

# IRMCA NEWS

Volume 27, Number 1 Winter 2008

## Members Enjoy Annual Convention in Naples, Florida

Great weather, good attendance, quality speakers and a wonderful facility all made the 2008 Illinois Ready Mixed Concrete Association Annual Convention an overwhelming success. The Naples Beach Hotel and Golf Club hosted this year's event and attendees were more than satisfied with the site and all of its offerings. Even those who brought children found sitters and activities to keep the kids occupied and tired.

On Monday the 25th, attendees enjoyed a welcoming function, supported by the IRMCA Reception Sponsors, on the lawn right next to the beach, a location which allowed everyone a great view of the spectacular sunset. Several retired IRMCA members in the area attended and provided great conversation about the good old days.

Tuesday, we heard from Dr. Jeff Roesler from the Department of Civil and Environmental Engineering at the University of Illinois in Urbana. He talked about whitetopping research at the U of I and gave brief synopses of other research being done there. Jeff answered lots of questions and, afterwards, members mentioned feeling good about IRMCA's relationship with Dr. Roesler and the Department. Jeff was followed by Rob Madore from WR

*Continued on page 18.*



The Annual Convention beach side welcoming event offered great fellowship and a spectacular sunset.

## Letter From the President

*It is with much enthusiasm that I accept the position as President for IRMCA for the 2008 year. I am honored to have been asked to hold this prestigious seat.*

*I would like to take this opportunity to thank our outgoing board member Tom Beck of Continental Cement for his years of invaluable knowledge and commitment to our association as well as our industry.*

*We welcome a new board member; George Burger of Holcim, Inc. George comes to us with many years of experience in the cement industry. I am looking forward to the insight he will surely impart as a new director.*

*I would also like to acknowledge the talented staff of IRMCA. Our Executive Director, Bruce Grohne, who has been inspirational in his leadership; John Reed, Director of Marketing and Promotion; JoAnn McKeown, Office Manager; Jennifer Bedell, Special Projects Coordinator; and Erica Sherbring, Administrative Assistant. Thank you all for your hard work and dedication.*

*I anticipate a successful 2008, and wish you all a prosperous and profitable year ahead.*

*Cheryl Moeller, Moeller Ready Mix, Inc.*



## Illinois Ready Mixed Concrete Association

303 Landmark Dr., Ste. 1-A  
Normal, IL 61761  
Phone: 309-862-2144  
800-235-4055  
Fax: 309-862-3404  
E-mail: [irmca@irmca.org](mailto:irmca@irmca.org)  
Web: [www.irmca.org](http://www.irmca.org)

*Working together to create value, teach  
excellence, and produce quality.*

### **Officers**

Cheryl Moeller, President  
Justin Ozinga, Vice President  
Dennis Oedewaldt,  
Secretary/Treasurer  
Ken Highlander, Past President

### **Directors**

Jim Amundsen, George Burger,  
Kyle Cain, Brad Doll, Tim Huiner,  
George Mobarak, Dennis Probst

### **Staff**

Bruce Grohne, Executive Director

Jennifer Bedell, IRMCA News Editor/  
Special Projects Coordinator

John Reed,  
Director of Marketing & Promotion

JoAnn McKeown, Office Manager

Erica Scherbring,  
Administrative Assistant

Dick Plimpton, P.E., Consultant

### **Mission**

To be the voice for the ready mixed  
concrete industry in Illinois. To  
promote the use of quality ready  
mixed concrete through innovative  
educational programs. To accomplish  
common goals as an organization that  
cannot be done individually.

## New IRMCA Board Members and Officers

At the February 26, 2008, Annual General Membership Meeting in Naples, FL, members elected the following directors:

- Director Brad Doll, Doll's Inc. (Producer)
- Director George Mobarak, Rock River Ready Mix (Producer)
- Director George Burger, Holcim (US) (Associate)

And the following officers:

- President Cheryl Moeller, Moeller Ready Mix
- Vice-President Justin Ozinga, Ozinga Illinois
- Secretary-Treasurer Dennis Oedewaldt, Prairie Group

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## Outgoing Director

Tom Beck of Continental Cement has concluded his service on the board of directors. The Association appreciates the time and talent Tom shared during his years as a director.

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## Upcoming Event

The annual Harvey Hagge Scholarship Golf Outing has been scheduled for September 3rd, so mark your calendars.

# YOUR COMPANY'S ADVERTISEMENT

**COULD BE HERE REACHING MOST OF THE READY MIX  
PRODUCERS IN ILLINOIS AS WELL AS  
CONTRACTORS AND CITY OFFICIALS STATEWIDE.**

**CONTACT THE IRMCA OFFICE (800.235.4055)  
FOR RATES AND SUBMISSION DEADLINES.**

# Welcome, New Members!

## **Badger State Equipment Co.**

731 Amy Belle Lake Road  
Hubertus, WI 53033  
Contact: Jack Moroney, President  
Phone: 800-528-4360  
Fax: 262-628-3693  
Email: badgerstateequip@aol.com  
Products & Services: Concrete Batch Plants,  
Mixing equipment-twin shaft, planetary, tilt,  
dust control, automation, reclaimers

