

ENM NEWS

For the concrete masonry and hardscape industry

Volume 38, Number 9 September 2008



NCMA Members Chart a Course for Success *2008 Midyear Meeting*

Beautiful Huntington Beach, California was the site of the recent 2008 Midyear meeting. Over 400 members came together to discuss the industry and set the course for success in 2009. Conducting over 70 high-energy committee meetings, the membership reviewed the association long range plan and current projects and developed recommendations to ensure a prosperous 2009.

Although the economy is tight and each company has concerns associated with that, the general feeling is that the collaboration and work the association is doing now will place the industry in a positive position when the economy eventually bounces back.

continued on page 2

Please pass on to:

- Sales
- Production
- Quality Control
- Management
- Finance
- Technical
- Marketing
- Purchasing

in this issue

FEATURES

Cover Story

**NCMA Members Chart
a Course for Success**

8

**Looking Ahead: The Ambitious
NCMA 2009 Workplan**

DEPARTMENTS

4 Association News

6 Industry News

10 Educational Opportunities

12 Workforce Development

14 Safety Focus

16 Marketplace

19 Upcoming Events Calendar

A PUBLICATION OF THE



WWW.NCMA.ORG

Town Hall Meeting



On Wednesday afternoon, members presented status reports on the goals outlined in the association's long-range strategic plan (see page 8-9). Membership recruitment, government affairs, NCMA Foundation, codes and standards, marketing, education and more were discussed. Members of the audience participated in a vibrant Q & A session after each speaker. One of the most dynamic speakers of the day was Canan D'Avella, Western Block, who spoke about the release of new, easy-to-use, masonry design software developed by NCMA, the International Masonry Institute and Ryan-Biggs Associates (more on page 7). Mike Iannelli, Fizzano Brothers, spoke about the upcoming expansion of Concrete Products University to include distance learning and more.



PDCC

The Product Development and Creative Concepts Forum (PDCC), is an opportunity for members to hear about new innovations, products and services in the industry. The top three finishers in the UNC Student Block Design Competition presented their design at the forum. Each winner spoke eloquently about their new block design features and even had samples on hand. The winning team designed a block with two surface treatments that can be used to create attractive patterns. A masonry industry website was also featured as well as a new pallet wrapping system.

Committee Meetings

The midyear meeting provides opportunities to shape the agenda and direction of the association by participating in committee meetings as well as a lot of opportunities for networking and fun. Committees drive the association and in the upcoming months, articles in *CM News* will take a look at some of the different NCMA committees and their priorities, plans and progress. Thank you to all of those members who participated in the meetings and shared their expertise and insight. NCMA is a better association thanks YOU!

CM News reports on the concrete masonry and hardscape industry. *CM News* is published monthly by the National Concrete Masonry Association and distributed to the concrete masonry and hardscape industry, the trade press, and other interested parties.

Send address corrections and subscription requests to:
CM News
13750 Sunrise Valley Drive
Herndon, VA 20171-4662
Fax: 703-713-1910

PUBLISHER
James Gaidry, jgaidry@ncma.org

EDITOR
Mary Arntson-Terrell, mterrell@ncma.org

ADVERTISING SALES
Ron Churchill, rchurchill@ncma.org

Copyright 2008 by the National Concrete Masonry Association (NCMA). All rights reserved. Contents may not be reprinted or reproduced without the written consent of NCMA.



Business Lunch

Friday's Business Lunch was a jam-packed session. Bill Holden and Bob Thomas kicked off the lunch with a hopeful view of the future in the Chairman's/President's Report. Several awards were also presented: the NCMA Lifetime Achievement Award was presented to the family of Ben Fry and Jim Weber was bestowed with the recognition of Honorary Member. Mike Finch, incoming Chairman of the Board, encouraged members to keep up their recruitment efforts even thorough these tough economic times. He challenged all members to try to recruit one member this year in order to keep our voice as loud as possible in the fight for industry market share.

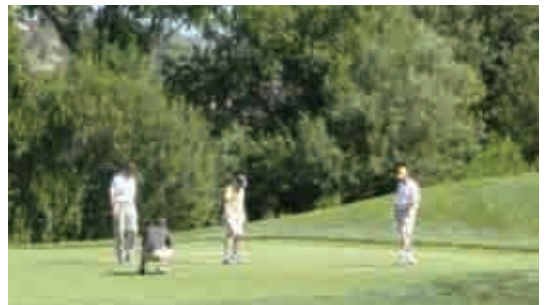
An engaging guest speaker wrapped up the lunch. Gary Lawrence of Lawrence Research, spoke on his perspective on "November 2008: Tipping Point for America?"



Rohrabacher Fundraiser & NCMA PAC Fundraiser

On Friday night, two important events took place. First, a fundraiser for Congressman Dana Rohrabacher was held. Rick Muth, of Orco Block Company, introduced the congressman to NCMA members who came out to support the local leader. Congressman Rohrabacher spoke of his high esteem for the industry and even gave a few surfing pointers.

Next Congressman Rohrabacher spoke at the NCMA PAC Reception and answered questions from the attendees. The party was lively and everyone had fun, especially when Billy Wauhup gave out door prizes and several other items (such as a football signed by Norv Turner) were auctioned off—raising quite a bit of money for the NCMA Polical Action Committee.



Golf Tournament

One of the favorite annual Midyear events is the Paul and Helen Lenchuk Golf Tournament. The beautiful Strawberry Farms Golf Club and beautiful California weather combined to make this one of the most enjoyable golf outings in memory. Thousands of dollars were raised for the Paul and Helen Lenchuk Scholarship Fund.

