registrants earned up to 13 PDH's and enjoyed hearing from great speakers, seeing the latest technology innovations, and networking with colleagues and leaders from around the state. Thanks to everyone that came and we hope even more of you can come next year!



Bethany Griffin & Tom Lawrence  
Student Chapter Member Award



Tom Lawrence & Ashley Smith  
Young Engineer Award



Tom Lawrence & Mark Macy  
Government Engineer Award



Peter G. Hoadley Award for Outstanding  
Engineering Educator  
Dr. Stephanie Ivey



Bass Pro Shops & Lakeshore Park  
Abatement and Demolition Project (not  
pictured)  
Project of the Year (tie)



Dr. Daryl Armentrout (Helen Hennon  
accepting)  
Daniel B. Barge Award for Distinguished  
Service



Tom Lawrence & Brandie Cookston  
Past President & President



2015 Student Competition  
1st Place Lipscomb University



2015 Student Competition  
2nd Place University of Memphis



ASCE Tennessee Section Officers

Photos courtesy of Gene McGinnis, Chris Gwaltney, & Roger Meier

## Chattanooga Branch Report

In July, Justin Bolender and Richard Smith with HDR spoke to our group about the Tennessee Valley Authority's (TVA's) Cogeneration Water Supply Project.

In August, Andy Dodson and Scottie Barrentine of TVA presented on rehabilitation for the Boone Dam.

Building on our monthly technical program. Attendance (average of approximately 30 people) was probably the highest it has been in several years. This was due in large part to a strong speaker line-up that included a local Councilman and talks from TVA staff on some high profile projects.

Helping the UTC student chapter host a successful Southeast Student Conference in March. Twenty-six schools participated in this year's conference. Awarding two \$1,500 scholarships to deserving UTC students. Building new relationships with the UTC student chapter.

Establishing a Nominating Committee that submitted several nominations for E-week awards and awards for the annual TN Engineers' Conference. One of our scholarship winners was chosen as the winner of the Student Award to be presented at the annual conference.

Continuing our two social events,

1. Annual holiday social where we set a record by collecting 14 large boxes of toys for Toys for Tots.
2. Annual trip to a Chattanooga Lookouts baseball game.

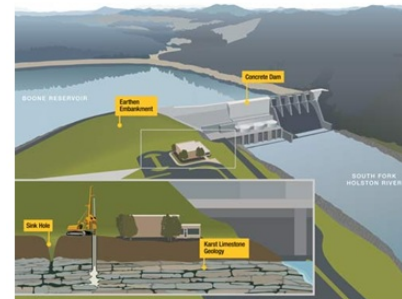
Starting the process of updating our Branch website. Setting up Constant Contact to communicate with our membership base and take registration for meetings. Adding a new community service event to our calendar, the TN River Rescue. Applying for and receiving a SPAG grant. This grant will be used to promote the TN River Rescue event October 3rd.

## Holston Branch Report

The Branch would like to thank everyone who participated in the elections! Much better participation than last year!

We would like to recognize Dan Carrier for volunteering to do some presentations for us in the future. Dan is a long time Parsons Brinckerhoff (PB) employee, who has recently settled down in the area to be closer to his grandchildren. Dan has had over 23 years of experience working with PB as a Project Manager on numerous projects that typically have some bridge related feature to the projects. Fortunately for us, Dan is also very active with mentoring and with sharing his wealth of experience and knowledge. Join us on November 11, 2015, when he will be presenting "Design and Construction of the Cooper River Bridge" to the Branch at the Beef O'Brady's in Gray from Noon to 1pm.

The Branch's next lunch meeting is scheduled for September 23, 2015 from Noon to 1 pm at the J. Henry Kegley Meeting Room at the Bristol Public Library (701 Goode St, Bristol, VA). The Tennessee Valley Authority will be discussing the sinkhole repair that they are conducting at the Boone Dam. 1 PDH will be given and pizza and drinks will be provided by the Branch so arrive early. Please register so we can get an idea of how many pizzas to order. (image/TVA)



All of the latest Branch events can be found on the [website](#) calendar. If you would like additional information about our branch or upcoming meetings please contact us [asce.holston@gmail.com](mailto:asce.holston@gmail.com).