## **CEMEX**

15301 Dixie Highway  
Louisville, KY 40272  
Phone: 877.240.9080  
Contact: Rick L. Locke, Vice President, Sales  
Fax: 502.933.6334  
Phone: 812.768.5858  
Fax: 812.632.0722  
Products & Services: Cement

## **Merts, Inc.**

(represented by National Concrete Equipment, Inc.,  
Rochester, MN 55903)  
P.O. Box 71494  
Albany, GA 31708

Contact: Joel Johnson, President

Phone 229-435-3315

Fax: 229-435-3537

Email: joel@merts.com

Website: www.merts.com

Products & Services: Concrete Batch Plants  
& Accessories

## **RiverStone Group, Inc.**

1701 5th Avenue  
Moline, IL 61265  
Contact: Greg Castrey, Vice President, Sales  
Phone: 309-757-8250  
Fax: 309-757-8257  
Email: rsg\_contact@riverstonegrp.com  
Products & Services: Aggregate & building materials

## **Spin Screed, Inc.**

4932 Lake Drive  
Quincy, IL 62035  
Contact: Joe Churchill, President  
Phone: 217-222-2378  
Fax: 217-222-7785  
Email: info@spinscreed.com  
Website: www.spinscreed.com  
Products & Services: Light weight power roller screed

*ERICA, BRUCE, JENNIFER, JOHN AND JOANN WISH YOU A PROSPEROUS YEAR.*



# NRMCA

# BENCHMARKING

When the National Ready Mixed Concrete Association released results of its 2007 Fleet Benchmarking and Cost Survey, some interesting statistics jumped out. While the 2006 survey results came from just NRMCA members, the results are likely indicative of most operations. See how you compare to the following:

TRUCK	Average age	6.5 years
	Rear discharge	15.7% (↓7% from previous year)
	Front discharge	82.3%
	Conveyor equipped trucks	Owned by 12 % of companies
	Trailer mixers	Owned by 10% of companies
CHASSIS	Most prevalent chassis configuration	3 axle
	Followed by	4 axle with booster
	Followed by	5 axle
FLEET	Average annual distance	17,976 miles
	Average one-way haul	14.6 miles
	Average load size	8.1 cubic yards
	Typical full load size	9.6 cubic yards
FUEL	Average fuel usage	3.60 miles per gallon
	Fuel \$ /cubic yards	\$ 2.55
DRUM	Drum chipping - driver	20%
	Drum chipping - maintenance	5%
	Drum chipping - vendor	71%
	Chipping frequency average	every 6 months
	Average drum life	5.5 years
	Average drum life per cubic yard	32,850 miles
	Concrete delivered per truck annually	5601 cubic yards

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Illinois Cement Company Sales Office  
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## New Promotion Website

The National Ready Mixed Concrete Association has announced their newest website, [www.concretepromotion.org](http://www.concretepromotion.org). This site, called the Concrete Promoters' Resource Center has been developed to assist promoters in creating broader awareness of the benefits of concrete through enhanced communication, shared knowledge and access to the best tools. There are downloadable pictures, videos, databases, directories and helpful links for just about any concrete use you'd like to promote. There are more than 30 PowerPoint presentations available for your use. This is a wonderful site that will give you all the help you need in your promotion efforts. Check it out!

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## Trade Show Award for Pervious

Congratulations to Ozinga Illinois, who received the "most innovative product of 2008" award for their pervious concrete exhibit at the 2008 Mid-America Horticultural Trade Show, January 16-18, at the Lakeside Center at McCormick Place. Interest in the pervious concrete was very encouraging!

**On September 5, 2007, 119 members attended** the annual Harvey Hagge Scholarship Golf Outing at Pine Lakes Golf Club in Washington, Illinois. The event raised \$12,000 to fund scholarships, which were given to Illinois students studying construction management or civil engineering. The recipients are: Arturo Hernandez (UIC), Abraham M. Ramirez (Bradley University), Suzanne Shaffer (Southern Illinois University), Quelsia Khan (Illinois Institute of Technology), Jacob Henschen (University of Illinois at Urbana/Champaign), Carrie Peterson (University of Illinois at Urbana/Champaign) and Zachary Bulva (Southern Illinois University).

By the time everyone had finished the round of golf, the temperature neared 90 degrees Fahrenheit and wind gusts of more than 20 miles per hour were recorded, though these weather challenges did not hold back the many contest winners: closest to the pin was Scott Weibler (guest); longest putt was Jerry Hepburn of Hanson; long drive was Bill Pommerening of Valley Concrete; long putt was Josh Chesser (guest); inside circle winners were Dan Garreffa of Illinois Cement, Allan Anderson of Buzzi Unicem, Sean Sheridan of WR Grace; 1st low gross was Ken Highlander of Ready-Mix Service; 2nd low gross was Gary Sullivan (guest); 3rd low gross was Paul Flynn of Flynn Group; 1st low net was Heather Lundquist of Ozinga; 2nd low net was Dennis Oedewaldt of VCNA Prairie; 3rd low net was Ron Grigg of Grohne Concrete.

