
ACE RESOURCES

A Newsletter for the Association
of Conservation Engineers

NOVEMBER 2013

Enhancing Our
Natural Resources

Ski resort served as backdrop for the successful 2013 conference

About 55 attendees gathered this year for the 52nd Annual ACE conference, September 15 to 19. It was held in Breckenridge, Colorado at elevation of 9,600 feet. The ski country theme matched the location with “Breck” containing a large and very popular ski area as well as the adjacent historic town.

The Sunday social for the conference was located “on the mountain” at the One Ski Hill Place ski lodge. A 10 minute six-passenger gondola ride from town (to the social location) allowed folks to get an aerial view of the town and the ski area. Great food (and drinks) helped attendees to meet and/or reacquaint before returning to the Hilton by DoubleTree hotel, the conference venue.

All gathered Monday morning for the conference opening and special speakers. Mr. Rick Cables provided a nice talk about Vail Resorts (owner of Breckenridge ski area and several others, as well as the conference hotel). Rick was the recent and first director of Colorado Parks and Wildlife after the wildlife agency merged with the parks agency in 2011. He also had a long prior career with the USDA Forest Service and was just recently was hired by Vail Resorts.

Sid Roslund of the National Ski Areas Association spoke about the history of cabled tramways, modern trams and how they are kept safe. Rick Cooksey from USDA Forest Service talked

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President Keith Parker presents Norval Olson the Eugene Baker Award at the 2013 ACE Conference held in Breckenridge, CO.

About the 2013 Baker Award Winner

Norval Olson, an ACE member for 28 years, was presented the Eugene Baker Award, at this year’s conference. The Eugene Baker Award was established in honor of Eugene Baker, founder of the Association, and is awarded to one individual who has made a significant and outstanding contribution in the field of conservation engineering. While the award recipient need not be an engineer

or member of the Association, he or she must be unmistakably identified with conservation engineering and in keeping with the Association objectives.

Norval truly fits the criteria for the Baker Award. Since joining ACE in 1995, Norval has served as the Organizations’ Secretary/Treasurer for one year, after

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Editor's Message

LYNDA L. CLIBURN

Hello ACE Members!

I want to congratulate Norval Olson on being the recipient of the Eugene Baker Award. As I've put together the ACE Resources over the years, I've always been able to depend on Norval to provide excellent information and photos to enhance the newsletter. This issue is no exception—several of the photos in the issue came from him, such as the group photo of those who attended this year's conference.

I'd also like to extend congratulations to the winners of the 2013 Carl Anderson Awards. It's a wonderful experience to win an award for a project that is interesting and well done. Please be

thinking of projects to submit for the 2014 Awards. There will be information on the Carl Anderson Awards submittal as well as the 2014 Conference in the spring issue of the ACE Newsletter. The 2014 Conference is being planned for Sept. 21-25 in Bend, Oregon at the Mt. Bachelor Village Resort. Mark the dates on your calendar and plan to attend! Member Holly Bentz is pulling all the details together.

I hope you all have a wonderful holiday season!

Lynda Cliburn
Newsletter Editor

ACE will miss Dick Tillotson

Richard "Dick" Tillotson passed away January 21, 2013 at his home in Milford, MI. Dick joined ACE in 1976. He and his wife, Gail, attended many of the annual conferences over the years. Dick owned "Mud Cat", a company which manufactured dredging equipment for cleaning out silt in ponds, etc. I know Joe Corbin utilized the company several times while he was with the Wisconsin Dept. of Natural Resources. Dick was an exhibitor at the annual ACE conference many times. Dick and Gail will be missed at the annual conferences, as they enthusiastically joined in the activities offered by the host states.

Gerald Dorscheid
WDNR—retired

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2013 - 2014

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SPECIAL ACTION

Tom Hohman, IN – Chair of Ad Hoc Committee to investigate online membership application and renewal

NEWSLETTER

Lynda Cliburn, IL—
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Norval Olson, CO

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2013 Carl Anderson Award Winners!

AWARD OF EXCELLENCE

Rehabilitation of the Dominion Creek Trestle

This project replaced the ballast filled concrete deck boxes with a glue lam timber deck. To replicate and keep with the historical integrity of the old trestle the deck was surfaced with Chip seal. The project also placed a handrail along the trestle.



AWARD OF MERIT

Camp Crook ARRA Project

Rebuilt the office building to withstand the extreme climate variations of 114°F to -57°F. The old office had inadequate insulation, inefficient mechanical systems and inefficient lighting. Solar studies were done and energy modeling to design a passive solar office building. The building was super insulated and included a high efficiency furnaces. This has resulted in a significant savings on utilities as well as a much more comfortable work space.



AWARD OF HONOR

Koontz Lake Dam and S.R. 23 Reconstruction

Koontz lake dam was classified as a high risk dam due to several homes being located downstream of the dam. The current dam was could only pass a small percentage of the required design storm events. The dam also had leakage problems. To meet current design criteria a much larger spillway was needed. The space was limited due to wetlands and private property so a labyrinth spillway would be utilized.



