



# THE INFORMANT

Newsletter of the Maine Section ASCE

September 2005

## Portland Landmark Site of September Meeting

*(Portions based excerpts from an essay by Travis Sing in 2001 written for an application for a preliminary National Historic Landmark nomination.)*

The Portland Observatory was not the first maritime signal tower built in the United States, but it is the last one standing. The historic significance to ASCE is that this 86' tall, octagonal structure made of wood and stone is "...a testament to 19th century ingenuity and craftsmanship, not only due to its design, construction and joinery, but because for 193 years it has withstood the violent storms that often lash Maine's rocky coast." In fact no major repairs occurred to the structure for its first 132 years. Since then most repairs have been cosmetic leaving the original design and materials to stand the test of time. The tower's design is unique using 122 tons of stone ballast that rest atop the foundation beams to stabilize the tower against wind loads. Pure Yankee ingenuity at work!!

Recently though the tower underwent major rehabilitation including repointing the stone foundation, replacement of shingles, replacement of 20% of the original timber; installation of new windows, and a fresh coat of paint. The tower was originally built to service Portland's very busy harbor. With the advent of 2 way radio though in the early 20th century, the tower's main purpose was no longer necessary. The tower remained a vital war-time tool though being used to watch for enemy airplanes and submarines during both WWI and WWII. From the beginning though the tower was a tourist attraction and continues to serve Portland in that way today, and with the \$1.2 million in recent renovations will serve Portland for the next 100 plus years. See page 3 for September's ASCE meeting schedule, including a tour and presentation on the Observatory.



*The reconstruction has been left uncolored in order to discern original craftsmanship from the repairs.*

## From the Editors

### **Notice:**

We're looking for a webmaster! Our site is currently managed using FrontPage. If you are interested in assuming webmaster duties, please contact current webmaster and Informant Co-Editor, Patti Korbet for more information.

### **Need to update your address or email?**

As the Editors of the newsletter, we are always happy when we receive feedback or questions from the membership as it presents a key opportunity for us to help improve the service that we provide. However, regarding address and email updates, this can only be handled directly by members with ASCE National. At the local level, we obtain the most recent membership data (email, addresses) from ASCE National's database. So if you would like to check or update your contact information, please visit [www.asce.org](http://www.asce.org) or contact ASCE at (800) 548-2723.

Thanks!

Patti Korbet and Walter Fagerlund

## In This Issue...

Page 2 – From the Desk of the President

Page 2 – Tentative 2005-2006 Section Meeting Schedule

Page 3 – Info for September Meeting at Portland Observatory in Portland

Page 4 – Info for Cold Regions Conference

Page 4-5 – Job Opportunities

Page 5 – Contact info for this year's leadership

## PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

*Robert E. Chaput, Jr., P.E.*

Hopefully, everyone had a chance to enjoy the beautiful summer that we have had here in Maine. As we start the 2005 – 2006 year, I want to first thank the board members and committee chairs for your willingness to serve and tireless efforts. I welcome Kathy Kern to the board as our first year N.E. Delegate. Kathy will be representing the Maine Section at the N.E. Council meeting held in Albany, NY on September 10. As part of the meeting, Kathy will be attending a presentation by the Region 1 Region Formation Team responsible for restructuring our region.

The board members and committee chairs met in August to begin planning for the coming year. Our first official program for the year was a Boston Red Sox game organized by the Younger Members held on September 2nd. Hopefully, my beloved Red Sox were victorious. By the response of the membership (sold out in just a few hours) I'm sure this will become an annual event. I would like to thank Jennifer Tooley and Matt Gill for jointly filling our vacant Younger Members Committee Chair position. Our September meeting will be in Portland with a tour of the Portland Observatory and dinner at the Village Café (see inside for further details). We are always looking for topics and speakers for our monthly meetings, so if you have any ideas, please contact Tim Merritt, our program chair.

As many of you know, we have held a Model Competition for the past 4 years with limited response. Typically, the model competition material is sent out in November to Maine High School and Middle School principals and/or guidance counselors for distribution to students. Due to limited response, we have decided to change our strategy for this year's Model Competition mailing. This year our goal is for each board member and as many of you, the membership, to contact and physically visit two schools (high school or middle school). The purpose of the visit is to deliver the materials to the appropriate contact (principal, guidance counselor, science teacher, etc.) for distribution to interested students, and offer your time to mentor the student and/or students. If you are interested in participating, please contact me or any other board member.

