



E-LETTER

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

JUNE 2008

PDCA SCHEDULED DICEP CONFERENCE

The PDCA of the Gulf Coast chapter and PDCA (national) have scheduled the 2008 Design and Installation of Cost-Efficient Pile (DICEP) conference in New Orleans, LA.

The one-day conference will be held on *Thursday, September 25, 2008*. The DICEP conference will feature 6 presentations primarily designed for civil, geotechnical, and structural engineers, presenting the lectures from an engineering perspective on the advantages of driven pile. However, the conference is also intended to provide a positive learning experience for contractors and other firms or individuals who support, conduct business or are associated with the pile driving industry.

This year, the PDCA of the Gulf Coast Chapter and the PDCA Education Committee have *tentatively* planned lectures on topics, which include a multi-project comparison of real costs between auger cast (CFA) and driven pile. The local chapter members have been successful in converting several CFA projects to driven pile and have also had some CFA projects completed in the Gulf Coast area. The idea behind this presentation is to contrast the real cost of finished CFA projects to those that have been converted to driven pile. Additional presentations include "Soil Freeze and Pile Set Up", a comparative of the "PDCA Installation Specification for Driven Piles" with the IBC, which has been adopted in LA, a presentation on the Rigolets Bridge Project and US Hwy 90 in New Orleans using 66" cylinder pile, 17th Street Canal Interim Closure Structure and Determination of Support Cost Distribution for the Design of Driven Piles Exhibiting Set Up. All presentations will be confirmed within the next two to three weeks.

The PDCA will also provide members with an opportunity to exhibit during the conference. PDCA has arranged to have 19 – 6' table tops available for exhibitors. DICEP provides a great opportunity for suppliers and manufacturers to spend some quality time with up to 120 engineers and contractors in a focused setting. The exhibit area is adjacent to the meeting rooms and will be the location of the continental breakfast and the AM and PM breaks. Additional time to network will be provided following the luncheon.

The PDCA is pleased to announce the conference location is the InterContinental New Orleans. PDCA selected the InterContinental New Orleans because it is a AAA four-diamond award winning hotel, its reputation for quality service, outstanding facilities and its location. The InterContinental New Orleans is located on historic St. Charles Street and Poydras in the heart of downtown New Orleans. The hotel is located just three blocks from the Mississippi River and French Quarter, two blocks from Harrah's Casino and within walking distance to almost anything this unique town, with its European, African, Caribbean, and Hispanic culture has to

offer.

For those attending the conference and needing overnight accommodations, the PDCA has secured a block of rooms for just \$139.00 a night. Reservations can be made by calling the InterContinental New Orleans at 800-445-6563. Reservations must be made no later than **September 4, 2008**, to be assured a room at this discounted rate. When making reservations, be sure to identify yourself as a participant in the Pile Driving Contractors DICEP conference.

Watch for more information on this important PDCA conference in future E-Letters, *PileDriver* magazine, and on the PDCA website, www.piledrivers.org and in the 2008 DICEP brochure.



The Pile Driving Contractors Association (PDCA), the Geo-Institute of ASCE and ADSC The International Association of Foundation Drilling and will join together to present the largest Geotechnical Engineering and Geo-Construction Congress ever held – the International Foundation Congress and Equipment Expo '09 (IFCEE '09). This Congress will focus on foundations and will include related geo-engineering and geo-construction technologies including foundation engineering, ground modification and earth retention. The IFCEE '09 provides a premier setting as well as providing a vital element in helping you meet your marketing goals!

The IFCEE '09 will be held in Orlando, Florida at the Lake Buena Vista Palace Resort from March 15 – 19, 2009. This conference will attract over 2500 people in the geotechnical engineering and geo-construction related fields. The conference will include a mega indoor and outdoor exhibit area as well as lectures on the top issues in geotechnical engineering and geo-construction.

The PDCA submitted several presentations, short courses and a panel discussion. The following panel discussion has been selected by the IFCEE '09 selection committees to be presented in March 2009.

"Pile Issues and Current Specifications" - The panel will consist of Dale Biggers (Boh Bros.), Randy Dietel (Piling, Inc.), George Goble (George G. Goble Consulting Engineer), Wayne Waters (Ed Waters and Sons Contracting Co., Inc.) and Pat Hannigan (GRL, Inc.). The discussion will include comparisons of the PDCA Installation Specifications for Driven Pile (PDCA Specification 103-07) and that of AASHTO and IBC in the areas of Payment, Driving Equipment, Materials, Capacity Verification and Installation Issues.

The IFCEE '09 has also selected several PDCA presentations and short courses.