Contributing to the success and enjoyment of this event were the reception sponsors (listed on page 11) and the 38 Hole Sponsors: Advanced Fiber Solutions, Ameren, Barnes Industrial, BASF, Big River, Blager, Butterfield Color, Buzzi Unicem (North Central), Buzzi Unicem (River Region), CannonBall Express, Continental Cement, Elmhurst Chicago Stone, Galena Road Gravel, GRT, Holcim, Humboldt, Illinois Cement, Irving Materials, Industrial Systems, Lafarge, Lehigh Cement, McNeilus, McNeilus (Sugar Grove), Metz Stoller, Meyer Material, Ozinga, Prairie Material, Propex Concrete Systems, Putzmeister America, Sika, Solomon Colors, St. Mary's, Stuart Tank, T.H. Davidson, Terex Advance Mixer, Thelen Sand & Gravel, Western Sand & Gravel, WR Grace.



# Harvey Hagge **SCHOLARSHIP GOLF OUTING**



Clockwise from top right: Bob O'Carroll (Thelen - front left) and Norm Raupp (Meyer) drive ahead of Tom Clarke (IL Cement - back left) and Dick Plimpton (IRM-CA); Allan Anderson (Buzzi) putts after landing his prize-winning drive inside the circle; Pat O'Brien (Holcim) waits while Eric Pullium (United) takes a swing; Rob Piestrzynski (St. Mary's Cement).



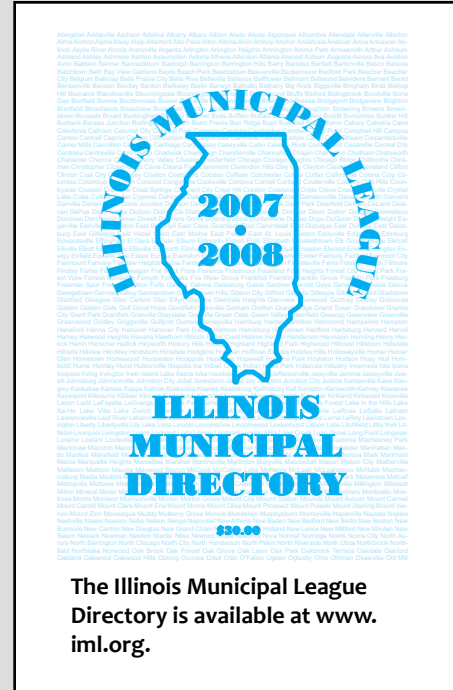
## IRMCA Promotion Focuses on Municipal Decision Makers

One of the major 2008 goals of your IRMCA promoters is to meet with as many municipal decision makers as possible and to talk to them about the advantages of ready mixed concrete as the product of choice. We intend to promote concrete streets and roads, concrete parking lots, flowable fill and more. We are going to talk about the “GREEN” advantages of concrete and remind them that the State of Illinois is directing cities to increase their sustainable consciousness.

We will ask for copies of both their general concrete specifications and their sub-division street specifications. We will ask whether they do their own work or hire it out and if they do their own work we will ask to meet with the foreman. In other words, we are going to try to make sure that everyone involved at that location knows that IRMCA is ready and willing to help – not just IRMCA, but all of our partners also, including our producers and associates!

How can you help? If you have a good relationship with your city engineer or public works director, ask them if they would be willing to meet with an IRMCA representative. Tell them that we have a story worth listening to and that the time commitment will be short. Then simply call John Reed at the IRMCA office and we’ll take it from there. Of course we will keep you apprised of everything we do and learn.

At the annual IRMCA promotion meeting in August it was decided overwhelmingly that this should be our focus for 2008. Help us!



**ILLINOIS MUNICIPAL LEAGUE**  
2007  
2008  
**ILLINOIS MUNICIPAL DIRECTORY**  
\$30.00  
The Illinois Municipal League Directory is available at [www.iml.org](http://www.iml.org).

## Allan Anderson Elected President of the Springfield Homebuilders Association

Congratulations to Allan Anderson, Sales Representative for Buzzi Unicem USA, who was elected President of the Springfield Homebuilders Association on December 13th, 2007, at a gala reception and dinner held at the Crowne Plaza. IRMCA Executive Director Bruce Grohne participated in the ceremony with a toast to Allan and of course, with an admonition to “think GREEN, think CONCRETE”. The Springfield Homebuilders is an extremely large association and due to Allan’s involvement, several members have begun or will soon begin ICF homes.

Allan Anderson of Buzzi Unicem addresses the Homebuilders Association after being elected president.







# **Legislative Report**

## **Employee Classification Act**

**Public Act 095-0026, the Employee Classification Act**, has been signed into law effective January 1, 2008.

The most concerning aspect of this law to IRMCA membership is that individuals now treated as “independent contractors” may not be independent contractors as described in this bill. If the individual does not meet the tests for “independent contractor” as prescribed in this bill, the individual will be considered an “employee” and that would mean payroll deductions for taxes, providing coverage for workman’s compensation insurance and unemployment compensation insurance, and contributing to applicable health and welfare and retirement benefit plans! The bill goes into great detail about what constitutes an “independent contractor.” One example is that it extends the definition of “construction” to include the movement of equipment and material to and from the jobsite!

There are many other ramifications to this bill. Severe civil and criminal penalties have been established and the potential daily fines are substantial. This entire law can be read at: <http://www.ilga.gov/legislation/publicacts/fulltext.asp?Name=095-0026>. Section 10 of the Act lists the 12 elements that must be met to be considered a sole proprietor or partnership and not an employee.

