THE PILE DRIVING CONTRACTORS ASSOCIATION

WOULD LIKE TO WISH ALL OUR COMPANIES

THEIR EMPLOYEES AND FAMILIES

A SAFE, JOYOUS HOLIDAY SEASON!

**PDCA 15TH ANNUAL INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE AND EXPO 2011**

**Keynote Speaker: David Limbaugh**

The PDCA invites everyone to join us in 2011 for the PDCA 15th Annual International Conference and Expo 2011. The Market Development Committee has worked hard to assemble a program that has something for everyone.

Mark your calendars, the conference will be held in Savannah, GA from April 26-28, 2011. With average April temperatures of 70 degrees and only 3 inches of rainfall in the month, Savannah will provide excellent weather for all the exciting events planned for this year’s conference.

The theme of this year’s conference will focus on the advantages (economical, load bearing, design, environmental) of driven piles. Lessons Learned and Case Histories will also be incorporated into the presentations. The PDCA will update members on the new LRFD code, showing how driven piles can be at a distinct advantage in securing deep foundation projects. The conference will also offer valuable presentations on business matters.

The Westin Savannah Harbor Golf Resort and Spa (www.westinsavannah.com) will be our host for accommodations, the Business and Awards Luncheon, and the Annual Dinner.

Directly adjacent to The Westin is the Savannah International Trade and Convention Center, which will be the site for the Opening Ceremony, General Sessions, Exhibit Hall, Continental Breakfasts, AM & PM Breaks, Exhibit Hall Networking and Social Luncheon and all receptions.

The Club at Savannah Harbor will host the PDCA 4th Annual Golf Outing (www.theclubatsavannahharbor.com). The Club at Savannah Harbor is a Troon Golf managed, 18-hole Robert Cupp / Sam Snead Championship course and home of the PGA TOUR’s Champions Tour Liberty Mutual Legends of Golf Tournament.

The 2011 Annual Conference will feature David Limbaugh as our Keynote Speaker. Mr. Limbaugh is a noted political commentator, author and attorney. Six months following the November 2010 mid-term elections, Mr. Limbaugh’s presentation is sure to be stimulating, thought provoking and exciting.

Exhibitors will be a central focus throughout the conference. The PDCA is limiting the booth spaces to 50, giving exhibitors a captive audience to promote their products and services. Once again, all continental breakfasts, AM & PM breaks and receptions will be conducted in the Exhibit Hall area maximizing exposure and networking opportunities between exhibitor and client. But wait, there’s more! The PDCA will also hold its first buffet luncheon in the Exhibit Hall, allowing an extended time to socialize on a casual basis. The PDCA is also promoting our exhibitors by holding a contest, in which the winners will have to have visited all 50 booths to be eligible. Winnings will be presented to 1st, 2nd and 3rd in the form of three Visa Gift Cards valued at $500.00, $300.00 and $200.00.

Savannah is a great city for visiting and the PDCA is lining up a great Companion’s Program for our ladies and guests. Can you go to Savannah without visiting Paula Deen? I don’t think so. But Savannah is so much more and the PDCA is going to make the most of our visit to this historical city.

**PROJECT OF THE YEAR AWARD**

The PDCA is proud to announce the 2011 “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 or utilized to solve foundation problems. The Project of the Year Award is a PDCA tradition, honoring 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 practice of providing solutions, services and products to the needs of the deep foundation and earth retention environment.

Project entries must feature projects completed in 2010. Project entries will be awarded in two entry categories and three, dollar volume categories. The two entry categories are distinguished by either “Land-based” or “Marine-based” projects. The dollar volume categories are “Less than $500,000.00, $500,000.00 - $2 Million, and Greater than $2 Million. Price ranges are based solely on the dollar volume of the piling contract associated with the project.

Entry forms will soon be available for downloading on the PDCA website, [www.piledrivers.org](http://www.piledrivers.org).

