



March 2024 Newsletter

Our Objectives:

- To encourage and broaden the educational, social and economic interests of engineering practices.
- To promote the recognition of the importance of sound engineering practices in fish, wildlife and recreation development.
- To enable each member to utilize the experiences of other members.
- To generally take all such proper action that may be necessary to further the cause of fish, wildlife and recreational developments.

President's Message:

I want to start by thanking our members for the opportunity to serve as the ACE president for 2023/2024. I first joined ACE in 2019 at the 58th Annual Conference in Alabama. I found like-minded people that shared my love for nature and my interest in using engineering knowledge to protect it. Over the years I have also discovered that our members are not just great engineers, but also wonderful people. I want to particularly thank Lorin Woodin, from Wyoming, for trusting me and talking me into joining the Board of Directors in 2022, and Dale Brockamp, from Illinois, for taking such good care of the organization during his tenure as president in 2022/2023. Dale's guidance has been instrumental in my understanding of the president's duties. I hope to make them proud.

Sincerely,
Catalina Weaver, P.E. – Florida
2023/2024 ACE President

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Highlights
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Would you like to become more involved in ACE? Consider volunteering for a committee.

Email us at admin@conservationengineers.org

Thank you!

To all the members that joined us in the beautiful Fredericksburg, TX for the 2023 Conference.



Attendees received 16.5 contact hours of professional development!



Great location at the Fredericksburg Inn

Conference Field Trip

A.E. Wood Fish Hatchery



Buescher State Park Dam Replacement



Bastrop State Park Dam Replacement
(See Page 7 for good news about this project)



After-conference Add-on Field Trip

Longhorn Caverns State Park



Inks Lake State Park
New Headquarters Building



Enchanted Rock State Natural Area



Howard Thomas, from Missouri, received the well-deserved **Eugene Baker Award!**



Lorin Woodin, from the Wyoming Game and Fish Department Wyoming received the Carl V. Anderson Conservation Project **Award of Excellence** for the Clear Creek Rehabilitation and Fish Passage

Catalina Weaver, from the Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission received the Carl V. Anderson Conservation Project **Award of Merit** for the Oleta River State Park Mangrove Restoration



All thanks to our wonderful sponsors!

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Contributor Level

Thompson Engineering, Inc.: <https://www.thompsonengineering.com/>

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HDR: <https://hdrinc.com>

From Texas- Information provided by Mark Urbanovsky, P.E.

Congratulations to the Parks and Wildlife Department!

The “Bastrop State Park Dam” project, which was presented and visited during the 62nd Annual ACE Conference, has earned a National Recognition Award in the American Council of Engineering Companies (ACEC) 2024 Engineering Excellence Awards (EEA) competition and will be recognized during the EEA Gala Dinner and Awards Program on May 15, 2024.



BASTROP STATE PARK DAM

	Name of Client:	Texas Parks and Wildlife Department
	Name of Firm:	Halff
	Project Category:	G: Water Resources
	Role of Firm:	Primary Professional

Completed dam, downstream face.

From Illinois- By Brock Lovelace, P.E.

The Forest Preserve District of DuPage County, in cooperation with the DuPage River Salt Creek Workgroup, is embarking on a \$9.3 mil project to restore a section of Salt Creek at Fullersburg Woods Forest Preserve in Oak Brook, IL. The project will remove a 1930s-era run-of-the-river dam constructed by the Civilian Conservation Corps at the historic Graue Mill. The project will further restore over one mile of free-flowing river including natural riffle/pool geometry within the channel along with enhancements to adjacent riparian wetlands within the project corridor. The Graue Mill, built in 1852 and listed on the National Register of Historic Places, will be preserved and enhanced in conjunction with the dam removal. Because flows through the mill's raceway are insufficient to turn the mill's waterwheel, a motor will be added to turn the waterwheel and a pump system will provide water to the raceway.



Graue Mill

Construction began in November 2023 with removal of the dam and installation of the first riffle. Work will continue throughout 2024 with installation of the remaining riffles and pools within the project corridor along with improvements to the Graue Mill.



Pre-Dam Removal



Post-Dam Removal

For more information on this exciting project, please visit the project website at <https://restoresaltcreek.org/>

From Wyoming- By Loren Woodin, P.E.

Greetings to all from Wyoming.

