

Future Events:

- **April 18, 2007**
Pervious Contractor
Certification Seminar
Austin, TX
- **April 30-May 1, 2007**
Integrated Materials
and Construction
Practices for Concrete
Pavement: A State-of-
the-Practice
Dallas, TX
- **May 21-24, 2007**
Concrete Technology
Forum
Dallas, TX

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General Information

This has proven to be a very busy and yet productive 2nd and 3rd quarter for the Marketing and Technical Standards activity. We are continuing to have many opportunities arise that enable further discussion and penetration into the specifiers' community. Aggregates soundness, aggregates gradation, pervious concrete and parking lot specifications continue to be the hottest topics.

We have added a Marketing Assistant for the Austin office to assist with some basic office responsibilities but also provide clerical and administrative support for the Marketing and Technical Standards activity. Erica Alatorre is a graduate of Our Lady of the Lake University with a BBA in Marketing. Erica's skills and experiences in marketing are strong and she will be a tremendous asset as we ramp up the activity of Marketing and Technical Standards.

Following an inquiry from AGC to TxDOT regarding aggregate supplies for the future, TACA provided TxDOT a broad overview statement of our aggregates industry position. We will prepare a similar statement for the ready mixed concrete market to be released in May. A cement market position statement would be released later after corroboration with the Cement Council of Texas for agreement.

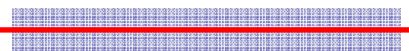
The Industry Promotion and Marketing committee is continuing their development of a market impact survey document and should have a draft document later in the year.

The Specifications Committee will be inviting technical comments from the membership for referring to TxDOT on acid insolubility testing and its impact on possible use of optimized gradation development.

Special Activities

Fourth Bi-Annual TxDOT/Cement Council of Texas Concrete Paving Conference

TACA joined CCT as a partner for this conference that featured speakers from many TxDOT districts and headlined by the always informative Dr. Ken Hover, Professor, Cornell University. The 300+ in attendance had opportunities to learn more about topics such as FHWA's surface characteristic program, Pavement Protection and Problem Prevention Following Paving, and an excellent presentation and discussion on Sulfate Issues for Texas. This conference is always well attended and considered a tremendous success for the industry.



taca MARKETING TODAY

Aggregates Samples Join National Testing Group

Iowa State University is researching various aggregates utilized in Pervious Concrete with a special look at freeze/thaw durability characteristics. Several members have agreed to supply sample materials to doctoral student, John Kevern who will perform standard aggregate property analysis along with abrasion resistance and classification with the Scanning Electron Microscope (SEM). Concrete mixes will be placed with the sample aggregates and evaluated for freeze-thaw durability along with compressive strength development with time, tensile strength, void ratio determination, unit weight, permeability, and abrasion resistance. At the conclusion of the study Kevern will submit a journal publication to PCA and acknowledge TACA's contribution in the paper. Texas is joining Southern California, Washington, Nevada, Iowa, Minnesota, Indiana, New York, Tennessee, Florida, Maine, British Columbia and Ontario in providing materials for this study.

NRMCA Concrete Pavement Analyst Software

Our first CPA Software training class was held November 16th in Austin at the Norris Conference Center with 22 registrants. Vance Pool, National Resource Director with NRMCA assisted us in presenting this 3 ½ hour session to ready mix concrete producers, geotechnical engineers, city engineers, TxDOT Construction Division personnel and other TACA members. Other training sessions are being planned for the Houston, North Texas, El Paso and Valley areas in the coming months.

Abilene, Concrete Pavement Analyst Training Overview

We had a special opportunity to present the CPA Software Overview to 27 members of the Abilene AIA Chapter on November 30, 2006. 19 members were presented with certificates for CEU completion. We have had several follow-up requests for more information regarding the software.

Title Luther, Architects

Three principals in the firm were trained in detail on the use of the Concrete Pavement Analyst Software and issued the software for their use. The trainees indicated that this software will provide a depth of information for their client owners that they have not previously had available regarding the total cost of pavements over the life of the pavement asset. Partner Jack Harkins mentioned 2 significant institutional clients that he will use the software for as he further develops plans and specifications.



Ingram Enterprises, L.P. Trains Sales Force

Ingram Enterprises, a division of US Concrete provided training conducted by TACA for 8 Sales/Sales support personnel regarding the use of the NRMCA Concrete Pavement Analyst Software. Several representatives had been exposed to the software's benefits on past projects and desired to utilize the software on a regular basis. TACA provided the 4-hour training course which was coordinated by Troy Rodgers and Jeff Roberts in Brownwood. This type of training is available from TACA for all members to implement within their companies.

