



for everything CONCRETE



# MCIA Today

Summer 2012

## Joint MCIA-ACIA Convention a Huge Success!



It may not have been a true "first," but it was the first jointly hosted convention in recent memory—the Summer 2012 Convention hosted by the Mississippi Concrete Industries Association (MCIA) and the Alabama Concrete Industries Association (ACIA). The beautiful Hilton Sandestin

Resort and Spa was the location for the event, May 31 through June 3. With more than 170 in attendance, there was lots of time for sun, sand, networking, catching up with old friends, and making new ones. Highlights from the convention follow.

### Golf Winners

#### Saturday Scramble Winners

- ▶ 1st place – Jeff Speck, Sam Reed, Dan Meine, Brad Handley
- ▶ 2nd place – Bert Nunn, Josh Nunn, Clark Gates, Rocky McBride, Wesley Mimms
- ▶ 3rd place – Gene Hightower, Eddie Middleton, Tom Strittmatter, Grady Gunn, Nathan Reynolds

#### Friday Dogfight Tournament Winners

- ▶ 1st place – Grady Gunn, Kevin Mathis
- ▶ 2nd place – Rodney Grogan, Byron Hunt



## Ongoing Research at Mississippi State

Isaac Howard, Ph.D., and graduate assistant Jay Shannon presented a program on their ongoing cement research at MSU during the Saturday morning business session at the convention. The research is being supported by several of the cement

and ready mix concrete producers that do business in Mississippi. It is focused on the use of Portland-limestone cement (PLC) in ready mix concrete to improve construction methods and materials, thus improving the sustainability of concrete.

## Industry Update by Pierre Villere

Concrete and construction industry expert Pierre Villere gave an update on where we have been, where we are going, and what to expect in the coming months and years, using construction industry information and the National Ready Mixed

Concrete Association's (NRMCA) annual Industry Data Survey (IDS). The industry's business outlook seems to be improving, it is just not yet fast enough. But, according to Pierre, when it does break, we will all be playing catch-up, so hang on!

## Check-off Program Update

NRMCA Chairman and MCIA board member Dave Robison (Delta Industries) gave an update on the proposed ready mix concrete check-off program during the morning business meeting session at the recent Summer Convention. The NRMCA board had voted in March 2011 to explore the possibility of a check-off program for the ready mix industry. The program would generate funds from all producers for promotion, education, research, and creating new markets for concrete and

concrete products at the national and state levels.

However, at the 2012 NRMCA Annual Meeting in Savannah, GA, the board voted to move this initiative to a proponent structure independent of the association, to determine the industry's interest in pursuing it further.

Also at the convention, Major Ogilvie (Block USA) gave an update on the status of the masonry check-off program being pursued by that industry.

► **More than \$9,000 was raised to help Wesley Hammer's family.**



For the first time in more than three years, there was sufficient demand this past April for MCIA to conduct an ACI Flatwork Finisher Class. It seems that demand for the credential tracks with the economy, so we will take it as an optimistic sign that we are headed in the direction of a recovery. The 13 attendees will be well prepared to take on any job calling for that credential.

► **[www.mississippiconcrete.com](http://www.mississippiconcrete.com) for details on training classes and to register.**

## Helping One of Our Own

A fundraiser to help the Wesley Hammer family was held during the recent Summer Convention, where more than \$9,000 was raised. Wesley is a technical service representative of BASF's Construction and Chemical Systems group and serves the south Mississippi area. Wesley was re-

cently diagnosed with colon cancer. He is undergoing treatment at M.D. Anderson in Houston. Wesley and his wife Laura and two children, Britney and Evan, reside in Saucier, MS. Thanks to Mike Pepper and Julie Bradley of Bayou Concrete, LLC, for spearheading the fundraising effort.

## Historic Worker's Comp Bill Signing

On May 14, 2012, Mississippi Governor Phil Bryant signed into law Senate Bill 2576, which made changes in existing legislation on Workers Compensation. This represents the first change to the statute in more than 20 years and is a

win-win situation for employees and employers. Also signed into law that day was Senate Bill 2934, known as the Inventory Tax Credit Bill, which should provide relief to businesses that carry inventory over from year to year.

## ACI Mid South Chapter Symposium

The ACI Mid South Chapter recently held its 2012 Symposium, titled, "Concrete and Cement Solutions for 2012 – Doing More with Less in Construction." Presentations on concrete parking lots, the current state

of the fly ash industry, soil cement, and experiences with MDOT Class BD and Portland-limestone cement blends were presented by experts in the industry.

## Committee Activities

The MCIA Regulatory Committee continues to meet quarterly with representatives from the Mississippi Department of Environmental Quality (MDEQ) to discuss industry-wide issues and environmental stewardship.

The MCIA Specification Committee meets quarterly with representatives from

the Mississippi Department of Transportation (MDOT) to discuss issues and concerns of the industry as well as changes in specifications and practices that will benefit all. If you are interested in participating in any of these meetings, contact David Bosarge (Regulatory) or Les Howell (Specification) for more information.

## Upcoming Training Classes

All regularly scheduled classes can be found on the MCIA website, [www.mississippiconcrete.com](http://www.mississippiconcrete.com).

### **MDOT Class 1 (ACI Grade 1 Concrete Field Testing Technician):**

- October 17-18, 2012, MS Law Enforcement Officers' Training Academy/ Whitfield Maintenance Facility, Pearl

### **MDOT Class 2 (ACI Aggregate Testing Technician Level 1):**

- November 7-8, 2012, MDOT Central Lab, Jackson

### **ACI Strength Testing Technician:**

- December 4-5, 2012, MDOT Central Lab, Jackson

## Save the Date!

**August 27, 2012** – MCIA Specification Committee Meeting with MDOT

**October 8, 2012** – MCIA Regulatory Committee Meeting with MDEQ

**October 15, 2012** – PAC Golf Tournament at Whisper Lake Country Club, Madison, MS

**June 26-29, 2013** – MCIA Summer Convention, Grand Hotel Marriott Resort and Spa in Point Clear, AL