



The

# INFORMANT

Newsletter of the Maine Section ASCE

September 2010

## From the Editors

Hello ASCE Members!

This year is off to a great start since the annual planning meeting on August 20th. We have a great game plan with lots of events for the membership to look forward to. This month alone the YM have a trip to the Red Sox scheduled and the PE Review course is ongoing. Speaking of the YM - please congratulate them on winning the honor of hosting the ERYMC conference this winter with the New Hampshire chapter. If you'd like to help in any of the planning please contact Jen Baron ([jennifer.baron@gza.com](mailto:jennifer.baron@gza.com)) and check out page 4 for more details.

Also this month we are resuming our monthly meeting schedule with a presentation on 'Design Visualization' at the Howard Johnson's Conference Center in Portland on Thursday, September 16th. That's a potential PDH for those of you in need of renewal!

Don't forget to advertise with us if you have job opportunities available! See page 6 for details.

Go Red Sox!

- Lauren & Lynn [informant@maineasce.org](mailto:informant@maineasce.org)

## In This Issue



- Page 1 – From the Editors
- Page 1 – Upcoming Volunteer Activity
- Page 1 – PE Review Course
- Page 2 – September Meeting Announcement
- Page 3 – President's Message
- Page 4 – University of Maine Chapter
- Page 4 – Younger Members - ERYMC
- Page 4 – ASCE Election Results
- Page 5 – Civil Engineering History Corner
- Page 6-7 – Advertise with Maine ASCE
- Page 8 – Board and Committee Contact Information

## Upcoming Volunteer Activity

The Maine Section of ASCE is scheduled to volunteer for Habitat for Humanity of Greater Portland on Saturday, October 30. We don't have any specifics yet on what we will be doing or where, but be sure to mark it on your calendars!



## PE Review Course

The PE Review Course is ongoing. There is still room available, so if you forgot to sign up, but would like to take the remaining sessions, contact Lauren Swett [lszett@woodardcurran.com](mailto:lszett@woodardcurran.com) for information. The remaining sessions include:



- Tuesday Sept. 7** Soil Mechanics
- Thursday Sept. 9** Foundation Engineering
- Tuesday Sept. 14** Hydraulics
- Thursday Sept. 16** Hydrology
- Tuesday Sept. 21** Steel Design
- Thursday Sept. 23** Wastewater and Water Treatment

- Tuesday Sept. 28** Construction Materials
- Thursday Sept. 30** Construction Management
- Tuesday October 5** Traffic Engineering
- Wednesday October 6** Geotechnical
- Thursday October 7** Water Resources



Maine Section ASCE Meeting  
 Howard Johnsons Conference Center  
 Portland, Maine  
 Thursday, September 16, 2010



RSVP by Thursday, Sept. 9

## Design Visualization – Closing the Gap

Calgary Riverwalk Gateway - Existing



Calgary Riverwalk Gateway - Proposed



**Presentation:** The gap between ideas and implementation is an immense hurdle to overcome in the planning and design profession. The gap signifies change and implies risk. Change is the monster. Risk is its shadow. The ability to “look the monster in the eye”, as marketing guru Seth Godin says, is the difference between paralysis and action. What our clients often need is a calm, deliberate and careful inspection of the monster to help make its shadow less overwhelming.

A tool called design visualization enables us and our clients to discuss change more objectively. Design visualization involves literally sketching out ideas and visions to help generate solutions and to come to consensus based on shared understanding. Through these practices, design visualization closes the gap between the ways things are and the way things might be.

This presentation illustrates methods, strategies and technologies used in design visualization as part of project management. It demonstrates how you can use design visualization to identify problems and opportunities. And, it shows how graphic communications as part of visual thinking harnesses knowledge, experience and imagination to manage change rationally and creatively.

**Speaker:** Scott N. Collard, RLA, ASLA, ASAI and Senior Landscape Architect with Stantec in Portland. Scott has brought diverse professional experience and skills to the company since his acquisition in April 2007. His design and technical expertise includes community planning, residential development master planning and site design for educational and corporate campuses, as well as parks and recreational facilities.

