

ASSOCIATION OF CONSERVATION ENGINEERS

ACE

April 2025 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.



South Rim Grand Canyon—October 2025

President's Message:

Dear ACE Members and Friends,

It's been an exciting start to 2025! Our organization continues to grow, and we look forward to bringing everyone together again at our next annual conference in Carbondale, Illinois. You'll find all the details in this newsletter along with important updates about scholarships, project awards, and sponsorship opportunities. Thank you for your continued support of ACE's mission to promote responsible and innovative conservation engineering.

- Nara Sin, PE, President

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Highlights from the 63rd Annual Conference – Flagstaff, AZ

October 6–10, 2024 / High Country Motor Lodge



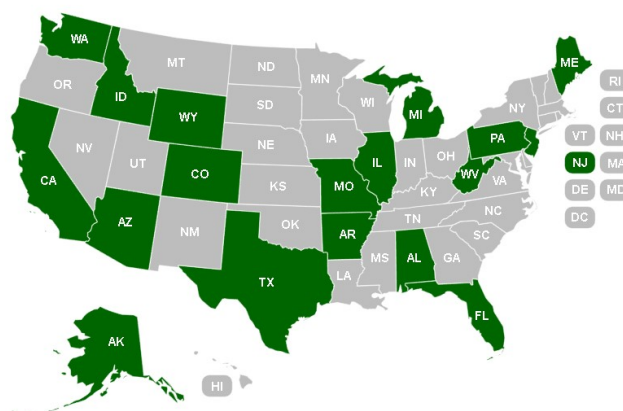
63rd ACE Conference—Flagstaff, AZ October 2024

While many picture saguaro deserts when they think of Arizona, Flagstaff's cool alpine climate and ponderosa pine forests gave members a completely different view of the state's natural beauty. The High Country Motor Lodge proved to be an ideal hub for learning, networking, and soaking in the scenery.

A **huge thank you** goes out to every presenter. Your willingness to share both successes and "lessons learned" enriches all of us and keeps ACE's mission—promoting sound, innovative conservation engineering—moving forward.

By the Numbers

- 50+ Attendees
- 18 US States Represented
- 15 Continuing Education (CEU) hours earned



The Grand Canyon

On Thursday, participants traded meeting rooms for majestic vistas with a full day excursion to the **South Rim of Grand Canyon National Park**. Under clear autumn skies, members fanned out along the Rim Trail, pausing at Mather, Yavapai, and Desert View points to take in the mile deep chasm's striated reds and ochres. Informal ranger talks on geology and ecology added context, while countless group photos captured the moment—some even caught California condors soaring on thermals below. The outing left everyone in awe of one of the world's Seven Natural Wonders and provided fresh inspiration for our shared mission of conserving extraordinary landscapes.



64th Annual Conference Announcement



Southern Illinois University, Carbondale, IL

Dates: October 5–9, 2025

Location: Walkers Bluff Casino Resort, Carbondale, Illinois

Mark your calendars! This year's conference will be held at Walkers Bluff Casino Resort in Carbondale, IL.

Nestled between the 280,000 acre Shawnee National Forest and the 44,000 acre Crab Orchard National Wildlife Refuge, Carbondale offers instant access to bottomland hardwoods, glacial lakes, and rugged sandstone bluffs—an outdoor laboratory tailor made for field tours and hands on learning. The city is also home to Southern Illinois University (SIU), whose acclaimed programs in forestry, wildlife, and environmental resources provide a deep pool of local experts and research partnerships. Add in the area's designation as an Important Bird Area and its growing network of sustainable trail and watershed projects, and Carbondale becomes an ideal setting for ACE members to connect theory with real world conservation practice.

- Conference Registration: Opening soon!
- Hotel Room Block: Details will be announced in an upcoming email and on our website.

Call for Presentations

We are seeking 30–45-minute presentations showcasing innovative projects, research, and best practices within conservation engineering. If you have a unique project, interesting case study, or creative solution to share, we want to hear about it!

Abstract Submission Deadline: *July 31, 2025*

Submission Requirements:

1. Title of your paper/presentation
2. Author(s)
3. Contact information (email and phone)
4. Brief description or abstract (150–250 words)
5. Any scheduling restrictions during October 5–9

Please email abstracts to:

Dale Brockamp, Dale.Brockamp@illinois.gov

Your insights and experiences help make our conference rich and valuable for all attendees. Don't miss this chance to share your work with colleagues from around the country.

Hog Hunt Adventure for Scholarship Fund

Michael Bauling (Illinois) and Loren Woodin (Wyoming) won the bid for the Hog Hunt I offered at the Arizona Conference during the ACE Scholarship Fund Silent Auction. They arrived in Sonora, Texas, on February 7–9, joined by Michael's brother, Craig.

