



E – LETTER

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

DESIGN AND INSTALLATION OF COST EFFICIENT PILES

The Pile Driving Contractors concluded a successful 7th Annual Design and Installation of Cost Efficient Piles (DICEP) conference in Minneapolis, Minnesota on September 14 and 15. Participants came from all over the United States and Ireland. Participants were presented with a variety of educational programs from cost-effectiveness, design, installation, testing and case studies associated with driven piles; highlighting the quality control and quality assurance aspects that are distinctive to driven piles over other deep foundation and earth retention systems.

PDCA would like to thank the exhibitors and sponsors who helped make this event successful. In alphabetical order, they are: American Piledriving Equipment, Ed Waters and Sons Contracting Co., Inc., Foundation Constructors, InstanTel, Junttan Oy, Naylor Pipe Co., Pileco, Inc., Pile Dynamics, Inc., Piling, Inc., Pipe and Piling Concrete, USA, Co., Skyline Steel, Timber Piling Council, and Veit & Co.

PDCA HOLDS FIRST DEEP FOUNDATION DYNMAIC TESTING AND ANALYSIS COURSE

The Pile Driving Contractors Association concluded its first “Deep Foundation Dynamic Testing and Analysis” course in Minneapolis, MN on September 12 – 13, 2006. The program, held as a pre-conference course to the PDCA DICEP (see article above), was attended by 27 participants, including CEO’s, Project Engineers, students, State DOT officials and others. The course was taught by Garland Likins and Frank Rausche, of PDI and GRL Engineers, respectively over two consecutive days with each day providing eight hours of classroom training. Fourteen of the 27 participants elected to test for their PDA certification through the Foundation QA exam, which followed each day’s course work. The PDCA will schedule another “Deep Foundation Dynamic Testing and Analysis” course in Orlando sometime in February 2007.

GAYLORD OPRYLAND RESORT AND CONFERENCE CENTER SELECTED AS SITE OF 2007 ANNUAL CONFERENCE

The Pile Driving Contractors Association has selected the Gaylord Opryland Resort and Conference Center, Nashville, Tennessee as the site for the PDCA 11th Annual Conference. The conference will be held from Wednesday, March 28, 2007 through Saturday, March 31, 2007.

The 2007 Annual Conference will boast a new format that is intended to provide participants with not only quality educational and industry informative programs, but also the opportunity to do more socializing, networking and just enjoying the sites (and sounds) of Nashville.

PDCA plans on only having half day industry programs on Thursday, Friday and Saturday, with one afternoon reserved for a PDCA Golf Tournament, an afternoon on your own, an evening at the Grand Ole Opry, and receptions and dinners in the evening throughout the conference.

One morning will be reserved for a Hammer Manufacturers Forum (PDCA members only), allowing all hammer manufacturers to present the benefits of their products (from specs, improvements in exhaust and noise emission, reliability, adaptability, cost and other significant features) to a focused group of contractors – pile drivers – that will attend as the manufacturers exclusive audience. This program will be followed by a luncheon where all participating manufacturers can visit with contractors over an informal luncheon.

The PDCA's 1st Annual Golf Tournament will be held at the Gaylord Springs, the premiere course of the Gaylord Opryland. Carved from the banks of the Cumberland River by former US Open and PGA Champion, Larry Nelson, the Springs has secured its place among the nations best Scottish links-style courses. Voted "Best Places to Play" by Golf Digest (2004), you won't want to miss this PDCA event. PDCA invites its members to consider donating company logo items for inclusion into the goodie bags or as prizes for the various events.

The conference will also provide companies the opportunity to exhibit during the conference, so if you want to get your name and/or products in front of PDCA members and conference guests, you should block these days on your calendar as a great marketing opportunity.

PDCA will also seek sponsors for various programs, such as Continental Breakfasts, Mid-morning and afternoon breaks, reception and dinner sponsors, music sponsors (the band), Companion's (Spouse/Guest) Program, and golf tournament sponsors. If you are interested in sponsoring a program, contact the PDCA.

The PDCA 11th Annual Conference will also feature a pre-conference program on Wednesday, March 28, titled "Deep Foundation Design, Construction, Testing and Quality Control", presented by Jerry DiMaggio (FHWA). An additional pre-conference course will be scheduled at a later date and may include the "Pile Driving Inspectors" course.

FEDERAL HIGHWAY ADMINISTRATION FHWA DRIVEN PILE FOUNDATIONS MANUAL AVAILABLE

The Pile Driving Contractors Association has the FHWA Driven Pile Foundations Manuals, Reference Manuals, Volume I: FHWA NHI-05-042 and Volume II: FHWA NHI-05-043 (NHI Reference No. 132021 and 132022) available on CD. This CD is the 2006 version of the FHWA Manual just released by FHWA and NHI. Volume I is 968 pages and Volume II is 486 pages. The CD is \$65.00 and can be shipped immediately. Contact the PDCA office for purchases.

INSTALLATION SPECIFICATIONS FOR DRIVEN PILES PDCA SPECIFICATION 101-06

The PDCA has taken their revisions to the AASHTO LRFD Bridge Installation Specifications, Section 4: Driven Foundation Piles and converted them to a Private Specification, titled, "Installation Specifications for Driven Piles, PDCA Specification 101-06. This specification is the first of its kind specifically designed for private work. All participants at the 7th Annual Design and Installation of Cost Efficient Piles conference were presented with a CD of this new and exciting PDCA publication, as well as a presentation on the specs by PDCA Technical Committee member, Garland Likins.