NCMA Welcomes New SRW Contractor Members

Congratulations to these new members for being involved in the fastest growing market within the concrete masonry and hardscape industry and for taking that first step towards setting their company apart from the competition by joining the NCMA as an SRW Contractor member:

Brandon Farina
Farina Hardscapes LLC,
Hackettstown, NJ
brandon@farinahardscapes.com

James E. Henderson
FGW Landscaping
Richmond Hill, GA
henderson1022@gmail.com

Mike Spayd
Spayds Greenhouses & Floral
Fleetwood, PA
mike@spayds.com

Frank E. Gandora
Creative Hardscape Co
Lakewood, CO
frank@creativehardscape.com

Ed Pouhe
Pouheco Holdings, Inc.
Soukatoon, SK
pouheco@shaw.ca

Scott M. Eckenrode
S.E. Design & Construction, Inc.
York, PA
sedesign@comcast.net

Bob Morawczynski
Regent Landscape Ltd
Aurora, ON
bob@reglan.ca

Jeff Wakelam
Creative Designs Plus, Inc.
Nampa, ID
jeffwakelam@cableone.net

Colin Taheny
Rycolandscaping
Lake In The Hills, IL
ctaheny@rycolandscaping.com

Sean Allison
Hardscapes Unlimited, Inc.
Rochester, NY
hardscapesunlimited@hotmail.com

Mark Ressa
MD Landscape Management LLC
Cherry Hill, NJ
mdlandmanagement@aol.com

Shadi Shawabkeh
Cape May Pavers & Landscaping
Little Egg Harbor, NJ
capemaypavers@yahoo.com

Dennis S. Langley, Jr.
Creekside Nurseries
Knoxville, TN
creeksidenurinc@aol.com

Chris Vanruler
Precision Paving Stones
Lyons, CO
chrisvr@mac.com

Please invite SRW Contractors in your area to join NCMA. For more information on member benefits and how to join, contact the Membership Manager at 703-713-1900 or hweiss@ncma.org, or download an application from www.ncma.org. CMN

Kent Hartman
South-Side Lawn & Landscape
Pueblo, CO
contact@sslawnlandscape.com

John Barnes
Retaining Walls AL
Birmingham, AL
jbarnes002@bham.rr.com

Steven L. Polston
Polston Construction & Landscaping
Louisville, KY
info@polstoninc.com

Eric Munsell
Carolina Outdoor Care Inc.
Raleigh, NC
emunsell@carolinaoutdoorcare.com

Andrew Couturier
MCE Corportation
Saint Pauls, NC
couturieras@nc.rr.com

JoAnne LaVake
Lifestyle Environments
Grafton, WI
paverpatios@gmail.com

Nicholas Hellums
Ultimate Lawn & Landscape
Cordova, TN
ultimatelawn@comcast.net

Shawn D. Brown
Ameriscape USA Inc.
Lutz, FL
sabationlindon@gmail.com

GOING GREEN?

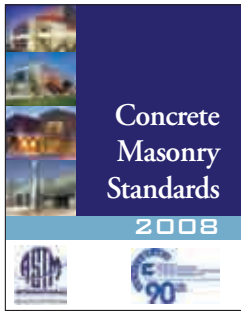
Share your green practices with the industry. What are you doing to save energy, reclaim wastewater, reuse materials or reduce waste?

CM News would like to feature your office or plant in an upcoming issue.

Please forward your GREEN PRACTICES to Mary Terrell at mterrell@ncma.org.

New NCMA Publications

Concrete Masonry Standards 2008

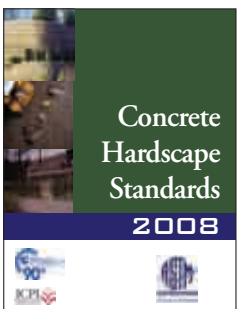


A compilation of 39 ASTM standards pertaining to concrete masonry products as published by ASTM as of July 2008. Included are manufacturing specifications and testing methods for the various concrete masonry

units, Portland cement, mortar, admixtures for mortar, aggregates, grout, flexural bond strength, dry-stacked surface bonded construction, slump, slump flow of self-consolidating concrete, and terminology. 216 pages (2008). Note: A separate volume is published on concrete hardscape units (See TR95NH). Available to members only.

TR95NB: Call NCMA for price.

Concrete Hardscape Standards 2008



A compilation of 18 ASTM standards pertaining to concrete hardscape products as published by ASTM as of July 2008. Included are manufacturing specifications and testing methods for segmental retaining wall

units (SRWs), concrete solid interlocking paving units, grid pavers, articulating concrete block (ACBs), soil classification, standard proctor, aggregates, bases and subbases, connection strength between geosynthetic reinforcement and SRWs. 125 pages (2008). Note a separate volume is published on concrete masonry standards (see TR95NB). Available to members only.

TR95NH: Call NCMA for price.

New NCMA Policy on Integral Water Repellency Established.

NCMA has published new guidelines on appropriate performance criteria for those concrete masonry units made with integral water repellents. New test methods are presented for evaluating water repellency characteristics of the units as are recommendations for including these guidelines into construction specifications. This information has been published in NCMA's newest technical bulletin, TEK 19-7 *Characteristics for Concrete Masonry Units with Integral Water Repellent*. Integral water repellent units are able to contribute significantly to the ability of a concrete masonry wall assembly to perform as an exterior building enclosure that is resistance to penetration from wind-driven rain. The recommendations in the TEK are intended to make sure that units promoted as water repellent conform to minimum industry standards of repellency. The TEK also addresses the fact that water repellent concrete masonry wall systems must also be designed and constructed properly using quality materials to perform as intended. Design and specification strategies to achieve water resistance is addressed in various technical bulletins within the TEK series. TEK 19-7 can be viewed and downloaded through the e-TEK site through one of NCMA's member sponsors, and can be accessed through NCMA's website: www.ncma.org. Hard copies can be ordered from the NCMA publication department at 703-713-1900. For more information on the published recommendations contact NCMA Research Engineer Nick Lang (nlang@ncma.org) or Technical Publications Director Dennis Graber (dgrab@ncma.org). CMN

TEK 14-13B Concrete Masonry Wall Weights

Walls weights are used directly to calculate sound transmission class (STC) ratings, seismic base shear force, heat capacity, and dead loads on structural members such as lintels. To make the task of determining wall weights easier, TEK 14-13B *Concrete Masonry Wall Weights* has been updated to include the new face shell thicknesses of ASTM C90-06. It provides weights in pounds per square foot for 4, 6, 8, 10, 12, 14, and 16-inch (102, 152, 203, 254, 305, 356, and 406 mm) concrete masonry wall assemblies without grout and with grouted cells spaced from 8 to 120 inches (203 to 3058 mm). Concrete block densities range from 95 to 135 pounds per cubic foot (1521 to 2162 kg/m³).