Any IRMCA member who now employs what is assumed to be an independent contractor MUST become familiar with this Act. If the Act seems confusing and particularly if you are concerned that you might be affected, it might be prudent to contact an attorney. Those members who attended the recent IRMCA Short Course might remember that we heard from labor attorney Jim Spizzo of Vedder Price in Chicago talk about this issue. While it is IRMCA policy to never recommend any particular product or service to our membership, Jim made it clear that he is available to help. His phone number is 312-609-7705.

Please do not ignore this Act. Be certain that your “independent contractor” meets all the qualifications. Failure to do so could be very costly!

***The most concerning aspect of this law to IRMCA membership is that individuals now treated as “independent contractors” may not be independent contractors as described in this bill.***

# Short Course: A Perspective

By JoAnn McKeown

At the entrance to the Paradise Hotel, Bruce found me gathering up the name badges that had just fallen to the ground and giggling at my misfortune. I wondered if this was the start of bad luck to come at the Paradise...

Next, I was off to IRMCA's Board of Directors meeting, where Bruce greeted me as the "name badge coordinator", which elicited snickers from some of the board members. Apparently my accident was no longer a secret, though the board diligently moved on to discussion and decision-making regarding IRMCA's future events and direction.

I exited the board meeting a few minutes early to reorganize the name badges and soon after members began arriving for the reception. Putting names with faces is always fun. Our member exhibitors were: Butterfield Color, General Resource Technologies, Geotest Instrument Corp., Humboldt Manufacturing, McNeilus Companies, Rexcon LLC, Solomon Colors, and Spin Screed. So many members mingled that seemed to have known each other for years.

Following the reception, IRMCA members enjoyed a delicious dinner, after which rousing speeches were given by Senator John Millner and Representative Reneé Kosel about what is happening (or not happening) in Springfield.

Following dinner people went their own way. Jennifer Bedell and I joined a certain group of experienced industry representatives who incorporated and pooled their money for an evening at the nearby casino. Happily, the "corporation" (led by John Albinger) doubled its money.

An early breakfast began the next day's events. Sidney Mays of Vulcan Materials led the presentations with a talk on a topic near and dear to the industries' heart, "The Future of Aggregate Supply." Sidney explained future trends for both supply and anticipated costs of aggregates.

As everyone settled in, I tried to make of point of catching a good portion of Joe Nasvik's talk regarding Decorative Concrete. Joe is one of the nation's foremost experts on decorative concrete. Joe believes more and more decorative concrete will be part of our industries' marketing mix. It was incredible to see the examples of intricate designs pictured in his presentation.

Then, it was on to concrete cylinders and testing, which play an important role in our producer members' everyday business. Glen Hodson, of Flood Testing Laboratories, talk regarding testing ready mix concrete was well received. Glen's wife was able to leave their five children for the day and come cheer him on.

Next, Lionel LeMay of NRMCA spoke about movement from prescriptive to performance/strength specification methods. The NRMCA believes that such a change will be beneficial to the ready-mix industry.

**Pictured across the bottom of the page from left to right are: Sidney Mays of Vulcan Materials; Senator John Millner, who was one of the dinner speakers; Glen Hodson of Flood Testing Laboratories; Lionel LeMay of NRMCA.**





**Left: The Short Course begins with an exhibition and a reception sponsored by: Big River Industries, Buzzi Unicem, Cemex, Continental Cement, Industrial Systems, ESSROC, Holcim (US), Illinois Cement, Lafarge North America, Lehigh Cement, McNeilus, St. Mary's Cement, Brett Admixtures, GRT, BASF Adm, Master Builders, Hanson Material Service, Vulcan, WR Grace, Command Alkon, Advance Fiber, Ameren Energy Fuels & Services, Barnes Industrial, Southern Illinois Stone, Solomon Colors.**

**Below: New members Marlene and Joe Churchill of Spin Screed in front of their exhibition booth.**



Jim Spizzo of Vedder, Price, Kaufman & Kammholz, P.C., spoke after lunch, during the formidable time slot when the attendees are a bit drowsy, but his topic certainly held everyone's attention. He talked about labor law and, in particular, the new independent contractor law and shared an informative handout.

Following the labor law segment was a presentation from Doug Dirks, IDOT Soils and Materials Engineer, who talked about ASR, ternary mix designs, and other topics related to what is current in the materials division at IDOT.

The final presenter was Len Swederski, owner of Concrete Construction and one of IRMCA's most active contractor members. He shared some of his marketing techniques and warranties, and his motivating talk generated many questions from members. He really emphasized the parking lot market as a largely "untapped" area for concrete.

At the close of the meeting, I had the privilege of drawing the name of Roger Daily of Moultrie County Concrete to win the \$600 Best Buy gift certificate. Roger said he already has a plasma television so he will have to do a little shopping.

This year's Short Course offered a lot of valuable information, something for everyone, including the opportunity to learn about current industry trends and to catch up with friends and clients. I had fun being there and getting to know our members better; I look forward to next year (Bruce wouldn't let me go to Naples, darn it!)



# Holy Kaplukers! John Albinger Honored by IRMCA

## Albinger receives the 2008 Gene Cash Person of Excellence Award

**Long time IRMCA member and former president** John Albinger was honored at the 2008 Illinois Ready Mixed Concrete Association Annual Convention with the presentation of the Gene Cash Person of Excellence Award. This honor is awarded by the Board of Directors of the Illinois Ready Mixed Concrete Association when the board determines that a person has demonstrated attitude, activity and effort far above what is normally expected from a member of IRMCA.

