



## SOUTH CAROLINA SECTION

### FY23-24 Newsletter

#### Outgoing President's Message

Dear fellow ASCE Members,

I am grateful for all my fellow board members who volunteered their time to serve on the ASCE SC Section Board this past year. You are amazing and my time as the Section President could not have succeeded without each of you and your ongoing unselfish contributions to the Section's mission and accomplishments. I'm equally grateful for all SC Branch board members who demonstrate why being a civil engineering leader in South Carolina is as rewarding as it is humbling. Civil engineers are dreamers and problem solvers who make the impossible possible. They make the world a better place because ASCE holds our profession to the highest standards. ASCE Section and Branch leaders and volunteers .... thank you, thank you, thank you!

I look forward to ongoing engagement with each of you in ASCE this coming year whether it's at a Branch luncheon, an ASCE seminar, or next year's ASCE SC Section Fall Conference.

Regards,  
Chris Mack

#### Incoming President's Message

This was a great year for ASCE South Carolina Section as we had representation at Engineer's Day on the Hill, the Legislative Fly-in, several joint conferences with other engineering organizations across the state, and various branch service events such as the Upstate's Popsicle Stick Bridge Competition and the Midlands' HomeWorks Event to name a few. The section board executed another great Fall Conference and helped ACEC plan their Annual SC Engineering Conference & Trade Show as well.

Thanks to all those who continue to impact our civil engineering profession through this society for the betterment of our SC communities.

I look forward to what we can accomplish together in the upcoming year!

Regards,  
Bailey Lively

## FY23-24 EVENTS

### September 2023 Officer Installment

Oath of office was administered by Ryan Harvey  
Incoming officers assumed their new role:

**Past President:** Renée Gardner (Midlands Branch)

**President:** Chris Mack (Eastern Branch)

**President Elect:** Bailey Lively (Midlands Branch)

**Vice President:** Gwen Sollenberger (Upstate Branch)

**Secretary:** Cherri DeFigh-Price (CSRV Branch)

**Treasurer:** Grant Hollis (Upstate Branch)

**At-Large Director:** Mark Lorah (CSRV Branch)



In attendance for Officer Installation are l to r:

Jonathan Thrasher, Grant Hollis, Gwen Sollenberger, Ryan Harvey, Renée Gardner,  
Mark Lorah, Chris Mack, Cherri DeFigh-Price, Jonathan Ard, Bailey Lively, and Lydia  
Mignogna

## January 10th, 2024 The Palmetto Club

Each year, the Design Construction Partners (DCP), an esteemed alliance comprising organizations such as the ASCE SC Section, hosts a legislative reception. This annual gathering presents a unique opportunity for professionals in the field to engage with legislators and discuss significant, upcoming legislation.

The DCP Legislative Reception serves as a platform for members of the engineering, architectural, contracting, and surveying industries to address various issues relevant to business operations and public welfare. With a focus on collaboration and advocacy, this event allows participants to connect with key policymakers and decision-makers, fostering constructive dialogue around the challenges and opportunities that lie ahead.