This TEK is appropriate for distribution to architects, engineers, residential designers, contractors, building officials, producers, and inspectors. To order copies of the publication, call NCMA at (703) 713-1900. CMN

WASHINGTON WIRE: Sustainability

From transportation to health concerns to the food supply, sustainability has become the latest buzz word on Capitol Hill. As a top priority for both Democrats and Republicans in the 110th Congress, the topic of energy conservation and environmental sustainability has appeared in a surprising variety of legislative issues. Skyrocketing gas prices, rising inflation and a weakened economy have sparked debate on both sides of the aisle, with Republicans clamoring for eased restrictions on domestic oil drilling and Democrats arguing for increased government investment in renewable resources. While both courses mean a lengthy wait for results, lawmakers have turned their focus to methods immediately at hand to address energy and fuel efficiency. Lawmakers have added environmental policies to bills across the entire political spectrum, including bills about student loans, transportation, agriculture, and housing, to name a few. The House even implemented a new “Green the Capitol” initiative for the Capitol Complex, mandating an environmentally friendly contract with its own food suppliers, a switch to energy-efficient vending machines, biodegradable cutlery, and biodegradable water bottles.

Speaker of the House Nancy Pelosi (D-CA) kicked off the focus on energy improvements at the beginning of the 110th Congress with the creation of a new House Select Energy Independence and Global Warming Committee, which has held hearings on a variety of issues related to global warming ranging from gas supply and oil prices to green buildings to

the food service industry’s role in climate change. Since then, nearly



every congressional committee from Foreign Relations to Agriculture has begun a dialogue on sustainability issues. The House Committee on Science and Technology has focused on the environmental impact of road materials, including use of renewable concrete pavement instead of asphalt to increase fuel efficiency. The House Transportation and Infrastructure Committee, through a series of hearings in preparation for next year’s upcoming reauthorization of federal surface transportation programs, has discussed sustainability in relation to rural area roads, metropolitan area transportation, and highway infrastructure maintenance. In June, the Senate Commerce, Science and Transportation Committee held a hearing to examine the transportation sector’s effect on climate change. The Senate Energy and Natural Resources Committee has held similar hearings on climate change in addition to a wider range of discussions on renewable fuels and alternative energy sources, oil prices, and overall energy efficiency and infrastructure.

Congress is responding to the con-

cerns arising during these hearings with legislative solutions. Seeking ways to make a big impact in an election year, lawmakers tried and failed to pass legislation before the August recess to address high gas prices by increasing government regulation of energy futures trading (S. 3268). Senate Republicans have blocked bills to extend tax credits for developing alternative energy (H.R. 6049), revoke unused leases from oil companies, apply antitrust laws to the Organization of Petroleum Exporting Countries (OPEC) (H.R. 2264), and require oil companies to invest more money in alternative-energy projects (S. 3044). Democrats have refused to consider Republican proposals to lift restrictions on offshore drilling, promote development of “clean coal” technology, and ease permit requirements for nuclear power. Democrats and Republicans alike agree on the need for a second economic stimulus bill, one designed to create jobs, grow the economy and provide for disaster assistance, that could include funding for a low-income home energy assistance program and for weatherization to boost the energy efficiency of housing.

Our organizing theme for Government Affairs is Sustainability so we are in synch with the new political trends driving much of what Congress is doing now and well into the future.

We are working with senior House and Senate Armed Services Committee members to codify life cycle analysis and principles of sustainable design into the procurement decisions of the military service branches when choosing construction materials for buildings and other kinds of construction.

We are drafting legislation that

Masonry Software Takes a Leap Forward

David T. Biggs, P.E.

will provide tax relief to individuals who use high thermal mass construction materials in residential construction. We will soon begin developing a significant research, development, and demonstration program that will test new ways of producing concrete masonry products. During the recent Masonry Industry Legislative Conference in Washington, D.C. senior staff from the House Small Business Committee invited representatives from NCMA to explore ideas within their jurisdiction to provide grants and low interest loans to individuals and small businesses to promote the use of more efficient construction materials for individuals and commercial businesses.

NCMA has also had dialogue with Senator Barbara Boxer, the Chair of the powerful Senate Environment and Public Works Committee about the development of sustainable non-tax oriented “credits” for the construction of sustainable buildings – for doing as Senator Boxer suggested at a recent meeting with NCMA representatives – “the right thing” in the selection of construction materials – for our industry taking the lead to develop and build sustainable and energy efficient buildings and being real stewards of the environment.

NCMA is bringing its collective talents and resources to the congressional debate on sustainability. We are natural leaders and participants of this debate and can use the new found congressional interest in sustainability to add value to our industry. The long term bipartisan relationships we are building on Capitol Hill will serve the industry well in this effort. You may be certain that when it comes to these critical debates on Capitol Hill our industry’s creativity and entrepreneurial spirit will stand out and it will be heard. CMN

Over the past year, a joint effort by NCMA, the International Masonry Institute (IMI), and Ryan-Biggs Associates has worked with Bentley Systems to expand Bentley’s software for designing structural masonry. Bentley’s RAM Advance has been updated to include hybrid masonry, which includes reinforced infill for structural steel-framed buildings. In addition, Bentley’s RAM Structural System and RAM Advance have been improved, which further assists engineers in the design of “all-masonry” load-bearing buildings. The software uses the 2005 version of the Masonry Standards Joint Committee standards (ACI 530/ASCE 5/TMS402).

Hybrid masonry is a new concept developed to integrate with steel-framed buildings to provide the backup for the exterior walls and provide structural bracing for the overall building frame. Interferences with the steel framing can be reduced by eliminating steel bracing. The masonry infill can be designed to combine with the steel framing as load bearing or non-load bearing. RAM Advance is the first software package to provide this new concept for design.

Unlike other software packages, the RAM Advance software allows engineers to design both the masonry and the steel framing in the hybrid concept. It is the closest thing to a whole building software package that has ever been marketed that includes masonry.

Unlike most software currently available that only designs elements, the “all-masonry” aspects of the Bentley software allows engineers to model full buildings in the Structural System program and generate all loads in accordance with building codes. Once the building model is completed, it is imported to RAM Advance and the masonry module is used to design bearing walls, shear walls, and masonry lintels. The walls can also have openings.

Steel-framed and concrete-framed buildings have been designed for years using whole building design software. This is not the case for masonry buildings. Most have been designed using hand calculations, spreadsheets written by individual engineers, or commercial packages that design elements. The suite of Bentley software makes whole building design a reality for load bearing and hybrid masonry.

Engineers that design even modest-sized load bearing buildings recognize that hand calculations can be tedious and repetitious. For a simple four-story building, it is not uncommon for an engineer to spend 6 to 8 weeks developing design calculations. To put the effect of using this software into perspective, that time can be reduced to less than a week. In addition, it is possible to evaluate alternative designs or modifications to a design without starting over.