John's career spans over 40 years in the concrete industry. He has served in various capacities throughout the years in field services, quality control, and concrete production. John has been given many awards and is a notable and sought after speaker and trainer. As for involvement in IRMCA, John is a past president and 2 time board member. He was vitally involved in creation of the Safety Hazard Manual. He and others reacted to wintering problems in the south suburbs by creating the South Suburban Taskforce on Durability.

*John is in good company. Previous winners are:*

- Gene Cash
- Thorlow Baker
- Harvey Fields
- Harvey Hagge
- Dean Amundsen
- Edward Taylor
- Richard Cosgrove
- Jerry Woods
- Ray Michaels
- Sieb VanderWagen
- Rob Nelch
- Richard Plimpton

John's greatest attribute may just be his ability to temper what he knows to be "by the book" with a knowledge of "what will really happen". He understands concrete way better than most, but he also understands those who produce and place it and he can find successful middle ground. He is always willing to talk to any IRMCA member who calls for help and his advice is always on the money.

Congratulations to John, who was presented an original comic painting of his most used phrase (*Holy Kaplukers!*) and who will be presented with a plaque to accompany his many other awards.



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# *Smoke-free Illinois Act Frequently Asked Questions*

## *Where will smoking be prohibited?*

Smoking will not be allowed in any indoor public area, place of employment or vehicle owned, leased or operated by the state or political subdivision of the state.

## *Do "no smoking" signs have to be posted?*

Yes. "No smoking" signs or the international no smoking symbol, consisting of a burning cigarette enclosed in a red circle with a red bar across it, must be clearly and conspicuously posted in each public place covered by the act. Placement of the signs is the responsibility of the owner, operator, manager or other person in control of that place.

## *Do all bars and restaurants have to be smoke-free?*

Yes. Bars, taverns, nightclubs, cocktail lounges, adult entertainment facilities and cabarets, and restaurants, including coffee shops, cafeterias, sandwich stands, and private and public school cafeterias are smoke-free.

## *Are fraternal organizations exempt from the law?*

No. The law defines these types of clubs as public places and they must be smoke-free.

## *Are membership paid clubs that require a card exempt?*

No. There are no exemptions for private clubs.

## *Do factories have to be smoke-free?*

Yes. All indoor workplaces will be smoke free.

## *Is smoking allowed on loading docks?*

No. A loading dock is considered an entrance.

## *Where can I smoke near a public place or my place of employment?*

You must be a minimum distance of 15 feet from entrances, exits, windows that open or ventilation intakes.

## *Can smoking occur in a private residence?*

Smoking is allowed in private residences except when used as a child care, adult day care, or healthcare facility, or any other home-based business open to the public.

## *What other places are exempt from the law?*

Smoking is allowed in the following areas:

- Retail tobacco stores that derive more than 80 percent of its gross revenue from the sale of tobacco products and do not have a liquor, food or restaurant license.
- Private and semi-private rooms in nursing homes or long-term care facilities occupied by one or more persons, all of whom smoke and have requested to be placed in a room where smoking is permitted. The nursing home or long-term care facility must ensure designated smoking rooms comply with other laws and fire protection and life safety codes.
- Up to 25 percent of hotel or motel sleeping rooms may be designated as smoking rooms, provided they are on the same floor, contiguous and smoke from these rooms does not infiltrate into nonsmoking rooms.

## *How will the act be enforced?*

The owner, manager or operator of an area open to the public covered by the act must make a reasonable effort to prevent smoking. The Illinois Department of Public Health, state-certified local public health departments and local law enforcement agencies will enforce the law.

## *Where can I file a complaint?*

Complaints can be filed with the Illinois Department of Public Health on the Web at [www.smoke-free.illinois.gov](http://www.smoke-free.illinois.gov) or by telephoning the Department's toll-free Complaint Line at 866-973-4646. Complaints also can be made to a state-certified local health departments or a local law enforcement.

## *What are the penalties?*

A person who smokes in an area where smoking is prohibited can be fined between \$100 and \$250. A person who owns, operates or otherwise controls a public place or place of employment who violates the act can be fined not less than \$250 for the first violation, not less than \$500 for the second violation within one year after the first violation and not less than \$2,500 for each additional violation within one year after the first violation.

*This information was found on the Illinois Department of Health Smoke-free Illinois website,  
[http://www.idph.state.il.us/smokefree/sf\\_info\\_faqs.htm](http://www.idph.state.il.us/smokefree/sf_info_faqs.htm).*

# Make \$ \$ \$ by Saving It

## Advancements in the Art and Science of Concrete Mixture Design

By Randell C. Riley, P.E.

### Many of you reading this

column may not be aware of it, but I started my career in the concrete industry working hands-on in the concrete laboratory of the Iowa Department of Transportation. At the time one of my principal areas of effort and interest was in the area of mixture design. I was routinely involved in developing new mixtures for specific research purposes in efforts typically dedicated to isolating one or more specific inputs such as aggregate type, fly-ash type, cement producer, admixture brand or type, etc. on strength or durability of the in-place mixtures. You would recognize these as part of a typical certification program.

