



# E – LETTER

THE OFFICIAL E-MAIL NEWSLETTER OF  
THE PILE DRIVING CONTRACTORS ASSOCIATION

## PDCA PLANS THE PROFESSORS’ DRIVEN PILE INSTITUTE

Planning for the 2007 PDCA Professors’ Driven Pile Institute, at Utah State University in Logan, UT, is well under way. The PDCA Executive Committee has selected 25 professors who teach graduate or undergraduate engineering courses in deep foundations from various universities and colleges across America to attend this year’s PDPI. In 2007, such prestigious facilities such as UCLA, Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute, The Citadel, Georgia Institute of Technology, Auburn, University of Texas, Texas Tech, Northwestern, University of Maine, Case Western Reserve are among just a few that will be represented at the intensive week-long program designed to instruct engineering educators in all aspects of driven pile installation, design and quality control.

This program is extremely important to the pile driving industry. To quote a PDCA member, “This may be the single most important program PDCA offers!” Why? Because this program reaches the professors and educators who teach driven pile advantages and benefits to those students who eventually turn into the engineers that decide which deep foundation system will be used on a project. The more educators know about the driven pile industry, the more they can adequately convey its attributes to the students.



The PDCA would like to acknowledge Build, Inc., who once again will return as a significant contributor to the program by providing their field crew, hammers, piles and enthusiasm to the program.

The PDCA would like to thank everyone who has made a contribution to the PDCA Professors’ Driven Pile Institute. Without your contributions, this important PDCA program would be much more difficult to accomplish. However, we still need your help. The PDCA has identified levels of contributions that we hope you will consider. Now is the time for us all to make a difference. Help the PDCA raise our goal of \$50,000.00 by making your contribution today. The Professors’ Driven Pile Institute Sponsorship brochure is attached for your consideration.

## PROFESSORS’ DRIVEN PILE INSTITUTE SPONSORS

### PLATINUM LEVEL SPONSORS - \$10,000.00

**Build, Inc.**

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Atlantic Wood Industries, Bayshore Concrete Products, Birmingham Foundation Solutions, CDS Manufacturing, Chapparral Steel, Equipment Corp. of America, GRL Engineers, Hercules Machinery Corp., International Construction Equipment, L. B. Foster, Link-Belt Construction Equipment, MG & B Services, Mississippi River Equipment, Mississippi Valley Equipment Co., North American Steel Sheet Piling Association, Northwest Pipe Co., Pileco, Pile Dynamics, Inc., Pipe and Piling Supply, Precast/Prestressed Concrete Institute, Robishaw Engineering, Rollform Group, S&ME, Specialty Piling Systems, Inc., Berenyi, Inc., Dente Engineering, Kolhn, Crippen, Berger, PND Engineers, Robert Miner Dynamic Testing, Southern Earth Sciences, Staytower Group, Wagner Komurka Geotechnical Group, Inc.

**PDCA 11<sup>TH</sup> ANNUAL INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE AND EXPOSITION**

The PDCA 11<sup>th</sup> Annual International Conference and Exposition has concluded. This year's conference ranks atop the best that PDCA has ever produced and we want to take a moment to thank everyone involved – Exhibitors, Sponsors, Registrants, Spouses, and Presenters. PDCA is especially grateful to our Education Committee, under the leadership of the Committee Chair, Mike Elliott (Pile Equipment, Inc.). This year's committee put together an exciting program. With the collective support and participation by everyone, this year's Annual Conference was a tremendous success.

The Education Committee had a theme for this year's conference – HAVE FUN! – and they did everything within their power to make that happen.

This year, the Education Committee organized the PDCA 1st Annual PDCA Golf Tournament. Forty-eight PDCA members got out their clubs, dusted them off and set out across the Gaylord Springs Golf Links to see who would bring home the trophies.

The PDCA annual dinner was a true southwestern event featuring a short business program, a great southwestern style dinner, followed by dancing to Justin Barrett and the Usual Suspects. PDCA members danced well into the night showing that line dancing and the two-step is well entrenched across America, not just in Nashville or the South.

During the short business portion of the annual dinner, the 2007-08 PDCA Board of Directors were introduced and Harry Robbins presented George Goble with the “*PDCA Presidential Award for Distinguished Service*”.

The ladies who participated in the Companion’s Program probably had more fun than anyone. They all met in the President’s Suite each morning for breakfast and a little socializing. They toured the Ryman Auditorium (original Grand Ole Opry Building), had lunch and line dance instructions at the Wild Horse Saloon, and cruised down the Cumberland River on the 300 foot-long paddle wheeler, General Jackson Showboat, where they were entertained by Tim Watson, a comic, musician, singer and overall great entertainer.