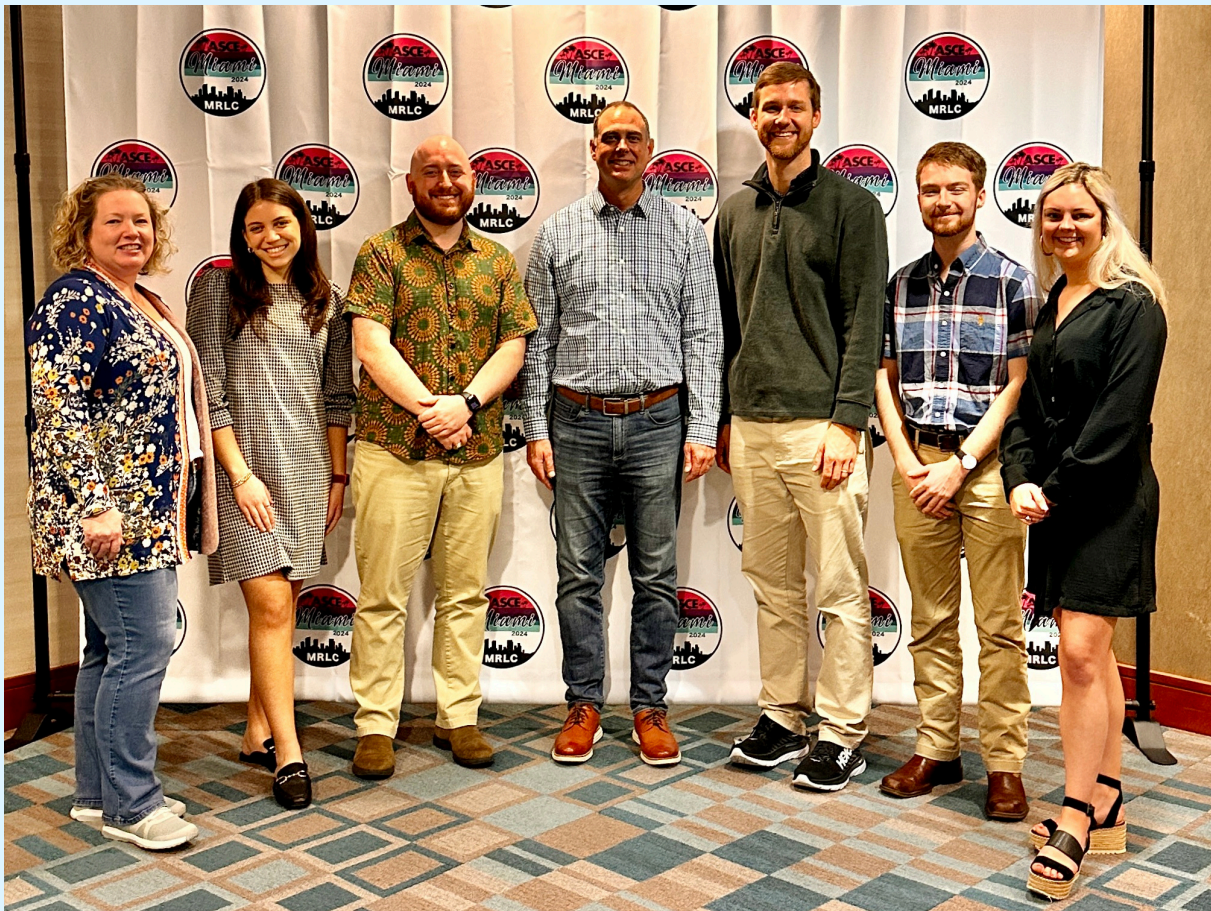
Representing the SC Section at this year's Legislative Reception are:  
Bailey Lively, Grant Hollis, Renée Gardner, Jonathan Thrasher, and  
Theo Deligiannidis

## January 25th – 27th, 2024 Multi-Regional Leadership Conference

The Multi-Regional Leadership Conference (MRLC) is three conferences combined into one. It includes the Workshop for Section, Branch and Institute Leaders (WSBIL), Eastern Region Younger Member Council (ERYMC), and the Workshop for Student Chapter Leaders (WSCL).

Over 400 Civil Engineers and Civil Engineering students were expected to attend the conference from ASCE Regions 1, 2, 4, and 5. The span includes the eastern part of the United States from Louisiana to Florida and up to Maine. These regions also include Puerto Rico and the Canadian provinces of New Brunswick, Newfoundland and Labrador, Nova Scotia, Prince Edward Island, and Quebec.

This year the conference was held in Miami, FL.



Attending the Conference representing SC from l to r are Melisa Black (Eastern Branch), Samantha Milch, (Clemson University), Bobby Ley (Midlands Branch), Kevin Krick (Region 4 Governor), Michael Stoner (Clemson University), George Spence (Clemson University) and Bailee Faile (Midlands Branch)

## March 1-3, 2024 Legislative Fly-In

Every spring, ASCE holds its Legislative Fly-In in Washington, DC. This is an exclusive and intensive two-day event providing participants with professional development in honing their skills in the public policy process and advocacy, as well as valuable peer-to-peer networking with fellow ASCE influencers.



Arriving in Washington ready to represent SC – Jonathan Ard, Jonathan Thrasher, and Michael Zavislak

Meeting with SC Representative,  
Joe Wilson



## March 9, 2024 ASCE Upstate Branch Popsicle Bridge Event

The ASCE Upstate Branch has been hosting the Popsicle Bridge Event since 2009. The event was started by the Upstate Branch members and the Greenville County Schools Challenge Program to help students learn more about math, science, and engineering in a fun and practical way. The students spend approximately 3 months in the classroom learning about bridge design and the challenges of creating a strong, yet lightweight bridge which is essential in today's real world scenarios of cost efficient design. The 4th grade students construct their bridges with Popsicle sticks and white craft glue and must adhere to certain constraints regarding height, length and width. The bridges are then brought to the competition for final weigh-in and testing as part of the event.



