

# STRUCTURAL BUILDING COMPONENTS™

THE FUTURE OF FRAMING

May 2006

[www.sbcmag.info](http://www.sbcmag.info)

**Design &  
Engineering:**

**Tricky Design Job  
Showcases Pioneer  
Truss Company's  
Creativity**

**Plus...**

John Meeks: Bracing Activist  
Automation Straight Talk  
BCSI Updates for 2006  
WCMA, BMC West Host  
Tour for Fire Service  
...and much more!

CHANGE SERVICE REQUESTED

*Framing the*  
**AMERICAN  
DREAM**

PRSR STD  
U.S. Postage  
**PAID**  
Madison, WI  
Permit No. 2223

SBC Magazine • 6300 Enterprise Lane • Suite 200 • Madison, WI 53719

WE CONTINUE TO REACH HIGHER LEVELS

OF PERFORMANCE IN OUR BUSINESS.

**MITEK HELPS US**

**GET THERE.**



For decades, the MiTek culture has been grounded in building successful relationships. Now we have taken our commitment to our customers to an even higher level. You'll see that commitment reflected in the innovative results of our developments in software, engineering services, equipment and connectors. And you'll see it in our people who share a sincere,

company-wide dedication to enhancing the performance of your business. It is the focus of everything we do. Now and for the long run. Our purpose? To bring your business the "Power to Perform."

**Because your success is our success.**

[www.mii.com](http://www.mii.com)



# HOLTEC

## BECAUSE PRECISION AND PROFIT AREN'T OPTIONS

If precision and speed are not important to achieving your goals, any crosscut system will do the job. But if you need the fastest and most accurate cutting performance, then a HOLTEC V Series is your only choice.

Precision German engineering ensures that every HOLTEC V Series performs with an unmatched stroke speed of 55 seconds per cut with an accuracy of  $\pm 1\text{mm}$  (.040")\*. Cut after cut. Pack after pack. Year after year. And because your business deserves top-notch service, every HOLTEC is backed by our Florida-based field support team. We're the only manufacturer of crosscut systems that offers an on-site service guarantee\*. Precision, performance and reliability are among the reasons why HOLTEC remains the system of choice for more than six thousand leading companies worldwide; more than 1,300 of them are in the U.S. and Canada. Companies like yours who recognize one indisputable fact: When it comes to cutting lumber, **Precision and Profit aren't options.**

- With a precision of  $\pm 1\text{mm}$  (.040")\*, the Autocut® system processes the entire unit of lumber and automatically brings it to a discharge position.
- The Autocut® is also available with our hydraulically operated Inline Package Squeezing System.
- Using a fixed-frame assembly with a moveable cutting platform, the flexible Selectut® meets your production needs in a limited space.
- The affordable HOLTEC Transcut® II Station will cleanly cut through a package of hard or softwood lumber in about a minute.
- The versatile Transcut® II Portable saw is designed to lower your cutting costs in light production environments.

Now that you've decided to invest in a crosscutting system, please call us for our complete information package that includes a free DVD, or download a video by logging on to [www.holtecusa.com](http://www.holtecusa.com)

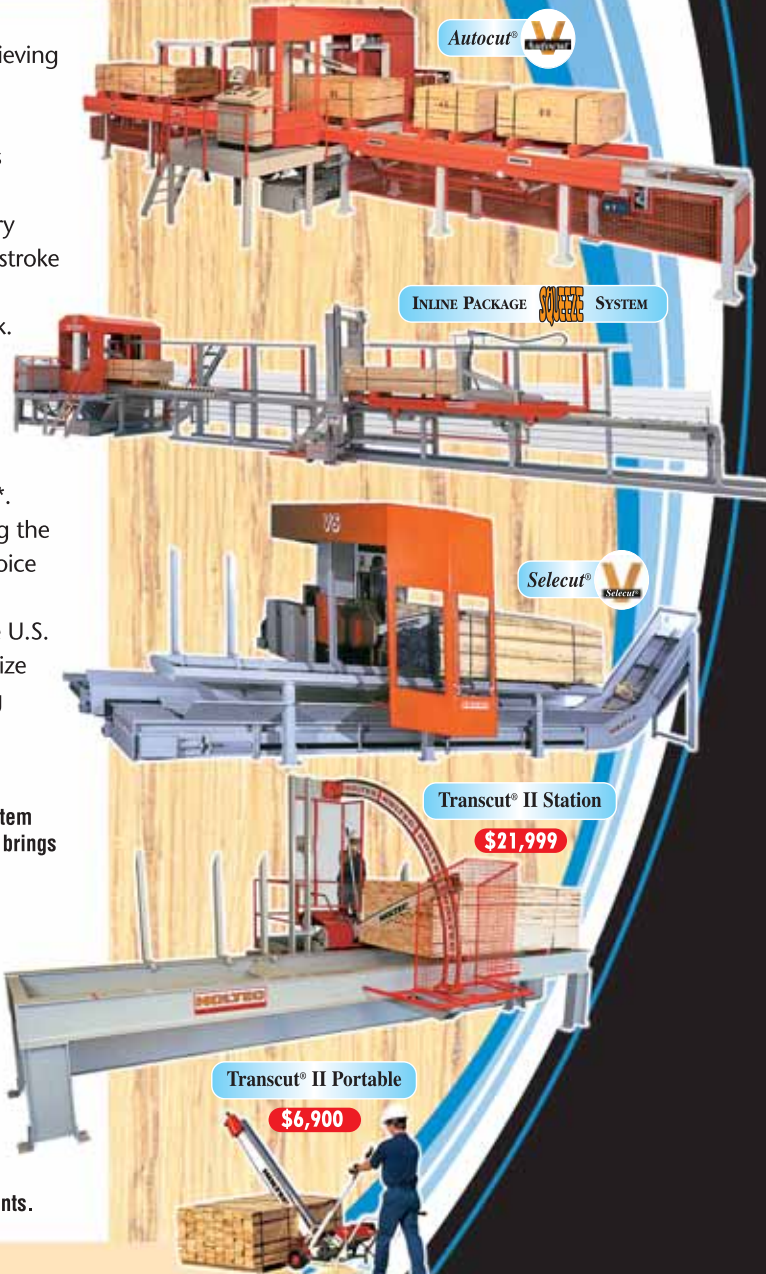
**1-800-346-5832** [www.holtecusa.com](http://www.holtecusa.com)



# HOLTEC®

PRECISION CROSSCUT SYSTEMS

HOLTEC [USA] Corporation  
2802 Sydney Road, Plant City, Florida 33566  
Tel: 813-754-1665 Fax: 813-752-8042  
E-mail: [info@holtecusa.com](mailto:info@holtecusa.com)



Autocut®

INLINE PACKAGE SQUEEZING SYSTEM

Selectut®

Transcut® II Station

\$21,999

Transcut® II Portable

\$6,900

\*All specifications and pricing are subject to change without notice. Photographs may show systems with optional accessories. Stroke speed may vary based on specie and dimension of lumber. Proper maintenance is essential for accuracy and longevity. On-site service may not be available in certain remote locations. HOLTEC, Autocut, Selectut, and Transcut are registered trademarks of HOLTEC GmbH. All other trademarks are the property of their respective owners. Price is F.O.B. Tampa, Florida. © HOLTEC USA Corporation. All rights reserved.

For reader service, go to [www.sbcmag.info/holtec.htm](http://www.sbcmag.info/holtec.htm)

34

Tricky Design Job Showcases  
Pioneer Truss Company's Creativity

by Emily Patterson

Discover how one component manufacturer got creative in order to conquer an ethnic mausoleum's unprecedented design challenge.



56

WCMA, BMC West Host Tour  
for Fire Service Leadership

by Libby Maurer

The fire service took an educational tour of one component manufacturer's facility to find out how trusses are designed and manufactured.



44

John Meeks: Bracing Activist

by Molly E. Butz

Find out what inspired this "southern gentleman" to become the industry's first bracing pioneer.



50

Automation Straight Talk: Where to Start

by Jerry Koskovich, P.E.

Read about the conversation that planted the seeds for the automated component saw and just how much time it can shave off set-ups.

## Columns

Editor's Message • Technology & Old-fashioned Design Skills: The Perfect Combination for Success	7
Publisher's Message • Design & Engineering: The Pulse of the Industry	10
Technical Q&A • Sheathing versus Purlins	12
Safety Scene • Chainsaws Are Powerful, Dangerous	16
BCMC 2006 • Attendee Networking Offers Hidden Value	18
WTCA Update • BCSI Updates for 2006	20
Code Connection • Roof Truss-to-Wall Connection Requirements in the 2003 IRC	22
Working for Your Workers • Connecting the Dots: Truss Manufacturer to Family Home	26
Human Faces • SNCMA & SEASoN Work Together to Resolve Truss Design, Specification Issues	30

## Departments

Adventures in Advocacy	64
Readers Respond	66
Retirement	66
Builder Banter	68
Chapter Corner	70
Calendar of Events	74
Industry News & Data	76
Classified Ads	78
Advertiser Index	80
Parting Shots	82

# INVESTING in the Industry's Future

**Thank you to these companies for their significant support and sponsorship of structural building components industry programs!**

For more information about our 2006 Program Advertisers or advertising in general, visit the SBC web site at [www.sbcmag.info](http://www.sbcmag.info) or call 608/310-6706.

## 2006 Gold Advertisers (appearing in all 9 issues)

Alpine Engineered Products*	MSR Lumber Producers Council*
A-NU-Prospect *	Open Joist 2000*
BCMC*	OptiFrame Software, LLC
Clark Industries Inc.	Panels Plus*
Commercial Machinery Fabricators*	Pratt Industries
Eagle Metal Products*	Qualtim, Inc.*
The Hain Company*	Robbins Engineering*
Holtec (USA) Corporation*	Simpson Strong-Tie Co*
Hundegger USA LC*	Southern Pine Council*
Intelligent Building Systems*	Stiles Machinery, Inc.*
Klaisler Manufacturing Corp.*	Tolleson Lumber Co. Inc.*
The Koskovich Company*	Truswal Systems Corp.*
Lakeside Trailer Manufacturing*	Turb – O – Web USA, Inc.*
Mango Tech USA*	USP Structural Connectors*
MiTek Industries*	Viking ADT LLC*
Monet DeSaww*	Wood Truss Council of America*

## 2006 Silver Advertisers (appearing in at least 5 issues)

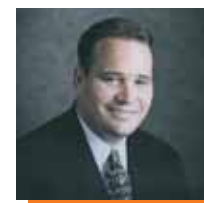
Biomass Combustion Systems, Inc.	SL Laser Systems LP
Canfor	Stoll Trailers, Inc.
Eide Machinery Sales, Inc.	Sweed Machinery
Finnforest USA*	Tadano America Corporation
Maximizer Technologies, LLC*	Temple-Inland
(a component of The Fitzgerald Group, LLC)	Triad/Merrick Machine Co.*
Princeton Delivery Systems	Tryco/Untha International, Inc.*
SFS intec, Inc.	Weima America, Inc.

## 2006 Bronze Advertisers (appearing in at least 3 issues)

Anthony Forest Products	Safety Speed Cut Manufacturing
Construction Lifters	

\*Indicates Charter Advertiser Status • Listing based on contracts received as of 4/15/06

**SBC Advertisers invest in the growth of the structural building components industry!**



## Editor's Message

Technology & Old-fashioned Design Skills:  
The Perfect Combination for Success

by Don Groom

Component design technology has advanced by leaps and bounds over the last few decades!

During the more than 20 years that I've been in the industry, I've certainly seen many design and engineering advancements. Looking back on two decades of innovations in truss design, you can mark numerous milestones in the structural building components industry. But in order to make the most of every advancement, we still need to rely on good old-fashioned component design skills. Coupled with design expertise, technology will take the industry to the next level.

After coming out of the shop, one of my first jobs as a truss technician in the mid-'80s was working on the Sun computer, some of the leading technology at the time from Gang-Nail. Back then if the design called for something other than a standard truss, technicians had to input—line by line—the lengths, bearing locations and any concentrated loads on a truss. In fact, they also had to have the knowledge to manually load any girders in the truss system. It may sound like a tedious process today, but that technology was a breakthrough then, considering we still had to draw the original layouts by hand before entering the data into the computer.

Computer design technology has certainly advanced by leaps and bounds since then. While the technician's job will always be one of the most difficult and stressful in the industry, software advancements have helped minimize some of those challenges. The advent of the two-dimensional layout function in design software revolutionized the design process. Gone are the days of inputting jobs line by line. Today's software automatically figures the application and the flow of loads, allows the technician to put in wall planes and specify hangers, and offers many other streamlining techniques. Technology has given designers the tremendous advantage of being able to optimize webs on a job, creating an efficient, cost-effective design, not to mention fewer lines to type in manually.

Such technological and engineering advancements have added a greater level of speed, efficiency and accuracy to the design process, along with the ability to better meet customers' needs for design flexibility. With this progress, jobs have become more and more complex, and "standard" truss designs have nearly fallen by the wayside. Along with the ability to design more complex roof systems, technology gives us the capability to take designs to the next level and spec in a wide range of products from wall panels to steel trusses. Plus, with the emergence of whole house design, we are on the verge of being able to design the entire structure—from the peak of the roof down to the footers.

In the midst of so many advancements, it's important for component manufacturers not to lose the expertise that came with the hands-on designing of years past. When we designed components by hand, technicians had to understand everything about how the loads were distributed onto a truss. Technicians not only had to understand load application, they had to know how to calculate the distribution of loads by hand. Today's software automatically applies the loads. Likewise, technology has made truss optimization much easier for technicians. In the past, it worked to a technician's advantage to truly understand how to optimize a truss because it meant not having to input so many lines of computer design code. Now,

Continued on page 8

### at a glance

- ❑ Back in the '80s, truss technicians had to input the lengths, bearing locations and any concentrated loads on a truss other than a standard truss.
- ❑ Today's truss design software helps streamline truss technicians' work, but fundamental design, engineering and building code concepts are still important.
- ❑ Design technology gives us the capability to take designs to the next level and spec in a wide range of products from wall panels to steel trusses.
- ❑ The time has come to embrace all structural building component materials.

## Editor's Message

Continued from page 7

the process is so automated that the software webs a truss in the desired fashion, and adding webs can be accomplished with the click of a button. This process is so user-friendly that it's often easy to create a truss that is over-designed and more costly than it needs to be.

As component manufacturers, we have to ensure that our technicians understand and can perform good old-fashioned number crunching. That's one reason why I'm so passionate and supportive of WTCA's Truss Technician Training (TTT). TTT provides a solid foundation of the design, engineering and building code fundamentals that virtually anyone working in a technical job in our industry can benefit from. While today's technicians don't have to sit down and draw layouts by hand, they need to understand what they're inputting in design software. They may not have to write out and solve every calculation on paper, but they need the training to understand and recognize if a calculation or specification is off or if there's a glitch in the system. Technicians also need to understand how to optimize a truss to create the best and most efficient design for the customer. As an industry, our challenge is to train technicians so they know the ins and outs of truss design and can identify if a job is over-designed or under-designed, whether certain webs are needed, or if it's loaded correctly. Today's software is amazing and surely will continue to make our jobs easier, but it's important that we take responsibility and truly understand how the truss design process works.

These design and engineering advancements have done much more than help individual component manufacturers' technical departments become more efficient; these advancements have transformed the entire industry on a global scale and taken it into the next level of sophistication. Looking at all the design and engineering advancements that have helped bring this industry to where it is today illustrates how much the structural building components industry has changed over the years. The capabilities that software gives us to input a wide range of products—from wall panels to I-Joists to steel trusses—affects more than the designs we create for our customers. This expanded offering of products changes the very face of the industry itself as our customers demand us to design with all types of components.

The time has come to embrace all structural building component materials because the most economic structural framing solution will prevail in the marketplace. We have asked our association to be a leader in providing support to all component manufacturers as the market evolves and more and varied structural building component solutions become commonplace. Our association's recent name change to "WTCA – Representing the Structural Building Components Industry" reflects the industry's marketplace evolution. The name change doesn't simply include the components available today but also the products and design and engineering advancements that are sure to develop down the road 20 and even 30 years from now. **SBC**

*SBC Magazine encourages the participation of its readers in developing content for future issues. Do you have an article idea for a future issue or a topic that you would like to see covered? Email your thoughts and ideas to [editor@sbcmag.info](mailto:editor@sbcmag.info).*

# STRUCTURAL BUILDING COMPONENTS™

THE FUTURE OF FRAMING

### Publisher

Truss Publications, Inc.