Over 115 PDCA members and guests attended the Grand Ole Opry one evening featuring great songs by various country, bluegrass and gospel artists.

Each event at this year’s Annual Conference was preceded by a reception in the exhibitor’s area with plenty of food and an open bar, which allowed additional time for socializing, marketing and renewing new and old acquaintances.

The PDCA did conduct business on a day-to-day basis. The educational programs were interesting, informative and well presented. PDCA wants to thank all our presenters for taking time to help make this portion of the annual conference a success. PDCA also conducted a round table discussion on “*Evolving Specifications and Design Criteria and Their Impact on Driven Pile Costs*”. Thanks to a great panel, facilitated by Randy Dietel (Piling, Inc.) this program presented some interesting points and thoughtful ideas for future practices.

The PDCA also conducted a Hammer Manufacturers Forum, which allowed each hammer manufacturer an opportunity to discuss the attributes of their products. The program, which presented some very interesting points about each manufacturer’s products and organizations, was facilitated by George Goble.

Hammer Manufacturers who participated in the forum included American Piledriving Equipment, Pileco, Inc., Pile Hammer Equipment, Junttan Oy, Hammer & Steel, Inc., Birmingham, Jinnings Equipment, and International Construction Equipment.

### **HARRY ROBBINS RECEIVES AWARD FROM SOUTH CAROLINA GOVERNOR**

During the PDCA Annual Conference, Harry Robbins (Palmetto Pile Driving, Charleston, SC) was presented with a “*Certificate of Recognition*” from the Governor of South Carolina for his contribution in advancing the driven pile industry in South Carolina and across the nation.

Congratulations, Harry on a well-deserved award and thanks for keeping PDCA and our industry in the spotlight of our state and national leaders.

**PDCA ANNUAL CONFERENCE EXHIBITORS**

PDCA would like to thank all the Exhibitors for their support and participation

<p><b>A. B. Chance Civil Construction</b>  <b>Applied Foundation Testing</b>  <b>Birmingham Foundation Solutions</b>  <b>Cox Industries – Carolina Pole Group, Inc.</b>  <b>GeoInstitute of the ASCE</b>  <b>Hercules Machinery Corp.</b>  <b>International Construction Equipment, LLC</b>  <b>J. D. Fields &amp; Co.</b>  <b>Junttan Oy</b>  <b>L.B. Foster Co.</b>  <b>Liebherr Nenzing Crane Co.</b>  <b>Lodge Lumber Co. Inc.</b>  <b>Mid-America Foundation Supply</b>  <b>Monotube Pile Corp.</b>  <b>Nucor-Yamato Steel Co.</b>  <b>Pile Dynamics, Inc.</b>  <b>Roll Form Group</b>  <b>Sun Piledriving Equipment</b>  <b>Trinity Products, Inc.</b></p>	<p><b>American Piledriving Equipment</b>  <b>Atlantic Wood Industries</b>  <b>Brayman Construction Corp.</b>  <b>Essev Tech, Inc.</b>  <b>Hammer &amp; Steel, Inc.</b>  <b>HPSI</b>  <b>International Construction Services, Inc.</b>  <b>Jinnings Equipment, LLC</b>  <b>Koppers, Inc.</b>  <b>Lester Publications, LLC</b>  <b>Link-Belt Construction Equipment</b>  <b>MG&amp;B Services</b>  <b>Mississippi Valley Equipment Co.</b>  <b>Naylor Pipe Co.</b>  <b>Pileco, Inc.</b>  <b>Pile Hammer Equipment</b>  <b>Skyline Steel</b>  <b>Timber Piling Council</b>  <b>Versabite Piling Accessories</b></p>
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**PDCA ANNUAL CONFERENCE SPONSORS**

**Platinum Sponsors**

American Piledriving Equipment  
 Foundation Constructors, Inc.

<p><b><u>Companion’s Program</u></b>  <b>Piling, Inc.</b></p> <p><b><u>Annual Dinner and Band</u></b>  <b>Pileco, Inc.</b>  <b>Robishaw Engineering</b></p> <p><b><u>Continental Breakfast</u></b>  <b>Applied Foundation Testing</b>  <b>J. D. Fields &amp; Company</b>  <b>Junttan Oy</b>  <b>Link-Belt Construction Equipment</b></p> <p><b><u>Presidential Suite</u></b>  <b>PDCA of South Carolina Chapter</b></p>	<p><b><u>Gold</u></b>  <b>Carpenter Pole and Pile</b>  <b>Naylor Pipe</b>  <b>Pile Equipment, Inc.</b>  <b>Sun Pile Driving Equipment</b></p> <p><b><u>Receptions</u></b>  <b>Link-Belt Construction Equipment</b>  <b>Menck GmbH</b>  <b>Nucor-Yamato Steel</b></p> <p><b><u>AM &amp; PM Breaks</u></b>  <b>Birmingham Foundation Solutions</b>  <b>Ford Pile Foundations</b>  <b>GRL Engineering</b></p>
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## **PDCA HOLDS 1<sup>ST</sup> ANNUAL GOLF TOURNAMENT**

The PDCA held its first Annual Golf Tournament during the 11<sup>th</sup> Annual International Conference and Exposition. The Gaylord Springs Golf Links was the site of the tournament and proved to be a challenging venue for the field of players. The PDCA plans to make the golf tournament not only an annual event, but also an integral part of the conference.