PDCA TO WORK WITH ASCE AND FHWA ON WEBINAR SERIES

The PDCA began discussions with Ed Kavazanjian, Geo-Institute Board Governors, Treasurer during the 2008 PDCA annual conference in Phoenix regarding the PDCA providing topics and

presentations on driven piles and deep foundations through the ASCE Continuing Education Department's webinar series. Further discussions on this partnership took place with Ed and Carol Bowers, Director, Geo-Institute of ASCE and PDCA during the recent GeoCoalition meeting in Denver, CO.

The purpose of the ASCE webinar series is to disseminate technical information among ASCE members. Each one hour webinar presentation is broadcast live over the internet using one or two instructors. PDCA provides the "script" and any production material such as PowerPoints, slides or video.

Recently, Jerry DiMaggio, Principal Bridge Engineer, FHWA requested the PDCA fill a November 2008 slot in their "Real Solutions" seminar series, which is a monthly series of webinars.

The PDCA Education Committee approved working with both Geo-Institute of ASCE and FHWA-NHI on these two programs. The PDCA will suggest to the Geo-Institute and ASCE a presentation by Garland Likins on "The Benefits of Driven Pile". Mike Justason (Birmingham Foundation Solutions), Chair, PDCA Education Committee and Mike Elliott (Pile Equipment), Chair, PDCA Market Development Committee will form a subcommittee to develop a presentation on "Innovations in Driven Pile Equipment" to present to FHWA and their "Real Solutions" webinar series this November.

PDCA ATTENDS GEOCOALITON MEETING

On May 12, 13, 14, 2008, Van Hogan (Ed Waters and Sons Contracting Co, Inc.) PDCA President, John King (Pile Drivers, Inc.) PDCA Vice President and Stevan A. Hall, PDCA Executive Director represented the PDCA at the annual GeoCoalition meeting in Denver, CO. The GeoCoaliton is a group made up of several geo-engineering and geo-construction organizations, including PDCA, Geo-Institute of ASCE, ASFE, AEG, ADSC and DFI that meet annually to discuss industry issues that cross the bounders of all participating organizations. The meeting consisted of several topics, including two that triggered fairly lengthy discussions. First, PDCA President Hogan suggested the coalition consider promoting a "Foundation Engineer". President Hogan indicated there is often a disconnect between the Geotechnical engineer and the structural engineer causing "gaps" in the project that require interpretation by the contractor, of which neither engineer is willing or wants to make. The Civil Enginnering profession is primarily divided into two groups – geotechnical and structural. President Hogan suggested a Foundation Engineering category to fill that much needed gap.

An additional discussion focused on what constitutes an adequate "Soils Report" and what would be considered reasonable information for such a report to contain. Representatives from ASFE indicated that they will never endorse such a report due to the "standard" it sets or implies, which is too often used in litigation against the engineer.

The discussion concluded with the coalition agreeing to establish a Task Force that will produce a "Soils Report", which contains reasonable language regarding "responsibilities and content". The Task Force will be comprised of representatives from the Geo-Institute of ASCE, PDCA, ADSC, DFI, AEG and ASFE. Their task will be to define the scope of a "Soils Report" by reviewing background information and resources and generating "guidelines" for soils reporting. The report will primarily be written to allow the Geotechnical engineer to present the report to

owners or a very focused audience, encouraging them to use the report. The Geo-Institute of ASCE will discuss and hopefully adopt the task force initiative at their June Board meeting, allowing the formation of the Task Force and their ability to begin this important process.

PDCA TO HOLD STRATEGIC PLANNING MEETING

During the PDCA Executive Committee meeting on May 28, 2008, the committee reviewed summaries of the strategic planning survey that were returned to the PDCA office during the annual conference, by mail or by fax. The PDCA is grateful for the response it received from the members. Member comments were insightful, forward-thinking and will prove beneficial during the strategic planning process.

The Strategic Planning Committee will meet the evening of Monday, September 9, 2008, in Chicago, IL for preliminary planning and use all day Tuesday and half a day Wednesday, September 10 and 11, respectively for the planning session.

The Strategic Planning Committee will be Chaired by PDCA Immediate Past President, Mark Weisz (C. S. Marine Constructors) along with other members of the Executive Committee; Buck Darling (Herbert F. Darling, Inc.) and Mike Justason (Birmingham Foundation Solutions) from the Board of Directors; and Stevan Hall, PDCA Executive Director.