6300 Enterprise Lane • Suite 200 • Madison, WI 53719  
Phone: 608/310-6706 • Fax: 608/271-7006  
[trusspubs@sbcmag.info](mailto:trusspubs@sbcmag.info) • [www.sbcmag.info](http://www.sbcmag.info)

### Editor

Donald Groom

Stark Truss Company, Inc. • [dgroom@sbcmag.info](mailto:dgroom@sbcmag.info)

### Art Director

Melinda Caldwell

608/310-6729 • [mcaldwell@sbcmag.info](mailto:mcaldwell@sbcmag.info)

### Managing Editor & Circulation Director

Libby Maurer

608/310-6724 • [lmurer@sbcmag.info](mailto:lmurer@sbcmag.info)

### Editorial Assistant & Staff Writer

Emmy Thorson-Hanson

608/310-6702 • [ethorson-hanson@sbcmag.info](mailto:ethorson-hanson@sbcmag.info)

### Advertising Manager & Editorial Review

Suzi Grundahl

608/310-6710 • [sgrundahl@sbcmag.info](mailto:sgrundahl@sbcmag.info)

### Advertising Sales & Marketing

Peggy Pichette

608/310-6723 • [ppichette@sbcmag.info](mailto:ppichette@sbcmag.info)

Jan Pauli

608/310-6746 • [jpauli@sbcmag.info](mailto:jpauli@sbcmag.info)

Kirk Grundahl

608/274-2345 • [kgrundahl@sbcmag.info](mailto:kgrundahl@sbcmag.info)

### Staff Writers for April

Molly E. Butz • Emily Patterson • Marisa Peters

Sean D. Shields • Anna L. Stamm

Stephanie Watrud • Jim Vogt

### Accountant

Mike Younglove

608/310-6714 • [myounglove@sbcmag.info](mailto:myounglove@sbcmag.info)

### Computer Systems Administrator

Jay Edgar

608/310-6712 • [jedgar@sbcmag.info](mailto:jedgar@sbcmag.info)

### Send all ad materials, insertion orders, contracts & payments to:

Truss Publications, Inc.

6300 Enterprise Lane • Suite 200  
Madison, WI 53719

Phone: 608/310-6706 • Fax: 608/271-7006  
[trusspubs@sbcmag.info](mailto:trusspubs@sbcmag.info) • [www.sbcmag.info](http://www.sbcmag.info)

The mission of *Structural Building Components Magazine (SBC)* is to increase the knowledge of and to promote the common interests of those engaged in manufacturing and distributing structural building components. Further, *SBC* strives to ensure growth, continuity and increased professionalism in our industry, and to be the information conduit by staying abreast of leading-edge issues. *SBC's* editorial focus is geared toward the entire structural building component industry, which includes the membership of WTCA – Representing the Structural Building Components Industry. The opinions expressed in *SBC* are those of the authors and those quoted, and are not necessarily the opinions of Truss Publications or WTCA.

Copyright ©2006 by Truss Publications, Inc. All rights reserved.



Multi-Function Bridge



Automated Panel Stacker



CNC Component Builder

## Profit from the automation promise.

Production lines employ a significant amount of investment. Weinmann automated production lines from Stiles Machinery employ a promise—increased production capacity and increased product quality at a lower cost. Only the precision engineering offered by Weinmann can deliver on that promise. The only truly software driven production line available, Weinmann consistently builds exterior wall panels at a rate of 16 feet every 2.5 minutes while reducing manpower requirements by 75 percent. When you work with Stiles you are automatically connected to our Total Production Solutions<sup>SM</sup> delivering superior equipment, technology and expertise. Employ the automation promise. **In the U.S., call Mike Miller, Product Manager at Stiles, at 616.698.7500 or [mmiller@stilesmachinery.com](mailto:mmiller@stilesmachinery.com)**

### Automated Panel Lines

- CNC-driven automation
- Engineered customization
- Precision controlled quality
- Guaranteed product consistency



In Canada, call Peter Aschenbrenner at Homag, 905.670.1700



software | leasing | education | service | parts | e-tech

[www.stilesmachinery.com](http://www.stilesmachinery.com)

For reader service, go to [www.sbcmag.info/stiles.htm](http://www.sbcmag.info/stiles.htm)

**stiles**  
Your success is our business



# Publisher's Message

## Design & Engineering: The Pulse of the Industry

by Libby Maurer

"The greatest challenge to any thinker is stating the problem in a way that will allow a solution."

—Bertrand Russell

One theme is consistent when it comes to design and engineering in this industry: year after year, advances in technology have enabled manufacturers to up the ante on truss design. Increased design capabilities mean more options for customers, and more options mean happier customers. In this issue, we salute the advances in design and engineering that have allowed building components to become the future of framing.

When Chris Lenauer contacted **SBC** staff in August 2005 with pictures from his company's recent design feat, we couldn't believe our eyes. Always looking for challenging jobs to showcase its design creativity, Pioneer Truss enthusiastically took on a job to design and manufacture trusses for a mausoleum commissioned by the Mid-America Buddhist Association. Though the structure was small, the effort it took to design and build the trusses with ultimate precision was not. In fact, Pioneer assembled a small army of strategists to tackle the project. Turn to page 34 to find out how technology played a major role in the company's success.

In **Human Faces**, we examine the advantages of building relationships with industry groups. In the case of the Southern Nevada Component Manufacturers Association (a chapter of WTCA), issues surrounding design responsibilities have been effectively worked through thanks to the chapter's relationship with a structural engineering group. It's a perfect example of how every chapter should facilitate the lines of communication with industry professionals and reap the benefits of an open forum debate on critical issues.

In the same vein, this issue's **WTCA Update** explains what the new edition of BCSI 1-03 will contain. Updates to the booklet's temporary and permanent bracing information contained in sections B2 and B3 are scheduled to undergo significant changes. Don't miss out on this sneak preview of what to expect when the new version of BCSI is released later this year.

Several months ago, select members of the fire service embarked on a component manufacturing facility plant tour. Headed up by the Western Component Manufacturers Association (a chapter of WTCA), member manufacturer BMC West of the Portland area graciously welcomed the group to its facility. The fire service seemed most impressed with the truss design software and the overall level of professionalism displayed during the tour. When the day was done, relationships had formed and the walls between the two groups were beginning to crumble. While it was agreed that one firefighter death that occurs as a result of building collapse is one too many, it was also agreed that the solution lies in increased training about building structures. We wait enthusiastically for the fire service's call to help with curriculum development. See page 56 for a recap of the tour.

Finally, a few months ago Molly Butz caught up with John Meeks, the "grandfather of bracing." Still conducting forensic engineering work in South Florida, Meeks shows no signs of slowing down as he prepares to celebrate a big birthday. What turned this engineer on to assume the role of bracing crusader for the wood truss industry? Turn to page 44 to find out! **SBC**

### at a glance

- ❑ This issue of **SBC Magazine** is devoted to design and engineering advancements.
- ❑ The cover story highlights a design challenge that Pioneer Truss couldn't pass up. Though the structure was small, the effort it took to design and build the trusses with ultimate precision for it was not.
- ❑ In February, BMC West graciously welcomed members of the fire service to its facility in the Portland area. Attendees seemed most impressed with the truss design software and the overall level of professionalism displayed during the tour.

# ANU PROSPECT

## STEP DECK ROLL-OFF TRAILER



Patent Pending - Provisional Patent #60/688,789



2' & 4'  
Pull-Out  
Rollers  
Now  
Available!

**NEW!**  
Pull Out  
Rollers  
now for:  
36' - 50'  
42' - 60'  
48' - 70'  
53' - 78'  
48' & 53'



### UNLOAD WALL PANELS... DAMAGE FREE!

## 100 SOUTH SERVICE ROAD, P.O. BOX 89, ST. MARYS, ONTARIO N4X 1A9

# (519) 349-2202 or 1-800-615-5122

For reader service, go to [www.sbcmag.info/anuprospect.htm](http://www.sbcmag.info/anuprospect.htm)

by WTCA Staff

What happens to the design of a truss when purlins are specified instead of plywood or OSB sheathing?

The on-center spacing for roof trusses determines how a roof system should be braced and installed. Trusses used in residential and commercial roofs are most often spaced at 24 inches on-center (Figure 1) while trusses used in agricultural or post frame buildings are spaced at 48 inches on-center or often greater (Figure 2). Building Component Safety Information (BCSI) section B2 provides temporary bracing and handling guidance for trusses spaced up to 24 inches on-center and section B10 provides for wide on-center trusses used in post frame buildings. The bracing and installation differences depend on how the top chord of the truss will be permanently braced—by roof sheathing or by purlins.

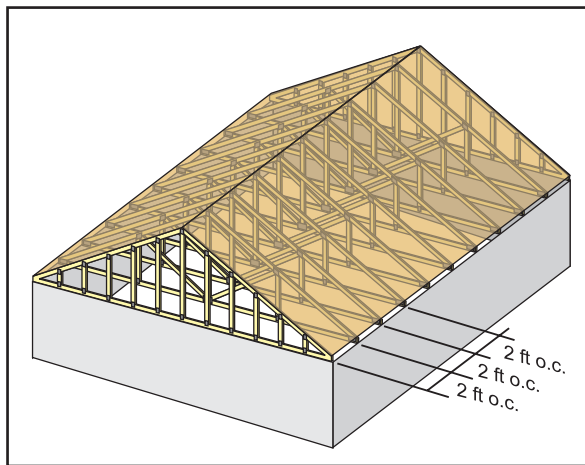


Figure 1. Roof trusses with directly applied roof sheathing like plywood or OSB.

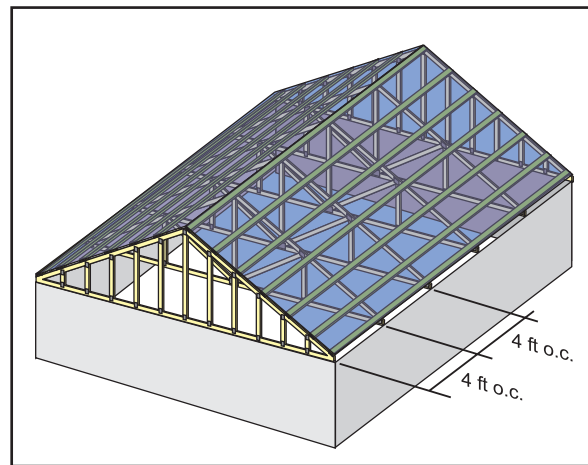
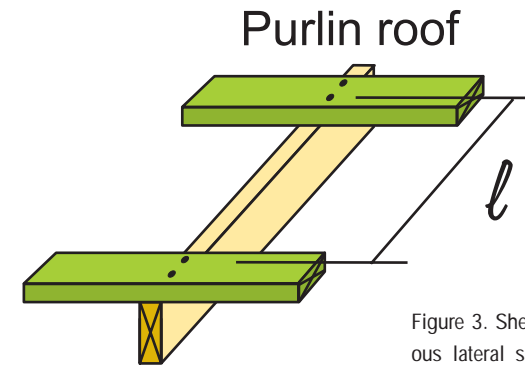
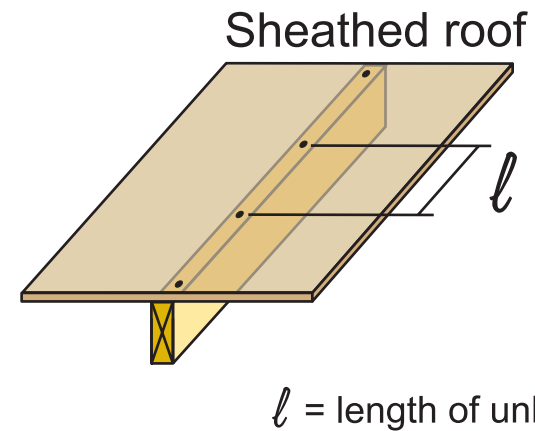


Figure 2. Roof trusses with wood purlins and a metal clad roof.



$l$  = length of unbraced top chord

Figure 3. Sheathed roofs provide continuous lateral support along the top chord when the length of unbraced top chord is 12 inches or less.

When purlins are specified instead of structural panels, there are unbraced sections of top chord between purlins (Figure 3). There are limits to how long these unbraced sections can be, based on the design load and lumber species, size and grade. Some Truss Design Drawings will indicate what the maximum unbraced length (in other words purlin spacing) can be, but this is by no means an attempt to perform roof diaphragm design on the project. The National Frame Builders Association (NFBA) is developing a design procedure for metal clad wood framed roofs that should be able to assist Building Designers in completing roof diaphragm design more effectively. Gary Anderson, an agricultural engineering professor at South Dakota State University, is work-

ing on the NFBA design procedure. He will present his initial research findings at the Frame Building Expo, February 28 - March 2, 2007, in Indianapolis, IN.

If the Building Designer will be designing a purlin and metal clad roof system, they should be prepared to provide the Truss Manufacturer with specific information on the purlin spacing and coordinate the final truss design with the Truss Manufacturer to ensure the maximum unbraced lengths for top chords are not being exceeded by the purlin design. **SBC**

To pose a question for this column, call the WTCA technical department at 608/274-4849 or email [technicalqa@sbcmag.info](mailto:technicalqa@sbcmag.info).

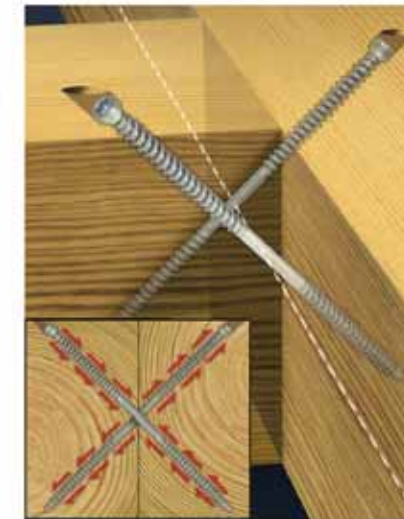
## SFS intec's Engineered Fastening Systems WS or WT, the Right Connection for Timber Construction

### The WS System



- Eliminates pilot drilling in timber and steel
- Provides a tighter-fit than pre-drilled applications
- Self-drilling dowel system is engineered for steel-reinforced timber connections
- Will drill up to 1/2" thick carbon steel
- Increases fire resistance
- Provides high ductility
- No costly overhead is required

### The WT System



- Increases your efficiency by eliminating pre-drilling
- Creates an invisible joint with countersink heads
- Improves strength over traditional lag bolts thanks to engineered design
- Assures reliability with third-party tested load tables



For reader service, go to [www.sbcmag.info/sfsintec.htm](http://www.sbcmag.info/sfsintec.htm)

For more information about the SFS intec WS and WT Systems, call 800-234-4533  
[www.sfsintecusa.com](http://www.sfsintecusa.com)

SFS intec, Inc.  
Spring St. & Van Reed Rd.  
P.O. Box 6326  
Wyomissing, PA 19610

**SFS intec**  
To make you more competitive.

### Question

Does a truss design change when purlins are used instead of roof sheathing?

### Answer

Most Building Designers will opt for plywood or OSB roof sheathing for top chords when the on-center spacing of the trusses is close enough to warrant it. Building Designers may use the IBC section 2304.7 on structural roof panels to determine allowable spans and loads and use section 2304.9 to determine fastener sizes and spacing. (Visit **Support Docs** at [www.sbcmag.info](http://www.sbcmag.info) to view these sections.)

The phrase "structural roof panel" means plywood or OSB sheets are attached directly to the top chord providing continuous lateral support along the length of the chord. Even when fasteners are spaced up to 12 inches on-center as permitted for the interior of panels according to IBC section 2304.9, the support for the top chord is considered continuous. The Truss Designer assumes the support is provided and is sufficient to hold the truss firmly in position so that it will not buckle under load. Truss Design Drawings contain notes stating this is the case. Some examples of notes are "top chord shall have properly attached structural panels," "it is assumed the top chord is laterally braced by the roof sheathing" or "top chord is permanently sheathed."

### at a glance

- ❑ BCSI-B2 provides temporary bracing guidance for trusses spaced up to 24 inches on-center.
- ❑ BCSI-B10 offers temporary bracing guidance for wide on-center trusses such as those used in post frame buildings.
- ❑ Truss Designers note on Truss Design Drawings that truss top chords must be laterally braced by the roof sheathing to prevent the top chord from buckling.
- ❑ When purlins are specified, check with the Truss Designer to determine the maximum unbraced length of the top chord between purlins to avoid top chord buckling.