As normal, the Wyoming Game and Fish Department is having no shortage of projects covering all aspects of engineering. This last calendar year has seen our small engineering crew (3 Engineers, 1 Surveyor, 1 Project Manager) work on hatcheries, stream restorations, boating access, fish passage and an employee housing development.



Boating Access Project in Northwest Wyoming



*Shiny new Octoform concrete circular tanks at our
Wigwam Fish Rearing Facility*

We had hatchery projects that included rehabilitation of effluent ponds (dredging of 50 years of fish waste is not for the faint of heart), sanitary sewer rehabilitation, water infiltration galleries, and hatcher effluent upgrades to protect from AIS. This next year we will be working with consultant engineers to design a brand new cool/warm water hatchery facility....a first for Wyoming. We have partnered with TU for streambank stabilization projects as well as partnered with DU for wetland rehabilitation projects. We were able

to partner with the BLM to construct two new primitive boating access locations along the South Fork Shoshone River in northwest Wyoming to open up around 25 stream miles that were previously inaccessible to the public. We continue to work with our fisheries and aquatic habitat biologists on Department priorities to rehabilitate native Cutthroat Trout habitat by both removing and constructing fish barriers. The top priorities for our engineering branch remain the employee housing project in Teton County just south of Jackson Hole; the new cool/warm water hatchery in Casper, WY.; and assisting as much as possible with big game migration corridor projects. We look forward to seeing you in Arizona this fall.

From Florida- By Catalina Weaver, P.E.

The Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission (FWC) kicked-off the construction of the new Eelgrass production facility at the Florida Bass Conservation Center. The purpose of this project is to provide an aquaponic system to produce submerged aquatic vegetation (SAV).

In the early part of 2021, the manatee population on the East Coast of Florida went through an Unusual Mortality Event (UME). Researchers attributed this UME to starvation due to the lack of seagrasses in the Indian River Lagoon. In recent years, poor water quality in the Lagoon led to harmful algal blooms and widespread seagrass loss.

With the Eelgrass production facility, FWC hopes to secure a reliable source for native eelgrass to be used in restoration projects throughout the State. The facility will house two parallel trains with a total of 28 linear tanks for eelgrass to grow in. The design incorporates features to allow for the placement of a second identical building in case the facility needs to be expanded in the future.



*FWC staff, Contractor (Pure Site Contractors of Florida, LLC) and
Engineer of Record (HDR) ready to get started*

Visit the [Fish & Wildlife Foundation of Florida](#) if you want to support manatee conservation efforts.

SAVE THE DATE!

Join us in Flagstaff, Arizona from October 6 to October 10, 2024



More details will be provided soon in our website:

<https://conservationengineers.org/conference-2024/>

Remember! Registration for the Annual Conference includes your Annual Membership Dues!

ACE MEMBERSHIP:

There are multiple types of membership:

- a. Active Member - An Active Member shall have the right to participate in all activities of the Association, including the rights to vote, hold office and serve on committees. Active members shall be those persons who are, or have been, engaged in projects which are of benefit to natural or cultural resources, or which improve outdoor recreation opportunities. Among these are projects which benefit fish, wildlife, forests and wetlands, either directly or by improving the overall condition of the environment. Active member's involvement with these projects shall be directly related to engineering planning, design, construction and development.

- b. Associate Member - An Associate Member shall have the right to participate in all activities of the Association except the right to vote and hold office. Eligibility shall be limited to those persons who believe in the objectives of the Association but are otherwise ineligible to become an Active Member.
- c. Life Member - A life member shall have the same rights as an Active Member. Any Active Member who has retired from regular employment due to age or health and has been a member in good standing for not less than fifteen years, or who has received the Eugene Baker Award, shall be eligible. The Board of Directors shall grant Life Membership upon receipt of proof of qualification.
- d. Honorary Member - An Honorary Member shall have the same rights as an Associate Member. The Association, by unanimous action by the Board of Directors, may elect as an Honorary Member a person who has rendered distinguished service in the field represented by the Association.
- e. Student Member - A person enrolled as a full-time student at an accredited college or university in a program leading to a degree in engineering or engineering technology. Persons enrolled in programs leading to other degrees may also be eligible if documentation is provided that they intend to work in the field of Conservation Engineering. Student members shall have the right to participate in all activities of the Association except the right to vote and hold office.

Are you interested on presenting at the Conference? Please see the Call for Papers and Presentation Abstract Form attached.

Would you like to apply for an award? Check out the Competition Announcement and Rules attached.