I look forward to seeing many of you in Portland and throughout the year. We have a full year planned ahead with much to accomplish. Please come along side and help us shape the future of our chapter.

## Current Maine Section Meeting Schedule

The following dates and locations have been tentatively set for this year's programs. Please mark your calendars and don't miss out on these excellent opportunities!

- ✓ **September:** *Portland* - Portland Observatory
- ✓ **October:** *Lewiston/Auburn* - TBA
- ✓ **November:** *Bangor* – Penobscot River Restoration
- ✓ **December:** *Augusta* – Transportation Conference
- ✓ **January:** *Portland* – Jetport Improvements or Public Relations Campaigning for Engineering Projects
- ✓ **February:** *Brunswick* – TBA
- ✓ **March:** *Lewiston* – Technical Seminar
- ✓ **April:** *Orono* – Joint meeting with Student Chapter
- ✓ **May:** *Portland* – Annual Meeting (hopefully on Portland Waterfront Re-development)





Maine Section ASCE Meeting  
Portland Observatory/Village Cafe  
Tuesday, September 20, 2005

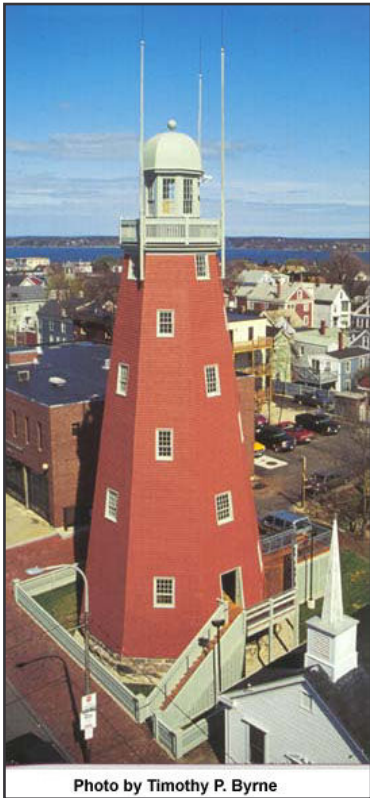


Photo by Timothy P. Byrne

Come experience first hand, through a guided tour of the Observatory by Greater Portland Landmarks, the structure’s historic significance and the skilled craftsmanship and engineering ingenuity that it exhibits. The tour will be followed by a presentation on the technical and architectural challenges of the restoration project that began in 1998 and was completed in 2000.

**Schedule of Events:**

- 5:00-6:30 *Social Hour and Guided Tour of the Portland Observatory*
- 6:00-6:30 *Registration/Social @ Village Café for those not on the tour*
- 6:30-7:30 *Dinner*
- 7:30-8:30 *Presentation*

**Price:** \$30 members, \$10 students and unemployed members

**Contact:** Tim Merritt, Maine Section Vice President  
T.Y. Lin International  
5 Fundy Road  
Falmouth, ME 04105  
[tmerritt@tylin.com](mailto:tmerritt@tylin.com)

**Reservations are due by Friday, Sept. 16th. Tour is limited to first 40 paid registrants, dinner presentation is not limited.**

**Please provide the following with your response:**

**Guided Tour:**     Yes     No

**Meal Choice (Please choose one):**

- Baked Stuffed Haddock w/ baked potato
- 8oz Choice New York Sirloin w/ baked potato,
- Chicken Parmigiana w/ Spaghetti,
- Eggplant Parmigiana w/ Spaghetti

**Directions to the Portland Observatory:**

From I-295: Take Exit 7 (Franklin Arterial). Proceed on Franklin to the intersection of Congress Street and Franklin. Take a left onto Congress Street and travel east up Munjoy Hill. The Portland Observatory (138 Congress Street) will be on your right as you reach the crest of the hill. Limited street parking is available. Attendees may want to park at Village Café (see below) and make the walk up and back (8 blocks one way)

**Directions to the Village Cafe:**

From I-295: Take Exit 7 (Franklin Arterial). Proceed on Franklin to the intersection of Congress Street and Franklin. Take a left onto Congress Street and travel east. Turn right onto India Street, then turn left onto Newbury Street. The Village Café will be on the right (112 Newbury Street). Off street parking is available.