Your one source  
for industry-leading  
software, equipment  
and support.



# Industry-Leading Innovation... Your Complete Package.

Our strategic partnerships  
continue to provide your company  
with intelligent solutions through  
cutting-edge equipment.

- Manual & Computerized Component Saws
- Round End Web Saws
- Truss Rollers, Roof & Floor Gantries  
with Recessed Track
- Hydraulic Roof & Floor Truss Assembly  
Systems
- Wall Panel Equipment Lines
- RolSplicer®
- Truss Stackers
- Laser Projection Systems
- Materials Handling Systems



Leadership, Strength, Commitment...

IntelliBuild™ leads the way in Whole House Design. Its true parametric modeling technology allows you more ease and efficiency than you ever thought possible! Combined with the newest equipment available, you get solutions for a complete component manufacturing package.

## IntelliBuild™ WHOLE HOUSE DESIGN

### Truswal's Innovative Software Suite

Includes:

- IntelliBuild™
  - NEW! California Hip Input
  - Dynamic Parametric Modeling
  - 3D Real-Time Viewer with Load Transfer Capabilities
  - Stacked Rafters
- TrusNet
  - Real time feedback
  - Job Tracking
  - Paperless Manufacturing
- TrusManager Pro (TM Pro)
  - Progress, Scheduling and Delivery Reports
  - NEW Report Writer featuring Custom Reports
  - Digital Schedule
  - Built-in Price Book
  - Track Work Flow
- TrusPlus™
  - Joint Detail Reports
  - Joint QC Details
  - Effective Tooth Reports
  - Coordinate with WTCA's QC program

Innovation distinguishes between a leader and a follower.

—Steve Jobs, CEO, Apple; CEO, Pixar



Call toll-free:  
800.521.9790  
www.truswal.com

For reader service, go to [www.sbcmag.info/truswal.htm](http://www.sbcmag.info/truswal.htm)





# Safety Scene

## Chainsaws Are Powerful, Dangerous

by Molly E. Butz

Take these safety precautions to avoid being one of the thousands to report chainsaw injuries every year.

Spring and summer bring with them the familiar roar of chainsaws. From storm damage cleanup to sawing up wood for a backyard bonfire, chainsaws have found a useful place for many people in many places. Chainsaws also serve their purpose in our industry, and many component manufacturers utilize chainsaws year round for various workplace activities including cutting up discarded trusses and trimming engineered joists to the correct size.

Chainsaws are powerful, efficient and effective. According to Lowe's Online How-To Library, "you won't find a tool with more power per inch." But all of that power brings with it an entirely new level of danger; and with thousands of chainsaw injuries reported every year, extra attention to safety is the key to protecting yourself and your employees when using a chainsaw.

Using any tool can pose a safety risk, and chainsaws are no exception.

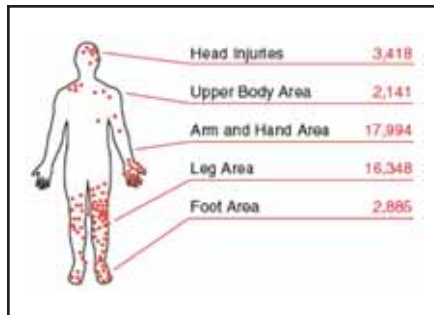


Figure 1. Accident location and frequency as related to chain saw use (1994). (Source: U.S. Product Safety Commission)

For starters, chainsaws were meant to cut one thing: wood. Using a chainsaw for any other purpose is asking for trouble. Even brief contact with a rock or the ground will dull the cutting chain and pose a safety risk.

One of the most important things you can do to protect yourself from a possible injury is wear the appropriate and necessary personal protective equipment, or PPE. The following list includes all of the PPE required by OSHA for anyone using a chainsaw.

- Leg protection made with cut-resistant material such as chaps or leggings. The leg protection should cover the full length of the thigh all the way to the top of the boot on both legs.
- Foot protection made with cut-resistant material. The boots should cover and support the ankle and include steel toes and nonskid soles.
- Gloves.
- Ear plugs or earmuff-style hearing protection.
- Head protection if there is potential for falling or flying objects.
- Eye protection with side shields.

The accident location and frequency diagram from the U.S. Product Safety Commission (Figure 1) shows how important PPE can be; most injuries occur on the lower left leg and the left arm. Those are the areas you should be sure to protect the most.

Beyond PPE, there are a few other things that should be noted about general chainsaw operation that can help you prevent injuries. Here's a helpful list of things to keep in mind:

- Never remove any kickback device.
- Always read the manufacturer's owners manual for operating instructions and safety information.
- Start the chainsaw on the ground or other place where it is firmly supported.
- Make sure the chain brake is engaged when you start the chainsaw.
- Hold the chainsaw with both hands while cutting.
- Never overreach, cut above shoulder height or cut directly over your head.

- Keep your work area clear of people and clutter.
- Never operate a malfunctioning chainsaw.

Refueling a chainsaw can also be dangerous. Here are some safety tips on refueling to prevent an accident or injury from occurring:

- Check the fuel line, tank cap and all connections for leaks.
- Allow the chainsaw to cool for two or three minutes before attempting to refuel.
- Use the correct fuel/oil mixture recommended by the manufacturer of your chainsaw.
- Do not smoke during refueling.
- Clean up any spilled fuel from the motor.
- Always refuel at least ten feet from any open flame and start the chainsaw at least ten feet from the refueling area.

Using any tool can pose a safety risk, and chainsaws are no exception. Before you begin any project involving a chainsaw, whether it's work or play, be sure your saw is in good working condition, you have a plan for your project, and you've followed all of the necessary safety precautions. Remember, when it comes to chainsaw operation, Safety First! **SBC**

To pose a question for this column or to learn more about WTCA's Operation Safety Program, contact WTCA Staff at 608/274-4849, email [wtca@sbcindustry.com](mailto:wtca@sbcindustry.com), or view the Operation Safety demonstration online at [www.wtcalco.com](http://www.wtcalco.com).

**WOOD GRINDING AT ITS BEST**  
Customized Solutions for your Application

With **WEIMA**, get the correct solution the **FIRST** time!

**WEIMA America, Inc.**  
3678 Center Circle, Fort Mill, SC 29715  
Phone 803-802-7170 Fax 803-802-7098  
[www.weimaamerica.com](http://www.weimaamerica.com)  
[info@weimaamerica.com](mailto:info@weimaamerica.com)

**Advanced Technology for Size Reduction**

For reader service, go to [www.sbcmag.info/weima.htm](http://www.sbcmag.info/weima.htm)

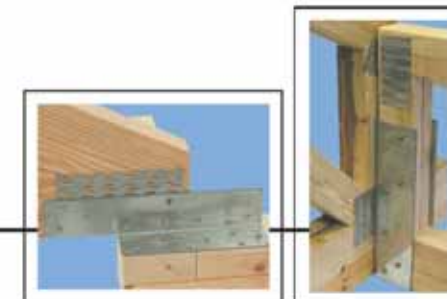
### at a glance

- Chainsaws are powerful; according to Lowe's, "you won't find a tool with more power per inch."
- Chainsaws were designed to cut only wood, so make sure that all other objects are cleared from the area before using them.
- Always use the proper personal protective equipment (PPE) when operating a chainsaw.

## Whether You're in the Classroom, Designing a Roof/Floor System, or on the Jobsite, Rely on the Experts at USP.



- Integrated in leading Truss/EWP Design software programs.
- Quality Products, Nationwide Availability, Superior Value.
- Extensive Product Testing, Dedicated Engineering and Field Support.



For further product information call 1-800-328-5934 or visit [www.USPconnectors.com](http://www.USPconnectors.com)

For reader service, go to [www.sbcmag.info/usp.htm](http://www.sbcmag.info/usp.htm)



# Bcmc 2006

## Attendee Networking Offers Hidden Value

by Stephanie Watrud

Don't overlook the take-home value of networking with your peers at BCMC!

Whether you are expanding your business, developing an existing one, or reaffirming current practices, BCMC has all of the equipment and information you will need to succeed in one location. But while exhibitors offer ideas to improve production flow in your plant, there is hidden value in communicating with fellow component manufacturers. In fact, networking with your peers may just be the single most under-rated perk of attending the BCMC show. According to a recent survey of component manufacturers, 38 percent of respondents indicated the primary reason they attend BCMC is to exchange ideas with other manufacturers. That's proof that there's a lot to be gained from communicating with other component manufacturers and trading perspectives.

At the show, you'll be able to spend uninterrupted time in sessions presented by fellow manufacturers. Each session is tailored to a specific issue, with the intention of giving you ideas to bring home. "Ideas are taken back to our team, and then we work through some of the better ones to determine how they could be implemented. Obviously, as with everyone, we change each idea a bit to better suit what we are doing," said Steven Johnson of Nelson Truss, Inc. Some ideas are taken back and implemented immediately while others are slated as long-term goals for which to strive.

While attendees find take-home value on the show floor and at sessions, learning from other component manufacturers is just as valuable. "Everyone does something a little better," said David Baird of Homestead Building Systems, Inc. "I try to take away one idea [from a discussion at the show] that we can implement into our process."

Some manufacturers attend the show in search of specific advice from their peers. Donnie Hostetler of Kropf Lumber Inc. said, "We are just starting to expand our business, so which piece of equipment is the most appropriate for us is a question that we bounce off many other manufacturers. This has really helped narrow down our options to making a good choice." This example shows the true value of networking.

Exchanging information about design and software issues is another area that attracts manufacturers to BCMC. "We have changed our cutting and layout process in our wall panel division and modified how we present sealed drawings to customers," said Jim Humbert of Advantage Framing Systems Inc, noting the inspiration he received from fellow manufacturers at the show.

It is evident that BCMC provides great take home value in virtually all areas of component manufacturing. "I have gotten ideas for software programming tools from discussions with other manufacturers at BCMC and have also brought back material handling ideas," said John Piercefield of Piercefield Corporation, Inc.

With discussions, seminars, tours and hundreds of other manufacturers to exchange ideas with, BCMC is the best place to network. Be sure to attend October 4-6, in Houston, where the show will be *Bigger and Better in Texas!* **SBC**

For more details and registration information, visit [www.bcmshow.com](http://www.bcmshow.com).

### at a glance

- 38 percent of survey respondents indicated they attend BCMC to exchange ideas with other manufacturers.
- Many manufacturers take ideas from BCMC home and determine how they can be implemented.

PLEASE TAKE NOTE: This is a change in venue.

# BCMC 2006 ★ OCTOBER 4-6 ★ HOUSTON, TEXAS

## BIGGER & BETTER in Texas

BCMC 2006 ★ OCTOBER 4-6 ★ HOUSTON, TX

Dear BCMC Attendees & Exhibitors:

As you may have heard, due to unforeseen circumstances, the 2006 Building Component Manufacturers Conference (BCMC) will be moving from Fort Worth, Texas to **Houston, Texas**. **The show dates will remain the same: October 4 - 6, 2006.** We want to assure you that this decision was not made lightly. It was made with much deliberation between WTCA's Executive Committee, the BCMC Committee and BCMC staff.

Since November of 2005, two of our contracted hotels in Fort Worth closed for renovations and another hotel closed one of its two towers. This represented a loss of important room nights that we needed near the convention center. In order to meet the needs of our attendees, BCMC staff investigated all possible alternative rooms that we could in the downtown area but found that under the best case scenario it would still be necessary to use hotels in locations 5 to 10 miles from the convention center. The distance between these hotels and the convention center would require the use of a shuttle process, with an expected commute of 20 minutes during non-rush hour times.

This made us ask the question, "Where do we go from here and will moving to another location be more likely to maintain the excellent reputation BCMC has established for networking with peers, strengthening current client relationships and establishing new ones?" After researching all possible venues that could accommodate our show on such short notice, and wanting to be able to keep our theme of Bigger and Better in Texas if at all possible, we found that Houston was an option and it has turned into an excellent alternative to Fort Worth.

We appreciate everything the Fort Worth Convention and Visitors Bureau and the City of Fort Worth have done for us to try to accommodate our show, but ultimately we have decided that it is in the best interest of our attendees, exhibitors and industry that we relocate this year's show to the George R. Brown Convention Center in Houston.

With over 257,000 square feet of exhibit space at the convention center, nine show offices that overlook the show floor, and sufficient contracted rooms at the Hyatt and Hilton hotels in downtown Houston and many alternatives for plant tours, we are confident this year's show will be Bigger and Better in Texas!

If you have further questions, please contact Jill Zimmerman, [jjzimmerman@qualtim.com](mailto:jjzimmerman@qualtim.com) (608/213-3314), Stephanie Watrud, [swatrud@qualtim.com](mailto:swatrud@qualtim.com) (608/310-6721) or Peg Pichette, [ppichette@qualtim.com](mailto:ppichette@qualtim.com) (608/239-2608).

Best regards,

Don Groom  
2006 WTCA President

Doug Folker  
2006 BCMC Chair

BUILDING COMPONENT MANUFACTURERS CONFERENCE 6300 Enterprise Lane, Madison, MO 64080  
608/268-1161 ext. 9 ★ 608/274-3329 fax ★ [www.bcmshow.com](http://www.bcmshow.com) ★ [info@bcmshow.com](mailto:info@bcmshow.com)

### Register online!

[www.bcmshow.com](http://www.bcmshow.com) ★



★ 608/268-1161, ext. 9





# Wtca Update

## BCSI Updates for 2006

by WTCA Staff

Big changes are in store for the industry's handling, installing and bracing guide, BCSI, especially in the sections pertaining to temporary and permanent bracing.

More than 53,600 copies of the BCSI 1-03 booklet have sold since its first printing in fall 2003. The BCSI booklet and the B-Series summary sheets have become a mainstay for the jobsite packages of most component manufacturers. In addition, many construction industry professionals rely on this publication as the premiere source for handling, installing and bracing information for building components on the jobsite. Most building codes, standards and guidelines of this nature are revised and improved on a continual basis and the BCSI booklet is no exception. Last year the WTCA Engineering & Technology Committee (E&T) made the decision to update the BCSI booklet for 2006.

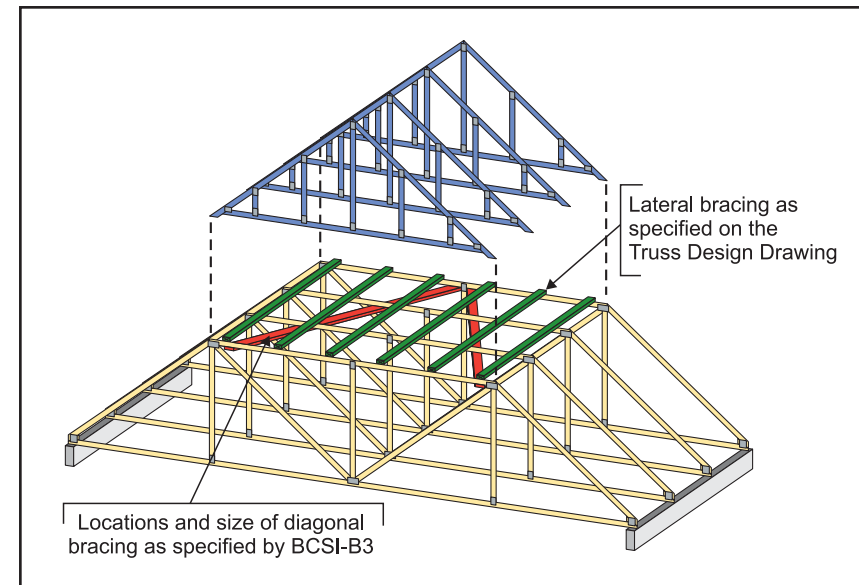
The plan is to complete the booklet revisions first and then develop new editions of the individual B-Series summary sheets. The revised booklet is slated to be available in summer 2006 and the summary sheets by fall 2006.

The most noticeable change to the booklet will be its size. Customer feedback has prompted it to be reformatted into an 8.5x11-inch size with a three-hole punch, while retaining the spiral bound pages.

From a content perspective, the changes are much more striking. The most extensive changes will occur in B2 and B3, on temporary and permanent bracing respectively. The B2 section will incorporate new information for handling truss bundles and delivering them to the plate line, hoisting and crane equipment, assembling field spliced and multi-piece trusses, and bracing of hip systems.