Congratulations to the 1<sup>st</sup> Place Low Gross Team of Rob Waudby, Bobby Speight, Chris Harwell and Ken Colbert (Skyline Steel) with a 59; and 1<sup>st</sup> Place Low Net to Wayne Waters (Ed Waters and Sons Contracting Co, Inc.), Greg Edmonds (Ellis & Associates), Randy Dietel (Piling, Inc.) and Gary Johnson (Piling Products, Inc.) with a 46.

Special recognition goes to Gary Johnson, Ken Colbert, Garland Likins, and Wayne Chadbourne for winning Closest-to-the-Hole and J.D. Tucker and Mark Weisz for Longest Drives.

The PDCA would like to thank our Golf Tournament Sponsors:

<p><b><u>Golf Tournament Sponsors</u></b> Palmetto Piledriving Skyline Steel Sun Piledriving Equipment</p>	<p><b><u>Golf Hole Sponsors</u></b> Brayman Construction Corp. International Construction Services Jinnings Equipment LLC / BSP Int'l. Mississippi Valley Equipment Pile Drivers, Inc.</p>
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## **PDCA OF MID-ATLANTIC TO SPONSOR DESIGN AND INSTALLATION OF COST EFFICIENT PILES CONFERENCE**

The PDCA of Mid-Atlantic Chapter will host the 2007 PDCA Design and Installation of Cost Efficient Piles (DICEP) conference at the prestigious Turf Valley Resort, Ellicott City, MD on Thursday, September 27, 2007.

The conference focus will continue to be directed towards engineers. However, this year's DICEP conference will be a one-day program instead of the traditional three days. The DICEP conference will feature six presentations with three programs selected from regional firms and three with a national or international focus.

## **PDCA CONTINUES MEETINGS WITH AASHTO'S T-15**

On April 10, 2007, representatives from the PDCA were back in Columbus, OH meeting with AASHTO T-15. T-15 is the technical committee responsible for Substructures and Retaining Walls and falls under the AASHTO Subcommittee on Bridges and Structures. Over the past year or more, PDCA has been meeting to discuss changes to the LRFD Bridge Installation Specifications, Section 4: Driven Foundation Piles, LRFD Bridge Design Specifications, Section 10: Foundations and issues with A-252 Pipe.

AASHTO requested the number of people attending this meeting be reduced from the full committees on both AASHTO and PDCA sides to expedite the discussion process and allow both sides to more readily come to conclusions on the important issues. AASHTO was represented by T-15 Committee Chair, Jawdat Siddiqi, Tony Allen and Jerry DiMaggio, while the PDCA was represented by Technical Committee Chair, Dale Biggers (Boh Brothers), Garland Likins (PDI), Frank Rausche (GRL), and George Goble (George Goble Consulting Engr.).

According to Dale Biggers, PDCA was able to have all their questions and recommendations addressed by T-15 in a positive manner with the expectation that they will be incorporated into the specifications at some point in the near future. The PDCA will continue to work with T-15 on these issues as well as others that may arise in the future.

### **PDCA BEGINS PREPARATION FOR ANOTHER PDA COURSE**

The PDCA, in conjunction with Foundation QA will hold another seminar on ***“Every Thing You Ever Wanted to Know About PDA Testing . . . But Were Too Afraid to Ask”***, ***“PDA Test Interpretation and CAPWAP Analysis Skills Development”***, and the ***“High-Strain Dynamic Pile Testing (HSDPT) Certification Examination”***. The courses are tentatively scheduled to be held in Atlanta, GA, November 2007.

“Every Thing You Ever Wanted to Know About PDA Testing . . . But Were Too Afraid to Ask” is a seminar that will provide the participants with a deeper understanding of the principles of PDA testing, and will cover the advantages and limitations of dynamic pile testing. The audience will be guided through this field in a ‘non-threatening’ way, with liberal use of graphics and animation, and by frequent analogy to static load testing.

Dynamic Pile Testing (PDA) is a powerful technique for evaluation of pile capacity and pile construction control. The PDA has been progressively developed to provide the test engineer with real-time assistance and warnings which assist with identification of data quality and pile condition issues. These developments have made PDA testing very simple to perform.