Do you know of an engineering student interested in the conservation field? Please share the attached information on the James and Evelyn Schalk Memorial Scholarship attached.

Would you like to become a sponsor? Please see the Call for Sponsors attached.

CALL FOR PAPERS

What: 63rd Annual Conference of the Association of Conservation Engineers

When: Sunday October 6 to Wednesday October 9, 2024

Where: Flagstaff, Arizona

Conference venue will be announced soon

Who: YOU!

We invite you to consider being a presenter at this year's conference. We are looking for 30-45-minute presentations on interesting or exciting projects you have worked on.

Please complete the abstract form and return it to nsin@azgfd.gov as soon as you can.

The sooner we know the presenters, the sooner we can set the agenda. Setting the agenda early is critical for attendees to obtain agency permission to attend. Abstracts are due on or before May 31, 2024. We should have the hotel reservation link for the conference shared on our website in the next few weeks. If you have any questions, feel free to contact me by email or phone.

Thank you.

Nara Sin

360-608-4096

nsin@azgfd.gov

**63rd Annual Conference
PRESENTATION ABSTRACT
Submit by: May 31, 2024**

1. Paper Title: _____

2. Author(s): _____

3. Submitter Name(s), Title(s): _____

4. Submitter Company(s) / Agency(s): _____

5. Address (City, State, Zip): _____

6. Phone and Email: _____

7. List any Conferences where this paper has been presented: _____

8. List any specific products your paper endorses: _____

9. Do you have any times that you would not be available for your presentation at the Conference on October 7 or October 9, 2024? _____

Please email the completed form to:

Nara Sin
360-608-4096
nsin@azgfd.gov



Purpose

The purpose of the Carl Anderson Conservation Engineering Project Awards competition is to recognize members, consultants and/or their departments whose work, as judged by their peers and associates, best exhibits the goals and objectives of The Association of Conservation Engineers.

Categories

Project Category A - STUDIES / RESEARCH PROGRAMS

Non-design services including, but not limited to: Pilot/experimental projects; bioengineering; electrical heating; new products and materials; basic research on new technology; fuels and water; properties and uses of fuels; research in natural resources; hazardous waste studies; resource recovery; environmental impact studies; soils and other subsurface geotechnical investigation and evaluation; damage correction; computer services; technical papers. All of the entries in Category A are involved with non-construction document design services.

Project Category B - CONSERVATION / ENVIRONMENTAL

Dams (water supply, irrigation, flood control, recreational), Fisheries management, Parks and Wildlife facilities, Energy generation, transmission, distribution, conversion, conservation and storage-mitigation, Drainage systems, Incineration, Mine reclamation, Resource recovery, Waste treatment facilities, Water resources and supply, Wetlands treatment.

Project Category C - SPECIAL PROJECTS

Any project that does not fit into other categories including, but not limited to: Erosion protection and control, Recreational theme parks, zoos, marinas, aquariums, Site development, Structure of buildings, Historical restoration/preservation, and Construction projects resulting from unique studies or research of the type in Category A.

Eligibility

Entrant:

Any governmental agency or department, or its selected consultant, engaged in the fields of recreation, wildlife preservation, tourism and/or conservation of the natural environment that is a member of or has made application for membership in the ACE is eligible for participation in this awards program.

Project:

1. The project entered must be the completed work of the governmental agency or department making the submission.
2. Up to two project entries may be submitted by each participant.
3. The project must have been completed within the **24 months** preceding its submittal.



Entry

Making your submittal for the ACE Conservation Project Engineering Award is a simple two-step process:
FIRST: Prepare your **Entry packet**. Entries must be emailed no later than, **Monday, September 23, 2024**.

Submit to:
ACE Awards Committee Chairman—Sarah Lau

slauprattie@gmail.com

The entry Packet shall include the following:

1. A copy of the **ACE Declaration of Intent** form (attached).
2. Letter from the agency or owner giving written permission allowing for publication of any feature or innovation found to be of interest to the members of the Association.
3. ACE Data Sheet 1 (attached).
4. ACE Data Sheet 2 (attached).
5. Drawings; up to a maximum of 4 sheets as needed to delineate project.
6. Colored photographs (a maximum of six) may be utilized to complement the written description.

Note: *If submittal file is too large, a file sharing site may be used, coordinate with the Committee Chair.*

Winners will be notified to prepare a digital Project Panel to bring for display and presentation at the ACE 63rd Annual Conference in Flagstaff, Arizona, October 6-10, 2024 or at a successive conference.