It is not surprising that many engineers tend to design with steel or concrete because software that designs the whole building has been available for decades. However, there has been no whole building software for masonry. The NCMA/IMI/Ryan-Biggs effort has advanced the development of these tools to where engineers can now develop masonry designs faster and concentrate on the overall design and not the task of creating hand calculations. Seminars are being developed across the United States to introduce the software and train engineers. CMN

continued on page 15

Looking Ahead: The Ambitious NCMA 2009 Workplan

The biggest value of association membership is that companies can combine their efforts in order to benefit from the strength of the total body of members. In a tight market such as this, it takes a loud voice to protect and promote our industry across many fronts.

This is why an ambitious work plan has been developed for 2009. At the 2008 NCMA Midyear Meeting, the committees of the association were reviewing and finalizing a work plan for NCMA to undertake in order to accomplish objectives established under the NCMA Strategic Plan. The work plan and budget was recently reformatted into categories that are more consistent with the objectives of the strategic plan to encourage focus and continuity.

Here are some of the highlights of programs and work projects that are incorporated into the proposed plan.

CODES AND STANDARDS

The proposed budget includes a similar level of commitment as in recent years to support industry initiatives within standards development organizations (ASTM, ASHRAE, MSJC) and the building codes (ICC) as well as supporting industry collaboration through the Masonry Alliance for Codes and Standards (MACS).



ICON EXPO TRADESHOW

The proposed budget is based on NCMA serving as the lead sponsor of Icon Expo in 2009 in Indianapolis.

INDUSTRY LIAISON

NCMA will continue to provide support to organizations such as the Concrete Home Building Council and The Masonry Society. NCMA also budgets resources to meet and collaborate with related national associations as well as with members of its State and Province Association Alliance of regional concrete masonry associations.



INDUSTRY RESEARCH AND DEVELOPMENT

The work plan includes researching

- air barrier requirements for masonry walls,
- freeze-thaw durability of SRW units,



- possible efficiencies in the masonry unit strength compliance method,
- concrete product manufacturing-related research.

PUBLIC POLICY ADVOCACY

This program continues its recent increase in investment by NCMA to influence federal legislation and government agencies. Also include is NCMA continuing participation in American Chemistry Council to counter possible unfavorable silica requirements and partnering again with the Mason Contractors Association of America in a 2009 Masonry Industry Legislative Conference.

TECHNICAL SERVICES

This program continues the investment of NCMA to provide general technical support to its members and to designers, contractors, and building officials.



WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT

This program includes continuing support for Skills USA.

AWARDS PROGRAMS

This self-supported program includes the NCMA/ICPI plant safety awards program and the NCMA Design Awards program.

CERTIFICATION PROGRAMS

The self-supported program includes the continuation of the certified SRW installer, the certified concrete masonry testing technician, and the certified consultant of concrete masonry. New programs under possible development include



the certified hardscape professional and the certified safety manager.

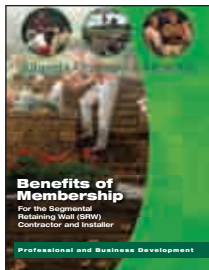
Resources are also being allocated to bring NCMA certification programs into substantial voluntary compliance with established industry standards.



MARKET RETENTION AND DEVELOPMENT

The scope of this program has broadened to include initiatives often located elsewhere in the work plan to ensure the objectives of the program support market expansion. Additional resources have also been provided. The work plan for this program includes:

- University Education Support – sponsoring University Professors Masonry Workshop and other support.
- Hardscape Tradeshows – NCMA participation in tradeshows developed for hardscape contractors (including Hardscape North America)
- Trade Publication Advertising – NCMA sponsored advertising of concrete masonry and hardscape attributes in national trade publications
- Structural Trial Design – developing structural efficiencies for masonry through improvements to design methodologies
- SRW Collateral Materials – developing resources that members (including SRW contractors) can use to promote the use of SRWs and their own businesses.
- Educating Key Markets – influencing decision makers within those markets where concrete masonry and hardscape systems have something to offer.
- USACE Barracks Construction – reversing the trend of the Army Corps of Engineers to build barracks using wood frame construction.
- Comprehensive Marketing Campaign



CONCRETE MASONRY DESIGNS MAGAZINE

The work plan includes the development and sponsored distribution of four hardscapes issues, four commercial issues, and four residential issues as well as a design awards issue.



EDUCATION PROGRAMS

The following new self-funded programs are planned for development in 2009:

- Internet based education program delivery
- Production quality assurance / quality control
- Block plant safety
- Estimating and field safety for SRW installers
- SRW design, featuring new design manual and software
- Masonry structural design featuring new modules in Bentley and/or Risa software packages

ASSOCIATION LITERATURE

This self-funded program provides maintenance and continued development of TEK and other industry literature and software programs. Expected key new releases include the 3rd Edition of the NCMA SRW Design Manual and SRW design software.



RESEARCH AND DEVELOPMENT LABORATORY

This self-funded segment of the Association will continue to provide testing services to member companies as well as perform industry research sponsored by NCMA through its Industry Research and Development Program



OPTIONAL PROGRAMS

The following programs are expected to be distributed to the membership with a request for funding support:

1. NCMA exhibiting at the following tradeshows:
 - Construction Specification Institute
 - Commercial Construction
 - National Association of Homebuilders
 - Council of Education Facility Planners International
 - American Institute of Architects
2. Concrete Home Building Technology Tour
3. Student Block Design Competition

Educational Opportunities

Annual Convention Education Tracks & Topics

Highly relevant and practically applicable educational seminars are planned for the Annual Convention and Icon Expo. Some instructor opportunities are still available. Contact the NCMA education department at 703-713-1900 or e mail drozsa@ncma.org for more information.