PDCA STILL SEEKING VOLUNTEER COMMITTEE MEMBERS

The PDCA has announced the need for volunteers to serve on its committees on many occasions and in many ways. You have read it in previous E-Letters, in the President's and Executive Director's Message in *PileDriver* magazine, and you have heard requests at conferences and at local chapter meetings. Two questions on the PDCA strategic planning survey dealt with serving on the Board or a committee. The PDCA will contact those members who returned a survey indicating an interest in serving on a PDCA committee.

All PDCA members are eligible to serve on a committee. The PDCA wants your involvement and input on a committee, which helps make your association stronger. Not only will you help the PDCA become a stronger organization by personally providing your input and expertise when committee members need to make decisions on issues, developing a specification or plan an event, but you may also be surprised at the positive result you get from serving.

The PDCA is also about networking and committees are a great way to accomplish this with very little effort on your part. Committee meetings are generally short – no more than an hour to an hour and a half, conducted via conference call with web technology for greater participation and instant feedback, and conducted about every six weeks or on as needed basis. Please consider volunteering for one or more of the following PDCA committees:

Membership Development Member Retention: One of PDCA's most important committees. It is responsible for assisting staff in the retention of existing members, recruiting new members, and member mentor support.

Technical: The Technical Committee is the liaison between PDCA and Federal, State and local government when it comes to specifications and codes. They review and update both public and private specifications and codes and make revisions and recommendations to the appropriate

agencies.

Education: The Education Committee is responsible for identifying general themes and presentations for all PDCA events, such as the Annual Conference, DICEP and Professor's Institute, identifying and selecting presentation topics, contacting potential speakers, and establishing and implementing seminars and workshops.

Market Development: This committee is responsible for developing new ideas that will assist the PDCA in marketing not only the association to target markets, but also developing ideas and strategies for promoting driven piles as the preferred method for deep foundations and earth retention systems. They are also responsible for all aspects of the Annual Conference except approval of the educational program.

Environmental: This committee is responsible for identifying both good and bad aspects of driven pile as related to environmental issues and formulating strategies to minimize or eliminate the bad, while promoting the good. This committee has been working on the Vibration and Noise Database over the past two years and is producing solid evidence to dispel the vibration myths associated with driven pile. They have more work to do and need your help.

Communications: The Communications Committee is responsible for producing the PileDriver magazine's editorial content, such as Member Spotlight, Project Spotlight and other miscellaneous articles. The committee is also responsible for the PDCA website, Annual Directory and E-Letters content.

Safety: PDCA newest Committee, the Safety Committee is responsible for monitoring OSHA regulations and making recommendations on appropriate actions. They are also responsible for presenting information to members on safety practices and as a resource to members for safety policy.

If you are interested in participating on a PDCA Committee, please contact the PDCA office at 1-888-311-PDCA (7322) or email us at [http://mailto:execdir@piledrivers.org](mailto:execdir@piledrivers.org). The committees will be better with your participation and you will be better for participating.

PDCA OPENS NEW OFFICE

The PDCA has moved into its new office space in Orange Park, Florida. The new space is part of an Executive Suite, which simply put, provides a central receptionist for PDCA, answers incoming calls as PDCA, forwards calls to the office, takes messages, and forwards or maintains information while staff is out of the office. The primary reason for having the office space is to provide the PDCA with a professional base to work from. Other benefits include staff assistance and support, reception and office management, telephone answering, meeting facilities and clerical help when needed.

The PDCA moved into the office on May 1, 2008. The PDCA will maintain its existing telephone numbers, fax number, email accounts and even the PO Box, but encourages you to send mail to the new address, which is:

PDCA
1857 Wells Road

Suite 214
Orange Park, FL 32073

Please forward this new address to your accounting personnel, office manager or any other person who needs to correspond with the PDCA.

You will still be able to reach the PDCA through any of its existing phone lines and you can reach Steve Hall through his email account at <http://mailto:execdir@piledrivers.org>. Please be advised that Steve's email address will change to <http://mailto:steve@piledrivers.org>, so you can make that change at your convenience. Steve will also receive email from the <http://mailto:execdir@piledrivers.org> long enough for everyone to make the transition. The scah@comcast.net account will no longer be a valid email account for business purposes.

PDCA HIRES NEW ADMINISTRATIVE ASSISTANT

The PDCA has hired Marian Phillips of Orange Park, FL as the new part-time Administrative Assistant. Marian will begin her employment with the PDCA on June 9, 2008 and will work 20 hours a week handling various administrative responsibilities. Marian's experience includes client relations, marketing, management and finance. She has excellent organizational skills and is competent in several software applications, including all MS programs. Welcome aboard, Marian.

NEW PDCA MEMBERS THIS MONTH

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A DRIVEN PILE IS A TESTED PILE!