TACA MARKETING TODAY

Pervious Concrete Technician Certification

TACA has applied and received designation as a Local Sponsoring Group (LSG) for the NRMCA Pervious Concrete Contractor Certification Program. This LSG authority allows us to present classes and certify contractors as fully certified contractors or technicians in the Pervious Concrete market. We have assembled a committee consisting of Marvin Bragewitz of Euclid, Patrick Brown of CEMEX, Rich Szecsy of Lattimore Materials, Mike Whisonant of Transit Mix, Frank Herbert of Herbert and Associates, Curtis Lee of Lattimore Materials, Gabe Ornelas of Raba Kistner and Bob James, TACA Director of Marketing and Technical Standards to oversee this certification program.

Also, NRMCA held a Pervious Concrete Train the Trainer program in Houston, December 6th, 2006 and the following were certified as technicians in the Pervious program and can be utilized to present the program in the future: Marvin Bragewitz, Patrick Brown, Randall Delgado, Nathan C. Elliott, Leo Fellin, Alvie Lee Fulcher, Gerald Gaubert, Bob James, Curtis Lee, Anthony Listi, John Messmore, Vance Pool, and Michael Whisonant. Four of the above recipients are contractors actively involved in placing pervious pavements.

High Strength Concrete Competition

The 2nd Annual High Strength Concrete Competition kicked off in early February so entries will be completely tested in time for the 2007 Short Course on March 4-6, 2007. 1st Place was awarded to Raba Kistner who achieved a compressive strength of 15740 psi. Redi-Mix Concrete came in 2nd at 15660 psi and 3rd Place went to Ingram Enterprises who came in at 15100 psi. TxDOT provided the testing for the competition this year at their Cedar Park Facility.



2nd Place: Redi Mix Concrete
Left to right: Chairman Lee Carroll, Jackie Shults- Redi-Mix Concrete



3rd Place: Ingram Enterprises, L.P.
Left to right: Chairman Lee Carroll, Jeff Roberts- Ingram Enterprises, L.P.

TxDOT Meetings

We have had encouraging meetings with the Director of Soils and Aggregates and the Manager of Concrete Construction and Materials for TxDOT to review TACA's relationship with the agency and consider additional avenues of participation. Both branches indicate that the communication levels and intensity of the recent past are extremely valuable. TxDOT would like to see us more involved with training and technical development in the aggregates arena as it pertains to hot mix asphalt, surface treatments, aggregate bases and concrete pavements. TxDOT also has rebirthed the Concrete Pavements Working Group and has invited TACA to be the host participant in this forum. Issues such as pavement ride performance, alkali-silica reactivity, external sulfate attack and thermal expansion of aggregates are topics that this focus group will discuss and recommend development for. Both TxDOT managers indicated that TACA's commitment of personnel specifically to address technical issues was extremely welcomed by the agency and expected that this commitment would pay dividends for the pavement materials industries as a whole.

Also, meetings have been held with District Engineers and/or staff for Abilene, Pharr, Fort Worth, Paris and Brownwood. These meetings have been extremely beneficial to provide industry extension into the districts in the areas of training opportunities and commitment of resources.

Marketing and Technical Presentations for Annual Short Course

As reported above, NRMCA Director of Codes and Sustainability - Dr. Erin Ashley was on hand to discuss Statewide Code Development. Also, we received informative presentations and a panel to discuss Aggregates Testing for TxDOT. Specifically referencing the Micro-Deval test as a pre-test for soundness testing was discussed by Dr. David Fowler, International Center for Aggregate Research (ICAR), Caroline Herrera of TxDOT, and Harry Bush of Vulcan Materials. In the concrete technical arena, Optimized Gradation development was discussed by NRMCA's Dr. Karthik Obla, Senior Director, Research and Materials Testing, Ryan Barborak of TxDOT, Dr. Rich Szecsy, Vice-President for New Product Development and Risk Management, Lattimore Materials and Dennis Warren, Texas Concrete Pavers Association. All of these topics are outstanding and relevant topics for our membership and industry today.

Palmco, Inc., McAllen, Texas

Bob James, Director of Marketing and Technical Standards recently discussed concrete pavement design and construction methods with Jay Palmer, President of Palmco, Inc. Palmer is interested in cost effective pavement design and construction that is more than a cookie cutter approach. Palmer is also involved in developments in the Austin area and will review pervious concrete applications for both the Valley and Austin markets with TACA in the future.

TACA Developing Engineering Contacts

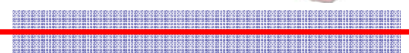
Director of Marketing and Technical Standards, Bob James recently met with engineering firms in West Texas and the Valley. Enprotec, Hibbs and Todd (EHT) of Abilene recently invited James to present detailed design, construction and inspection information for pervious concrete. A retail project in the area is considering potentially 10000 SY of pervious concrete and EHT wanted the most current information regarding construction and contractors for this project. Project managers are also discussing municipal street design and construction with James regarding projects in San Angelo, Brownwood and Granbury.

