

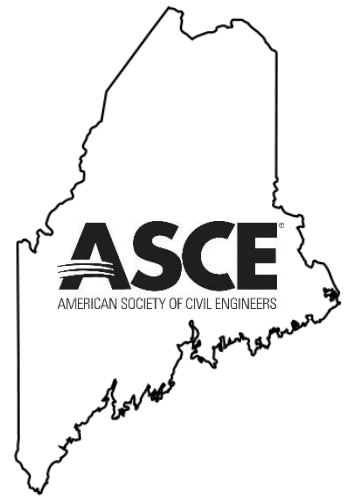
THE

# INFORMANT



NEWSLETTER OF THE MAINE SECTION ASCE

## Summer 2025



### From the Editor:

I hope everyone is having a wonderful summer and enjoying these sunny, hot weekdays!

The summer issue of The Informant is here for your reading pleasure. It includes an introduction to your new Board of Directors, a recap of our 75th Anniversary Party, and upcoming events with WTS, ACEC, and the UMaine System.

We are excited to get this new year kicked off. Please reach out if you are interested in presenting at a meeting, giving a tour, or getting involved with the Board or a committee. Our annual planning meeting is coming up, and we would love to have you!

We hope to see you soon!

**Heather**

Page 1 – From the Editor

Page 1 – Save the Date(s) &  
Reminders for the Maine  
Section of ASCE

Page 2- Meet the NEW Board

Page 5 - The Wicked Data Min-ah

Page 6 – WTS PWM Tour

Page 6 – Transportation+ Event

Page 7 – Member News

Page 8 – 75<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Recap

Page 9 – ASCE Award Winners

Page 10 – ASCE Golf Recap

Page 11 – ACEC Golf Scramble

Page 12 -14 – Advertisements

### Maine Section ASCE - Save the Date(s)

**July/Aug 2025**

7/27	7/28	7/29	7/30	7/31	8/1	8/2
8/3	8/4	8/5	8/6	8/7	8/8	8/9
8/10	8/11	8/12	8/13	8/14	8/15	8/16
8/17	8/18	8/19 WTS PWM Tour	8/20	8/21	8/22	8/23
8/24	8/25	8/26	8/27	8/28	8/29	8/30

## Meet the 2025 – 2026 Board



**President – Justin Yaitanes, PE**

Justin spent most of his life in Massachusetts and relocated to Portland, Maine in 2018. He graduated from the University of Massachusetts, Dartmouth in 2005 with a Bachelor's Degree in Civil and Environmental Engineering and the University of Massachusetts, Lowell in 2015 with a Master's Degree in Civil and Environmental Engineering with a concentration in structural engineering. He started his career at MassDOT as a bridge engineer and transitioned to HNTB in 2013. Outside of the office he enjoys the great outdoors and all the great things Maine has to offer with his family. He has been a member of the Boston and now Maine ASCE sections since starting his career and looks forward to becoming more involved.



**Treasurer – Lynn Frazier, PE, PTOE**

Lynn is a traffic operations engineer who splits her time between James W. Sewall Company and sister-company Frazier Signal Technologies. She graduated from the University of Maine in 2006 with her BS in Civil and Environmental Engineering. Lynn has 16 years' experience focused on Maine with the majority of her time spent on signal design, construction phasing and operational analysis. This is her 5<sup>th</sup> year serving as the Treasurer and she is also a Past-President of the Maine Section. Lynn is originally from Medway and currently resides in Enfield with her husband, Charles, and their two children.



**President Elect – Ben Shaw**

Ben is a project engineer for Gorrill Palmer's municipal group. He joined Gorrill Palmer after graduating from the University of Maine in Orono with a degree in Civil and Environmental Engineering in 2017. He has assisted in the design of many municipal projects including roadway and sidewalk design, pavement management plans, culvert replacement, sewer separations, and wastewater pump stations. Ben was a member of the ASCE through college and has continued attending meetings throughout his professional career. He looks forward to joining the ASCE board and learning what goes into planning and running the Maine ASCE Chapter. Ben favorite place to be outside of work is at his camp on Sebago swimming, boating, and playing with the dogs.



**Vice President – Ben Smith PE**

Ben grew up in Old Town, Maine. He graduated from the University of Maine in 2017 with a Bachelor's Degree in Civil and Environmental Engineering. During his time there, he was a member of the concrete canoe team and served as the vice president of the ASCE student chapter. He then continued at UMaine to complete a Master's Degree in Civil and Environmental Engineering with a focus in structural engineering and mechanics in 2019. During this time, he was a research assistant at the Advanced Structures and Composites Center, developing a hybrid thermoplastic composite and concrete deck system. Ben currently lives in Topsham, Maine and is a bridge engineer for the Falmouth branch of T. Y. Lin International.