But the most intriguing projects in those days took me into odd areas of concrete mixture design. As an example, one of the most interesting projects in which I was ever involved required breaking down a gradation of the fine and coarse aggregates in order to develop an estimate of the total surface area of the aggregate. The thinking at the time was that we would try to create a mortar film thickness of coating on the aggregate in an effort to control certain properties of the mixture. It was fascinating work that gave me an appreciation, first of the depth of the body of work of people who had come before me, and second of the relative difficulty of quickly doing the math correctly to develop new mixtures. Usually it involved pages of calculations for the theoretical analysis if that was required.

*Through efforts supported by Federal Highway Administration (FHWA) in its High Performance Concrete initiative, a new computer program is under development that allows the user a much more comprehensive look at mixture design.*

Most of you do not do that today since you depend on mixtures that you have used day in and day out that have been proven to work for most of your day-to-day sidewalks, basement pours and hopefully UTW projects. They do work, but could they be more economical?

One of the first things a contractor ever taught me was that saving money is making money. It is true regardless of the business you are in. Today new tools are becoming available that allow you as a concrete producer to reexamine your mixtures and point you in new directions that can potentially save you money. The Shilstone family of products are well known and have been around a long time. Indeed, seeMIX® and seeSTAT® have helped many producers over the years, but the underlying principles rested primarily

a particular means of calculating a few inputs to achieve a particular objective or two. They are good programs for as far as they go and I have followed them since my days shortly after leaving the Department of Transportation.

But advancements continue. Through efforts supported by Federal Highway Administration (FHWA) in its High Performance Concrete initiative, a new computer program is under development that allows the user a much more comprehensive look at mixture design (see Figure 1). It is built for use in a near universal Microsoft Windows based operating environment. The program allows the producer to examine his available aggregate gradations, his cementitious components and his cost of materials to come up with new mixture combi-