**Schedule of Events:**

- 4:00-5:00 Board Meeting (All welcome)
- 5:00-6:00 Social Hour (Cash bar)
- 6:00-7:00 Buffet Dinner (Taste of Italy Buffet)
- 7:00-8:00 Presentation (Potential 1 PDH)

**Price:**

- \_\_\_ \$35 ASCE members before RSVP deadline
- \_\_\_ \$45 Non-members and members after RSVP deadline
- \_\_\_ \$20 Students, retirees, and unemployed members
- \_\_\_ \$0 Life Members

*Make checks payable to: Maine Section ASCE*

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Life Member: \_\_\_ Yes \_\_\_ No

Organization: \_\_\_\_\_

Please email or fax registration to: Will Haskell  
 ([whaskell@gorrilpalmer.com](mailto:whaskell@gorrilpalmer.com))  
 Fax: 207-657-6912  
 Tel: 207-657-6910  
 Gorrill-Palmer Consulting Engineers, Inc.  
 POB 1237, 15 Shaker Rd  
 Gray ME 04039

**Directions:** Howard Johnsons Conference Center is the former Verillo’s Conference Center located at 155 Riverside Street in Portland, Maine. From North or South take Exit 48 on the Maine Turnpike and turn right at Riverside Street after going through the toll plaza. 155 Riverside will be on your right.

## The importance of strategic planning – lessons from the Annual Maine Section Planning Meeting

Whether at work, in our careers or as part of our personal lives, the concept of strategic planning can play an excellent role in setting goals and keeping on the path to success. More often than not, we ourselves, companies or organizations get so caught up in the speed and urgency of day to day activities that we do not take time to step back and say, “Why do we do what we do? (mission)” and “Where do we want to be in the future? (vision)”. As part of the Maine Section ASCE annual summer planning meeting last month, we included a strategic planning session, where we discussed the mission and vision as a Section.

When discussing mission, we began with “why are you involved in civil engineering?” and “why are you involved in ASCE?” The answers quickly converged on common themes. While we came from diverse educational backgrounds prior to civil engineering (some initial majors in college ranged from computer science to geology to biology), all of us shared similar reasons for eventually selecting civil engineering – a strong interest in solving technical problems, the diversity of work, tangible solutions in the community and influences from mentors. Involvement in ASCE was an extension of these drivers, where Board and committee volunteers have focused their interests in service to the civil engineering profession and our community through the Maine Section’s various roles and committees.

Not surprising that ASCE National’s Mission statement is “Provide essential value to our members and partners, advance civil engineering, and serve the public good.”

If “mission” points us in a direction, “vision” provides a target to measure how far we aspire to go in the near and long term. Our planning meeting presented a vision for the success in the coming years including:

- Expanded continuing education opportunities for the membership
- Improved leveraging of ASCE national resources
- Stronger connection to the Maine ASCE Student Chapter
- Infrastructure advocacy beyond the engineering community into the community in general
- Expansion of the Maine Section’s Younger Member and Life Member groups

With the group focused after our strategic planning session, we sat down and developed detailed plans for each Board position and committee to reach the goals for the year and beyond. Plans were aligned with each of this year’s key initiatives, 1) Technical continuing education, 2) Building future engineers and 3) Promoting sustainable infrastructure funding.

Our planning meeting is an example of how strategic planning can help focus the day to day activities of an organization. From focusing projects we work on, our careers, our involvement in volunteer organizations or even our own personal goals, strategic planning is an excellent tool. We’ve used strategic planning to focus our year of service to you the membership and the community. We look forward to you joining us, starting with our kick-off monthly program meeting this month in Portland.

*- Walter Fagerlund, P.E., Maine Section President*



## University of Maine Chapter

ASCE KNOWLEDGE & LEARNING

A new semester has started and the Student Chapter at the University of Maine is looking for presenters for their lunchtime meetings on Wednesdays at Noon. For more information and to volunteer, please contact Student Chapter Vice President Amy Getchell at [Amy.Getchell@umit.maine.edu](mailto:Amy.Getchell@umit.maine.edu)



Don't forget to check out the Student Chapter website:

<http://www.civil.umaine.edu/asce/>

## Eastern Regional Younger Members Council

ASCE MEMBERSHIP & COMMUNITY

Hello ASCE Younger Members (Maine Section Members and Student Members too!!)