**Secretary – Thomas Rioux**

Thomas Rioux is a structural engineer at VHB. He grew up in Scarborough, Maine, and earned a bachelor's degree in civil engineering from the University of Vermont. As of January 2024, he is a licensed Professional Engineer. Thomas has assisted in numerous state and private projects throughout New England, including construction inspection for the Middlebury Tunnel in Vermont, mapping natural gas systems in Massachusetts, and bridge design for Sugarloaf in Carrabassett Valley. Thomas joined the board in May 2024 and has been a member since December 2022. In his free time, Thomas enjoys surfing at Higgins Beach, reading on Mackworth Island, and fishing in Casco Bay.



**Director 3 – Marco Manfra**

Marco grew up in Scarborough, Maine and graduated from the University of Maine in 2022 with a B.S. in Civil Engineering. He is currently an engineer with the Transportation group at Thornton Tomasetti. Marco currently works on a range of different bridge projects from load ratings, rehabilitations, to full replacements. Marco also has experience with substation engineering and has co-authored a paper that was presented at the 2022 Transportation Research Board meeting and published in the International Pavement Engineering Journal. In his free time he enjoys sailing, skiing, and playing music.

**Director 2 – David Horne**

Hailing from southern Maine, David has always been drawn to the outdoors, with a deep-rooted passion for nature and science. As a civil engineering graduate from the University of Maine, David has built a robust foundation in both physical and conceptual problem-solving. Driven to bridge theory with real-world impact, David started working at Acorn Engineering, Inc., a small but mighty civil engineering firm based out of Portland Maine. At Acorn, David works on a variety of projects including urban infill, rural subdivisions, stormwater management design and inspection. Outside of work David admires Maines natural beauty by hiking and skiing in the mountains and exploring the many small coastal communities on his bike.

**Director 1 – Matt Orr, PE**

Matt grew up in northern New York and moved to Maine after graduating from college. He is a graduate of the University of Maine receiving a Bachelor's Degree in Civil Engineering in 2018 and a Master's in Business Administration in 2019. During his time at UMaine, Matt was a student member of ASCE and was the Treasurer his junior year. After graduating from UMaine, Matt began his professional career at Sebago Technics, Inc. as a Civil Engineer. As of April 2024, Matt was elevated to the title of Project Engineer and began taking on a larger project management workload within Sebago. Currently, Matt is transitioning into a full time Project Manager position and oversees site development projects in the municipal, industrial, commercial, and residential sectors. In his spare time Matt enjoys hiking, camping, attending sporting events, and watching movies.

**Past President – Nate Strout, PE**

Nate is a 2011 graduate of the University of Maine, where he earned a BS in Civil and Environmental Engineering. Nate joined S. W. Cole Engineering, Inc. in 2008, initially as a seasonal technician while attending the University of Maine. He is currently a senior geotechnical engineer and branch office manager of the firm's Bangor office. Nate's engineering responsibilities include coordination and monitoring of subsurface exploration programs, geotechnical analysis and design, and the preparation of engineering reports and proposals.



# THE WICKED DATA MIN"AH"

## #21 MAINE GROWN

63

# of known invasive plants that are illegal to import, export, buy, sell in Maine.

Source: <https://www.maine.gov/dacf/php/horticulture/invasiveplants.shtml>

10

% of blueberries Maine grows for the entire United States.

Source: <https://www.maine.gov/dacf/index.shtml>

4

# of species of lady's-slippers, including the pink, ram's head, yellow, and showy lady's-slipper in Maine.

Source: <https://www.maine.gov/dacf/index.shtml>

6

# of the USDA plant hardiness zones in the state out of 13 total.

Source: <https://www.maine.gov/dacf/index.shtml>

571

million dollars of market value of crops grown in Maine.

Source: <https://www.maine.gov/dacf/index.shtml>

## WTS Tour



**PWM Tour & Pour**

Join us for a tour of the PWM Jetport.  
Directly following the tour we will meet at the Shipyard Brewing next to the lower level baggage claim. Appetizers will be provided.

**PWM PORTLAND INTERNATIONAL  
JETPORT**

**WTS**  
Maine  
Advancing women  
Advancing transportation

➤ Tuesday, August 19<sup>th</sup>  
➤ 5:00 PM

➤ 1001 Westbrook  
Portland, ME

[Register Here!](#)

## Transportation + EVENT

**WHERE:** the Maine Center (300 Fore St, Portland, ME 04101)

**WHEN:** September 26, 2025

12:30 pm - 2:30 pm

A “lunch and learn” style social networking event with professional lightning talks/presentations, roundtable discussions, and food catering. The purpose is to connect transportation professionals across sectors (i.e., public, private, and academic) and geographic regions in Maine. The event will also involve college students across UMS campuses to help them better understand the transportation system in Maine and explore future career opportunities.

- The event is free of charge for all event vendors/exhibitors/presenters and other general attendees.
- Long-distance travel to Portland will be covered based on requests (Note: carpool and transit use are highly encouraged.)
- A table will be reserved for each agency for in-depth conversations with event attendees and to showcase your agency.

If you are interested in joining the Transportation+ Event please submit information to the following link: <https://forms.gle/jyFNDKVaVKJsGMc48>.



## Member News

The Maine Section has learned the unfortunate news that one of our Past Presidents is no longer with us. Wayne Hamilton, PhD, PE passed away on February 15, 2025. Our condolences go out to his family, friends, and engineering colleagues.