Winner Project Panel
To be completed before the 2024 Conference or successive Conference.

A project presentation is required of those winning entries receiving an Award of Excellence or an Award of Merit, and is requested, but optional, from the winner of the Award of Honor.



Judging

The judging panel shall consist of not less than three nor more than five judges. All judges will be qualified design professionals such as engineers, architects, biologists, botanists or others involved in the conservation or environmental field. At least two of the judges will be a member of ACE. The judges will be selected by the Awards Committee and may reside in the state hosting the conference. The judges will meet soon after the submission deadline to evaluate and select the projects to receive awards. The judges' decision shall be final.

Definitions of Ratings Guidelines

Originality / Innovation / New Application of

Existing Techniques:

Does the entry represent any new branch of conservation engineering or some type of breakthrough in general knowledge of our environment?
Does the entry represent a unique mix of different techniques, materials or equipment?

Technical value to the Conservation Engineering Profession:

Does the entry advance the state of the conservation engineers' art?

Complexity:

Does the entry involve very complex criteria or types of problems to be addressed?
Were extraordinary problems of site, location, hazardous conditions, project requirements, or similar elements present?
Does the entry require out-of-the-ordinary technology and ingenuity for achievement?

Awards

The jury shall make awards to three meritorious entries. At the discretion of the jury, the number of awards may be limited or expanded. The following awards will be issued:

Award of Excellence.....Special Award
Award of Merit.....Plaque
Award of Honor.....Plaque

Meeting and Exceeding Owner's Needs:

Is it an economical and cost-effective solution?
How did final cost relate to original budget estimate?
How closely does the entrant's solution meet the total goals of the owner?
Does the entry meet and justify its original concept?
Did the entrant meet the owner's time schedule?

Natural Resources and Environmental

Considerations:

Does the entrant's solution bring into play an improved program, i.e., are additional benefits realized as a spin-off?
Does the entrant's role provide society with any useful advancement in the area of conservation and environmental sciences?
Is the public health, safety, or welfare enhanced as a result of the entrant's role in the project?

A certificate of participation may be presented to all other qualified entries. From time to time a letter of recognition or certificate may be awarded to other entries as the judges may recommend.

Awards will be mailed to winners.



For use of award chairperson only

PROJECT REG. NO. _____

DECLARATION OF INTENT TO SUBMIT FOR ACE CONSERVATION PROJECT ENGINEERING AWARDS *(This page is due by email by Monday, September 23, 2024)*

Date submitted: _____

Note: Please furnish all information requested below for each entry. If additional forms are required, copy this format.

I intend to submit an entry to the Association of Conservation Engineers Design Awards Program in the following category and division designated.

Category *(Check One)*

A. Studies/Research Program _____

B. Conservation/Environmental _____

C. Special Projects _____

Budget Cost of Project: _____ Scheduled Completion: _____

Actual Cost of Project: _____ Actual Completion: _____

Name of Submitting Entity: _____

Address: _____

Contact Name: _____ Phone No: (_____) _____

E-mail: _____ Fax No: (_____) _____

Name of Project: _____

Location: _____

Owner's Name: _____

Note: Remember to get Owner's approval for use of project award nomination

Name of Consultant(s): _____

(if applicable) May be the same as submitting entity

Note: The submitting entity or the owner of the project must be a member of the ACE organization.



For use of award chairperson only

PROJECT REG. NO. _____

ACE 2024 DESIGN AWARDS DATA SHEET #1

(This page is due by email by Monday, September 23, 2024)

PROJECT NAME: _____

1. Agency / Firm Making Submittal: _____

2. Address: _____

3. Contact Name: _____ Contact Phone No: _____

E-mail: _____ Fax No: _____

4. Project Location: _____

5. Project Category: _____

6. Outside Consultant (s): _____

7. If a winning entry, please give exact Project Information as it should appear on the plaque or certificate:

Name of Project: _____

Project Owner &/or Consultants: _____

Project Location: _____



For use of award chairperson only

PROJECT REG. NO. _____

ACE 2024 DESIGN AWARDS DATA SHEET #2

(This page is due by email by Monday, September 23, 2024)

PROJECT NAME: _____

In approximately 500 words (total), write a short summary of the project features and solutions that best answer the following rating guidelines:

Note: *The unnecessary use of names of agencies, departments, consultants or individuals should be avoided. The name of the submitter(s) is removed prior to project review, so that the panel of judges may consider projects based on solely on merit.*

- | | |
|---|-------------|
| 1. Complexity of Program: | 15% |
| 2. Technical Value to Conservation Engineer’s Profession: | 15% |
| 3. Originality/Innovation/New Application of Existing Techniques: | 20% |
| 4. Meeting and Exceeding Owner’s Needs: | 25% |
| 5. Natural Resources & Environmental Considerations: | <u>25%</u> |
| Total: | 100% |

James (Jim) and Evelyn Schalk Memorial Association of Conservation Engineers Scholarship

Application Requirements

1. The purpose of this program is to promote the Association of Conservation Engineers (ACE) and the continued study and learning required for the conservation of our natural and renewable resources in the areas of preservation and recreation. The Association of Conservation Engineers (ACE) is an international organization of engineers and allied personnel employed by conservation and natural resource agencies and consultants with specialized interests in the area of fish, wildlife, parks, forests and related conservation/recreation fields. Additional information about ACE can be found on our website a <https://conservationengineers.org/awards/>.
2. The selection of scholarship nominees shall be according to the following eligibility guidelines:
 - a. The selection shall be restricted to junior and senior students of the undergraduate study program and students of the graduate study program, enrolled in an accredited course of college, directed toward a BS or MS degree in engineering, any of the natural sciences, ecology, or agriculture.
 - b. Students shall carry a full program and be enrolled as a full-time student.
 - c. The student shall submit a 5-8 slides presentation in PowerPoint of comparable format on a topic related to ACE's four objectives (See <https://conservationengineers.org/about/>)
 - d. A recommendation letter, on university letterhead, from one of the student's instructors shall accompany the submitted presentation stating the student's qualifications for this scholarship.
3. The monetary value of this scholarship shall be \$1,500 paid directly to the recipient. A check will be mailed to the recipient after selection on June 30, 2024. It is the discretion of the recipient on how the award is to be used. Official presentation of the award will be made during the 63rd Annual ACE Conference to be held in Flagstaff, Arizona on October 6-10, 2024.



James (Jim) & Evelyn Schalk Memorial Association of Conservation Engineers Scholarship

2024 Application Form

Name: _____ Date: _____

Address: _____

Phone Number: _____

E-mail: _____

Major: _____

Class: (check one) Junior Senior (of undergraduate or graduate study)

Anticipated Graduation Date: _____

Name of School: _____

Address of School: _____

Send completed **Application Form**, **instructor's letter of recommendation**, and **presentation** to:

Michael Sestak
michael.sestak@wsp.com

Applications must be received no later than **May 10, 2024**

Winner will be notified by June 30, 2024



CALL FOR SPONSORS

What: 63rd Annual Conference of the Association of Conservation Engineers

When: Sunday October 6 to Wednesday October 9, 2024

Where: Flagstaff, Arizona

Conference venue will be announced soon

Who: YOU!

We invite you to consider being a sponsor or exhibitor at this year’s conference. In the continuing effort to bring together the knowledge and experience of those who have a community of specialized interests in the areas of fish, wildlife, parks, and related conservation and recreation fields, companies and agencies are invited to display information regarding their services and/or products at the 63rd Annual ACE Conference in Flagstaff, Arizona.

The Association of Conservation Engineers works with the natural environment to promote the application of sound engineering practices in the field of natural resource protection and recreation development. Sponsors are also encouraged to make presentations which demonstrate past work and accomplishments within the field of Conservation Engineering.

SPONSOR LEVELS

	<u>PLATINUM</u>	<u>GOLD</u>	<u>SILVER</u>	<u>BRONZE</u>	<u>CONTRIBUTOR</u>
COST	\$5,000	\$3,000	\$2,000	\$1,000	\$500
EXHIBITOR SPACES	1	1	1	1	X
FULL CONFERENCE REGISTRATIONS	4	3	2	1	X
CONFERENCE AGENDA	Full Page Ad	½ Page Ad	⅓ Page Ad	⅓ Page Ad	Recognition
CONFERENCE NEWSLETTERS	Recognition	Recognition	Recognition	Recognition	Recognition
ACE WEBSITE	Logo and Link	Logo and Link	Logo and Link	Logo and Link	Name and Link

If you have any questions, contact:

Nara Sin
360-608-4096
nsin@azgfd.gov