Anyone interested in obtaining a free copy of the Installation Specs can do so by contacting the PDCA office at 1.888.311.PDCA (7322).

PDCA TO MEET WITH AASHTO T-15

The PDCA will meet on Wednesday, November 8, in Columbus, OH. with the AASHTO T-15 Committee. On the AASHTO agenda is a vote by the committee on the PDCA's revisions to the AASHTO LRFD Bridge Installation Specifications, Section 4: Driven Foundation Piles. PDCA presented the revisions for the second time to the Committee in May 2006, in Snowbird, UT along with an explanation of the revisions by George Goble (George G. Goble Consulting and Engr.). At the conclusion of that meeting, the PDCA requested a copy of any revisions to the specifications made by members of the T-15 committee between the Snowbird, UT and Columbus, OH meetings. PDCA was informed by Jawdat Saddiqui, Chairman of the T-15 Committee that he had not received nor seen any correspondence that would indicate a change by the Committee members. In light of this news, the PDCA is expecting the T-15 to vote unanimously on the PDCA revisions to the specifications and forward them on to complete the approval process. PDCA expects the specifications to complete the approval process and be implemented in mid-2007. Work on this document by the PDCA Technical Committee will have a positive impact on public works driven foundation pile specifications for years to come.

PDCA ANNOUNCES 2007 PROJECT OF THE YEAR AWARD

The Pile Driving Contractors Association announces the 2007 Project of the Year Award competition. The PDCA is dedicated to acknowledging the hard work, ingenuity and commitment that goes into each project where driven piles are used in a deep foundation or earth retention system. This esteemed PDCA tradition recognizes excellence in driven pile projects completed by PDCA members in good standing.

Through the Project of the Year Award, the PDCA has the distinguished opportunity to continue its long-standing and consistent commitment to recognize those PDCA members who demonstrate excellence in the process of providing solutions, services and products to the needs of the deep foundation and earth retention environment.

The PDCA is asking each of its members to consider submitting a project worthy of this symbolic PDCA award. This PDCA award program is open to all PDCA Members – Contractors, Associates and Technical Affiliates. Within all of these member categories, if you or your firm has a project that was especially interesting or that you are particularly proud of, then you need to enter this year's "Project of the Year Award". A call for entries will be mailed later in 2006 to all PDCA members. Winning entries will be announced and presented their award during the PDCA Annual Conference at the Gaylord Opryland Resort and Convention Center, Nashville, TN in March 2007.

So watch for your "Call for Entries" Project of the Year entry form and participate in showcasing your best project of 2006.

PDCA VISITS WITH CALIFORNIA PDCA

Representatives from the PDCA (National) visited with members of the PDCA (Northern California) to discuss the potential of creating a national / northern California alliance. California PDCA President, Charlie Gibson (Manson Construction), Don Dolly (Foundation Constructors) and Jimmy Thompson (CA PDCA Sec/Treasurer) meet with PDCA national representatives Randy Dietel, Mark Weisz and Steve Hall on Thursday, August 31, 2006, at the offices of Manson Construction, Richmond, CA to discuss the possibility of their organization affiliating with national PDCA. The California PDCA has been in existence since the 50's and has a well-established role in representing marine and land contractors in the deep foundation, earth retention and marine pile driving industry in northern California. The PDCA and California PDCA discussed issues of mutual benefit if they were to affiliate with national PDCA. PDCA

is hopeful the California PDCA will become the fourth PDCA chapter in the United States and is grateful for their hospitality and willingness to entertain the idea of moving the PDCA and pile driving industry forward through a network of local PDCA chapters.

PDCA OF MID-ATLANTIC CHAPTER PLANS BI-MONTHLY MEETING

The PDCA of Mid-Atlantic Chapter is continuing to make great strides as the second local PDCA Chapter. President Mike Jahnigen (Sun Marine Maintenance) continues to have the chapter meet every other month in the Annapolis, MD area. On Thursday, September 28, the chapter will meet at Paul's on the South River in Riva, MD. Irv Ragsdale, Chapter Vice President (Clark Foundations, LLC) will sponsor the guest speaker, Dave Kozera, Dave Kozera, Inc., a geotechnical engineer who will discuss the Pile Driving Analyzer. Anyone interested in the PDCA of Mid-Atlantic Chapter or hearing Mr. Kozera's presentation is welcomed to attend by calling Mike Jahnigen at (302) 539-6756 to make your reservations.

PDCA DEVELOPING NEW WEBSITE AND DATABASE

Sorry for the inconvenience, this site is "Under Construction". The PDCA has contracted with Surf U Soft to re-design the PDCA website. Surf U Soft is a Jacksonville based website developer who also specializes in web maintenance, database development, e-marketing and other state-of-the-art web technologies.

Surf U Soft and the PDCA are working closely to develop a site that will allow both members and guests to navigate easily through the new PDCA website to access information about the PDCA, its members, and our industry. The new site will support on-line payments through PayPal, allowing you to purchase publications, register and pay for events, and pay invoices using a secure platform. The site will also include an updated and comprehensive database that will allow the PDCA to maintain up-to-date membership information, while allowing others to access member information through a searchable database designed around different queries and prompts.

The new site should be ready to go "live" within the next three to four weeks. In the meantime, the PDCA is maintaining general information on our existing site, www.piledrivers.org. The new site will keep the piledrivers.org http.