*Continued on page 19.*

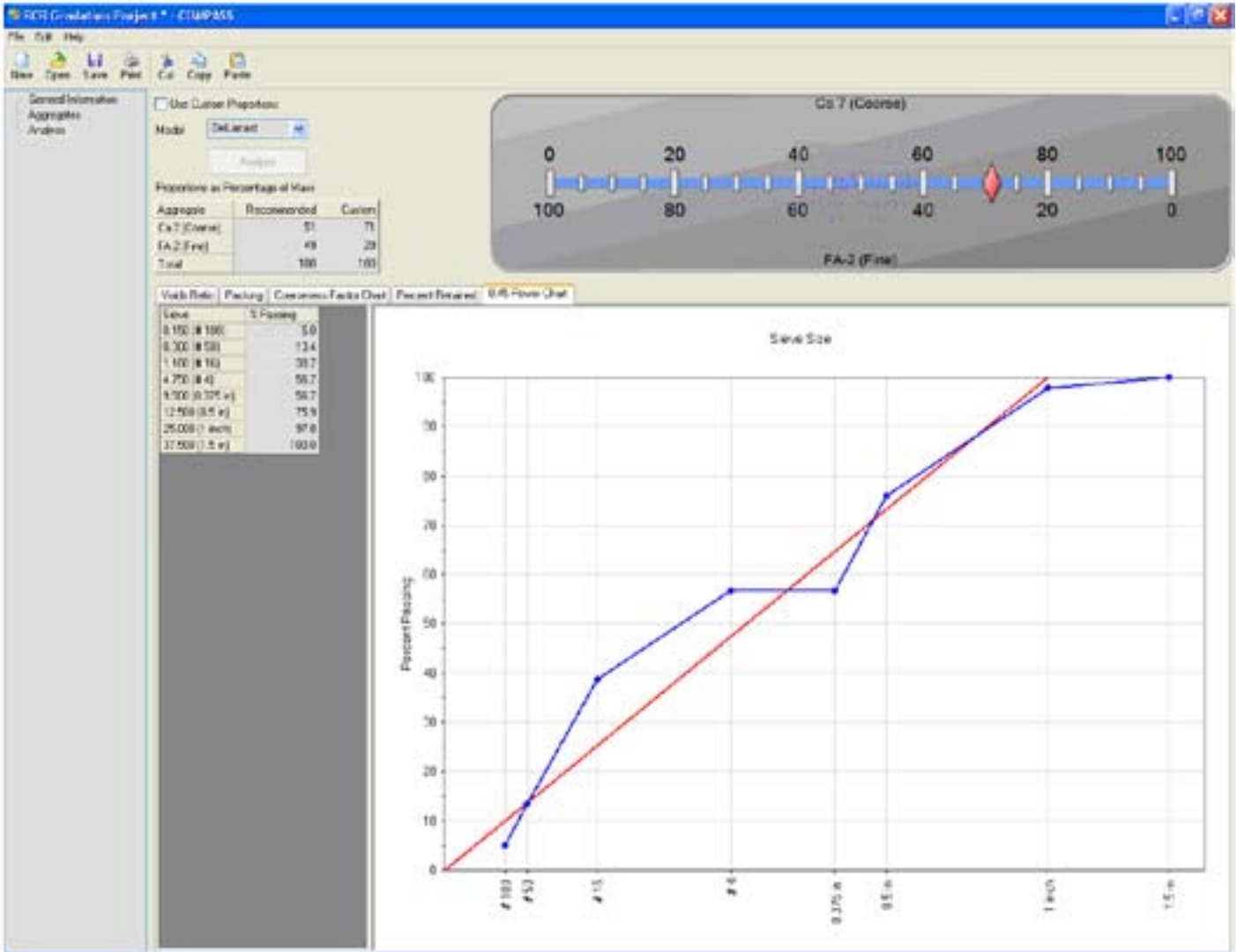



Figure 1

A classic U.S. Bureau of Public roads 0.45 power curve calculation for maximum theoretical aggregate density in the concrete mixture is shown. See the slider. Changes in calculations comparing the percentage of fine to coarse aggregate are just that easy in the BETA. The computer can calculate a best fit or you can develop your own with the slider. Other kinds of analysis are available as well.



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Belvidere, Elgin, Kaneville,  
Plainfield, Marengo**

**CRUSHED STONE - PAVING AGGREGATES  
WASHED SAND - GRAVEL  
READY-MIX CONCRETE - CONCRETE PIPE**

## **CTL Now Certifying**

The Illinois Chapter of the American Concrete Institute has engaged CTL Group to conduct its certification program, starting with the Concrete Field Testing Technician Grade 1. Certification classes will now be held at least monthly throughout the year at CTL Group's facility in Skokie, Illinois.

Upcoming classes are:

- April 1 & 2, ACI Strength Testing
- April 9 to 11, ACI Level I and IDOT PCC I
- April 14 to 16, ACI Level I and IDOT PCC I
- May 7 to 9, ACI Level I and IDOT PCC I
- May 21 to 23, ACI Level I and IDOT PCC I

To sign up for a certification program, or to get additional information, contact Kathy Merlo (ACI) @ 866-560-2378.



## Pink Concrete Mixers

### Two VCNA Prairie Trucks Get Special Paint to Raise Breast Cancer Awareness

Among the new trucks ordered by VCNA Prairie in 2007 were two pink mixers purchased in an effort to increase breast cancer awareness. One of the trucks works out of the main office in Bridgeview and the other works exclusively on projects in downtown Chicago.

According to Michael Oremus of VCNA Prairie, "Our Pink Trucks signify our respect and admiration for those who are currently battling this illness and those who have survived this affliction." In addition to the awareness promoted through the use of the trucks, VCNA Prairie donates 25% of the profits for each yard of concrete the two pink mixers deliver.

One of the two pink breast cancer awareness trucks in Prairie's fleet. This one works exclusively on projects in downtown Chicago.



## Flynn Contractor Meeting

The Flynn Group recently picked a perfect day (way too cold and snowy to work) to invite contractor customers to the Galena Convention Center for a day of learning. Presenters included representatives of BASF (admixtures and slag), Propex Concrete Systems (proper jointing/fibers), Holcim (slag), Continental Cement (cement), Headwaters (fly ash), representatives of Flynn (ordering concrete) and "the old guys" (Woods and Grohne) talking about a variety of subjects.

The event was well attended, very informative, and the contractors all felt the affair was well worth attending. These types of events can be a great way to interact with and at the same time educate your customers. IRMCA is always willing to attend, help plan, and, if asked, speak at these events; all you have to do is contact us!

Pictured below are attendees of the Galena event held for contractors this winter.



Continued from front cover.

Grace who talked about fibers – particularly structural fibers. Members learned a great deal from Rob's talk, not the least of which being a potential for the producer to make money from the promotion and sale of fibers!

Wednesday morning Diep Tu of the Florida Concrete Products Association talked about pervious concrete in Florida. Some readers might remember Diep speaking to us on the same subject years ago in Orlando and would be surprised at how sophisticated and receptive the state has become regarding pervious concrete. Because of his expertise, Diep was asked questions about pervious concerns here in Illinois, and he offered several illuminating comments. Following Diep, Dr. Heather Brown, Director of the Concrete Industry Management program at Middle Tennessee State University, told us about the growth and success of the program at MTSU and the infancy of similar programs at other universities around the country. MTSU now has 400 enrolled in the program and continues to provide wonderful job placement. Dr. Brown is also involved in the pervious concrete movement and made several comments in support of Diep's presentation.

On Thursday morning, following a full breakfast for members and their guests, Ed Sullivan, Chief Economist Forecaster for the Portland Cement Association, gave his sobering economic forecast for the cement and concrete industry. Mr. Sullivan seems certain that we will be soon be in a recession if indeed we are not already. He doesn't see recovery in the industry until early 2010. His explanation for his predictions, particularly his thoughts about the sub-prime loan business was fascinating and he was able to make several rather technical aspects of his topic easy to understand.

40 golfers took to the links Thursday afternoon and enjoyed a slightly chilly but cloudless day. Much fun was had by all with low gross winners Paul Flynn and Donna Edwards leading the way.

Thursday night's banquet was great fun as we welcomed new President Cheryl Moeller, Vice-President Justin Ozinga, and Secretary/Treasurer Dennis Oedewaldt. Golf awards were given out and John Albinger received the 2008 Gene Cash Person of Excellence Award (see page 12 for details). Following adjournment, well over half of the attendees watched or participated as IRMCA held its 3rd Annual Texas Hold 'Em Poker Tournament. Congratulations to winner Matt Moeller. Watch your mailings for news on next year's destination.