The PDCA is asking each member to consider submitting a project worthy of this prestigious PDCA award. The ***2011 Project of the Year Award*** entry deadline is:

***Friday, February 11, 2011***

Winning entries will be announced during the 15th Annual International Conference and Expo 2011, during the PDCA Business and Awards Luncheon on Wednesday, April 27, 2011. PDCA will **NOT** reveal the winning entries prior to the luncheon.

Winning entries will be featured in the 2011 *PileDriver* magazines and on the PDCA website.

PDCA looks forward to receiving your entries – GOOD LUCK!

**PDA WORKSHOP AND EXAM**

The PDCA, in cooperation with Pile Dynamics, Inc. will present a PDA Training Workshop and PDA Exam on February 16-18, 2011, at the Royal Sonesta Hotel New Orleans, New Orleans, LA.

The Workshop will feature a general seminar on Deep Foundations Testing and Analysis, Integrity Testing and Wave Equation and High Strain Dynamic Foundation Testing. The program will also include the new PDI Exam. This exam is 2 hour with 60 questions covering all proper state-of-practice for dynamic pile testing, to including but not necessarily limited to testing the theory, interpretation, application, evaluation of data quality, and signal matching.

Registration forms for this workshop will be available on the PDCA website within the next few weeks. You can call the PDCA at 888-311-PDCA (7322) for more information.

**PROFESSORS’ DRIVEN PILE INSTITUTE**

The PDCA is proud to announce the 6th Professors’ Driven Pile Institute, to be held June 20-24, 2011, at Utah State University in Logan, UT.

Through the Professors’ Driven Pile Institute, the PDCA has provided the nation’s leading engineering professors with the expertise to teach over 4000 engineering students about driven pile advantages.

Without question, this program is the standard by which all “teach the teacher” programs are judged and is the best way to ensure the continued progress and strength of our industry for the coming years.

A key component in the increased visibility and marketability of driven piles has been our liaison with academia through the PDCA’s Professors’ Driven Pile Institute. Almost 100 of the nation’s leading engineering professors have completed this intensive, five-day training program. Professors learn about driven pile design, installation, quality control and assurance, and advancements in driven pile technology. They come away from this course with the knowledge, skill, and materials to teach their engineering students about the value of driven pile.

They also are presented with information explaining the role of the PDCA in the industry and how we are advancing driven piles through technology, education, marketing, and private and public liaisons.

The PDCA funds virtually all expenses for the professors, making it an expensive program to conduct, but worth every dollar invested. This is a WIN/WIN program. The end result is a new generation of engineers specifying driven pile as the preferred method for deep foundations and earth retention systems.

Applications:

The PDCA is accepting applications by professors who are currently teaching undergraduate or graduate courses in deep foundations; or professors who will be teaching courses in deep foundations during the Fall Semester of 2011.

PDCA requires professors to submit a letter of introduction and a resume to:

Professors’ Driven Pile Institute

Pile Driving Contractors Association

1857 Wells Road

Suite 215

Orange Park, FL 32073

All applicants will be notified of the status of their application by the end of March 2011.

**PDCA / DFI JOINT CONFERENCE RETURNS**

The PDCA will team up with DFI again in 2011 to present a dynamic conference on DRIVEN PILE. The 2011 DFI/PDCA conference will be held on Thursday, March 3, 2011, at the DoubleTree Hotel, Chicago Magnificent Mile, Chicago, IL.

More information and Registration Forms on this program will be distributed as soon as they become available.

**PDCA COMMITTEES**

The PDCA is heading into 2011, which means “resolutions”. Yes, our “New Year’s Resolutions” are upon us once again. What are your resolutions for 2011? I have a suggestion! Why not consider becoming active on a PDCA Committee. Did you know anyone from a PDCA member company is welcomed on any PDCA Committee? The PDCA has several committees that need your input and participation to make the committee stronger and more effective; and to make your association stronger and more effective.