The B3 section is being expanded to become a comprehensive permanent bracing guide for the proper bracing of a series of side-by-side trusses with either similar or highly different web configurations. (The current version focuses on bracing for compression web members.) The plan is to provide standard industry permanent bracing details for lateral/diagonal bracing systems for webs, chords, gable end frames and piggy backs, to name a few. This may seem a drastic departure from the traditional industry position that truss manufacturers supply individual components, not systems of trusses for a roof or floor, and therefore are not responsible for permanent bracing systems design. In fact, that position still holds true, but it does not preclude the truss industry from providing building designers a starting point from which to base their permanent truss system bracing design. To that end, members of E&T have been collecting and reviewing CAD format bracing details from a wide variety of sources—engineers at truss manufacturing plants, at plate manufacturing companies and from independent building designers. The key details will be included in B3 and all the details we receive will be available for download on the Structural Details for CAD web page on the WTCA site (see **Support Docs** at [www.sbcmag.info](http://www.sbcmag.info) for a quick link).

This new perspective was developed when WTCA worked with the National Council of Structural Engineers Association (NCSEA) on a code change proposal for the IBC 2006. The topic of permanent bracing design has long been an area of concern between the two groups, and both parties wanted a smoother approach to design and responsibility. The resulting code change, S-165, was approved by the ICC in September 2005. (View this code change and others in **Support Docs**



Piggyback bracing is one example of the standard details that will be provided in the 2006 version of BCSI.

at [www.sbcmag.info](http://www.sbcmag.info).) This change draws attention to the necessity of proper permanent bracing design of trusses and permits the use of "standard industry bracing details that conform with generally accepted engineering practice" for permanent bracing design. The agreement is that WTCA will provide the standard industry bracing details in the next revision of BCSI and also on its web site for download. The building designer remains responsible for determining the suitability of the details to any particular project, but B3 will give them a head start on specifying wood truss bracing details with the assurance that the truss industry has approved them in concept.

Stay tuned for the next version of BCSI! For more information on the availability of this document, visit [www.sbcindustry.com](http://www.sbcindustry.com). **SBC**

## New WTCA Members

**Acadiana Building Components, LLC**  
218 S Cushing  
Kaplan, LA 70548  
318/219-2677  
Mr. Al Cannon

**Bison Building Materials**  
4500 N Tenaya Way  
Las Vegas, NV 89129  
702/320-5340  
Mr. Kasey Hansen

**Deer Valley Components**  
PO Box 71310  
Phoenix, AZ 85050-1006  
602/445-4000  
Mr. Brandon Hartman  
Sponsor: Mr. Keith Azlin

**Eminkay Trusses & Components**  
6871 Kings Ave W Ste A  
Billings, MT 59106  
406/651-5700  
Mr. Michael Jorgensen

**Leopoldo Osiris Chavez-Duran**  
528 W McMurray Blvd  
Casa Grande, AZ 85222  
520/426-9771  
Mr. Leopoldo O. Chavez-Duran

**Liberty Building Products LLC**  
PO Box 777  
Grove Hill, AL 36451-0777  
251/275-8666  
Mr. Brian Raybon

**Longhorn Truss LLC**  
2469 US Hwy 77  
Lott, TX 76656-3502  
254/584-2469  
Mr. Chris Troyer  
Sponsor: Mr. Thomas F. Whatley, II

**Trussworks**  
75110 St Charles Pl Ste 11-A  
Palm Desert, CA 92211-9067  
760/341-2232  
Mr. Jeff Larsen

For more information about WTCA membership, contact Anna (608/310-6719 or [astamm@quallim.com](mailto:astamm@quallim.com)) or visit [www.sbcindustry.com](http://www.sbcindustry.com). Listing as of April 7, 2006.

## WTCA Board of Directors

### Officers & Executive Committee Reps.

- **President:** Donald Groom • Stark Truss Co., Inc. • 330/478-2100 • [don.groom@starktruss.com](mailto:don.groom@starktruss.com)
- **President Elect/Treasurer:** Barry E. Dixon • True House, Inc. dba True Truss • 904/757-7500 • [barry@truehouse.com](mailto:barry@truehouse.com)
- **Secretary:** Robert J. Becht • Chambers Truss, Inc. • 772/465-2012 • [bob@chamberstruss.com](mailto:bob@chamberstruss.com)
- **Past President:** Kendall Hoyd • Idaho Truss & Component Co. • 208/888-5200 • [kendallh@idahotruss.com](mailto:kendallh@idahotruss.com)
- **Kenneth M. Cloyd** • California Truss Co. • 909/657-7491 • [kenc@caltruss.com](mailto:kenc@caltruss.com)
- **Dwight Hikel** • Shelter Systems Limited • 410/876-3900 • [dwright@sheltersystems.com](mailto:dwright@sheltersystems.com)
- **Frank B. Klinger** • Mid-Valley Truss & Door Co. • 956/428-7090 • [lfctfbk@aol.com](mailto:lfctfbk@aol.com)

### At-Large Representatives

- **Dean DeHoog** • Trussway - Central • 616/887-8264
- **Allen Erickson** • Cal-Asia Truss • 925/680-7701
- **Ben Hershey** • Alliance TruTruss, LLC • 602/252-1772
- **David Horne** • Universal Forest Products, Inc. • 800/476-9356
- **John A. Smith** • Foxworth-Galbraith Lumber Co. • 972/437-6100
- **Steven A. Spradlin** • Capital Structures Inc. • 479/783-8666
- **Mike Walsh** • Stock Components • 919/431-1000

### Directors Representing Chapters

- **Keith Azlin** • U.S. Components, LLC • 520/882-3709
- **Bruce J. Bain** • Richco Structures • 920/336-9400
- **Michael Balliet, Jr.** • Bama Truss & Components • 205/669-4188
- **Priscilla J. Becht** • Chambers Truss, Inc. • 772/465-2012
- **Rick Cashman** • Florida Forest Products • 727/585-2067
- **Mark A. Casp** • Casmin, Inc. • 352/343-0680
- **David A. Denoncourt** • Tibo Lumber Truss Manufacturers • 603/796-2974
- **Jack Dermer** • American Truss Systems, Inc. • 281/442-4584
- **Simon Evans** • Bay Truss Inc. • 510/232-0937
- **James C. Finkenhoefler** • Truss Systems, Inc. • 770/787-8715
- **Joseph D. Hikel** • Shelter Systems Limited • 410/876-3900
- **John Hogan** • Vivco Components • 816/449-2161
- **John Huck** • Home Lumber Company • 303/791-3715
- **David W. Hughes** • Oregon Truss • 503/581-8787
- **Michael Karceski** • Atlas Components, Inc. • 815/332-4904
- **Ted Kolanko, P.E.** • 84 Components • 615/287-0184
- **Chris Lambert** • Southeastern Materials, Inc. • 704/983-1144
- **Glenn McClendon** • Sun State Components, Inc. • 702/657-1889
- **David Motter, P.E.** • Tri-County Truss • 360/757-8500
- **Richard P. Parrino** • Plum Building Systems • 515/327-0698
- **Michael Redmon** • Carolina Truss Systems, Inc. • 843/875-0550
- **Mark H. Rose** • Manning Building Supplies, Inc. • 904/268-8225
- **Timothy Rouch** • Gang-Nail Truss Co., Inc. • 559/651-2121
- **Gary Sartor** • Stone Truss Company, Inc. • 760/967-6171
- **Steven L. Stroder** • Carter-Lee Building Components Inc. • 317/834-5380
- **James M. Swain** • Carpenter Contractors of America • 239/437-1100
- **Terry Tontarski** • Fabco - Tontarski, Inc. • 315/782-5283
- **Dave Walstad** • U.S. Components, Inc. • 609/518-9759
- **Scott Ward** • Southern Components, Inc. • 318/687-3330
- **Stephen Yoder** • Stark Truss Co., Inc. • 330/478-2100

### Associate Member Directors

- **Gary Dunn, P.E.** • Boise Building Solutions • 541/826-0200
- **Steve Hanek** • USP Structural Connectors • 507/364-5425
- **Charles C. Hoover, Jr., P.E.** • Alpine Engineered Products • 863/422-8685
- **Joe Kusar** • Tolleson Lumber Co., Inc. • 478/987-2105



# Code Connection

## Roof Truss-to-Wall Connection Requirements in the 2003 IRC

by WTCA Staff

Sometimes good intentions to solve a problem result in onerous requirements in the code. We'll take a look at one example and how to deal with it.

A provision has been added to the 2003 edition of the International Residential Code® (IRC) requiring roof trusses to be attached to the top plate(s) of load bearing walls with connectors capable of resisting an uplift of at least 175 lbs. More specifically, Section R802.10.5 states (in part):

Trusses shall be connected to wall plates by the use of approved connectors having a resistance to uplift of not less than 175 pounds (79.45 kg) and shall be installed in accordance with the manufacturer's specifications.

Here are the arguments used to justify the need for this provision:

- The "standard practice" of toe-nailing the truss to the top plate of the wall results in an inferior connection when compared to a "conventionally" framed roof.
- Toe-nailing can potentially cause splits in the bottom chord of the truss, thereby weakening the connection and compromising the stability of the truss.

Based on these arguments, Section R802.10.5 was adopted with the intention of ensuring "that the proper framing anchor is used for the truss-to-wall connection in order to maintain the same structural integrity as expected in a conventionally framed roof."

While Section R802.10.5 may be a well-intentioned effort to address a perceived problem, we believe it is an onerous requirement that causes unnecessary cost and confusion, and does not deal with all the design considerations required for truss to wall connections.

Truss Design Drawings are required in Section R802.10.1 of the IRC to include the applicable wind loads to which the truss has been designed as well as the magnitude and direction of the reaction force, if any, resulting from these loads. This information should be used to determine the connection requirements for attaching the truss at the bearing locations. The origin of the 175-lb requirement was not included with the supporting information when the language in Section R802.10.5 was proposed. It appears to be an arbitrary value with no apparent relation to actual design parameters. It may also be misinterpreted as limiting uplift resistance requirements to 175 lbs when a greater resistance is required.

Toe-nailing has long been recognized in building codes as an acceptable means of attaching wood members such as rafters and trusses to wood bearing walls to provide resistance to uplift and lateral forces. In order to maximize the strength of this type of connection, it is recommended that the nails be driven at an angle of approximately 30° with the member and held back from the end of the member by a distance of approximately one-third (1/3) the length of the nail (see Figure 1).

There are many applications and design conditions where a toe-nailed connection between the truss and top plate of the wall is sufficient to resist the required uplift forces. Section B8 of Building Component Safety Information (BCSI 1), which is referenced in Section R802.10.3 of the IRC, provides a summary table of the nominal uplift design capacities (i.e., load duration factor = 1.0) for 12 commonly used nail types in combination with the five most common species of wood used in

Continued on page 24

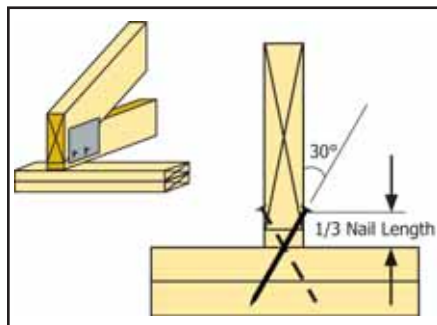


Figure 1.

### at a glance

- ☐ Toe-nailing has long been recognized in building codes as an acceptable means of attaching wood members to wood bearing walls.
- ☐ WTCA has submitted a code change proposal to the IRC regarding the truss-to-wall connection requirements.

# TECHNICAL NOTES

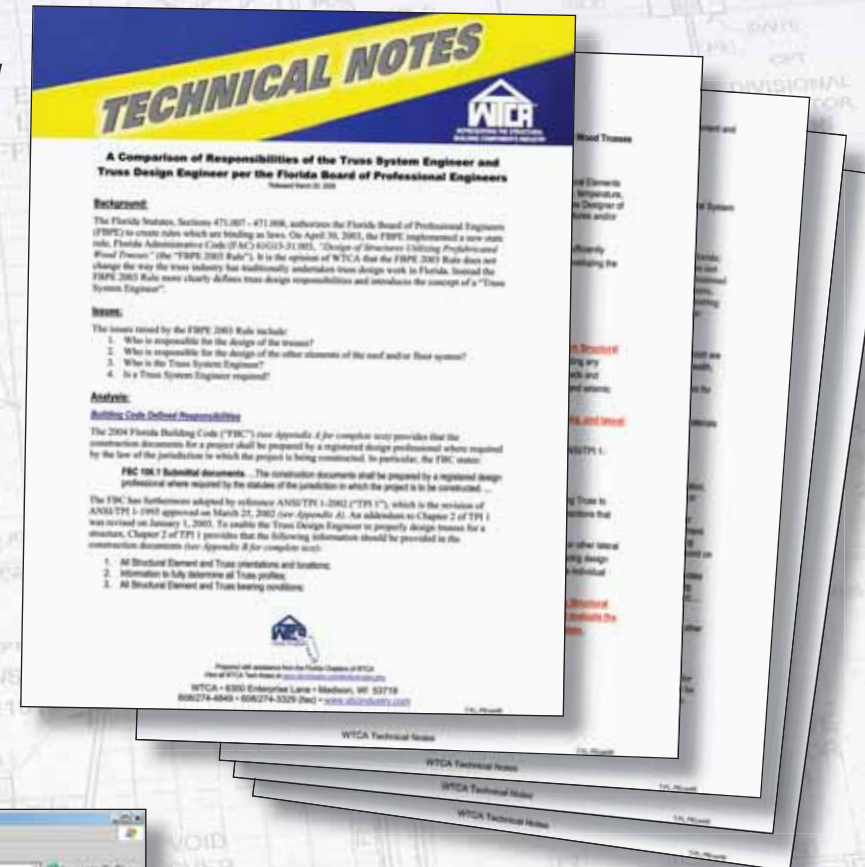


Clarify code issues and help educate your marketplace with *WTCA Technical Notes*. Developed in partnership with WTCA Chapters, *Tech Notes* address pertinent issues and offer position statements on some of the most frequently asked questions that component manufacturers face on a daily basis.

These peer-reviewed documents address critical issues such as:

- Continuous lateral bracing
- Seals and placement diagrams
- Jobsite handling and installation

Plus, *Tech Notes* are state-specific where applicable.



Use this valuable resource when working with:

- Builders
- Architects
- Building Officials
- Engineers

Visit [www.sbcindustry.com/technotes.php](http://www.sbcindustry.com/technotes.php) to view the available *Tech Notes* and check back often as many more drafts are finalized in the coming months!

## www.sbcindustry.com/technotes.php



**Versatile Performance**

**EAGLE**  
Your Trusted Source

1-800-521-3245      www.eaglemetal.com

For reader service, go to [www.sbcmag.info/eagle.htm](http://www.sbcmag.info/eagle.htm)

Nail Type	Maximum Uplift Resistance Capacity (lbs.)		
	2 toe-nails	3 toe-nails	4 toe-nails
16d Common	118	178	237
16d Box	99	149	198
12d Common	99	149	198
16d Gun Nail	96	144	192
12d Sinker	96	144	192
16d Sinker	93	139	186
10d Common	93	139	186
12d Box	86	130	173
12d Gun Nail	80	120	160
10d Box	80	120	160
10d Gun Nail	74	110	147
10d Sinker	70	106	141

Notes:  
 1. Toe-nail design values derived from NDS 1997 and NER-272.  
 2. For normal load duration multiply the values in the table by 0.63 and for snow load duration multiply the value in the table by 0.72.  
 3. Assumes a top plate of Spruce Pine Fir (SPF).  
 Per NDS 1997 12.4.1 edge distances, end distances and spacing shall be sufficient to prevent the splitting of the wood.

## Code Connection

Continued from page 22

construction in North America. The information provided in BCSI-B8 can be used to easily and quickly determine if a toe-nailed connection can provide sufficient uplift resistance. If the net uplift reaction exceeds the resistance that can be provided by a toe-nailed connection, a mechanical connector such as a framing anchor, hurricane tie or strap will be required.

WTCA has submitted the following code change proposal to the IRC regarding the truss-to-wall connection requirements:

**R802.10.5 Truss to wall connection.** Trusses shall be connected to wall plates by the use of approved connectors having a resistance to uplift of not less than 175 pounds (79.45 kg.) and shall be installed in accordance with the manufacturer's specifications. For roof assemblies subject to wind uplift pressures of 20 pounds per square foot (0.958 kN/m<sup>2</sup>) or greater, as established in Table R301.2(2), adjusted for height and exposure per Table R301.2(3), see section R802.11.