**Right:** Former president George Mobarak of Rock River Ready Mix congratulates newly elected president Cheryl Moeller of Moeller Ready Mix. **Below:** Annual Convention attendees during one of the informative meeting sessions.



Continued from page 15.

nations that may be more economical while meeting the underlying mixture design objectives (see Figure 2). The program COMPASS, short for Concrete Mixture Performance Assessment, is under development by the Transtec Group, the producers of such concrete industry specific tools as HiperPAV II and ProVal.

The program's goals from FHWA's website are as follows:

- Identify relevant performance criteria that are a function of job-specific inputs.
- Identify applicable mixture performance criteria and recommend test methods.
- Assess the impact that changes in materials or proportions, environmental conditions, and construction procedures have on constructability and performance.
- Provide guidance on aggregate blending.
- Recommend initial mixture proportions.
- Optimize mixture proportions based on multiple, job-specific criteria.

(For more information go here:

<http://www.fhwa.dot.gov/pavement/concrete/cptu503.cfm>).

The modules consist of sections for analyzing and optimizing the aggregates, sections for real laboratory analysis and computerized virtual analysis of proposed mixture combinations and a host of other things that hard-core mixture design personnel might like to try if only the calculations were not so cumbersome. Concrete mixture cost calculation is integrated as one of the components of the final mixture design.

Release dates are not yet fixed, but it is circulating in Beta among a few in the concrete industry and is expected to be released in early 2008. The price should be right too. As an FHWA product it will be free as a download. Go here for more information: [www.pccmix.com](http://www.pccmix.com).

*Randell Riley is the Executive Director/Engineer for Illinois Chapter – ACPA, and a consultant to Illinois Ready Mixed Concrete Association. He is actively and enthusiastically involved in the day-to-day building of partnerships and promotion of long-life quality concrete pavements. He can be reached at 217-793-4933 or on the internet at [pccman@ilacpa.com](mailto:pccman@ilacpa.com).*

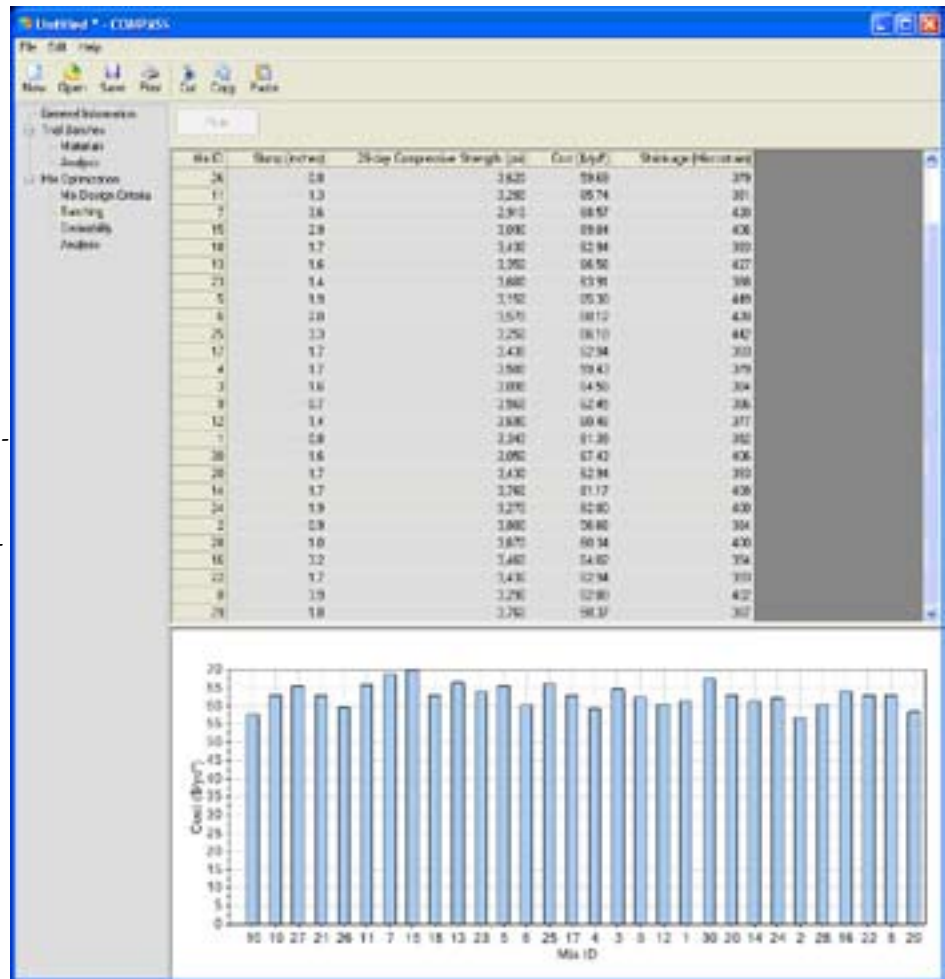


Figure 2

**Saving a few pennies to a few bucks can make a big difference in large projects. Cost estimation for a number of theoretical potential mixture combinations meeting the project demands are possible. I'd start with the least expensive three or four to see if they are actually workable and meet your needs.**

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