Although the hogs weren't as plentiful as we hoped, everyone got a chance to pull the trigger and take home some meat. Evenings were filled with great food, campfire stories, and the musical talents of Loren strumming guitar under the Texas stars.

A special thank-you goes to **property owner Allen Adair**, who went above and beyond in hosting us. He even shared fresh Axis venison for everyone to take home! We're deeply appreciative of his generosity and hospitality. This event was not only a fun hunting excursion but also helped raise money for our ACE Scholarship Fund—supporting the next generation of conservation engineers.



Sponsor & Exhibitor Opportunities

Showcase your organization or products to a focused audience of conservation engineers! Our **64th Annual Conference** offers multiple sponsorship and exhibitor levels:

- **Platinum (\$5,000):** 1 exhibitor space, 4 full registrations, full-page ad in program, recognition on ACE website/newsletters
- **Gold (\$3,000):** 1 exhibitor space, 3 full registrations, 1/2-page ad in program, recognition on ACE website/newsletters
- **Silver (\$2,000):** 1 exhibitor space, 2 full registrations, 1/3-page ad in program, recognition on ACE website/newsletters
- **Bronze (\$1,000):** 1 exhibitor space, 1 full registration, 1/3-page ad in program, recognition on ACE website/newsletters
- **Contributor (\$500):** Recognition in the program, newsletters, and on ACE website

Contact Dale Brockamp or Terry Boyd for more details.

Dale.Brockamp@illinois.gov

Terry.Boyd@dcnr.alabama.gov

Carl V. Anderson Engineering Project Awards

Do you have a notable conservation or recreation-related project completed within the past 24 months? Enter it into the **Carl V. Anderson Project Awards** competition! This program recognizes excellence in conservation engineering through:

- **Project Category A:** Studies/Research
- **Project Category B:** Conservation/Environmental
- **Project Category C:** Special Projects
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How to Submit

1. **Declaration of Intent** by **September 20, 2025**
2. **Project Entry Packet** (Data Sheets, drawings, photos, etc.) by **September 20, 2025**
3. Winners will present their projects at the conference in Carbondale. Awards include:
 - **Award of Excellence**
 - **Award of Merit**
 - **Award of Honor**

For more information and all required forms, visit our website or contact:
Angela Lindgren, alindgren@pa.gov

Scholarship: James (Jim) & Evelyn Schalk Memorial

We are thrilled to continue our tradition of supporting tomorrow's conservation leaders. A \$1,500 scholarship will be awarded to a junior, senior, or graduate student majoring in engineering, natural sciences, ecology, or agriculture. Requirements include:

- A 15-minute presentation on a conservation engineering topic
- A recommendation letter from a faculty member
- Full-time enrollment in an accredited program

Key Dates

- **Application Deadline:** September 1, 2025
- **Winner Notification:** September 30, 2025
- **Award Presentation:** During the 64th Annual Conference, October 5–9, 2025

Encourage students or colleagues in academia to apply! For forms and guidelines, contact:
Michael Sestak, Michael.Sestak@wsp.com

Contact Us

Have questions, comments, or news to share? Reach out to our leadership team:

- **ACE President:** Nara Sin, nsin@azgfd.gov
- **Conference Chair:** Dale Brockamp, Dale.Brockamp@illinois.gov
- **Awards Committee Chair:** Angela Lindgren, alindgren@pa.gov
- **Scholarship Coordinator:** Michael Sestak, Michael.Sestak@wsp.com

We look forward to another year of collaboration, innovation, and camaraderie among conservation engineers. Thank you for your continued support—and don't forget to mark your calendars for **October 5–9, 2025** in Carbondale, Illinois!

[https://
conservationengineers.org/](https://conservationengineers.org/)



Panelists

If you or one of your co-workers would consider serving as a panelist on a round-table discussion. I am hoping to have at least two (2) panel discussions this year. Potential topics include:

1. **Innovative Funding Opportunities.** This would cover anything from dedicated funding sources, user fees, special taxes, or any other revenue streams within your State.
2. **Asset Management and Planning Strategies.** How do different states deal with roofing replacements, HVAC replacements, ADA compliance, etc.
3. **Wetland Mitigation Banks.** Who manages them in your state? Do multiple state agencies share wetland banks? Are private developers able to participate, etc.

I would ask each of 3 panelists to give a brief (<10-minute) presentation on how these needs are addressed in your state. We would then have 15 minutes for questions and discussion.

Dale Brockamp, Dale.Brockamp@illinois.gov