	Sales & Marketing Track	Business Management Track	Hardscape Contractor Track
Tuesday (24 Feb 2009)			
5-6 pm			
Wednesday (25 Feb 2009)			
7:30-8:30 am			
Thursday (26 Feb 2009)			
7-8 am			
8-9 am	Making the Case for Total Cost of Ownership (quality, service, delivery, & price) v. Price	Executing a Targeted Sales Growth Plan	Project Management
9-10 am	Negotiations Strategies and Tactics	Six Sigma Quality: It's Not Just for the Factory (improving business practices)	Planning & Designing SRWs
10-11 am			
11 am - Noon			
2:30-6 pm			
Friday (27 Feb 2009)			
7-8 am			
8-9 am	Life-Cycle Cost Analyses and Pavement Performance Prediction of Interlocking Concrete Pavements	Measuring Productivity in the Plant	Selling the "Green" Aspects of SRWs
9-10 am	Building Relationships with Design Professionals – AIA/CES-Approved Seminars	Cashflow Improvement Strategies	Fundamentals of Permeable Interlocking Concrete Pavement
10-11 am	Marketing the Sustainability Advantages of Concrete Masonry, SRWs, and Pavers: Selling "Green" Products	How to Recruit and Retain High-Performance Production Employees	Estimating
1-6 pm			
Saturday (28 Feb 2009)			
11 am - 6 pm			



	Executive Leadership Track	Production, Operations, and Safety Track	Other Education
Tuesday (24 Feb 2009)			
5-6 pm			C ³ M Reunion
Wednesday (25 Feb 2009)			
7:30-8:30 am			Industry Challenge Breakfast: The Economic Forecast
Thursday (26 Feb 2009)			
7-8 am			Education Breakfast: Using Recycled Content for Sustainability & LEED: What Works?
8-9 am	Strategic Planning	Making Quality Concrete Products	
9-10 am	Three Essential Elements of Leadership: Mission, Vision, & Values	Production Waste: Measuring, Understanding Costs, & Solutions	
10-11 am		Efflorescence Control	
11 am - Noon		Open Forum on Production, Operations, and Safety: Common Problems and Solutions	
2:30-6 pm			SRW Hands-On Installation Basic Course
Friday (27 Feb 2009)			
7-8 am			Education Breakfast: The Ultimate Backyard Challenge
8-9 am	How to Lobby at the State Level to Expand the Market for Concrete Masonry, SRWs, and Pavers	Statistical Quality Control for Aggregates	
9-10 am	Recession-Proof Your Business	Mix Design Optimization	
10-11 am	Leadership Transition Planning: Will Your Company Survive You?	Cement and Pozzolan Technology, including Alternative Cementitious Materials	
1-6 pm			SRW Installer Train-the-Trainer – Part 1 (CPU Instructor Training)
Saturday (28 Feb 2009)			
11 am - 6 pm			SRW Installer Train-the-Trainer – Part 2 (Technical Content)

Education-Training From a Local View

Virginia Contractors Offer Best Employees

Apprenticeship Training Program

It takes three years to complete the apprenticeship program sponsored by the Blue Ridge Masonry Association, in southwest Virginia. But in the 52 hours of class time each year, students don't lay a single block or brick.

Every student already works full-time for a contractor, and has been chosen by his employer for the course because he exhibits an aptitude for rising in the trade.

"Usually it's the smarter guy, the guy who works a little harder. And the contractor thinks he has some potential," says Richard McGann, a masonry contractor in Lynchburg, and chairman of Blue Ridge's apprenticeship training committee. "We don't need to show them how to lay one brick on top of another. They do that all day."

Instead, the program focuses on what McGann calls the "paperwork part" of masonry – the technical aspects – blueprint reading, estimating, government requirements, reinforced masonry.

"The trade is getting more and more complicated every day," he says. "So we want our graduates to be able to talk to with architects. We want to give them the expertise to talk with the contractor about the chemical aspects of mortar."

Classes meet for three hours one evening a week, January through May. Twenty students were enrolled during the most recent semester. Classes are held at a vocational school in Salem, near Roanoke, where the Blue Ridge Masonry Association is based. But students (and instructors) come from as far as Lynchburg, 60 miles away. The willingness to drive 120 miles after a full day of work is another indication of a student's desire for advancement,



"We want our graduates to be able to talk to with architects. We want to give them the expertise to talk with the contractor about the chemical aspects of mortar."

– Richard McGann, Blue Ridge Masonry Association

McGann says. "They have a tendency to apply themselves, because this is their livelihood."

The association directs \$9,000 a year to fund the program, which also receives support from the Mason Contractors Association of America (MCAA), Northeast Cement Shippers Association. The program has graduated 100 apprentices since it was founded in 1996. McGann says 94 percent of those graduates are still in the trade. "So we feel like we're having a good impact."

The program uses the curriculum developed by MCAA. It is registered

by the Bureau of Apprenticeship and Training (BAT) and certified by the State Apprenticeship Council (SAC).

Southwestern Virginia is not a high-growth area, so developing talent from within a company is a sensible way to keep the trade stable and secure, according to McGann. "What we try to do is maintain good masons and keep good masons out there."

Masonry still pays a relatively high wage in the area, McGann says. And the work isn't going anywhere. CMN

Apprentice of the Month: Athlete, Honor Student, and Skilled Young Mason

Jason Salvas knows how to stay busy. A member of his basketball team throughout high school and a member of National Honor Society his junior and senior years, Salvas still found time to work daily with his father and grandfather as a laborer on the family's dairy farm.

"They didn't teach me masonry, but they taught me to work hard and to never give up no matter how rough the road gets," says Salvas of his male mentors. "They have been a big part of my life. They have inspired me to be the best I can be."

As a high school junior, Salvas enrolled in the masonry program at Harvard H. Ellis Technical High School, Danielson, Conn. He graduated this spring.

His masonry instructor at H. H. Ellis Tech, Michael Daigle, says of Salvas, "Jason is such a hard worker. He works every day with his father and grandfather at Spruce Hill (Dairy)



Farms. He seems to like the masonry trade as it comes in handy on the farm."

Daigle continues, "Jason has been an excellent athlete, and honor role student and a very respectable young man. I saw his leadership as captain of the basketball team and as our shop representative. He will do the masonry trade proud."

Salvas honors his instructor by saying, "I felt Mr. Daigle's interest in me. He seems so dedicated to teaching me and other students all he can about masonry."

Salvas is a two-time participant in



the National Masonry Contest held as part of the SkillsUSA National Leadership Conference at Bartle Hall in Kansas City, Mo. each June.

Salvas plans to attend Three Rivers Community College later this fall. CMN

If you know of a local training program that has not been profiled in *CM News*, please forward the information to Harry Junk at 703-713-1900 or hjunk@ncma.org

Need a reliable solution to your palletizing needs?

- High-speed stacking capabilities
- Low Maintenance
- Easy to Operate
- 24 Hr. Customer Service Support



Call us today:
(360)735-1952
www.columbiaokura.com



The Lowdown on MSDSs

When the Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA) created the Hazard Communication standard in 1986, a major component was the Material Safety Data Sheet (MSDS). Manufacturers were required to provide MSDS and general industry employers maintain them in the workplace. A construction industry version of the standard came along shortly after and required contractors to maintain the MSDSs on jobsites. An MSDS is designed to provide workers and emergency responders with safe procedures for handling or working with a particular substance. An MSDS contains a huge amount of information that can be very challenging for a chemist much less someone on the average jobsite. However, by reviewing an MSDS for a common chemical hazard it will help make it is easier to understand its content and value for all chemicals.