**Pictured are Upstate Branch members who volunteered their time to this event.**



## April 10th, 2024 Engineers Day on the Hill:

The purpose of this day is to educate legislators on the important and diverse roles that engineers play in the community and to increase our presence and voice in the public policy process. Our goal is to educate legislators on the importance of our profession and to speak on why engineers need to be a part of the conversation on The Hill.



ASCE SC Section members joined with several other engineering societies to be recognized by the SC Legislators. Here are some attendees pictured with the Proclamation.







**April 25, 2024**  
**Low Battery Reconstruction Showcase**



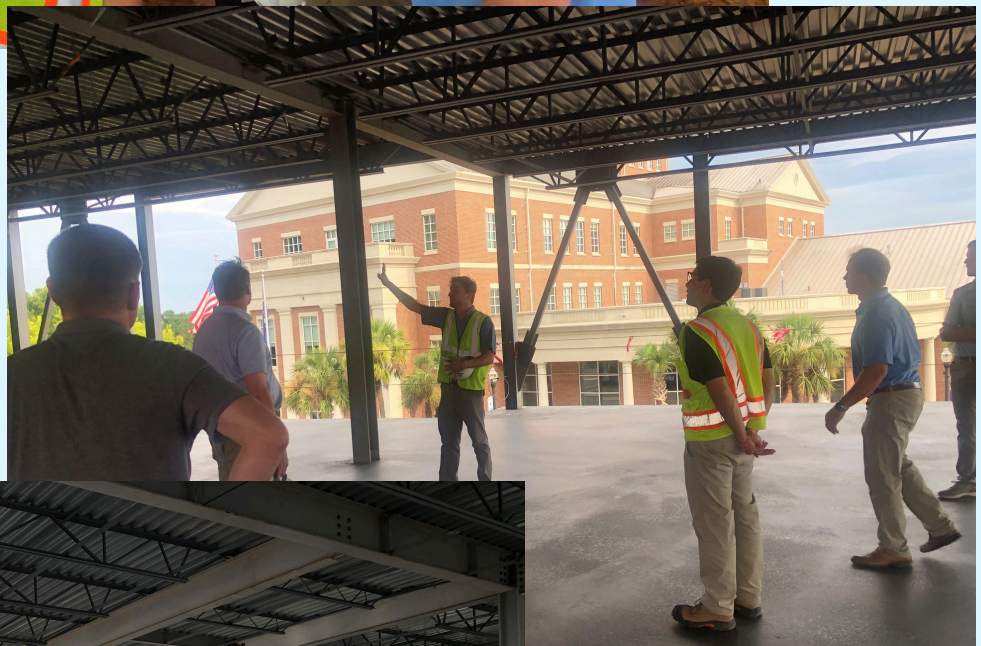
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**June 6-8, 2024**  
**SC Engineering Conference & Trade Show:**

**American Council of Engineering Companies of South Carolina (ACEC-SC), American Society of Civil Engineers of SC (ASCE SC), and South Carolina Society of Professional Engineers (SCSPE) partner to host this annual conference.**

**Organization is facilitated through Jones, McAden, & Associate, Inc. (JMA). Representatives from each organization serve on the conference committee and work diligently to bring forth a valuable opportunity for engineers to hear timely presentations on various engineering subjects, keynote presentations and earn enough professional development hours to substantially meet the annual requirement. Additionally, the conference offers a trade show where products and services engineers use directly or specify are offered with knowledgeable representatives to assist participants.**

# August 2024 CSRV Summer Tour at Gateway Center



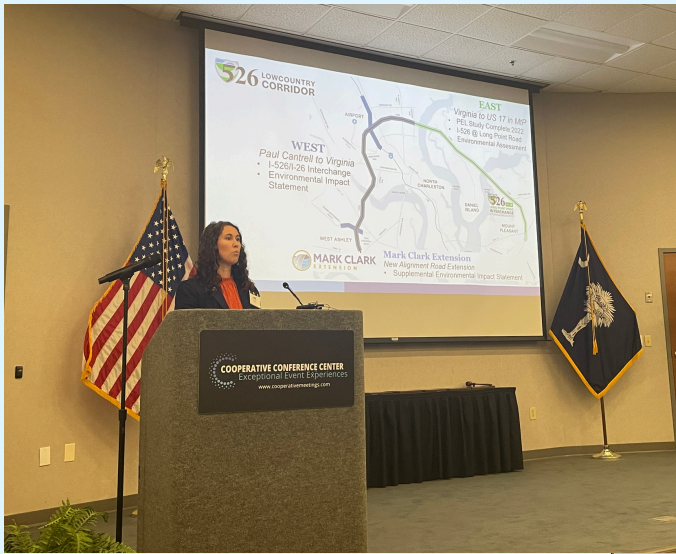
**September 12, 2024**  
**Annual Pre-conference Board meeting/dinner at the Palmetto Club**