He served as President of the Maine Section ASCE in 1973-1974. Many of us knew Wayne as Dr. Hamilton or Dean Hamilton from our days at University of Maine where he was on the civil engineering faculty for over 30 years. He served as the CE Department Chair from 1969 to 1977 and then went on to be the Associate Dean of Engineering from 1977 until 1997.

Dr. Hamilton had a profound and positive impact on many CE students as a professor, leader, mentor, advocate, and confidant. He was also very active in many civil volunteer and leadership activities such as Boy Scouts, Kiwanis, local zoning board, and his church. He represented his field and colleagues in many capacities, always with a smile and encouraging words. Dr. Hamilton will be sadly missed by all.


Wayne was one of 22 Past Presidents that attended the Maine Section's 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Banquet in 2000.

His full obituary, which discusses his engineering career, can be viewed at: <https://obituaries.bangordailynews.com/obituary/wayne-hamilton-phd-1092670012>. The Maine PE Board also published a memorial in their June 2025 *Maine PE News*. The Maine Section has made a donation to The Wayne A. Hamilton, PE, Civil Engineering Scholarship Fund at the University of Maine Foundation in his honor.



Maine Section Younger Members (YM) held a cornhole tournament 6/29 in Brunswick! Thank you to SW Cole for volunteering their boards for this fun event! Be on the lookout for more YM gatherings coming up.

## 75<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Recap

On May 29th, we celebrated the Maine Section of ASCE's 75th Anniversary! We are incredibly humbled by the support from Maine's civil engineering community. With the help of the party planning committee who we can't thank enough (Lauren Swett, Peter Merfeld, Nate Strout, Tim Merrit, Nate Powelson, Mackenzie Bowe, Heather Hayes & Lynn Frazier) we were able to hold an unforgettable event at Ocean Gateway in Portland. Thank you to our sponsors, speakers (Barry Sheff, Mike Moreau, Phil Dunn & Brad Kubiak), 111 Maine Catering for the amazing food, and  Jenna Louise Photography for capturing this event for us!



Maine Section ASCE Past President's & Life Members



Kicking off the Celebration & Dinner



Maine Section ASCE 2025 Life Member Inductees –  
Tony Grande, Kevin Mckee, and Charlie Myers



2025-2026 Board of Direction Induction



## ASCE Awards!



Engineer of the Year – Sarah Williams, PE



25 Year Silver Star – Peter Merfeld, PE



Kitty Breskin Project of the Year – Falls Bridge Rehabilitation (MaineDOT, HNTB, & Cianbro)



Distinguished Service Awards – Heather Hayes, Lauren Swett, & Lynn Frazier (not pictured)



Young Engineer of the Year – Nathan Baert, PE



Citizen Engineer of the Year – Tianna Higgins

## THANK YOU SPONSORS

Platinum



Gold



Silver



Bronze



## 32<sup>nd</sup> Annual Scholarship Golf Tournament



This year's ASCE Scholarship Golf Tournament was nothing short of amazing! Together we were able to raise **\$3750** for high school and college scholarships! It was our biggest attendance year yet; we had a few new teams and sponsors and amazing weather!

★ Thank you to Turner Highlands Golf Course for hosting us for the 5th year. Thank you to our volunteers Nate Strout, Peter Merfeld, Leanne Langlois, Tom Perkins, & Sarah Perkins. And THANK YOU to our sponsors Harriman (AWESOME Drink CART SPONSOR!), VHB, Myers Testing Equipment, Kleinschmidt Associates, Ferguson, Woodard & Curran, S. W. Cole Engineering, Inc., Haley Ward, Inc., DirigoAE, Frazier Signal Technologies, EJ Prescott, RW Gillespie, Contech Engineered Solutions, GZA GeoEnvironmental, Inc. & Geopier, a division of CMC! Congratulations to our winning teams, see everyone next year!





**Get Your Golf Clubs Ready and Plan to Join us  
for the **Third Annual ACEC of Maine Golf  
Tournament!****

[REGISTER TODAY!](#)

**September 22, 2025  
Martindale Country Club | 527 Beech Hill Road | Auburn**






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## Business Cards

Do you run your own consulting firm, or have a business that the Maine engineering community should know about? Advertise with a business card! Business card listings run for 1 year, including 9 issues of the Informant and full time on the website. Cost: \$150.00 Discounts Available: Purchase a 1-year Business Card ad and receive a \$25 discount on a Job advertisement!

Advertise for new employees at any level – students, EITs, and PEs will all see your ad.

## Job Listings

Job advertisements are posted in one issue of the Informant and on our Facebook page.

Cost:      Quarter Page (3.75"x5") - \$35  
              Half Page (7.5"x5") - \$75 for 1 month  
                             - \$500 for 1 year (9 issues)  
Full Page (7.5"x10") - \$150 for 1 month  
                             - \$1000 for 1 year (9 issues)

**The deadline for submissions is the 20<sup>th</sup> of each month prior to publication.**