Before beginning it's important to know that no one format exists for MSDSs. Although OSHA requires a minimum amount of information and provided a recommended format, the OSHA 174, when the standard was released other formats are accepted. Regardless of format, the key is to focus on the important content, understand it and be able to use it.

Knowing how to read an MSDS for gasoline, for example, could help avoid dangerous situations. Having the manufacturer's emergency contact, the chemical's health effects, first aid procedures, storage and disposal information, and even the substances physical data, such as melting point, boiling point, could save lives. Much of this information will be straight forward on the MSDSs. Little explanation is needed in reviewing the first aid procedure section; "Do not induce vomiting if ingested", "Flush eyes for 15 minutes if exposed", and the like. Other technical information may seem more difficult, but can be just as valuable.

Common substances, including gasoline, can be made up of other ingredients. Benzene, a cancer causing agent, can be found in gasoline. As you review the identity, you will see the percentage found in the substance and the exposure limits to the chemical. Exposure limits are usually identified as Threshold Limit Value (TLV) or Permissible Exposure Limit (PEL). These are time-weighted averages based on 8-hour work shifts. Although it takes monitoring of the workplace to determine exposure level, the numbers provide an indication of the relative danger. The lower the number the more easily you can be exposed to dangerous levels. Measurements listed in STEL (Short-Term Exposure Limit) reveal that even short periods of exposure can be dangerous.

Looking into the Physical and Chemical Characteristics section helps you identify the presence of the chemical and predict pending danger. The appearance and odor of gasoline are described as "A translucent, straw-colored or light yellow liquid" and "A strong, characteristic aromatic hydrocarbon odor." Its vapor density is 3 to 4. This is its relative weight as compared to air. Air is 1. Therefore, gasoline vapors are heavier than air indicating they may sink or be found at lower levels, such as down elevator shafts or in ditches. Its specific gravity or relative weight compared to water and solubility

describe how it interacts with water. Gasoline has a specific gravity of less than 1. This means it is lighter than and will float on water and will not mix with water. Knowing this reveals what will happen if water is used on a gasoline fire

The section on a substance's Fire and Explosion Data or Fire-fighting Measures are helpful in an emergency. For gasoline, it describes the firefighting needs as "extinguisher suitable for Class B fires, dry chemical, CO₂, water spray, fire fighting foam, or Halon". It also provides more technical data, such as Flashpoint and explosive limits. Flash point is the lowest temperature at which the chemical will ignite in air. Gasoline's is -45° F. This makes it nearly impossible to start gasoline engines in extremely cold climates. Not enough vapor is given off to ignite. It also reveals even at low temperatures enough vapor can be in the air for a fire. The explosive limits of gasoline (lower limit 1.4%) reveals small amounts are needed in the air for a fire or explosion. When dealing with a chemical's flammability hazard consider both the straight forward information as well as the technical data.

Another important section is the Reactivity Section. It identifies other chemicals which will react negatively with the substance. Mixing gasoline with oxidizers or substances that give off oxygen readily can cause explosive mixtures. The technical complexity comes with two words polymerization and decomposition. Polymerization simply means that a substance can transform itself. Its molecules link forming chains or polymers. Gasoline will not form hazardous polymers. Many chemicals will decompose by themselves or decompose through a reaction like a fire. Gasoline will decompose through fire or when mixed with nitric acid. This creates other hazardous chemicals.

The basic information and technical data in each MSDS can prove useful. Take time with the MSDSs. Consider what the technical data reveals about how the chemical will be present or used in the workplace and how it will behave. If an emergency occurs, know where the MSDSs are located and where to find the necessary emergency information on the MSDS.

A customizable MSDS template for block and hardscape products is available free on the NCMA web site in the members only section both in Word format and in PDF format under the "Safety and Government Compliance" section. NCMA members can order customized hard copies with your company name from the NCMA publication department at 703-713-1900 for \$5.00 each (order number OP18).

For additional help with safety and OSHA compliance, take advantage of the resources available through NCMA and NCMA's safety provider, INTEC, Inc. These resources include the NCMA Block Plant Safety Software and INTEC's onsite consultation and training services. The software is available from NCMA at (703) 713-1900 at a cost of \$150/plant/year (nonmember \$450.) Additional information about INTEC's onsite services can be obtained by contacting Joe O'Connor at (607) 624-7159 or by email at joconnor@intecweb.com. CMN

Continued from page 6

Storm Shelter Standard Approved

The International Code Council (ICC) recently announced that ANSI has approved ICC/NSSA Standard on the Design and Construction of Storm Shelters (ICC 500-2008). It is expected that the International Building Code and International Residential Code will adopt the standard by reference at the ICC Final Action Hearings in Minneapolis in September. The new standard is a much improved version over the only other previous available documents regarding storm shelters: FEMA 320 Taking Shelter from the Storm - Building a Safe Room in Your Home, FEMA 361 Design and Construction Guidance for Community Shelters, and the National Storm Shelter Association's (NSSA) Design and Construction of Storm Shelters. Improved provisions recognizing masonry's attributes in this regard are:

1. Reinforcement may be placed 4 f (1.2 mm) in 8-in. (203 mm) solid grouted walls rather than every cell
2. ASTM C 476 grout may be used rather than ASTM C 94 ready-mixed concrete for cell fill
3. The weight of a concrete masonry wall is given credit for resistance to overturning and uplift thereby greatly reducing the foundation size requirements. In fact, in certain retrofit situations, a concrete masonry storm shelter may be built on an existing concrete slab without a special foundation.
4. It is applicable to residential as well as community shelters
5. It requires testing of all components of the shelter. NCMA's published research at Texas Tech University several years ago provides prequalified masonry wall sections
6. It addresses shelters for both tornadoes and hurricanes

NCMA is also working with FEMA to update their two above noted publications to ensure that the superior storm resistance properties of masonry are recognized and incorporated. For more detailed information on this new standard see NCMA's TEK 5-14 *Concrete Masonry Hurricane and Tornado Shelters*. TEK 5-14 and all other NCMA TEK are available free on NCMA sponsoring member web sites. See www.ncma.org for sponsoring members and links. CMN

Position Available Director of Operations Minneapolis, MN



Anchor Block Company is looking for a dynamic, experienced Director of Operations who will lead all ABC manufacturing plants in the Twin Cities area, along with materials and supply chain management processes, facilities, distribution, safety, maintenance and manufacturing engineering processes. The successful candidate will also establish strong relationships and collaborate with sales and marketing groups on new product development and product line management.