Perez Consulting Engineers (PCE) in McAllen also met with James to discuss concrete parking areas, design software and pervious concrete. Perez Consulting Engineers have been providing civil engineering services throughout the Rio Grande Valley and the South Texas area for over 30 years including site planning, site development and public works engineering for cities such as McAllen, Edinburg, Roma and Rio Grande City. Future developments with this firm include training and specification support for both aggregate bases and concrete pavements.

New Website Archive Items Coming!

Several archive type items will be available in the very near future for the TACA website. NRMCA's celebrated *Concrete In Practice* (CIP) series will be available for review in a Technical Archive Section. *Concrete In Practice* is a series of 39 one-page information sheets on important technical topics, written in a non-technical "What, Why and How?" format.

Also, industry position papers and the *Guidelines for Residential Concrete Construction* that have been developed by the Industry Promotion and Marketing Committee will soon be archived in this location for use by the membership and construction community.



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We're on the Web!

<http://www.tx-taca.org>

Building Code Development for Texas

TACA's Director of Marketing and Technical Standards, Bob James met with Dr. Erin Ashley to discuss and develop plans for Building Codes Development in Texas. Ashley is a new staff person to NRMCA that is principally focused on developing state building codes across the US. Texas is one of five target states for NRMCA. James and Ashley are teaming up to strategize and study the impacts of a statewide building code. Ashley was with TACA at the 2007 Short Course to present "Statewide Building Codes: What They Mean for Texas and What They Mean for You" as an informative look at the impacts that this development can have for all TACA producer companies.

Marketing Programs Help Recruit New Members

- The NRMCA Concrete Pavement Analyst Software played a role in recruiting new member American Concrete of Weatherford. Owner Wayne Jones had expressed interest in learning more about the software and how American could implement its use in their local area. Director of Marketing and Technical Standards, Bob James, subsequently trained American's sales staff on the software. Jones indicated that information from the software tool is already reaping dividends for his market. Jones had met TACA Board member Earl Ingram of Ingram ReadyMix, Inc. while at World of Concrete and Ingram had encouraged Jones to consider membership. Barrett Reese of TXI also was very instrumental in sharing the many benefits of TACA membership with American Concrete. Welcome to TACA, Wayne!
- Armed with an opportunity to participate in a TACA Pervious Concrete Demonstration, Marvin Bragewitz of Euclid Chemical Company approached Gregg Brull of Alpha Concrete in Leander about joining TACA. Brull was familiar with TACA's virtues and was eager to participate in the demonstration project as a piece of TACA's Pervious Concrete Contractor Certification in April. Bob James of TACA followed up with Brull and introduced Randy Delgado of Construction Services who is one of the NRMCA Certified Pervious Contractors in Texas. Delgado will be installing the demonstration driveway at a residence in Ancient Oaks, approximately 8 miles north of Leander. TACA is proud to have Gregg Brull and Alpha Concrete as a part our membership!

Future Events

Pervious Contractor Technician Certification Seminar
April 18, 2007
Austin, Texas

The newly formed Pervious Concrete Certification Committee will invite area concrete contractors interested in becoming certified under the NRMCA Pervious Concrete Certification Program to attend TACA's first locally sponsored certification program. TACA has recently been approved as a local sponsoring group for the NRMCA Pervious Concrete Contractor Certification program. The 8 hour course will include an overview of pervious concrete applications, detailed construction methods, inspection methods and a demonstration of placing a pervious concrete pavement.

**Integrated Materials and Construction Practices for Concrete Pavement:
A State-of-the-Practice**
April 30-May 1, 2007
Dallas, TX

This seminar, developed and hosted by the TxDOT Concrete Pavements Working Group is being held at Ellison Miles Geotechnology Institute. This workshop follows the recently completed 350-page IMCP manual that is the result of a multi-year project sponsored by the Federal Highway Administration. Design, materials, and construction engineers and technicians, Quality assurance/control personnel, Construction supervisors and inspectors and Contractors are encouraged to attend.

Concrete Technology Forum
May 21-24, 2007
The Fairmont Hotel
Dallas, Texas

The NRMCA forum, co-sponsored by TACA, will bring researchers and practitioners together to discuss the latest advances, technical knowledge, continuing research, tools and solutions for high performance concrete. Researchers, engineers, architects, contractors, concrete producers, public works officials, material suppliers, and concrete industry professionals are invited to attend, give presentations and submit papers. An installation of Self-Consolidating Concrete (SCC) will accompany this event and will be provided by TACA members and staff.