



QUAD CITIES SECTION

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AN ACTUAL IN-PERSON ENGINEERING OUTING

We have scheduled a tour of the West Lakes Waste Water Treatment Plant. If I knew more about such items, I could highlight what is unique about it. But, so I am told, it is a unique WWTP facility. Jay Brady mentioned something about algae to me.

The presentation will be at 5:30 PM by Roger Kean. Roger Kean gives an excellent presentation. Afterwards, to celebrate that we are doing something that is not virtual, we have made reservations for El Compita Mexican Bar.

We encourage you to attend. For all the normal reasons, networking, supporting Scott County, obtaining a pdh, etc. We also encourage you to attend for the reason (again) that this is not virtual and this is a unique opportunity to see something unique, and later taste 😊 something unique.



The West Lake Park Wastewater Treatment Plant includes installation of a 10,000 GPD average dry weather flow Algaewheel wastewater treatment plant. The Algaewheel process, which uses daylight for energy and optimizes the mutually symbiotic relationship between algae and bacteria, creates a paradigm shift for small communities and decentralized applications by providing an aesthetically pleasing, low energy treatment system.

President’s Message

Finally, warmer weather is arriving. With it comes an upswing in construction. Civil engineers often get front seats to the action as a significant amount of construction is civil – site work, roads, water/sewer, and structures. Almost no project can be built without civil works. Remember to put safety first when visiting jobsites. Be especially alert for construction machinery and for the uneven, incomplete surfaces. Wear a high vis vest even if not required.

We have a great activity this month on Wednesday May 18 to tour the algae based wastewater project near West Lake with a get together for Mexican food. Hope you can join us! RSVP online.

We are looking for volunteers to join our Section leadership team to help deliver quality programming and manage Section affairs. This is a great way of providing service to your profession as we are called on in our ASCE Ethics!



Calendar and Upcoming Events

The Quad City Section leadership is working on a full slate of section meetings and tours to advance our members and the profession. The following Section calendar indicates activities currently in planning.

Date	Time	Topic	Speakers	Location
May 18, 2022	5:30 PM to 6:30 PM	West Lake WWTP	Roger Kean	6755 Telegraph Road Casual get together at El Compita to follow
June 15, 2022	12 Noon to 1:00 PM	GIS Mapping of Levees	Andrew Mcclanahan	TEAMS Virtual Presentation
July 20, 2022	12 Noon to 1:00 PM	What Does the Creek Data tell us?	Partners of Scott County Watersheds	TEAMS Virtual Presentation

In order to reduce expenses, the Quad City Section sends its newsletters in electronic format only. If you are aware of a fellow Quad City Section Member that does not receive the newsletter, it means that ASCE National does not have their email address. To receive the newsletter, members must keep their email information current by contacting ASCE at 800.548.2723 or by visiting the Members Only section of the ASCE website at <http://www.asce.org/membersonly>. The Quad City Section does not sell email information to anyone. ASCE’s Privacy Statement is available on the ASCE website.

The Quad City's Legacy Engineers



I recently had the good fortune to sit down for lunch with Bill Ashton. Your Board of the Quad Cities Chapter of the American Society of Civil Engineers was keen to get his thoughts on trends in the engineering profession. After pleasantries, Bill jumped right in. My shorthand is not the best, but here is what I soaked up in listening to him:

1. Engineers now create their own drawings utilizing AutoCAD. While this is a cost savings measure, it is only the younger engineers who are capable of such “design on the go” efforts. The input of an experienced CAD Operator or other engineer is shut out from the conceptualization process. In addition, the CAD drawings are produced with such standardization that it is not clear what background the author has.

2. Today's young engineers do not understand the complexities of the solutions they derive. They do not understand how structural connections are made. They do not grasp the space required for staging, demolition, etc. It takes practice and a willingness to accept criticism to acquire these skills. This is one reason why the PE license should be withheld until a length of time in the “practice” of engineering has passed.

3. Today's; engineers should write more. Again, they should practice writing to an audience that does not have an engineering background.

4. Along that same line of thought, engineers should present more. And their presentations should be geared to their audience. The presentation should not be an opportunity to show what the engineer knows, but rather an opportunity to educate someone with a different background.

5. Today's engineer should be observing Contractors and should better understand the Contractor's job. The design should reflect that a Contractor must take those plans and construct something with them.

6. Professional Registration should reflect what an engineer knows. Thus Mr. Ashton appears to support more specialization in the licenses.

Mr. Ashton is a graduate of the University of Iowa (Class of '62). He obtained his Master's Degree in Civil Engineer, also from the University of Iowa, in '63. From 1963 to 1978 he worked for the US Army Corps of Engineers. From 1978 to 1982 he worked for Johnson Bros. Construction, From 1982 to the present, he has been associated with his Company, Ashton Engineering.

I have made the conscious effort to represent Mr. Ashton's opinions and leave my own thoughts on the wayside. If something of mine slipped in, I apologize to Mr. Ashton.

By the way, lunch was good. Consider this my plug for Cafe' D'Marie.