Candidates should have 15+ years' hands on manufacturing supervisory/management experience (multi-plant), strong process and project mgt background, with strengths in leadership and change management. Requires a Bachelor's degree or equivalent along with previous management experience in a batch process environment using discrete and repetitive manufacturing as well as a strong background managing materials and supply management, production planning and control, transportation, safety and quality. Requires demonstrated experience in helping to develop and launch new products, and proven success in working with other internal departments to efficiently and effectively do so.

Qualified candidates, please send resume and salary history to djacobson@anchorwall.com or fax to 952-912-1673. ABC offers a competitive salary and benefits package.

OMNIA ENGINEERING

SAVE FUEL, INCREASE YIELDS
WITH CONSOLIDATED UNIT

Complete Vapor Curing
Systems Heats Mixing Water,
Heats the Plant
Highest Efficiencies,
Lowest Cost

Get the Facts
1-800-541-9516
www.omniaconcrete.com

▸ **LOW COST**
 ▸ **HIGH STRENGTH**
 ▸ **VARIED SIZES**
 ▸ **SUPERIOR SERVICE**


Huesker, inc.
 GEOGRIDS www.hueskerinc.com

Call Today For Immediate Shipment ☎ **800-942-9418**

ALABAMA PALLETS

“Your Dependable and Experienced
Steel Pallet and Rack Source for the
Concrete Block and Paver Industry”

Mike Crancer
Phone: (636) 861-7300
Toll Free: (888) 530-7337
Fax: (636) 861-7335
E-mail: mcrancer@msn.com
www.steelpallets.org

• Steel Racks
 • Steel Pallets





• Steel Products
 • Sand Hoppers

Domestic & Worldwide Service.


Our company has the experience you are looking for!
 We have been producing Steel Pallets & Steel Racks
 since 1973 and are former Concrete Block Producers.

Jeff McCarroll ■ 800 • 860 • 6065 ■ 937 • 293 • 5404 Fax
 ■ dmwelding@att.net



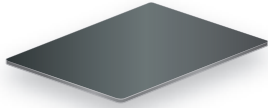
Admixture Sales to the machined
concrete industry. Please respond to:
ddeppen@acme-hardesty.com

Media Kit Available
at www.ncma.org.


SAMJUNG
 STEEL PALLETS

#1 World's **Supplier of Block Machine Steel Pallets**

● Flatness Guaranteed ● Maintenance Solutions
 ● High Tensile Steel ● ISO Certified Quality



2400 E Devon Ave Suite 210 Des Plaines, IL 60018
 T 847 296-7779 **Ventas en Español**
 F 847 296-7785 lv@carryworld.com
info@carryworld.com

For advertising information, call NCMA at 703-713-1900.

world class
equipment and
world class service!

microwave moisture
measurement for the
concrete industry



Hydronix

692 W. Conway Rd., Suite 24
Harbor Springs, MI 49740
Tel: (231) 439-5000
Fax: (231) 439-5001
Toll-free in USA and Canada
(888) 887-4884

www.hydrnix.com

For advertising
information,
call NCMA
at 703-713-1900.
Ask to speak to
Ron Churchill,
ext. 209.



STRATA
SYSTEMS, INC.

- HIGHEST QUALITY GEOGRIDS
- BEST CUSTOMER SERVICE
- COMPETITIVE PRICES

WWW.GEOGRID.COM

SPARTAN
STEEL PRODUCTS

Lowest prices on the highest
quality pallets



Lane Hamilton	800-627-4737	Lhamilton@spartansteel.com
Geoff Ridder	800-627-4737	gridder@spartansteel.com
Glen Reynolds	800-732-3419	greynolds@spartansteel.com
Dustin Reynolds	800-732-3419	dreynolds@spartansteel.com

Ventas en Español:
Samara Wilson 888-832-1415 swilson@spartansteel.com
spartansteel.com

iwi group llc

member of



Buying/Selling Used Equipment
Block Machines, Block Plants, Batch Plants, Crushers, Forklifts,
Front End Automation, Lintel Machines, Mixers, Paver Plants,
Precast, Cubers, Racks/Pallets, Roof Tile Machines, Trucks

Contact us for a FREE Brochure!

6069 Oakbrook Parkway, Norcross, GA 30093
Phone: (800) 247-2819 or (770) 840-7060
Fax: (770) 840-7069
e-mail: sales@iwigroup.com
www.iwigroup.com

THE ORIGINAL
www.careercrete.com
 Block | Paver | Pipe | Precast | Ready Mix

CONCRETE INDUSTRY ASSOCIATES EMPLOYMENT AGENCY

PO Box 954
 Grand Haven, MI 49417
 Tel: 616-842-0227
 E-mail: geb@concretejob.com



**NO FEES, NO EXCLUSIVITY,
 SO LIST WITH US.**

We buy and sell used equipment related to concrete product manufacturing.

Complete listing at
www.dit-equip.com

Molds are Our Business

We Design and Build Molds for Most Block Machines
 Our Quality and Price Will Please You

Madison Machine Co., Inc.
 2815 Sharp Road, Adrian, MI 49221
 Tel: (517) 265-8532 Fax: (517) 265-8438

IMMEDIATE CAREER OPPORTUNITIES—NATIONWIDE RECRUITING
 BLOCK & PAVER

United Employment Associates, LLC has been successfully placing Industry Professionals Since 1973.
 View available positions and candidates at:

www.concretejobs.com

All Fees Company Paid
 Reply in confidence to:
 Michael S. Stauffer, United Employment Assoc., LLC
 P.O. Box 8, East Texas, PA 18046
 Tel: 610-437-5040 Fax: 610-437-9650 Evening: 610-417-5503
 E-mail: mstauffer@unitedemployment.com www.unitedemployment.com

Tumbling line and surface treatment:

- Vena double feeder, Vena tumbler, Vena inclined pattern forming table re-cubing system.
- Slat conveyor feeding system 30 inch wide by 32 ft long for cubes without pallets.
- 2 Heavy duty tumblers: Asphalt drum rubberlined and Didion with Nickel alloy lining.
- Online chain aging system for pavers.
- Shot blaster for pavers with 36 inch slat conveyor and duct collector.
- Bush hammering system for pavers.