## Knoxville Branch Report

The Knoxville Branch of the Tennessee Section met twice and held a golf tournament as a fundraiser for scholarships for our student chapter in the last quarter. The 18th Annual Scholarship Golf Tournament and Luncheon was held on Friday, July 24th at Centennial Golf Course in Oak Ridge,

Tennessee. Approximately 20 companies sponsored a hole, and additional companies sponsored door prizes and beverages. The format of the tournament was a four Person, Flighted Scramble, prize awards for two flights. Approximately \$5,500 was raised for Scholarships to UTK



Civil Engineering Students. Pictured above, Dr. Edwin Burdette thanked all participants for their contributions with Dr. Chris Cox, UTK Civil and Environmental Engineering Department Head, looking on.



Left to Right: Aaron Gray (golf tournament co-chair), Adlai Hurt (UTK College of Engineering Department of Development), Wayne Hastings (golf tournament co-chair), and Matt McCarter (senior civil engineering student and one of

the officers of the UTK ASCE student chapter). Aaron is presenting the check from last year's golf tournament proceeds to Adlai to add to the scholarship fund.

On Wednesday, August 12, 2015, The Knoxville Branch met in Knoxville at the Buddy's Bearden Banquet Hall. John Hastings of TDOT and Brian Hall of AECOM gave a presentation on



"SR-9 (US25/70) 'Wolf Creek Bridge' over the French Broad River and Norfolk Southern Railroad - Design and Rehabilitation". The reinforced concrete SR-9 (US25/70) bridge over the French Broad River and Norfolk Southern Railroad - known as the "Wolf Creek Bridge" to locals - was rehabilitated to preserve a landmark structure and enhance the natural setting in the mountains of eastern Tennessee's Cherokee National Forest. This was a fascinating presentation of a project to rehabilitate a historic and unique bridge which was originally constructed in the 1920's. The bridge is an important part of the Tennessee Department of Transportation's inventory. This project contained several firsts for a bridge rehabilitation in Tennessee, including the use of self-consolidating concrete, shrinkage compensating concrete, a high number of precast components and a polymer-modified concrete overlay on precast deck panels; overhead and vertical hydro-demolition; haul road modifications to prevent damage from flooding; and a two-stage bank-stabilization process. John Hastings, PE, with TDOT, is the engineer-of-record for the design

drawings and Brian Hall, PE, with AECOM was responsible for the CEI services. The meeting was attended by 47 members in August and 36 members in September and credit for one Professional Development Hour (PDH) was issued by the Branch.

On September 3, our membership subcommittee met to plan some activities focused on membership enhancement, and make plans specifically for our younger member group. The membership subcommittee is comprised of Helen Hennon of QE2, Sam Mayes of Management Solutions, Dan Boles of S&ME, Michael Hogan of QE2, Karen McKeehan of the City of Knoxville, Will Littlejohn of Cannon & Cannon Inc., Alan Grissom of Cannon & Cannon, Inc., Carter McCall of Fulghum, MacIndoe & Associates, Inc. and Lucas Salyer of Sherman Dixie.

On Tuesday, September 8, 2015 the Knoxville Branch held our monthly luncheon in Oak Ridge at the Oak Ridge Civic Center. The speaker was Mr. Ray Tant, P.E. of Shield Engineering, Inc. who presented a "Case Study: Effects of High Plasticity Clay Soils On Joppa Elementary School." Shield served as the geotechnical consultant for the Grainger County School system to help determine the cause of distress in portions of the building. Initial site visits by the architect and structural engineer results pointed to settlement and structural design flaws. Through geotechnical investigation work it was determined that the building was being damaged by the effects of plastic clays.