### R802.11 Roof tie-down.

**R802.11.1 Uplift resistance.** Roof assemblies which are subject to wind uplift pressures of 20 pounds per square foot (0.958 kN/m<sup>2</sup>) or greater shall have roof rafters or trusses attached to their supporting wall assemblies by connections capable of providing the resistance required in Table R802.11. Wind uplift pressures shall be determined using an effective wind area of 100 square feet (9.3m<sup>2</sup>) and Zone 1 in Table R301.2(2), as adjusted for height and exposure per Table R301.2(3).

**Exception:** For trusses designed per Section R802.10.1, the connections shall resist the uplift force, if any, specified on the Truss Design Drawing. In areas where the basic wind speeds do not exceed 90 mph, truss to wall connections shall be permitted to be in accordance with rafter connections per Table R602.3(1).

A continuous load path shall be provided to transmit the uplift forces from the rafter or truss ties to the foundation.

If this proposed change is accepted, it will not be incorporated into the IRC until the 2009 edition. In the meantime, WTCA will continue to advocate that truss-to-wall connections be determined based on the uplift reactions provided on the Truss Design Drawings, to ensure that these connections are adequate for the appropriate design conditions. **SBC**

For more information about how to get involved in the code process, contact WTCA staff at 608/274-4849 or [codes@sbcmag.com](mailto:codes@sbcmag.com).

## Next Edition of BCSI-B8: Toe-Nailing for Uplift Reactions

In an effort to make BCSI-B8 more "field friendly," WTCA has considered adding a simplified toe-nailed connection table that provides the maximum uplift resistance capacity for various multi-nail, toe-nailed connections assuming a duration of load for wind (i.e., LDF = 1.6) and a Spruce-Pine-Fir (SPF) top plate. This table could be used to quickly determine the adequacy of toe-nailed connections to resist uplift reactions due to wind loads. Assuming SPF for the top plate is conservative, since the nail withdrawal resistance in SPF is less than the nail withdrawal resistance in other commonly used species groups such as Douglas Fir-Larch, Southern Pine or Hem-Fir. If the uplift resistance capacity is desired for a different duration of load, it can easily be determined by multiplying the table value by the new LDF and dividing this product by 1.6.

The table at left is an example of how this information may be presented. For more information, please contact WTCA's Technical Department at 608/274-4849.



# Hundegger

**Defining our industry!**

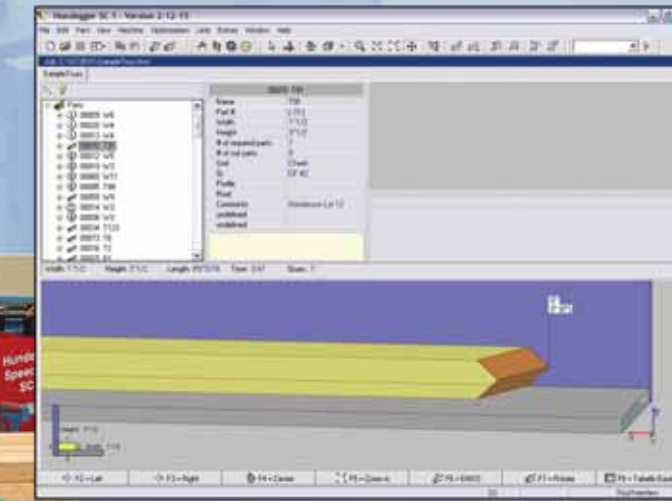


**Flex·i·ble:** flek'sə bəl  
*adjective*  
A ready capability to adapt to new, different, or changing requirements

Today's market requires the **flexibility** to handle bevel and compound cuts quickly and safely, not manually or at a stand alone unit. Hundegger offers the capability to adapt more than any other saw. Fabricators are buying the SC-1 because it is more **flexible**.

Hundegger's unique built-in angle and bevel control is cutting 3 custom cut packages a day instead of 1 every 3 days.

- 8 hours
  - 1 man
  - 3 custom cut packs
- Imagine what we can do with simple cuts!



**SC-1 screen shot**  
 Microsoft Windows XP based

### Hundegger's SC-1

Hundegger is also the only saw in the industry that can cut 4 boards at one time. With a 6" x 18" cutting envelope and a 26 3/4" diameter saw blade the SC-1 can cut four parts in the time of one. With Hundegger's optimizing program your operator will know how many boards he needs to stack. Whether it's 4 high, 3 high, 2 high or 1, Hundegger has more flexibility than any saw on the market. From standard truss components to I-joists...the leader in lineal saw technology offers flexibility to a rapidly changing industry.

**Hundegger USA LC - Defining our industry!**

Tel: 435-654-3028 • email: [info@hundeggerusa.com](mailto:info@hundeggerusa.com) • [www.hundeggerusa.com](http://www.hundeggerusa.com)





# Working for Your Workers

## Connecting the Dots: Truss Manufacturer to Family Home

by Sean D. Shields

Making the connection between manufacturing trusses and identifying what holds the roof above our heads may be the best solution to the industry's work force shortage.

In a recent survey of youth conducted by the respected Gallup organization, "teachers," "law enforcement" and "computer technology" were the three most popular responses when asked what field they wanted to work in when they grew up. Shockingly, "truss manufacturer" did not make the top ten. In fact, none of the children surveyed gave this as an answer.

It is easy to look on the surface and explain this by pointing out that almost all youth are surrounded by teachers who act as instructors and mentors, so this is a logical top choice for kids. Youth also see law enforcement in their local community, see them portrayed on television and in movies as protectors, and this also follows as something they would aspire to be. Finally, given the amount of technology that surround the youth of today, it isn't at all surprising that this profession is foremost on their minds.

However, following this logic, "truss fabricator" should also be near the top of their list because almost all of them live in a house or an apartment that relies on the components made by these manufacturers to provide protection and warmth from the elements. The biggest problem is that relatively few of them know about it.

The best long-term solution to begin addressing the work force shortage facing the industry is to draw the connection between the components you manufacture and the homes they live in. The best place to start is by raising awareness of your company and products within your local community. This approach also has intrinsic benefits, such as creating additional opportunities for you to increase local market share, and obtaining assistance for employee training—a key to retaining your work force—which may be available through your local work force and economic development boards.

"We believe firmly that if you give to your community and invest in education, it comes back to you," says Barry Dixon, True House. "We find that by being involved in the community, they become aware of who we are and they come to us both for our products and for employment."

True House has participated in builder trade shows and career expos for four years and with local community organizations for even longer. Through these shows they've raised their exposure not only to a wider group of builders, but also to students who are prospective employees that might otherwise never have heard of them. For their booth, they've built a small model home out of roof truss and wall panels, and they run a short three-minute video in the booth highlighting the products they manufacture.

Currently, True House is creating a dream home to raise money for a local charity, and they're shooting a commercial to highlight the employment opportunities available at their plant.

Builder trade shows and career expos are an extremely effective way to highlight the connection between, as well as the benefits of, structural building components in residential and commercial construction. Rick Parrino, Plum Building Systems, has been exhibiting at shows for six years. He's also been closely involved in the

Continued on page 28

# The Reality of Working Smarter, Not Harder is Here

Increasing production and quality on your wall panel line isn't a matter of adding labor; it's adding the right automation and using your valuable labor dollars elsewhere.

Viking's Wall Panel Assembly equipment, whether you choose our manual or our powered conveyors, offers walk through design, Panel-Pro event driven software, installation and training, unparalleled service and support, and our 30-year commitment to quality and customer satisfaction. Please contact us today to find out how we can help you work smarter, not harder, to achieve your business goals.

# VIKING

## WALL PANEL ASSEMBLY SYSTEM



Component Assembly



Squaring Station



Sheathing Bridge



Routing Bridge



Framing Station

**"No automation manufacturer drives more nails. VIKING. The Powerhouse of Automation."**



For more information, call us toll free today at:  
**1-800-328-2403**  
or visit [www.vikingeng.com](http://www.vikingeng.com)



5750 Main Street N.E. • Minneapolis, Minnesota 55432-5437 U.S.A.  
763-571-2400 • Fax: 763-571-7379  
e-mail: [sales@vikingeng.com](mailto:sales@vikingeng.com) Employee owned since 1981

©2005 Viking Engineering & Development, Inc. The Viking ship logo, is a registered trademark of Viking Engineering & Development, Inc.

For reader service, go to [www.sbcmag.info/adt.htm](http://www.sbcmag.info/adt.htm)

**S.T.A.R.**  
Stock Truss Roller for Accelerated Replacement  
**PROGRAM**

**KLAISSLER**  
1014 PROGRESS STREET  
MUSKOGEE, OK 74453  
PHONE: 918-687-4444  
WWW.KLAISSLER.COM

For reader service, go to [www.sbcmag.info/klaisler.htm](http://www.sbcmag.info/klaisler.htm)

**W T C A**

**Many Thanks to Our TTT  
Online Training Partners**

For details, contact  
WTCA at  
608/274-4849  
or visit  
[www.sbcindustry.com](http://www.sbcindustry.com).

**WTCA**

For reader service, go to [www.sbcmag.info/wtca.htm](http://www.sbcmag.info/wtca.htm)

### Working for Your Workers

Continued from page 26

educational outreach efforts of his chapter, the Iowa Truss Manufacturers Association (ITMA) in presentations to building and fire service officials.

"This outreach makes a difference. Our company is gaining name recognition, and as our company grows, our employees benefit from both more opportunities for advancement within the plant and additional training opportunities available through local grants," says Parrino.

Within the community, Plum is also active in raising money for local charities and has an ongoing agreement with Habitat for Humanity of Iowa to donate components. That work has earned them recognition locally and helped them get grant money for employee training. Not only does the money go toward production, design and safety education, but it also helps to fund personal growth seminars for Plum's employees.

Another company that has benefited from its relationship with the local community is Shelter Systems Limited. Through the help of their economic development board, they were able to get a Maryland state training grant to provide additional training for their employees. In addition to participating in trade shows to promote their company, they also open their doors and invite members of the community to use their facility for their meetings.

"The Chamber of Commerce holds its meetings in our board room, and other groups do too. We also give a number of plant tours each week, for customers, competitors and students, and let the facility speak for itself. It's a great marketing tool," says Dwight Hikel, Shelter Systems Limited.

By opening their doors to the public and seizing on opportunities to draw them in, Shelter Systems Limited exponentially increases the number of individuals aware of the quality of their products and workplace environment. This, in turn, is leading to additional business opportunities and more individuals seeking out employment with their company.

Shelter has also gone the extra mile in reaching out to its local community college by donating money to set up a scholarship with the company's name on it. It's a significant investment in creating recognition of the industry amongst individuals who will soon be looking for jobs. It also solidifies that connection between "truss manufacturer" and the house they grew up in. The scholarship was established within the last year, so only time will tell how many recipients come to work in the industry. **SBC**

*In the June/July issue, this column will explore how other component manufacturers have successfully built relationships with their local educational institutions and discovered a wealth of potential employees.*

**SAVE  
18%  
ON YOUR NEXT PROJECT**



[www.southernpine.com](http://www.southernpine.com)

504/443-4464 • FAX 504/443-6612

For reader service, go to [www.sbcmag.info/spc.htm](http://www.sbcmag.info/spc.htm)

**DISCOVER THE COST SAVINGS** when using Southern Pine, offering superior strength, stiffness, and plate-holding ability. The Southern Pine Council's new brochure *Southern Pine for Structural Components* details these savings using a direct design comparison between lumber species for a typical project. Request or download your free copy at [www.southernpine.com](http://www.southernpine.com), your source for the latest Southern Pine lumber information.

**SOUTHERN PINE: YOUR CHOICE FOR COMPONENTS**



# Human Faces

## SNCMA & SEASoN Work Together to Resolve Truss Design, Specification Issues

by Emmy Thorson-Hanson & Libby Maurer

A WTCA Chapter in one of the most highly regulated building markets forged a relationship that proved invaluable when design responsibilities and code issues surfaced.

**W**hen is membership in a chapter worth its weight in gold? When valuable relationships that benefit everyone involved are formed. And that's just what happened when the Southern Nevada Component Manufacturers Association (SNCMA) became involved with the Structural Engineers Association of Southern Nevada (SEASoN).

### Finding Common Ground

Smack dab in one of the country's hottest building markets, the manufacturers who make up SNCMA first connected with SEASoN over building code issues. Chapter President Glenn McClendon (Sun State Components, Inc.) says, "Codes brought us together. When everyone was adopting the codes, there were different interpretations. We all came together under the guidance of the Southern Nevada Homebuilders Association to reach an agreement. Out of that, SEASoN formed a truss committee." McClendon adds, "We all have a common goal, which is to build houses, and to do it right and conform to the codes."

**With greater understanding comes greater acceptance of trusses—something from which we could all stand to benefit.**

SNCMA's Bill Bolduc (A.C. Houston Lumber Company) and Rich Menge (Sun State Components, Inc.), both professional engineers who were also members of SEASoN, were immediately involved on this "truss committee" due to their familiarity with truss design and the engineering process. Menge suggested that the committee act as a liaison between the two groups and "bring issues to the table before they became problems," he recalls. Bolduc explains why it has been so important to be involved with SEASoN at the committee level: "Due to the highly regulatory environment in southern Nevada it is always in our best interest to work closely with the building designers."

Close ties to SEASoN have opened the channels of communication, giving the SNCMA and SEASoN a natural platform to discuss broader industry issues, questions and concerns. So when issues surrounding truss design and specification came to light many times over the last several years, the relationship paid off in spades.

### Understanding Uplift

Bolduc recalls one of the issues that surfaced was how to handle uplift reactions in truss design drawings. "There was a lot of confusion about it, and some building departments were asking the Engineers of Record to provide hold-downs to meet the uplift numbers listed on the truss designs," he says. "Some of the engineers thought that the numbers were excessive, and in some cases they were," says Bolduc. There was real confusion on how to specify drag loads and other lateral loads on trusses.

The committee developed some examples of how to specify drag loads on trusses that work for many common cases. On the uplift issue, they determined that uplift reactions could be reduced in many cases by using a "hybrid" wind analysis, a

blend of "components and cladding" and "main wind force-resisting system" wind loading. The committee is publishing a white paper that will provide educational information and recommendations on many of the issues that the committee addressed. WTCA staff also contributed to the review and edit of this white paper.

The challenges facing the two groups didn't end with uplift reactions and drag loads. Because design responsibilities were an ongoing issue, it's no surprise that the topic continued to surface at meetings. Clark County (which covers the Las Vegas area) has its own document that helps define design responsibilities, similar to WTCA/TPI 4-2002 for component manufacturers. Once again, the white paper will discuss this relationship and provide better exposure to WTCA/TPI 1-2002. The SEASoN white paper will help the local building design community better understand the relationship and responsibilities of all the parties involved.

SNCMA wasted no time in asking WTCA staff to assist in the review process. In addition to Bolduc and Menge, several staff members and legal counsel Kent Pagel reviewed the current work, providing feedback and adding language from WTCA/TPI 1 Chapter 2 so it was consistent with the state-of-the-art language. Before the formation of SEASoN's truss committee, "everyone was on a different page," Bolduc says. With the experience of working together over the last year, McClendon says the time and effort put forth was well worth it. "This [resulting document] will make life easier for everyone. When the different areas of responsibilities are clear cut from the start, you won't get to a certain point and realize they aren't clearly defined, and have to sort it out then," he says. Bolduc adds, "having a good working relationship with the building designers will continue to benefit all of us and result in less confusion and misunderstandings in the preparation of the truss designs for review."

### Conclusion

The benefits of establishing a relationship like that of SNCMA and SEASoN are many. Because southern Nevada is a highly regulatory environment, Bolduc says, "we are forced to work together. And in most cases we work well together and the result is a better built building." McClendon finds great value in the relationship from a communication perspective. "It's



**See the light and speed up productivity**

**Set up your jiggging at the speed of light**

- Job file batching → controlled work flow
- Detailed reporting → daily labor evaluation
- Simplified building → reduced labor training
- Increased accuracy → fewer call backs
- Reduced setup times → increased production
- Exact plate placement → TPI conformance

**See immediate gains in profit-producing performance**

**www.sl-laser.com**



**SL-LASER Systems** 8325-J Arrowridge Blvd., Charlotte, NC 28273  
Phone: 704-561-9990 Fax: 704-561-9994

For reader service, go to [www.sbcmag.info/sl-laser.htm](http://www.sbcmag.info/sl-laser.htm)

important because as new code changes come about, that line of communication is open now; we will be able to tackle issues before they become problems," he explains. "We learned a valuable lesson. By working together, those problems won't become issues again," he says.