## Job Opportunities with SYTDesign Consultants

Due to continuing growth, **SYTDesign Consultants**, an established civil engineering and landscape architectural design firm, has immediate openings.

SYTDesign Consultants offers a competitive benefits package including professional paid overtime, health, life and disability insurances and a 401(k)/profit sharing plan.

Please send resume in confidence to:

Ann Armstrong  
SYTDesign Consultants  
160 Longwoods Road  
P.O. Box 86A  
Cumberland, ME 04021  
Fax: (207) 829-2231  
aarmstrong@sytdesign.com

**CAD operator** with 2+ years experience in operating CAD, preferably AutoCAD-civil background is preferred-Land Development experience a plus. Minimum education includes a High School Diploma, preferably an Associates Degree. The ideal candidate will have a strong work ethic and thrive in a "team" environment. This position may involve some filing and deliveries.

**Civil Engineers:** entry level and experienced candidates for the design of land development projects, including environmental permitting, erosion control, stormwater management, roadway and utility designs.

### Qualifications

- BS in Civil Engineering required
- FE/EIT registration
- Solid technical expertise in Site Design, Site Layout, Roadway Design, Utility Design, Stormwater/Drainage Design, and familiarity with State and Federal Permitting
- Experience in residential, commercial, and municipal development projects
- AutoCAD proficient
- Knowledge of Land Development Desktop

**Announcing...**

**13TH INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE ON COLD REGIONS ENGINEERING**

*Papers of regional, national, and international interest in these cold regions fields are welcomed:*

### Call for Papers...

Seasonal Frost and Permafrost \* Buildings, Site Design, and Drainage \* Pavement Practices \* Hydrology and Hydraulics \* Stormwater Management and Treatment \* Snow and Ice Control on Pavements \* Water and Wastewater Treatment Technology \* Solid Waste Issues \* Construction Methods \* Ports, Harbors, and Navigation Issues \* Future Trends and Research Initiatives \* History of Cold Regions Engineering \* Other Topics

The Abstract should include major points of the presentation and not exceed 500 words. It should include a descriptive paper title; and the name, credentials, affiliation, address, phone, fax, and email of each author; and designation of a corresponding author. All correspondence will be through the corresponding author.

Each draft paper will receive two peer reviews and be returned to the author for modifications prior to final paper submittal. Strict adherence to the timetable will be required. Authors whose abstracts are accepted and who submit final papers are expected to attend the Conference, pay the appropriate fees, and make their presentations in person.

Submit paper abstracts at

[www.asce.org/conferences/coldregions2006](http://www.asce.org/conferences/coldregions2006)

For questions, contact  
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## Current Practices in Cold Regions Engineering

July 23-26, 2006

 University of Maine  
Orono, Maine

### SUBMISSION DEADLINES

Abstract: September 1, 2005  
Acceptance Notification: October 1, 2005  
Draft Paper: February 1, 2006  
Final Paper: April 1, 2006

Sponsored by TCCRE

Conference Co-Chairs Phil Dunn, Bill Bloemen, and Steve Cole

## Civil Engineer Positions Available in North Carolina

Considering a change of pace? **ColeJenest & Stone** is an award-winning civil engineering, land planning, landscape architecture and urban design firm seeking highly motivated civil engineers and AutoCAD technicians with 2-10 years of experience for our Charlotte and Raleigh offices. Signing bonus plus moving expenses included.

Qualifications: Working knowledge of AutoCAD 2005-2006, Land Development Desktop, engineering software (HEC-1, StormCAD, etc.) and MS Office; Excellent organizational skills with the ability to handle multiple projects independently; Professional/dependable/team player; Strong written/verbal communication skills. Highly competitive salary and excellent benefits.

Qualified candidates only may fax resumes and cover letters to 704-376-8106 or email [ahaynes@colejeneststone.com](mailto:ahaynes@colejeneststone.com)



### ASCE MAINE SECTION CONTACT LIST

2005-2006

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