However, what makes the PDA really powerful is being under the control of a test engineer who can properly recognize, understand and interpret the test signals by visual assessment and simple analysis. To perform testing at this level requires training and practice.

CAPWAP is the industry-standard signal matching analysis which is applied to PDA data on completion of the pile testing. It is accepted as the definitive assessment of the dynamic testing signals. However, the analysis does not provide a unique solution, and there are no definitive rules for what is or is not an acceptable analysis.

In this seminar, PDA Testers will have the opportunity to develop their skills in interpretation of PDA test signals, and in CAPWAP analysis.

The PDA interpretation skills development component of the course will directly assist participants in improving their performance in the High-Strain Dynamic Pile Testing Examination and Certification program.

The new HSDPT Certification system is a two-tiered system with 5 levels. The first tier is designated "PDA Tester" - and is awarded either at Basic or Intermediate level, on the basis of their performance in Part A of the examination alone. Part A tests skills in data acquisition and on-site testing. The second tier is designated "PDA Signatory" - and is awarded either at Advanced, Master or Expert level on the basis of their separate performance in Parts A and B. Part B tests skills in data interpretation and engineering knowledge.

### **HELP TELL THE DRIVEN PILE STORY**

Piledrivers often get a bad rap in newspapers and other local media due to two primary reasons: 1) Construction activities inconvenience the public and 2) The public doesn't like to be inconvenienced.

Piledrivers contribute a great deal to their communities and society in general. Our work supports infrastructure such as transportation, shipping, utilities and power, it supports buildings that provide a place for others to earn a living and it also protects property from the forces of nature. Piledrivers provide jobs, support charitable causes in their communities and, through organizations such as PDCA, support educational activities and cooperative endeavors with other organizations to improve the geotechnical construction process.

We can continue to accept quick, easy stories provided by other media or, through our own Piledriver Magazine, we can provide in-depth information that will truly inform the public about what we do and what we are about.

If you have an interesting project, found a unique application for driven piles, used driven piles and your expertise to overcome difficult circumstances, won a local award, want to tell others about your company's story, want to share technical information, then we want to hear from you. This organization exists to promote the driven pile and our members. We can't do that unless you promote who you are and what you do.

Articles in Piledriver Magazine are easy to share with others. Send a copy to family, business associates or prospective or existing clients to showcase your work. Show them the versatility of driven piles and pile driving contractors. Take advantage of this resource, it doesn't cost you any thing to participate in this important process.

If you have information you would like to share please contact the PDCA office. Articles can be submitted for publication or arrangements can be made for someone to contact you for an interview to get your story. Photographs are always welcome.

Don't let others tell our story. Let's use the resources of PDCA and our collective voice to explain who we are and what we do. Let's let people know that driven piles, while often unseen, provide a great deal of support to our modern way of life.

### **PDCA OF CALIFORNIA NEWEST CHAPTER**

PDCA is pleased to announce the PDCA of California and PDCA (national) have signed a "Memorandum of Understanding and Association" which unites the two organizations based on due mutual respect for each organization and their common goals and members. The

Memorandum of Understanding and Association was signed during the PDCA 11<sup>th</sup> Annual International Conference and Exposition in Nashville, TN during the PDCA Board of Directors meeting, making the PDCA of California the fourth local PDCA chapter.

The PDCA of California's affiliation with national continues the PDCA philosophy of adding more local chapters and strengthening PDCA overall. PDCA welcomes the PDCA of California and looks forward to working with them on issues of mutual concern.

### **PDCA CHAPTER NEWS**

**PDCA of Mid-Atlantic Chapter** held its quarterly meeting on Thursday, April 26. The dinner meeting was held at Vitali's Restaurant, Edgewood, MD. The guest speaker was Dave Harper, Atlantic Wood Industries – Atlantic MetroCast who presented information on concrete piles.

The PDCA of Mid-Atlantic Chapter next meeting will be announced in an upcoming E-Letter.

**The PDCA of South Carolina Chapter** will hold its Quarterly meeting on Tuesday, June 5, 2007, at the Town and Country Inn, 2008 Savannah Hwy. (Hwy 17, South), Charleston, SC. Mike Douglas, Design Engineer, International Construction Equipment (ICE) will be the guest speaker and present information on Tier 3 Compliance with regards to Hydraulic Hammer Noise and current levels of manufacturing requirements.

**PDCA of the Gulf Coast Chapter** will hold its next meeting on May 17, 2007, at Smilie's Restaurant, Jefferson Hwy, Metairie, LA. The tentative guest speaker will be Paul Bullock, GRL, who will discuss pile set-up. For more information, contact Chapter President, Paul Tassin (Foundation Materials) at 504-467-5648.