And possibly the greatest gain of all, Bolduc says the alliance "will promote a better understanding and working relationship between the truss industry and engineers." With greater understanding comes greater acceptance of trusses—something from which we could all stand to benefit. **SBC**

*Do you have a story of teamwork, cooperation or overcoming challenging situations? Email your story idea to [editor@sbcmag.info](mailto:editor@sbcmag.info).*

### at a glance

- ❑ SNCMA joined forces with the Structural Engineers Association of Southern Nevada (SEASoN) by forming a truss committee within the engineers' group.
- ❑ Using teamwork, the two groups successfully resolved issues surrounding drag loads and uplift.
- ❑ Most recently, SNCMA and WTCA staff provided content for SEASoN's design responsibilities document based on language in WTCA/TPI 1 Chapter 2.



# Coast to Coast

## 50 out of 50



For the past seventeen years, Lakeside Trailer has been leading the way in the component trailer industry with innovative ideas to ensure your delivery operations remain efficient in today's competitive market. We know there is no such thing as a "small problem" when it comes to completing your contract with a builder. That is why Lakeside has perfected ways to reduce or eliminate your transportation concerns such as loading, off-loading and wide loads.



# LAKESIDE

**TRAILER MANUFACTURING, INC.**



## Tricky Design Job Showcases Pioneer Truss Company's Creativity

by Emily Patterson

### at a glance

- ❑ Imagine taking a horizontal slice of a hard-boiled egg and looking at it from the top. Now imagine designing roof trusses to fit on top of that shape and completing the job within budget.
- ❑ Pioneer came up with the idea of drawing the trusses first in CAD to represent the roof in true 3D.
- ❑ Paul Lenauer credited technology with making this project possible, while the project's architect credits structural building components with helping make his vision a reality.

Imagine taking a horizontal slice of a hard-boiled egg and looking at it from the top. Now imagine designing roof trusses to fit on top of that shape and completing the job within budget. Sound impossible? With most traditional truss design software, it may be. When this question was posed to the staff at Pioneer Truss Company in Owensville, MO, it sounded impossible to them at first. But for a company that "wants to be known as the company that can truss anything," the challenge was too good to pass by, said Chris Lenauer, Co-owner and Vice President of Sales at Pioneer. Or, as he summed it up, "If it's trussable, Pioneer can do it."

The company was tested to live up to those words last year when it received a prospective project from a local lumber yard. The job called for the design and manufacture of roof trusses for Di Zang Hall, a temple for the Mid-America Buddhist Association (MABA). The approximately 800-sq. ft. temple's design called for the roof trusses to form a half-egg shape with a pointed peak on top for electricals. "It wasn't necessarily a large structure, but it's a complicated structure," said Chris Lenauer.

## In Memoriam

Paul D. Lenauer, 42, Operations Manager and Co-owner of Pioneer Industries, LLC, passed away suddenly on October 24, 2005. He played a vital role in growing the company and made significant contributions to the Di Zang Hall project. *SBC* staff spoke with Paul during an initial phone interview for this article.



The roof's curved shape made designing the trusses using conventional design software extremely difficult.

An initial look at the structure's design showed that the roof's curved shape would make designing the trusses using conventional design software extremely difficult, if not impossible, because it wouldn't show the project in true 3D. "My first thought was, 'We don't want to be involved,'" joked Roger Campbell, the project's eventual designer. "Everything we fabricate has straight lines. This project has curves and arcs with different radiuses. Because there are so many calculations and the project is so out of the ordinary, I was concerned that errors would show up in the roof or there would be problems for those installing the trusses," he explained.

### A Shot in the Dark

With so many complexities, how did Pioneer come up with an accurate and competitive bid for the job? "We had no idea," said Chris Lenauer. "Pricing this project was sort of a shot in the dark because we'd never done it before," added Paul Lenauer, Pioneer's late Operations Manager (See "In Memoriam" above). Pioneer decided to use the total component square-footage cost (calculated by software) and add 50 percent to arrive at the bid price. The formula paid off and Pioneer won the bid. In fact, the company's bid came in so much lower than the competition that the customer asked Pioneer

to double check its bid. "We were literally half the cost of competitors in the area," said Chris Lenauer. Aside from helping Pioneer win the bid, the calculation proved accurate when the company fell within its budget for the project.

Once Pioneer won the bid, staff began tackling the job. The project posed a number of challenges from the beginning, explained Paul Lenauer. "A half moon above an entrance is one thing. That's an easy design because all the trusses are the same size and dimension. This project was much more difficult because the trusses that make up the oval shape are each a different dimension."

Pioneer's design consisted of four different types of trusses. The high peak in the roof was achieved by piggybacking a bottom and top truss (see figures 1 and 2 on page 36). A half-moon-shaped truss and an end truss then rounded out the roof's egg-like shape at the ends of the building (see figures 3 and 4 on page 37). The edges of the curve (the very top and bottom of the hard-boiled egg) would be completed by builders on the jobsite with dimensional lumber.

Not only did the job call for a complex roof design, the structure's oval shape also required that each truss in the roof

Continued on page 36



# PRECISION Equipment Mfg.

WWW.PRECISIONEQUIPMFG.COM



**Standards**  
40' - 48' - 53'



**Extendables**  
36x51, 40x55, 42x60, 46x64,  
50x70, 53x73, 53x80

**1-800-237-5161**



**Goosenecks**  
32' - 36' HD  
32' - 36' Ultra



**Customs**  
We will build any size  
or style you desire!

## Precision Equipment Mfg.

2727 1ST AVENUE NORTH • FARGO, NORTH DAKOTA 58102  
(701) 237-5161 • FAX (701) 280-0946 • SALES@PRECISIONEQUIPMFG.COM

For reader service, go to [www.sbcmag.info/precisionequipment.htm](http://www.sbcmag.info/precisionequipment.htm)

### Tricky Design Job...

Continued from page 37

### Architect's Perspective

Pioneer's staff says that communication—both with the architect and the outside CAD designer—played a major role in the project's success. "Roger had multiple conversations with the architect and CAD designer. He talked to these guys many, many times," said Tim Gooch, the main technician on the project. "What Roger designed, they ended up using."

The challenging nature of the project is echoed by the temple's architect, Lei-Hoo Mak of Mak Architects, Inc. "The challenges were both cultural and aesthetic; cultural in that

we're in the United States in the 21st century and aesthetic in what kind of architecture will fit the setting," he said. Nearly ten years ago, Mak designed MABA's meditation center—a project that also used component construction—which sits on the same property as Di Zang Hall.

Noting that the temple is under 1000 sq. ft., Mak said he tried to come up with something modern with an Eastern flavor. "This is a memorial building, what many people might call a mausoleum," he explained. Pointing out that the temple's concrete walls are more than 12 inches thick, Mak stressed that Di Zang Hall had to be designed and constructed to stand the tests of time: "This structure is permanent and durable."

Mak credits structural building components in helping make his vision a reality. "Trusses, cost-wise, make sense," he said. "Trusses' ability to give us flexibility from a design standpoint helped give us more of what we wanted on the project."

Campbell said he couldn't be happier that the architect and the customer were pleased with Pioneer's design and that there were no difficulties with installing the trusses on the jobsite. "I was very happy to learn that the job went well," he said. He commented that the project's many challenges tested his skills and taught him not to underestimate his abilities. "A lot of times you can do things you didn't think you could. You may think, 'I don't want to venture into that realm because it's outside of my experience.'"

### A Formula for Success

Pushing oneself to the next level has been a goal, and a major key to success, for

Pioneer. Since the Lenauer brothers, Chris, Paul and Matt, purchased it in 2000, sales have doubled and the company has grown from a 10-acre facility to a 33-acre facility. Noting that truss design has become increasingly more complex, Chris Lenauer says that he and his brothers made a conscious decision to invest in technology.

Part of that investment included linking communication between all of Pioneer's departments. "Everything is wireless, from design to pricing to the shop," says Chris Lenauer. He says that technology has helped transform Pioneer into a well-oiled machine that can dedicate more energy to cus-

Continued on page 40

## Commercial Machinery Fabricators, Inc. is Expanding its Manufacturing Facility

CMF Inc. is tripling its facility size to support increased sales. CMF Inc. has experienced a tremendous growth in its production demands in 2005 and now in 2006. The new facility will offer a showroom featuring a complete truss line for perspective customers to view THE STEALTH in action.

**CMF Inc. goal is to exceed today's industry standards** The President-Owner Edward Joseph takes into consideration customers production requirements; which include their need for higher production capabilities, lower equipment maintenance procedures and safety devices installed on the truss equipment for their employees awareness.

**CMF INC. PLEDGES TO CONTINUE TO BESTOW THE BEST IN CUSTOMER SERVICE.**



Timberfield has 16 Stealths in use everyday, we appreciate the dependability of the Stealths. We can't afford to miss delivery dates because of expensive breakdowns.....and we don't with **THE STEALTHS.**

Timberfield Roof Truss,-London, ON Canada

*Gord Moir*

"For us, Commercial Machinery Fabricators was there when we needed help the most. Our Roller Press went down and CMF came to our aid by taking a roller from their new roller press machine and put it into our machine, even though the machine was not one of theirs. After a fire at our plant, CMF was right there helping us out in a reasonable amount of time. Ed showed us how to beef up our existing equipment so we do not have as much down time. He knows how to beef them up. Thanks so much Ed Joseph for all you have helped our company with."

Rigidply Rafters, Inc. Richland, PA

*Marlin Horst*

"Commercial Machinery Fabricators, Inc. is a rare company in a industry that is full of inferior quality and inflated prices. With CMF Inc. you get equipment that will out last your employees at a truly competitive price. The first year we put the Stealth equipment in our shop we doubled our production with half the employees. Two years later we added to our existing line as well as adding a jack table and automatic stackers. When it comes to production equipment I rely on Ed and his staff at CMF Inc. to take me to the next level in this industry."

Wholesale Truss-Grand Junction, CO

*Sean Mitchell*

"Year after Year, stack after truss stack, CMF equipment stacks up the dollars".

Roberts & Dybdahl-Des Moines, IA

*Tom Lambertz*

**Customers Change the Way...  
We do business!!**

**Commercial Machinery  
Fabricators, Inc.**

16775 Industrial Parkway  
Lansing, MI 48906 Office:

(517) 323-1996

Fax: (517) 323-8939

website:

[www.cmfstealth.com](http://www.cmfstealth.com)



**PANELS PLUS**  
Building Technology into your Craftsmanship™

**Wall Panel Equipment and Accessories**  
\* Customer Service \* Quality \* Durability

\* Framers \* Sheathers \* Routers  
\* Panel Lifts \* Sub-Component Nailers

PANELS PLUS...  
*providing solutions for  
the wall panel industry.*

**Call today!** For detailed information call or e-mail on how we can:  
Build Technology into your Craftsmanship™

505 West Front Street, Albert Lea, MN 56007  
Toll Free: 866-726-7587  
Email: sales@panplus.com

PANELS PLUS an INNOVANCE™ co.  
Innovance Drive Performance™

www.panplus.com

For reader service, go to [www.sbcmag.info/panelsplus.htm](http://www.sbcmag.info/panelsplus.htm)



The architect's intention was a solid, modern building with an Eastern flavor. He credits trusses for the design flexibility he enjoyed in this project—one he is sure will stand the test of time.

### Tricky Design Job...

Continued from page 38

tomers' needs and providing timely service. "At least once a week, we contact customers and do takeoffs," he explained. "I've had customers tell me that we've delivered trusses to

them on a job before competitors have even responded to the initial quote."

Chris Lenauer says that, when he and his brothers first bought the company, they took a pragmatic look at the types of jobs the company was doing. In that examination, they determined how different kinds of jobs figured into the company's bottom line, and decided they needed to make some changes. The company made a conscious decision to work with some of the bigger builders in the state because it helps ensure a steady stream of work. "[The larger builders] build year round. They're just as strong in December as they are in April," he said.

While the brothers found job security and stability in their big builder customers, they also recognized the need to balance that work with other types of projects that could showcase Pioneer's full range of services as a truss manufacturer. Overall, Chris Lenauer says the company developed a formula to move forward and grow its business. "We diversified. I think you have to look at your sales like you look at your financials," he explained. Pioneer's formula aims to focus 80 percent of the company's business on residential jobs while the remaining 20 percent is dedicated to other projects.

Clearly, the Di Zang Hall project falls into the 20 percent "other projects" category, and Chris Lenauer says it's a fun type of job to show Pioneer's abilities. While he admits, "You wouldn't want to do jobs like that every day," because they demand extra time and can become costly, he says they're a good opportunity to step outside the mold. "Everyone sees you're capable of more than the typical cookie-cutter projects," he said.

Chris Lenauer says that the company's serious investment in technology clearly paid off with the Di Zang Hall project:

"This project wouldn't have been possible if we didn't have the technology—the CAD and the lasers—to get the job done right." Indeed, with technology, imagination and determination, it seems Pioneer has found its formula for success. **SBC**

# Read this closely. There's going to be a test.

**O.K., maybe not a test like what you think. But if you manufacture wood components, you WILL BE TESTED.**

Right now at least a thousand plants are cutting components with manual or "semi-automated" saws. Most are wondering whether they should bring in a fully automated saw. But what kind – a conventional automated component saw or one of the new linear feed automated saws? How much do they cost? Do they have the right kind and size operation? How in the world will they pay for it? Exactly what will it do for their production? Which manufacturer's saw should they go with? And, all critically, exactly how would it impact their bottom line?

**Those ARE the test questions.**

And, at some point, you'll almost certainly have to find the answers. Automation is here. And it is changing wood component manufacturing **dramatically.**

**We can help you find SOLID answers. All you have to do is provide us with some key information.**

If we knew what you produced last week and how many workers it took to do it, we could tell you exactly how long and how much labor it would take to accomplish the same thing with automation. That's what the Worksheet you see here is all about. You complete it – it doesn't take long – and we provide you with the "automated answers" for your plant.

**Yes, we manufacture the industry's leading automated saws. But if you think our every answer will point to your buying one, you're wrong.**

We no more want our Servo-Omni Component saw™ or our Miser™ linear-feed saw installed in a plant where it doesn't make good business sense than you do. We couldn't offer prospects our entire list of customers to talk to if we operated differently.

**Actual results can be startling.**

Customers report that their automated saw paid for itself – in labor savings alone – within 9 months. Others tell us within 12 to 18 months. But savings really go far deeper than labor – from much faster truss & panel assembly to some 6 to 8% less drop off – and can have just as much

impact. Not to mention the difference in finished-product quality ... and increased safety because manual pull saw and chop saw cutting is all but eliminated. All said, you'll be producing more product of higher quality in a much better work environment ... which will start showing up in your financial statements almost immediately.

**Call, E-mail, write or FAX for a Worksheet.**

We'll generate an evaluation for your plant – using your actual information – and send it back to you (please allow 2 weeks). It may not answer your every question. But it'll be a good start. And to maximize your business – even to remain competitive these days – you will ultimately have to find the answers.



**The only question is ... when?**

Call, E-mail, FAX, or Write for Your Worksheet




Automation that works.™

905 North Broadway • Rochester, MN 55906  
507-286-9209 • FAX 507-285-1730  
E-mail: [Omni@OmniSaw.com](mailto:Omni@OmniSaw.com)

# RAM EASYSIDER

## See why it is taking the industry by storm.

More than 75 Ram Easy Rider systems have been installed in just the last 18 months. One truss plant alone has 16 Easy Riders in everyday operation. Clearly, it is the most successful truss fabrication system ever introduced. Why? The answer is simple. Because you can build more trusses with less labor. Its unique distribution of workload keeps the manufacturing process smooth, efficient, and highly productive.

The AutoSet C4 is an exciting new addition to the complete line of available jiggging options. The C4 is an automated jiggging system with an innovative offset drive that keeps table slots clear and open to the floor for easier maintenance. 

See for yourself why the RAM Easy Rider is the component industry's leading trackless truss fabrication system. Call your Alpine representative to learn what the RAM Easy Rider can do for your production and ask for a copy of the video showing the Easy Rider in action.