## **Nashville Branch Report**

After taking off a month in June from our regular lunch meeting for our Annual Golf Tournament, we met in July to hear Vic McConnell presenting on Engineering Ethics. Vic is a practicing attorney but has an engineering degree and is a licensed professional engineer. Vic did a great job of making the presentation exciting and fresh. Also in July, we took nominations for officers for the 2014-15 year. For the second consecutive year, we had a contested election for the Vice President position.

Voting for Branch officers took place in August. The winner of our Vice President position was Clint Camp. Blake Turner is moving from Vice President to President-Elect and Kevin McAlister will be the next Branch President. Nitaya Chayangjura and Dustin Scruggs will serve another term as Secretary and Treasurer, respectively. Officers will be sworn in at the September combined meeting with TSPE and ACEC.

At our August lunch meeting, Mark Macy and others with Metro Public Works gave an overview of current projects in Nashville. Representatives from Metro Public Works typically speak at our August meeting and it always provides one of our largest turnouts each year. We began collecting school supplies for the LP Pencil Box in July and finished up at the August meeting. With the great turnout to hear Metro Public Works, we were able to collect a good amount of supplies and cash.

At our July Board meeting, we ended the meeting by going through goals for the Branch in the next year and upcoming years. Those goals will help shape our upcoming budget. Our Board and committee chairs will be meeting in mid-September to produce a budget that will be voted on at the September Board meeting.

Our Branch continues to hold regular monthly meetings which are typically the third Thursday of the month and Board meetings are the following Wednesday. Everyone is encouraged to visit our website at [www.nashvilleasce.org](http://www.nashvilleasce.org) to learn more about the Branch's upcoming events and activities.

## West Tennessee Branch Report

The West Tennessee Branch Board met July 10th, August 14th, and September 11th to discuss Branch business. In August, the Branch elected new officers who will be inducted in September. Our next Branch report will contain a list of officers, chairs, and advisors.

On the third Thursday of the month, the Branch typically hosts monthly meetings in Memphis for the membership on various topics. However, there were no monthly Branch meetings in July or August due to summer break. The Annual Kickoff Meeting will be Tuesday, September 22, 2015. This year's featured speaker is Mr. Tom Needham, the County Engineer for Shelby County. Mr. Needham will discuss the nationwide competition being conducted by the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) for grants to help communities be more resilient after national disasters. Other activities that will occur at the meeting include the induction of new officers, the award of golf tournament funds to Engineers Without Borders, honoring Life Members, brief presentations by student chapter representatives, and the award of funds to student chapters.

The University of Tennessee Municipal Technical Advisory Service (MTAS), ASCE, TSPE, and West TN STEM continue to offer free lunchtime engineering presentations in the Jackson, Tennessee area.

- On July 28th, Kevin Davenport from Simpson StrongTie presented "Simpson Strong-Tie's brand new line of Concrete Repair Products, FRP Strengthening Products and Pile Repair/Protection Product". There were 29 attendees.
- On August 25th, Irvin Vittitow from Redi-Rock presented "Redi-Rock 101: The Basics" to 19 attendees, 3 of which were UT Martin students.
- On September 29th, Michael Herr from EJ (formerly East Jordan Iron Works) is scheduled to speak.

The Student Chapters at The University of Memphis (UoM), Christian Brothers University (CBU), and The University of Tennessee at Martin (UT Martin) are gearing up for another great year and have begun planning for the Deep South Conference. UoM and CBU will have an active fall with upcoming fundraising and outreach events in October and November. The Younger Member Group continues to meet and has elected new leadership for the 2015-2016 year. Chair is Greg Carrico; Vice-chair is Michael Lamport; and Secretary is McKenzie Shankle.

Other highlights:

- The Branch worked with ASCE to host our new website. The site has been completed and we will be advertising it to our membership after our September Kickoff Meeting. <http://branches.asce.org/west-tennessee/>
- We have established a Facebook site and champion <https://www.facebook.com/ascewesttn> and designated a champion for Twitter <https://twitter.com/WestTennASCE>