As you've probably heard Portland and the Maine/New Hampshire Sections of ASCE are hosting the 2011 Eastern Regional Younger Members Council Meetings coming up in January! This leadership event brings together branch/section leaders, younger members, and students to interact and network as a bigger region. We have already started to plan a great event and could use your help! Big or small, 15 minutes or 15 hours, all scope sizes...we could use you! The YM groups of NH and ME are responsible for raising funds and planning both YM and Student/YM/Leadership activities over a two and a half day schedule. Members from Regions 1, 2, 4, and 5 will be traveling to Maine to participate in this annual event. Some of the events our sections will be organizing over the next few months include:

- Thursday night early registration and welcome event for attendees arriving early
- Coordinating 8-10 presentations for various time blocks throughout the 2-day conference
- Friday night reception (hosting ALL conference attendees)
- Friday night social (for YM and Student attendees)
- Saturday Awards Dinner
- Sunday morning Community Service Activity



To help us stay on track we have established a few committees to divide and conquer the work ahead - please consider helping out in whatever capacity you can.

- Awards Committee (contact Maggie Connelly [mconnolly@woodardcurran.com](mailto:mconnolly@woodardcurran.com))
- Fundraising Committee (looking for chair)
- Presentation Planning/Coordination (contact Jen Baron [jennifer.baron@gza.com](mailto:jennifer.baron@gza.com))
- SWAG (tee-shirts, give-a-ways, etc.) (contact Lauren Swett [lswett@woodardcurran.com](mailto:lswett@woodardcurran.com))
- Community Service (contact Lynn Farrington [lfarrington@HNTB.com](mailto:lfarrington@HNTB.com))
- Event Planning (i.e. Awards dinner, social, reception, etc.) (contact Jen Baron [jennifer.baron@gza.com](mailto:jennifer.baron@gza.com))
- Friday night social event - Pirates/Red Claws outing (contact Nick Champagne [nchampagne@woodardcurran.com](mailto:nchampagne@woodardcurran.com))

Find the appropriate contact info below and get involved to make for a great event! We are looking forward to a great 2011 event! And feel free to contact me with questions or suggestions!!

Jen Baron

2011 ERYMC Co-Chair

## ASCE Election Results

ASCE LEADERSHIP & MANAGEMENT

The ASCE Election has come to a close. President elect for 2010-2011 is **Andrew Herrmann**, P.E., SECB, F.ASCE, President Elect (2010-2011), and in Region 1, **Leonard Cilli**, A.M.ASCE was reelected as governor, and **Lauren Swett**, P.E., M.ASCE was elected as a new Region 1 Governor.

Thank you to everyone who voted!!

**By William C. Haskell, PE, M. ASCE**

Elbridge Harlow Beckler (1854 – 1908) was born in Boston, Massachusetts on October 16th, 1854. Elbridge Beckler went to school in Maine, first at the Maine [Wesleyan Seminary](#) in Kents Hill and then at the Maine State College of Agriculture and Mechanic Arts, where he graduated with a degree of Civil Engineer in August 1876. The following timeline highlights his significant accomplishments as a civil engineer.

<b>Time Period</b>	<b>Employment/Accomplishments</b>
1876	Graduated from <a href="#">Maine State College of Agriculture and Mechanic Arts</a> with a degree of Civil Engineer
1877	Moved to Minneapolis, Minnesota to work on railway construction
5/17 to 12/24/1879	Transitman and Assistant Engineer on <a href="#">St. Paul, Minneapolis and Manitoba Railway</a> between Fergus Falls and Barnesville, Minnesota
1880	Married Miss Mera Rogers of Richmond, Maine
3/15 to 7/1/1880	Transitman on the Yellowstone Division for the <a href="#">Northern Pacific Railroad Company (NPRC)</a>
7/1/1880 to 1/5/1881	Assistant Engineer in charge of a party on location for NPRC
3/15/1881 to 2/1882	Assistant Engineer on Location on Rocky Mountain Division for NPRC
2/1882 to 1/24/1884	Resident Engineer on Construction for NPRC – work covered 41 miles and the Bozeman Tunnel, 3,610 feet long.
4/1 to 9/1/1884	Division Engineer on the Canadian Pacific Railway along Kicking Horse River on the western slope of the Rocky Mountains, including work on grading and construction of several wooden bridges
9/1884 to 1/1886	Resident Engineer on Construction of St Louis River Bridge for NPRC between Duluth and West Superior, Minnesota
1/6/1886 12/1886	Appointed Resident Engineer on Location and Construction for Montana Central Railway
12/1886 to 11/1887	Assistant Chief Engineer for Montana Central Railway
1889	Became Chief Engineer in charge of entire work for NPRC from Central Montana to Puget Sound. <a href="#">John Frank Stevens</a> , also from Maine, worked under Mr. Beckler to select a route through the Rocky Mountains with lower gradients than any other transcontinental railroad line. The entire distance of 818 miles was completed in less than two years.
4/6/1892	Elected as a Member of the American Society of Civil Engineers
1893	Moved to Chicago, Illinois and worked as a consulting engineer on many projects, including a narrow-gauge railway in Arizona
1895 to 1902	Worked for Winston Brothers Contractors
3/1/1902	Became Stockholder and Director of Winston Brothers Contractors
8/26/1908	Died suddenly of a cerebral hemorrhage at the West Portal Camp of the St. Paul Tunnel in Shoshone County, Idaho where he was working on the Coast Extension of the Chicago, Milwaukee and St Paul railway
No Date	<a href="#">Beckler River</a> in Washington State is named after Elbridge H. Beckler. Nearby Beckler Peak is also named for him