 **EQUIPMENT**  
A Division of Alpine Engineered Products, Inc.

[www.alpineequip.com](http://www.alpineequip.com)



800-755-6005





## JOHN MEEKS: BRACING ACTIVIST

by Molly E. Butz

"If I have seen farther than others,  
it is because I was standing  
on the shoulders of giants."

—Isaac Newton

**J**ohn E. Meeks, P.E., has been called every name in the book—teacher, promoter, contributor, crusader, leader—and he's also one of the pioneers of the structural building components industry that has shaped the way we do business today. But don't be misguided because, even if you have read through his extensive résumé, what you'll find out about this classic southern gentleman is that, first and foremost, he's humble. And for John, humility and greatness have defined his career.

John's career path began after he completed his senior year of high school in Savannah, GA, in 1943. Like so many young men during that time, John joined the Navy and spent three quiet years doing radio/radar work. After attending Tulane University in New Orleans on the G.I. Bill, John graduated with a B.S. in Civil Engineering and married Beatrice, his lovely wife and a native of the city. Just a few years later, John and Beatrice started a family, and John left his post-graduate work in structural engineering to land his first job designing concrete, steel and wood framed commercial and industrial buildings for Albert M. Alexander in New Orleans.

Continued involvement in the concrete industry, which included working with pre-stressed concrete products (a fairly new concept at the time), eventually led John to his first entrepreneurial endeavor, W.R. Jones and John E. Meeks, Inc. in Baton Rouge, LA, a "design and build" company that opened in 1959. A bit ahead of his time, John's new business was responsible for the design and construction of numerous commercial and industrial buildings in the area. (Think "component manufacturer with an internal engineering staff.")

A move in the early 1960s prompted by family medical issues brought John to Florida. Here, once again, he worked in the concrete industry and, after a brief stint doing land surveying and subdivision engineering, John met Cal Jureit of Gang-Nail fame and owner of Automated Building Components, Inc. (See *SBC Magazine*, Sept/Oct 2005.) Initially, as Engineering Manager of the Multi-Structures Division at ABC, John was in charge of the design and construction of franchise chains that were popping up all around the country. "It was places like Bonanza and McDonald's," John said, "but we didn't do that for very long. We knew we

Continued on page 46

MY BUILDERS WOULDN'T CONSIDER GOING BACK  
TO SOLID-TOP TABLES.

# AND I COULDN'T AFFORD TO GO BACK.



MiTek Walk-Through<sup>®</sup>  
Roof Tracker<sup>®</sup>  
Slotted-Top Steel Tables



**Rick Patterson**  
Owner - P&M TRUSS, Inc.  
Isanti, MN • Since 1986

Approximately 60,000 trusses  
built last year

**"My bottom line performance goes up the more I keep my builders on the ground."**

With MiTek Walk-Through Tables<sup>®</sup>, trusses go together faster - without a lot of jumping on & off, kneeling & crawling, handing parts back & forth.

**"They make even more difference to my workers ... and their performance."**

Staying on the ground reduces the risk of trip & fall accidents and the certain risk of "wear & tear" injuries to back and knees. It also means less fatigue and a smoother build routine. Which all translates to reduced time and costs.

**"I really feel good about my table investment ... I collect a healthy return every day ... the kind I can actually see, nothing fuzzy about it."**

Pure performance ... from MiTek.

SEE FOR YOURSELF AT  
[www.mitek.com/walkthrough](http://www.mitek.com/walkthrough)



© 2006 MiTek<sup>®</sup> ALL RIGHTS RESERVED.

For reader service, go to [www.sbcmag.info/mitek.htm](http://www.sbcmag.info/mitek.htm)

### at a glance

- John Meeks began his post-military career in the commercial concrete industry.
- Meeks met Gang-Nail's Cal Jureit in Florida, and joined Automated Building Components, Inc. as the Engineering Manager in charge of building franchise chains.
- He became involved in truss design engineering at ABC, and also took an interest in bracing and installation while inspecting a truss collapse.
- Throughout his career and still today, Meeks has made his mark on the wood truss industry as a respected forensic engineer.



### You Don't Need a Crystal Ball to Predict Your Lumber's Design Value

Machine Stress Rated Lumber Has the Strength Stamped on Every Piece

Join the other building professionals who will specify over a billion board feet of MSR lumber this year. Contact us for more information.



P.O. Box 6402, Helena, MT 59604  
Phone: (888) 848-5339 • Fax: (888) 212-5110  
e-mail: msrlpc@msrlumber.org  
web page: msrlumber.org

For reader service, go to [www.sbcmag.info/msrlpc.htm](http://www.sbcmag.info/msrlpc.htm)



Strongest Truss Trailer  
130,000 PSI Steel  
One Piece Beam  
Lifetime Warranty  
Many Galvanized Parts  
Bigger Rollers

For pricing & ordering information feel free to contact us at:

PRATT Industries, Inc.  
2979 W. Bay Drive, Belleair Bluffs, FL 33770  
Phone: (727) 584-1414 • Fax: (727) 584-2323  
E-mail: [sales@prattinc.com](mailto:sales@prattinc.com)

[www.prattinc.com](http://www.prattinc.com)

For reader service, go to [www.sbcmag.info/pratt.htm](http://www.sbcmag.info/pratt.htm)

### John Meeks: Bracing Activist

Continued from page 44

weren't experts and we wanted to focus on other things."

This change in focus found John working as the Chief Structural Engineer at ABC, which made him responsible for providing wood truss engineering designs for roughly 200 truss fabricators throughout the U.S. Always passionate about engineering, John jumped into the structural building components industry with both feet. Over the next 13 years, John participated in and was Chairman of the Truss Plate Institute's Technical Advisory Committee (TPI TAC) and later served as the organization's president.

John was intimately involved in the evolution of the Metal Plate Connected Wood Truss design standard into what it is today and continues to actively participate in the project committee work as the industry develops its 2007 version of the standard. He was also very involved in working with TPI's former technical director Buddy Showalter, P.E., on two bracing-related documents: Design of Structural Bracing, DSB-89 and its summary sheet, HIB-91.

"I saw [John] in action with the Truss Plate Institute's TAC committee," says Steve Cabler, P.E. and Senior Vice President of Engineering and Technology Services for MiTek, Inc. "He brought to the table the best combination of technical abilities and practical experiences using realistic approaches. John contributed significantly in the area of permanent bracing issues and his work is the basis of much of the work the committee has been doing and will continue to do in the future."

John also wrote WTCA's "Commentary for Permanent Bracing of Metal Plate Connected Wood Trusses" publication. In addition, he was a member of numerous other industry organizations including WTCA, the Forest Products Society and APA - The Engineered Wood Association.

In 1979, Cal Jureit and the other stockholders, which included John, sold ABC. Shortly thereafter, he left ABC and opened his one-man consulting company, John E. Meeks, P.A. Consulting Engineer, in Fort Lauderdale, FL, where he is still doing consulting work today.

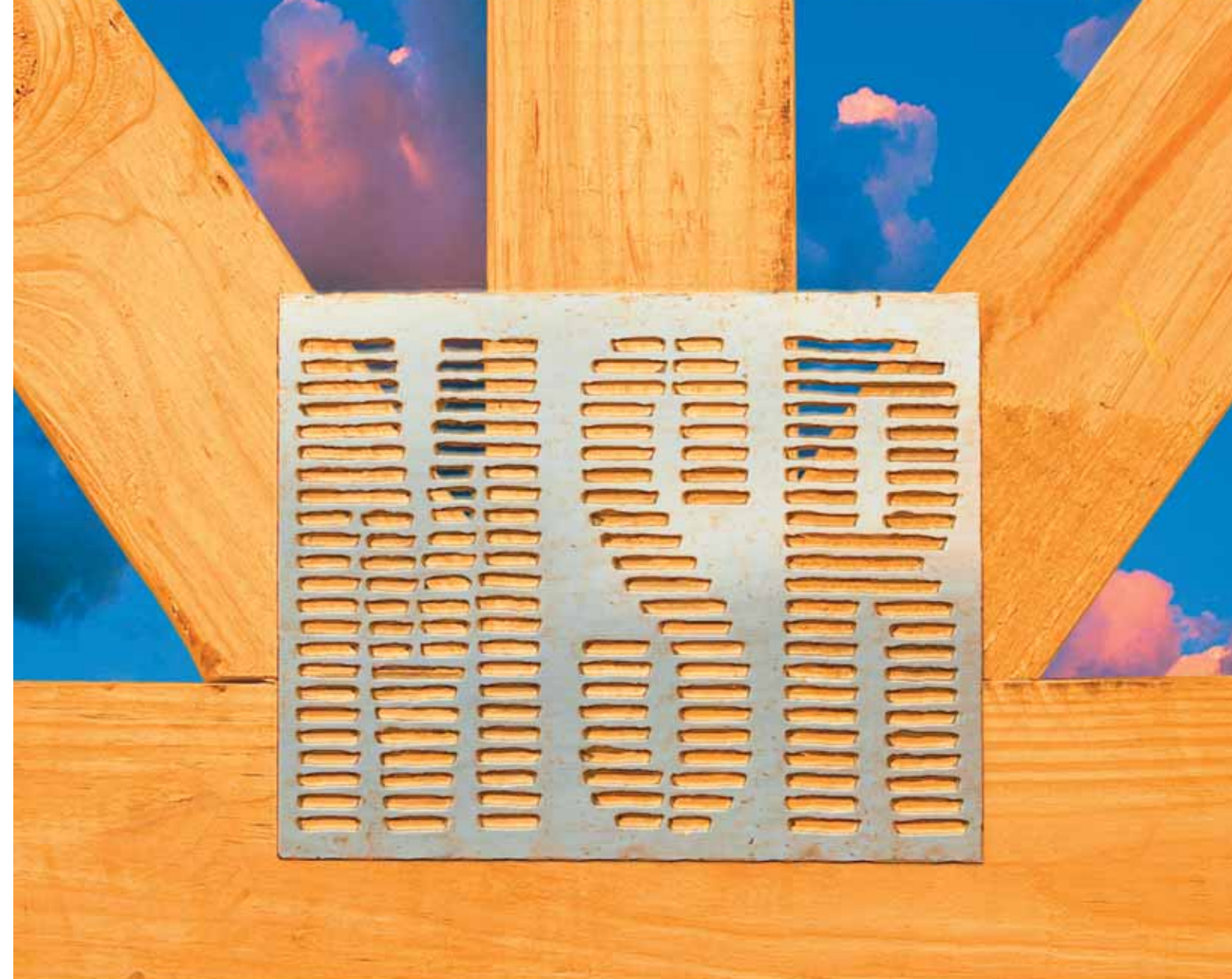
"Yes, I'm still working," John will tell you. "But I'm limiting it to forensic work, and only with the wood truss industry." With nearly 60 years of his career behind him, John is keenly aware that there is still a need in the structural building components industry for an ally. "When there is a problem," John says matter-of-factly, "I can help them solve it." And the rest of the industry is in total agreement.

"John is a fabulous expert witness," recalls Bob Becht, President of Chambers Truss Inc., who describes John as the most respected forensic engineer in South Florida. "I've seen cases dissolve because John was involved as an expert witness," Bob continued. "I've known John for at least 20 years, and what I remember most about John is his untiring defense of the truss industry."

Carlos Rionda, a fellow P.E., agrees. "John was the first industry engineer to concentrate on forensic truss analysis in collapses," Carlos recalls. "And he also developed many industry firsts in truss bracing during erection. Always a solid engineer and a good, ethical person, John has been a real contributor to the truss industry."

But having your career, even your life, described as a "truss bracing crusade" is no small feat. Even John (mostly seriously) refers to himself as the "grandfather of bracing." So what does it take to turn a Louisiana concrete buff into a truss bracing activist? Just one truss failure.

Continued on page 48



## How to engineer tighter precision into components.

**SOUTHERNPINE** Machine Stress-Rated (MSR) Lumber  
a Temple-Inland product



### Match known design specifications with tested mechanical properties.

Every truss you build is designed to deliver specific structural values. That's why Temple-Inland® is now delivering lumber with pre-tested mechanical grades. We're introducing our machine stress-rated (MSR) lumber in 2" x 4" through 2" x 8" dimensions and lengths of 8' to 20'. Initially offered with a tested value of 2400F-2.0E, our MSR products give you the precision to more efficiently match lumber with known properties to design specifications. Maximizing your performance, productivity and value. Meeting your expectations for quality and reliability that's earned us a reputation as experts inside and outside the bark for over 100 years. Ask about MSR today.

**Temple-Inland**

[www.templeinland.com](http://www.templeinland.com) | 800-231-6060 | SFI™ certified product

For reader service, go to [www.sbcmag.info/temple.htm](http://www.sbcmag.info/temple.htm)

©2006 TIN, Inc. Temple-Inland is a registered trademark of TIN, Inc.



# No C.D.L. Required



when pulled with one-ton truck

Starting at \$14,400.00

Stoll Trailers, Inc. Abbeville, SC (864) 446-2121  
www.stolltrailers.com

For reader service, go to [www.sbcmag.info/stoll.htm](http://www.sbcmag.info/stoll.htm)

## John Meeks: Bracing Activist

Continued from page 46

"We were in the process of constructing a new building for ABC," John told *SBC* staff. "We designed the trusses for the building, but we had an independent contractor working on the project. It was actually being erected right near the main offices for ABC headquarters. The trusses went up, and just as quickly it seemed, they came right back down."

As V.P. of Engineering at ABC, John was sent out to examine the jobsite and analyze the truss collapse. "I could see that I didn't know enough at the time to know why the trusses fell down," John says. And that was the beginning of the end. "It just hit me, and I thought 'Hey, this is awful. All they were trying to do is put trusses up. This is a major problem.'" Calls started trickling in from all over the country. "I realized this was happening all over. We were getting more and more sophisticated with the engineering and analysis of the trusses, but then we just turned them over to the builders and framers with no instructions!"

"How would you like to go to work every day and risk your life?" John asks. "Every time those guys moved around on the jobsite they were potentially risking their lives. That's not how it should be."

Since that day back at ABC, John has spent a lot of his time and energy improving safety and solving problems associated with truss installation. "I helped write the first bracing article in 1976," John recalls. "It was so important because it was the first time anyone tried to give any kind of guidance." That same document evolved into the "Green Sheet," which eventually became what we know as the BCSI B1 Summary Sheet.

Once bracing and installation issues were on the front burn-

er, John's career took off. On the jobsite, he always had a knack for which measurements, photos and information needed to be analyzed after an incident occurred. He's also known for building small scale models of the structure and trusses in question to use as an example. This was often his method for making the rather sophisticated topic of truss bracing and collapse a little easier to understand. "John is able to relate to the lay person," Steve Cabler adds. "He is proficient at making complex engineering theories understandable to anyone."

Dave Brakeman, P.E., S.E., and Vice President of Engineering at Alpine Engineered Products, Inc., recalls the impact that John's truss models often had on the jury. "John did a lot of forensic work," Dave says. "I remember a time that he needed to make the jury really understand how

important it was to use proper bracing. He built a model that looked a little like a hangman's gallows and he used rubber bands to squeeze the end of the model, which was in essence like applying a load. Then he took what appeared to be a paperclip he'd straightened out and he would use it to 'release' the bracing and the entire structure would collapse. It really made it clear how necessary it was to properly brace and how strong a structure could be, even under heavy loads, if the bracing was in place and installed correctly."

John is often asked to write a report or make his files available for review. And when push comes to shove, he gives expert testimony in court. "The plaintiff's attorney wants to talk to me," John explains, "and then the component manufacturer's attorney wants to talk to me and sometimes I even have meetings right here in my office. And then I have to explain what I do, and how I analyzed the situation."

Bob Becht notes that one of the best things about John is that he is "definitely not for sale." No matter which side of the case John is representing, "he always tells the truth." John has never been afraid to tell the builder, framer or component manufacturer that they are at fault. "Occasionally, I do have to tell the component manufacturer that he's wrong," John laments. "But it doesn't happen very often and it's getting rarer and rarer. And I won't help an architect or engineer that's only in it for the lawsuit; I only want to help people that are honestly having problems."

## Hurricane Season

Over the years, John's work has branched out beyond working with specific component manufacturers. He has participated in a multitude of seminars and written countless articles, reports and papers concerning issues that affect almost

everyone in the structural building components industry.