Slab Making Plants:

- 1987 turntable Henke Hermetic complete plant. Makes 2 only 450 x 450mm in 12 sec.

Paver Plant:

- 2001 MASA XL c/w face mix, 2000 pallets, 1200 x 1100, MASA handling system, cubing, mixing and batching.
- Recent Tiger PS100 with face mix, c/w face mix, 4000 steel pallets and Tiger handling and cubing system.

Block plants and machines:

- Besser V3R modified to V312 with 2001 UL26 handling system
- Hess RH2000 1400x1100 C/w handling system and block molds

Cubers:

- Mid 70's Besser SF5 automatic cubing system with one turn table.
- 2001 Besser SF7 Semi-automatic cubing system.
- 1988 Lithibar Fully automatic cuber. Completely refurbished.

Batching plant for precast:

- New 1985 (never operated) Elba 600 tons, 4 compartment bins, 2 yard new mixer and skip hoist, 2 only traveling buckets to production station, building stairways, bucket elevator. Beautiful German fabrication.

Mixers:

- Elba ribbon mixer & skip hoist 2 cu. Yd. New and 2 only 2 c.y. traveling bucket.
- Besser 100 cu. Ft. ribbon type mixer completely overhauled. Wichita clutch, new style liners, probes, new blades, new discharge door.
- Mixer system 2 cu. Yd. (1995) pan type mixer with high capacity motor. Good condition.
- Wiggert 375 l mixer. C/w cement scale and load cells. Manufactured in 2000.

Toll free: (888) 503-8812

Tel: (450) 653-2523, fax (450) 653-9686,

Email: info@dit-equip.com

www.dit-equip.com

THE CLASSIC MOISTURE PROBE SINCE 1964



A moisture meter's best friend is a reliable and affordable moisture probe from S&S Products.

Contact Us Today!
www.SandSProducts.com
 Tel: 610-449-9123
 Fax: 610-789-6052

S & S PRODUCTS

September

3 Rocky Mountain Masonry Institute ■ Highlighting Masonry in Your Design Seminar ■ Denver, Colorado ■ RMMI Offices ■ www.rmmi.org

10 Rocky Mountain Masonry Institute ■ A Masonry Tour of Prague and Budapest Seminar ■ Denver, Colorado ■ RMMI Offices ■ www.rmmi.org

16 International Masonry Institute ■ Learn Efficient Masonry Walls Lunch & Learn ■ Atlantic City, New Jersey ■ SOSH Architects ■ sstaub@imi.web

17 Masonry Association of Florida ■ Structural Masonry Design Seminar ■ Boca Raton, Florida ■ info@masonryeducation.org

17-20 Interlocking Concrete Pavement Institute ■ Summer Meeting ■ Calgary, Alberta, Canada ■ Hyatt Regency ■ www.icpi.org

19-20 NCMA and Karrass ■ Effective Negotiating Course ■ Herndon, Virginia ■ NCMA Headquarters ■ hjunk@ncma.org

22-27 NCMA and Construction Specifications Institute ■ Technical Sales Course and C³M Certification Program ■ Herndon, Virginia ■ NCMA Headquarters ■ dgraber@ncma.org

25-28 Concrete Masonry Association of California and Nevada ■ Fall Meeting ■ Las Vegas, Nevada ■ Four Seasons Hotel ■ info@cmacn.org

29-Oct 2 The Council of Educational Facility Planners ■ Annual Convention ■ San Diego, California ■ Manchester Grand Hyatt ■ mike@cefpi.org

29 Pennsylvania Concrete Masonry Association ■ Annual Masonry Instructors Workshop ■ Harrisburg, Pennsylvania ■ Community College Conference Center ■ www.pacma.com

October

8 Rocky Mountain Masonry Institute ■ So You Bought a Historic Masonry Building...Now What Seminar ■ Denver, Colorado ■ RMMI Offices ■ www.rmmi.org

16 The Masonry Society ■ Inspection of Masonry Construction Seminar ■ Salt Lake City, Utah ■ Sheraton City Centre ■ www.masonrysociety.org

16 The Masonry Society ■ Designing Masonry to the 2008 MSJC/2009 IBC Seminar ■ Salt Lake City, Utah ■ Sheraton City Centre ■ www.masonrysociety.org

16-21 The Masonry Society ■ Annual Meeting ■ Salt Lake City, Utah ■ www.masonrysociety.org

19 The Masonry Society ■ Investigating Disasters Workshop ■ Salt Lake City, Utah ■ Sheraton City Centre ■ www.masonrysociety.org

22 International Masonry Institute ■ 7th Annual Masonry Restoration Workshop ■ Chicago, Illinois ■ sconwell@imiweb.org

22 International Masonry Institute ■ LEED for Masonry Lunch & Learn ■ Louisville, Kentucky ■ Lockett & Farley ■ dcollins@imiweb.org

22 Mason Contractors Association of Florida ■ Structural Masonry Design Seminar ■ Tampa, Florida ■ www.masonryeducation.org

22 Masonry Association of Florida ■ Structural Masonry Design Seminar ■ Fort Myers, Florida ■ www.masonryeducation.org

23 Masonry Association of Florida ■ Structural Masonry Design Seminar ■ Fort Myers, Florida ■ www.masonryeducation.org

23-25 NCMA ■ Testing Procedures Course and CCMTT Certification Program ■ Herndon, Virginia ■ NCMA Headquarters ■ nlang@ncma.org


23-25 NCMA ■ Executive Committee Meeting ■ Austin, Texas ■ The Driskill Hotel ■ dmorris@ncma.org

23-25 NCMA ■ Concrete Masonry Testing Procedures Course ■ Herndon, Virginia ■ NCMA Headquarters ■ bkamhong@ncma.org

24 International Masonry Institute ■ Masonry Restoration Lunch & Learn ■ Albany, New York ■ State University Construction Fund ■ pconway@imiweb.org

29 The Masonry Society and Masonry Institute of Oregon ■ Masonry Inspection Seminar ■ Portland Oregon ■ University Place ■ inf@mioctio.org

To view the entire industry calendar, please visit: <http://www.ncma.org>

A close-up, high-contrast photograph of an elderly man's face, focusing on his eyes and forehead. The lighting is dramatic, highlighting the texture of his skin and the intensity of his gaze. The background is dark, making the face the central focus.

Everything we do...

...always from the
eyes of our customers.

Columbia[®]
www.columbiamachine.com