Committee participation is also a great way to stay abreast of current issues within your industry and to meet new people while providing a valuable service to the PDCA.

PDCA Committees include the following: Technical, Education, Market Development, Environmental, Communications, Safety, Membership Development and Member Retention, and Finance.

For more information about any of the PDCA Committees or to learn how to join a committee, call the PDCA office at 1-888-311-PDCA (7322).

**PDCA NOMINATING COMMITTEE**

The PDCA Nominating Committee will be meeting over the next several weeks to assemble the 2011 PDCA Officers and Board of Directors Ballot. The PDCA has several openings on the Board for any PDCA member interested in serving. Director positions are 3 year terms with the opportunity to serve a second term. If you or someone in your company is interested in serving on the Board of Directors please contact the PDCA at 1-888-311-PDCA (7322).

**PDCA EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE RETREAT**

The PDCA will conduct its 2nd Annual Executive Committee Retreat from January 15-18, 2011. The purpose of the retreat is to establish short term objectives for 2011 that will help the PDCA meet its 2011 goals and other long-term goals relative to the association’s strategic plan. The Executive Committee will also review the association’s Strategic Plan and make revisions as they deem appropriate. The Executive Committee is welcoming suggestions, feedback, and ideas from the PDCA membership on items and issues believed to be relevant to the future growth and progress of the association. You can provide your input by contacting any PDCA Officer.

**DICEP 2010 AND 2011**

The PDCA 11th Annual Design and Installations of Cost-Efficient Piles Conference was held on November 4, 2010, at the Embassy Suites Hotel and Conference Center in Charleston, SC. The conference was a tremendous success with over 160 engineers, contractors and others associated with the driven pile industry attending. The PDCA would like to thank Sonny DuPre (Cape Romain Contractors), President, PDCA of the South Carolina Chapter and the Chapter Board of Directors for their partnership and support in planning and conducting this successful program.

The PDCA would also like to thank our sponsors who contributed to the success of the program. The sponsors include:

**LUNCHEON**

American Piledriving Equipment

Foundation Constructors

International Construction Equipment

**CONTINENTAL BREAKFAST**

L.B. Foster Company

**MORNING AND AFTERNOON BREAKS**

Herbert F. Darling, Inc.

Lally Pipe and Tube

The PDCA would also like to thank our Exhibitors, which included International Construction Equipment, American Piledriving Equipment, Goble PileTest, GRL Engineers, Cox Industries, Essve Tech, Skyline Steel Company, L.B. Foster Company, Terracon, R.W. Conklin Steel, Geokon, Liebherr Nenzing Crane, Foundation Technologies, J.D. Fields, Atlas Tube, Rev Drill, Maby, Carolina Stalite Company, Lally Pipe and Tube and Blue Marlin Marine Solutions.

**2011 PDCA MEMBERSHIP**

The PDCA wants all of our members to know how much we appreciate your support and participation throughout 2010. The 2011 PDCA Membership Renewal invoices were sent on November 1, 2010, and should be in all company offices by now.

Thank you very much to those companies who have already renewed for 2011. Your 2011 membership renewal is greatly appreciated.

For those companies who have not renewed, the PDCA hopes you will give every consideration to doing so. Renewal of your membership will help the PDCA continue to represent the pile driving industry and provide the distinct services and benefits designed to help you be successful.

Any company needing a duplicate invoice for payment purposes can get one through the PDCA office by calling 888-3211-PDCA (7322).

As a reminder, the PDCA office suite number is 215. Please notify anyone who is responsible for correspondence to the PDCA of this change.

**UPCOMING CONFERENCES**

The PDCA will have a presence at the following conference as a supporting / cooperating organization or to promote driven pile, in general.

Transportation Research Board, Washington, D.C., January 23-27; GeoInstitute of the ASCE, Dallas, TX March 13-16; CONEXPO – Con/AGG, Las Vegas, NV, March 22-26; and the Design Build Transportation Conference, Kansas City, MO, March 28-30.