Sources:

1. Journal of the Association of Engineering Societies. January 1909, Vol. XLII, No. 1, page 1647. Viewed on August 21, 2010 at Google Books (<http://books.google.com>).

## Advertise with Maine ASCE

Would you like to advertise in the Informant and on the section's website, [www.maineasce.org](http://www.maineasce.org)? Take a look at our rates, and contact the editors at [Informant@MaineASCE.org](mailto:Informant@MaineASCE.org) with any questions. An order form is available online or directly from the editors.

### 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

### Job Listings:

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

Job advertisements are posted in one issue of the Informant, and will run on the website for one month.

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 the month prior to publication.**

## Business Cards

**GP** Gorrill-Palmer Consulting Engineers, Inc.  
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PO Box 1237 (207) 657-6910  
15 Shaker Road Fax: (207) 657-6912  
Gray, Maine 04039 E-mail: [mailbox@gorrillpalmer.com](mailto:mailbox@gorrillpalmer.com)

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**Remember, a business card in the Informant and online is a great way to advertise your business! At just \$150 a year, it's a great deal too.**

**Check back each month to see what new business has advertised here.**

## Conference Advertising

The Informant is a great place to advertise your events to the Maine civil engineering community!

We are happy to advertise conferences and seminars hosted by professional societies and other non-profit organizations at no charge. Conferences and courses provided by companies operating for-profit, as well as product presentations made by vendors will be published at the listed advertising rates.

## Milone & MacBroom, Inc. – Project Engineer – Maine Office

*Milone & MacBroom, Inc. is a growing multidisciplinary engineering, landscape architecture, and environmental science consulting firm. Our corporate office is located in Cheshire, Connecticut with satellite office locations in Stamford and Branford, Connecticut; Maine; North Carolina; South Carolina; Massachusetts; and Vermont.*

We are seeking an energetic Project Engineer to work in our Freeport, Maine office on a diverse mix of challenging projects involving site design; river management and restoration planning; coastal engineering; roadway improvements; bridge and highway design; athletic field design; and construction phase services.

The qualified candidate should have a Bachelors degree in Civil Engineering, a minimum six years of diverse project experience in the areas of design and management of general civil engineering; municipal infrastructure and private land development; roadway improvements; and regulatory and environmental permitting. Excellent oral and written communicative skills. A Professional Engineer's license in the State of Maine is required. The candidate should have experience with public sector clients and a working knowledge of AutoCAD.

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To learn more about this exciting opportunity, please submit you resume to:

Pamela Harris, Human Resources Manager  
Milone & MacBroom, Inc.  
99 Realty Dr.  
Cheshire, CT 06410

[pamh@miloneandmacbroom.com](mailto:pamh@miloneandmacbroom.com)  
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**ASCE MAINE SECTION CONTACT LIST**

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-- Don't forget, there's lots of information available online [www.maineasce.org](http://www.maineasce.org) and [www.asce.org](http://www.asce.org) --



Maine ASCE is Going Green!  
Please Think Before You Print