2013 Conference wrap-up!

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about forest health in the Rocky Mountain Region related to beetle devastation. Local historian Bill Fountain provided information about local mining and gold discoveries.

Monday afternoon started by presenting the 20th Annual Carl V. Anderson Project Awards. Then, several technical presentations were given while guests/spouses enjoyed a guided historic walking tour of Breckenridge. Monday's catered dinner was at the nearby Blue Sky Lodge.

Tuesday morning provided several interesting technical presentations after which attendees boarded a motor coach for the afternoon tour. The first stop was at the county's recycling/landfill/compost operation where we all learned about progress and challenge in these important services. Stop two was below the Dillon Reservoir dam where a local consultant showed us habitat and structure improvements made to the Blue River. The weather was great!

Attendees woke Wednesday morning to snow covering the local peaks above timberline. Denver news stations showed the Breckenridge snow on the morning news. After the final day of technical presentations, the business meeting included a rather simple presentation of new ACE officers for 2013-2014. The closing banquet was very good and included a surprise presentation of the Eugene Baker award to Norval Olson.

Thursday's field trip went to Vail, Colorado where the first stop was the Vail Ski Museum. A guided tour there was followed by a guided walking tour of Vail Village where we learned how Vail was "born" in the 1960's. Stop number two was at the Betty Ford Alpine Gardens where we had a delightful guided tour of this special and unique place.

Baker Award

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which the position was split in to two positions. Norval continued as ACE Secretary until 2002 and served as ACE President for the 2003-2004 year. He was very involved in the 1996 ACE Conference held in Durango, CO and again in putting together the 2013 Conference in Breckenridge.

Norval retired in June from the Colorado Department of Natural Resources.



President's Message

BREAGAN EICHER

I'd like to start out by thanking Norval Olson and all those who made the Annual Conference a success in Breckenridge Colorado this year. Our annual conferences are for me one of the highlights of membership: with great opportunities to absorb conservation engineering knowledge from professionals from across the country.

It is an honor to serve as your President. At the conference in Breckenridge this year, several topics came up frequently concerning the organization: increasing membership and membership activity. My goals for this upcoming year are centered on these two items. Our membership committee will be looking into ways of recruiting new members this year, but it also falls to each of us to try to communicate the benefits of our organization with other conservation professionals. Access to such a large network of professionals alone is worth the price of membership, while the annual conference is an excellent (and cost effective) way to obtain continuing education for professional certification.

An active list of members is another crucial element for an organization such as ours. The Carl Anderson Awards and the James Schalk Scholarship are two ways we are visible as an organization beyond our annual meeting. In order to increase the visibility and activity of the ACE, the use of social media will be pursued this year as a means of providing a venue for members to share projects and ideas, as well as affording the opportunity to interact outside of the annual conference.

Of course, all of these activities would not be possible without the efforts of the many people who volunteer to make this a successful organization. I would like to thank everyone who serves in the various posts within the organization, and that I'm looking forward to an exciting year within the organization.

**Breagan Eicher, PE, CFM
President, ACE**

Past President's Message

KEITH PARKER

Over the last year it has been a great honor and privilege to serve the dedicated members of ACE. Despite the tough economic times I was glad to see a solid representation of our membership at our recent conference along with several new faces. I challenge everyone to recruit conservation professionals to our organization and support our new president, Breagan Eicher, over the next year.

I would like to thank the Executive Committee and all other committees for their outstanding work in handling the business of the organization over the past year. I want to give a special thanks to Norval Olson for chairing the program committee and organizing the outstanding conference in Breckenridge, Colorado. What a beautiful place to learn about conservation projects.

As I write this message Holly Bentz and the Program Committee is busy organizing our next conference in Bend, Oregon. This will be another outstanding venue for our yearly meeting next fall. Bend looks like another perfect location for our meeting and there are plenty of outdoor activities available in the area. You might start discussing next year's conference with your management so they will have plenty of time to place money in next year's budget. Explain the benefits of attending the conference such as receiving professional development hours towards your license, networking with conservation professionals across the country and learning about unique projects in other states.

Thanks again for choosing me to lead ACE over the last year. I look forward to seeing all of you next year along with many more new faces. Keep up the great conservation work!

**Keith Parker, PE
Past President, ACE**



2013 ACE President Keith Parker (left) transfers the gavel to 2014 ACE President Breagan Eicher

Come join us for the 2014 ACE Conference in beautiful Bend, Oregon!

The conference will take place at the Mt. Bachelor Village Resort September 21—25.

Wander through high desert country while experiencing fantastic mountain views. On your way to the conference, visit historic sites such as Crater Lake, John Day Fossil Beds or Timberline Lodge.

Speakers will be needed, so pull out your project list and find something to share. A call for speakers will be coming out in the spring.

If you are interested in assisting with this year's conference, please contact, Holly Bentz, hbentz@fs.fed.us.

