

editor's note



WHETHER IT'S GENERATIONAL OR THEY'RE JUST GOOD KIDS, all of my children are very concerned about the environment. For my daughter, Julia, it takes the form of organizing a recycling effort at school. For my son Joshua, it's just an outgrowth of his fascination with nature (he's gone so far as to create a web site, ideastosavenature.weebly.com, to solicit ideas on improving the environment). And even my youngest, Jason, goes to nature camp.

A few months ago I mentioned that the 2008 NASCC: The Steel Conference (April 2-5 in Nashville) was working to be a greener conference (which is only natural, given steel's dominant role as the green building material). The organizers of USGBC's GreenBuild Conference make a big issue of their green efforts; it turns out we're doing many of the same things (plus a few more).

✓ Our conference bags are made from 51% post-consumer recycled materials (mostly discarded water bottles and yogurt containers).

✓ And speaking of water bottles, we're installing water coolers in the center and exhibit hall and giving everyone a reusable bottle (we're still debating between polycarbonate and aluminum, but both are reusable and neither result in an off taste for the beverage).

✓ The temporary carpet in the exhibition hall contains recycled content (plus the padding is made from 95% recycled urethane material from chairs and car seats), and the carpet-cleaning shampoos are environmentally friendly.

✓ We've switched to online exhibitor service kits.

✓ Biodegradable trash can liners are used in cardboard wastebaskets in the exhibit booths (and our exhibitor services company has pledged to reduce energy consumption and waste, and use recycled materials wherever possible).

✓ The final program is being printed on recycled paper with soy-based inks.

✓ We're collecting the name badge holders for future reuse or recycling.

✓ The placards in front of meeting rooms and small signs throughout the conference are made with Enviroboard fiberboard (which includes 88% post-consumer waste).

And, of course, we have a number of sessions focusing on green design and construction (ranging from "Green Design: Beyond Material Issues" to "Cool Castings, High Strength Steels and Green Ideas from Europe" to "Greening the Shop: Strategies for Managing your Environmental Footprint").

But green issues are only a small part of the overall conference. I'm personally excited about our new "Essays from Experts" sessions. Unlike most conferences that put out a call for papers and then select from whatever has been submitted, the planning committee for the Steel Conference

typically decides on topics of interest and then seeks out the best possible speakers. Last year, we added a "Top Profs" track where we simply invited some of our favorite professors to speak on their field of expertise (we're continuing these sessions this year with sessions such as Tom Murray's "A 40-Year Perspective on Floor Vibrations" and Joseph Yura's "Five Useful Stability Concepts.") And this year we're expanding on the concept by inviting a group of industry and design professionals to give talks (such as Larry Griffis on "Wind or Seismic Loads—Which Governs?" and Duane Miller on "Important Lessons They Didn't Teach Me at College").

These are just a few of the more than 70 technical sessions offered—all of which provide continuing education credits. Plus, there are pre- and post-conference short courses (some of which are offered by AISC and some by other groups, such as ASCE/SEI and the American Galvanizing Association).

For fans of controversy, I recommend attending a session we've just added (it's not even in the advance program) comparing the new AIA construction documents with the new AGC-endorsed ConsensusDocs. The session will only be offered once, at 4:15 p.m. on Wednesday afternoon. At the same time (though also repeated on Thursday at 8 a.m.) is another controversial topic: "Should the Structural Engineer or the Fabricator Design Structural Steel Connections." Those sessions should give you plenty to talk about during the conference or at the conference dinner, which I'm so looking forward to. We've rented out a series of honkytonks in downtown Nashville, closed part of the street in front and the alley behind, and will have plenty of food and music!

I hope to see you in Nashville. It's a great chance to learn practical design and construction information, see the latest equipment, and network with clients and peers. For more information or to register, visit www.aisc.org/nascc.

SCOTT MELNICK
EDITOR

MSC

MODERN STEEL CONSTRUCTION

Editorial Offices

One E. Wacker Dr., Suite 700
Chicago, IL 60601
312.670.2400 tel
312.896.9022 fax

Editorial Contacts

EDITOR & PUBLISHER
Scott L. Melnick
312.670.8314
melnick@modernsteel.com

MANAGING EDITOR
Keith A. Grubb, P.E., S.E.
312.670.8318
grubb@modernsteel.com

ASSOCIATE EDITOR
Geoff Weisenberger
312.670.8316
weisenberger@modernsteel.com

AISC Officers

CHAIRMAN
Rex I. Lewis

VICE CHAIRMAN
David Harwell

TREASURER
Stephen E. Porter

SECRETARY & GENERAL
COUNSEL
David B. Ratterman

PRESIDENT
Roger E. Ferch, P.E.

VICE PRESIDENT
John P. Cross, P.E.

VICE PRESIDENT
Louis F. Geschwindner, Ph.D., P.E.

VICE PRESIDENT
Roberta L. Marsteller, P.E.

VICE PRESIDENT
Scott L. Melnick

Advertising Contact

Account Manager
Louis Gurthet
231.228.2274 tel
231.228.7759 fax
gurthet@modernsteel.com

For advertising information, contact Louis Gurthet or visit www.modernsteel.com

Address Changes and Subscription Concerns

312.670.5444 tel
312.893.2253 fax
admin@modernsteel.com

Reprints

Betsy White
The Reprint Outsource, Inc.
717.394.7350
w.betsy@verizon.net