## September 13, 2024 ASCE SC Section Fall Conference

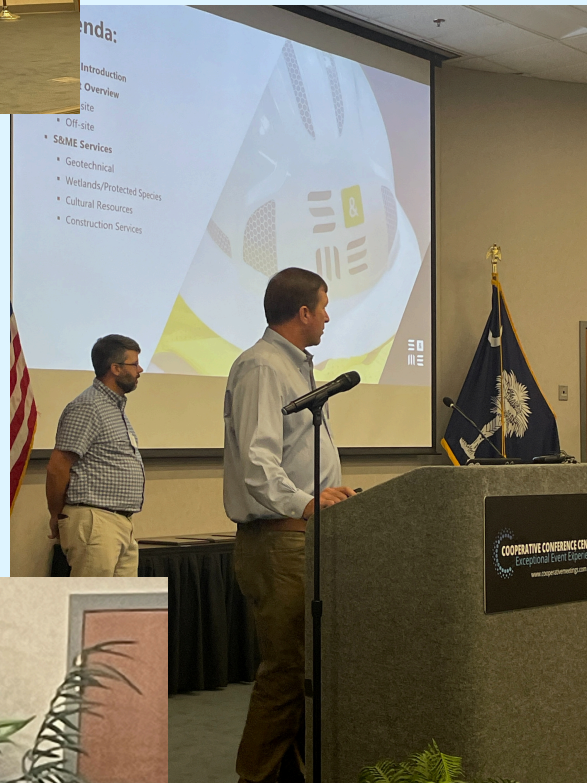
The Conference Committee worked diligently on the annual one-day conference. It offered three tracks and attendees had the opportunity to earn 4.5 PDHs. In addition, the keynote speaker was Ryan Mattie, PE, (JMT) providing an overview of the Low Battery Seawall project. Committee members were Kevin Morgan (Chair), Bailey Lively, Cherri DeFigh-Price, Renée Gardner, and Chris Mack.





**Kit Scott, SCDOT Update**

**Matt Cooke, S&ME  
Scout Project Overview**



**Ryan Mattie,  
Charleston Lower Battery  
Seawall**

**Annual Section Award Winners were announced at the  
2024 SC Section Fall Conference:**



**LeTellier Cup: for Outstanding lifetime contribution to the profession of Civil Engineering**



**Charles O. Skipper, PhD., PE (Eastern Branch)**

**SC Young Civil Engineers of the Year – member under the age of 35 who has demonstrated the most outstanding contribution to the profession of Civil Engineering in South Carolina in Fiscal Year 2024**



**Katie Johnson, EIT (Midlands Branch)**



**Lisa Umutoni, EIT (Upstate Branch)**

**Section Leadership Award – Member of the ASCE South Carolina Section or Local Branch that has demonstrated outstanding leadership and/or service during the past fiscal year.**



**Chris Mack, PE (Eastern Branch)**

**Section Educators of the Year – Educator within the South Carolina Section Boundaries that has demonstrated excellence at developing the next generation of Civil Engineering Students.**



**Dr. Nichole Berge, PE  
University of South Carolina**



**Dr. Dan Nale, PE - The Citadel**

**Project of the Year – The most outstanding civil engineering project completed within the state of South Carolina in Fiscal Year.**



**Downtown Bamberg Tornado Recovery (JLA)**

**President's Award – Person, group or firm that has demonstrated significant contributions to the ASCE South Carolina Section by the ASCE SC Section President.**



**Grant Hollis, PE (Upstate Branch) - For his outstanding role as Treasurer of the Section, tenacity for getting our finances in improved shape (transferring money to higher earning CDs, tracking expenses, etc.)**



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**September 13, 2024**

**Ceremonial passing of the gavel**



**Outgoing President, Renée Gardner with incoming President, Chris Mack**

**FY 24-25 SC Section Board Members**



**President  
Bailey Lively**



**President-Elect  
Gwen Sollenberger**



**Vice President  
You?**



**Past President  
Chris Mack**



**Secretary  
Cherri DeFigh-Price**



**Treasurer  
Grant Hollis**

**FY 24-25 SC Section Board Members**



**At-Large/CSRV Director  
Mark Lorah**



**Catawba Branch Director  
Brad Ross**



**Grand Strand Director  
Ryan Harvey**



**Eastern Branch Director  
Jonathan Ard**



**Upstate Branch Director  
Jason Jansante**



**Midlands Branch Director  
Grace Porter**