"Immediately after Hurricane Andrew came through the southeast in 1992, I called TPI," John remembers. "I could see that we were looking at a tremendous amount of damage and we needed written documentation. Every day, Mike Triche, a professor of wood engineering at the University of Alabama, and Ramon Riba, a professional engineer from TPI, would meet me at the grocery store and fill my truck with everything we could think of and head down to South Florida to our 'hurricane headquarters' located at the University of Miami." Each day was spent reviewing the hurricane damage and handing out supplies to the families in the area. "When we got to the university the next morning we compared notes and talked about what we saw," John continued.

"On one of our trips, we took big garbage bags loaded with toys that my neighborhood had collected," John relates. "That day I stopped at a multi-story complex for damage assessment. There were a lot of small children around and no power. Everyone was just hanging around and the mothers were keeping a small fire going so that they could cook to feed the children. I gave them a bag of toys and one woman was completely overcome with emotion. She said, 'They are bringing us all kinds of stuff down here, everything under the sun, but no one ever thought to bring us toys! Thank you so much!' That made my day," John recollects.

John, Mike and Ramon eventually pooled all of their information and co-authored a paper for TPI called "Performance of Metal Plate Connected Wood Truss Structures During Hurricane Andrew." This became just one in a library of articles and reports John has authored throughout the years.

Today, John continues to write about hurricanes and any other topic he deems necessary, and he's still protecting the men and women in our industry. Hesitant to rehash old forensic work and unlikely to bring up topics he hasn't thoroughly researched, John has set an example that anyone should be pleased to follow. "His roots go right back to the beginning of the industry," Steve Cabler says. As a matter of fact, even though he'll be celebrating his 80th birthday this month, there isn't anything holding John back and, oddly

COMPLETE INTEGRATION AND RELIABILITY.

# THE MITEK 20/20<sup>®</sup> SOFTWARE SUITE.



- Industry-leading stability and reliability
- Fully integrated to streamline your company's process from estimating to delivery
- Allows you to continuously enhance speed and accuracy where it matters most
- Now featuring our Automated Repair design tool!

[www.mii.com](http://www.mii.com)

**MiTek**  
POWER TO PERFORM.™

For reader service, go to [www.sbcmag.info/mitek.htm](http://www.sbcmag.info/mitek.htm)

enough, he's not the only one. "I've made a lot of friends over the years," John concludes, "and I know a lot of people that could have gotten out of the industry years ago; they could have retired...but they didn't. I don't know what it is, there's just something about this industry."

John E. Meeks, P.E., has been called every name in the book, but we've got just a little more name-calling to do. Even though we're guessing the name John likes the best is Grandpa, today we add to his list innovator, guardian and friend. Yes, there is just something about this industry and, John, we're glad you've been a part of it. Happy Birthday! **SBC**

# Automation

## straight talk

by Jerry Koskovich, P.E.

### Where to Start

Jerry recalls the 1984 conversation that spurred his interest in automation.

In March of 1973, I began a career path shift that led me into the wood roof truss industry. For ten years prior to that, my career had been in government working with building code enforcement as a plan check engineer with Los Angeles County and later as Director of Building and Safety with the City of Rochester, MN.

During those earlier times, the wood roof truss industry was just beginning to get a toehold in the western markets. I remember checking the designs of some of the first nail plate connected trusses that came into the LA area. Calculations were done long-hand with slide rules. I still have mine.

A lot of truss plant managers are so involved with the challenges of running the company and seeing to a million details, that they don't have the time to actually study and evaluate what is going on in the back room. That back room (aka, the production floor) is where the success or failure of the business is most likely to manifest itself.

All through the seventies I worked with numerous truss companies as a third party inspector and forensic engineer dealing with roof collapses and other misfortunes that can befall a building.

Ultimately, in 1979, we delivered our first manual component saw. A few years later, in 1984, after having installed another manual saw in Florida, the plant manager, Bill Sauder, stunned me with the question, "When are you going to do something with automation?"

Forgive me for sharing what sounds like a résumé. I'm really not looking for work. I'm trying to make a point. Sometimes you can be standing so close to the trees you can't see the forest! Bill helped me see what was going on in the industry, and the world, more clearly. The computer was having an impact!

Studies he had done during the previous year indicated that his manual component saws, which were the standard of the industry, were spending more time doing the manual set-ups than they were cutting wood. A year earlier they had averaged about 25 set-ups per shift, and by 1984, they were struggling with fifty or more. The next week I returned home, and we began the design of the first automated component saw.

In the years that have followed, the demand for chopped up roofs has become the

norm. So called "common trusses" are now uncommon!

While I haven't quizzed any manual saw owners about it lately, I believe I'm probably still safe in saying that doing 80 to 100 set-ups a shift on a manual saw is akin to running the four-minute mile. While there are some who can do it, it isn't the norm.

The point of all of the above (bet you thought I'd never get there), is that like my early experience, a lot of truss plant managers are so involved with the challenges of running the company and seeing to a million details, that they don't have the time to actually study and evaluate what is going on in the back room. That back room (aka, the production floor) is where the success or failure of the business is most likely to manifest itself.

If, for the moment, we assume that every truss plant is using a software package developed by one of the truss plate vendors, and we further assume that the design staff of the factory is competent, it may be reasonable to say that the efficiency of the average factory is no worse or better than its competition. Add to that, if the raw materials and labor costs for fabricating trusses is likewise on a pretty level playing field, it follows that the fabrication of trusses (or walls), is where the game is won or lost.

While I can say with certainty that I have been in factories that had outstanding crews, I can say with equal certainty, such workers are not the norm—the norm is the norm. I don't say this to disparage the average work force, but rather to emphasize that most work forces are truly average. Having said that, the challenge is how do you make an average work force exceptional? Or above average. There are at least two methods and I recommend them both.

Certainly, incentive programs are one of the most effective ways of boosting performance. I personally like this approach. It rewards employees for putting forth an extra effort. If you haven't worked on the production floor, give it a try. You'll have a greater appreciation for incentive programs and the people who can benefit from them.

Continued on page 52



### Certified Operation Safety Coordinators

- Steve Baker\***  
Plum Building Systems, Osceola, IA
- Jean Blackwood**  
TJ Truss Corp., Fort Pierce, FL
- Jerry Denny**  
Carter-Lee Lumber Co., Mooresville, IN
- Johnny Fuller\***  
Sun State Components, Inc., North Las Vegas, NV
- Leo Gandra\***  
Sun State Components of Northern Arizona, Inc.,  
Kingman, AZ
- Fred Gilbert**  
Jack Walters & Sons, Corp., Fairfield, IL
- David Hernikl**  
Walters Buildings, Allenton, WI
- Zak Lindell\***  
Manion Truss and Components, Superior, WI
- Gerald Macon\***  
Spenard Builders Supply, Anchorage, AK
- Tim Matteson**  
Sun State Components, Inc., Surprise, AZ
- Herbie McIntosh\***  
Eckman Lumber Company, Inc., Lehigh, PA
- David L. Meadows**  
Automated Structures, Inc., Ogden, UT
- Randall Nakaya**  
HPM Building Supply, Keaau, HI
- Jeff Olson**  
Walters Buildings, Allenton, WI
- David Swaney\***  
Spenard Builders Supply, Anchorage, AK
- Chad Sweitzer**  
Plum Building Systems, New Hampton, IA
- Michael Valentine\***  
Spenard Building Supply, Anchorage, AK
- Shane Weitzenkamp**  
Structural Component Systems, Inc., Boone, IA

As of May 1, 2006

\*Also Operation Safety Plant Certified.

For reader service, go to [www.sbcmag.info/wtca.htm](http://www.sbcmag.info/wtca.htm)

### at a glance

- Studies conducted on manual component saws, once the standard of the industry, found that operators were spending more time doing the manual set-ups than they were cutting wood.
- Almost anything you can automate will likely be an improvement over the manual production method you are currently using.
- The average saw operator will do three to four hundred set-ups per shift with an automated saw.
- It doesn't do any good to have a saw that sets up in seven seconds if it takes much longer than that to get the wood moving through the saw.

Getting in over your head?

- ADVERTISING/MARKETING
- GRAPHIC/WEB DESIGN
- ONLINE TRAINING

**QUALTIM**  
works for you.

www.qualtim.com • 608/217-3712

For reader service, go to [www.sbcmag.info/qualtim.htm](http://www.sbcmag.info/qualtim.htm)

### Automation Straight Talk

Continued from page 51

If your factory doesn't already have such a program, I strongly recommend you consider it. It'll improve production and you'll have a happier, more stable work force.

Of course the method most often mentioned when industries strive for more efficient production is automation. Fortunately in our industry, automated methods of doing the various functions of truss and wall production are becoming more available, and their use and acceptance more prevalent.

How and when does a component factory decide to automate? There are again at least two methods available to management. The first is the simplest for the plant without automated equipment. Just ask yourself if you want your company to grow and increase market share while improving your bottom line. If the answer is yes, then the next question is "what should I automate first?"

The point being, in this industry, most anything you can automate will likely be an improvement over the manual production method you are currently using—sometimes dramatically better! You'll be better off no matter what you do.

The other method leading to a decision to automate is to know and understand what you are currently doing in the various production processes. You'll want to look for the process that is causing the biggest bottleneck. In the average truss plant, cutting will usually take center stage.

As I noted above, the chopped up roof designs of today dictate that the number of set-ups on the component saw will nearly equal the piece count. Years of studying production reports generated by our machines shows that the piece

If you haven't worked on the production floor give it a try. You'll have a greater appreciation for incentive programs and the people who can benefit from them.

count per saw set-up will typically vary from one to five. Most of our newest machines are showing an average of four. However, recognize that an average is just that—an average—it's not a "mean" number.

You'll have to determine how many setups and pieces your current saws are producing on a per shift basis. In addition to that, you'll need to know how much and what is being processed on radial arm type saws. Once you have

these numbers at your disposal, you'll be able to determine how much benefit can be achieved by installing an automated saw.

A rule of thumb I've used in the past is about a three-to-one ratio (or more), or an automated component saw will typically produce about three times as much as its manual counterpart. This, of course, assumes that the chopped up roof designs predominate, as opposed to doing nothing but five hundred-foot long chicken houses.

Over the past decade, well maintained automated saws will do set-ups in times ranging from as few as ten seconds to as many as 30 seconds depending on what they're doing. For example, most automated saws will take more time when doing extremely short components and when doing bottom chords, since they must relocate the material conveyors (and in some instances the overhead hold down conveyors) in order to sequence the movement of the saw blades. In the past and even today a good average set-up time for most saws would be about twenty seconds for comparison purposes.

With that in mind, the average factory will do three to four hundred set-ups with an automated saw. The above-average user will often do five to six hundred set-ups. They achieve these elevated numbers through efficient material handling and sequencing the cutting list so as to minimize the required movements of the transport frame (moveable end of the saw) when going from one setup to the next. This later function is a technique that should generally be applied with any component saw regardless of its level of automation.

I mentioned earlier that 80 set-ups per shift for a manual saw would be considered quite good. Today we have automated saws that average seventy to eighty set-ups per hour! Since

piece counts are so low, the speed of set-up is critical in order to maintain total production at acceptable levels. In order to achieve the incredible number of set-ups per hour mentioned above, these saws must do the set-up, the operator must load the wood, then typically run an average of about four pieces, and finally go to the next set-up—all within about forty to fifty seconds total.

If the piece count per set-up goes up slightly, the total number of set-ups may fade slightly. The opposite is true if the piece count goes down. The thing to remember is that the automated saws don't necessarily process the wood any faster than the manual saws. Again, depending on what they are processing, the rate of thru-put will vary. You don't do 2x4s at the same rate as 2x12s.

Set-up speed, accuracy and reliability is what it's all about when it comes to automation. However, as I've said so often in the past, automated machines will likely make you change the way you do business. The key to getting the most production out of your automated saw is getting the wood to and from the saw. It doesn't do any good to have a saw that sets up in seven seconds if it takes much longer than that to get the wood moving through the saw. Make sure you make provisions for more pickers and most likely a live deck in front of your new saw.

With the above information, you should be able to begin evaluating your cutting system and seeing where an automated saw could improve your operation. Check with your favorite saw manufacturer as well, since if you can provide them with your factory's production data, the automated saw manufacturer may have a program that will spit out your projected payback.

With that in mind, beware of misleading statistics or production numbers presented by a machinery rep or numbers you might have seen in advertising or a show demo. I don't mean to imply that the rep or demo is dishonest, but rather that "all that glitters is not gold."

Remember, the salesperson always wants to show his machine in the best circumstances doing what it does best. What you have to decide is, "Does this information or demo truly represent what I need done," or is it a glitzy display

PRODUCE MORE. FASTER.

**BANDED-PACK**

Handling made simple...

- Simpler Storage
- Easier Counting
- Faster Picking
- Safer Handling

Available from all MiTek locations. Let us help you enhance your production performance today.

www.mitek.com

**MiTek**  
POWER TO PERFORM.™

For reader service, go to [www.sbcmag.info/mitek.htm](http://www.sbcmag.info/mitek.htm)

with little or no practical application in your factory?

Ask for production reports from users that demonstrate a history of efficient production over an extended period of time, rather than something that might be the result of a staged event. Get a list of users you can contact for an unvarnished assessment of all of the virtues and pitfalls of the machine. Don't assume!

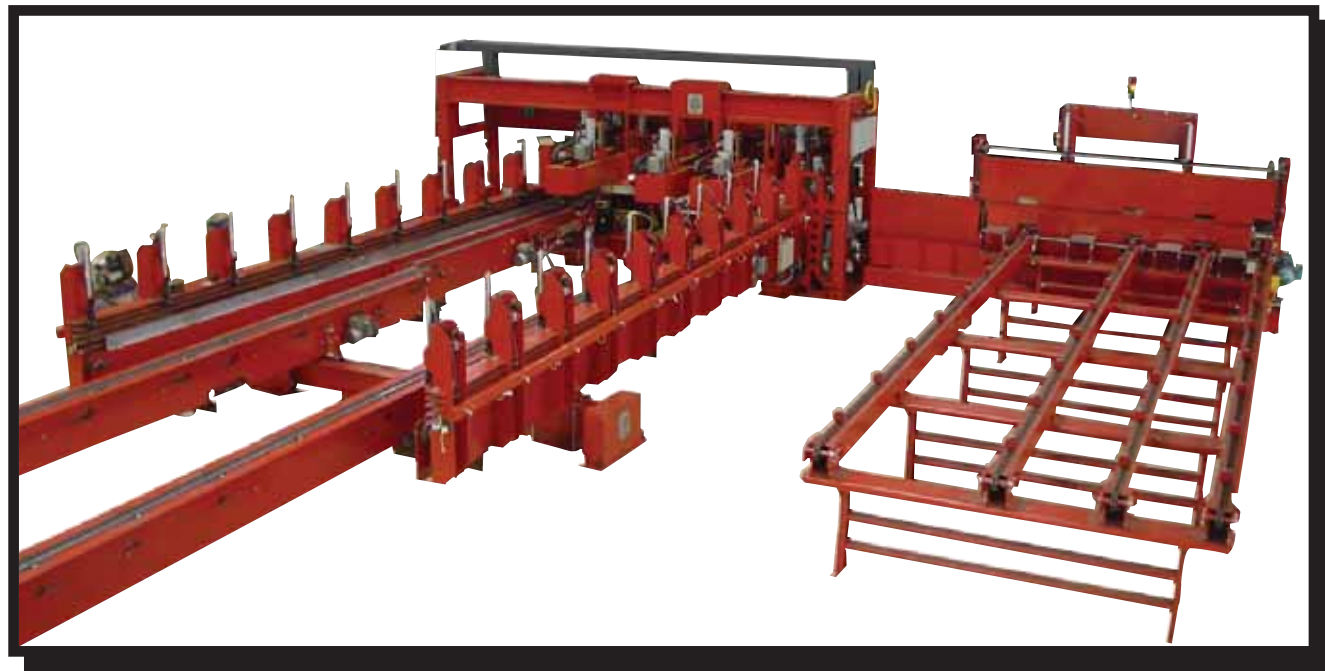
By this time you should be able to get a sense of what automation can do for you. If you're still interested, we'll talk more about payback in a future article. **SBC**

*Jerry Koskovich is President of The Koskovich Company in Rochester, MN.*

# Intelligent Building Systems: Intelligent Solutions

IBS continues to show its commitment to developing the very best wall panel equipment on the market. Anyone who has seen the IntelliFRAMER knows that nothing else can compare!

## IntelliFRAMER

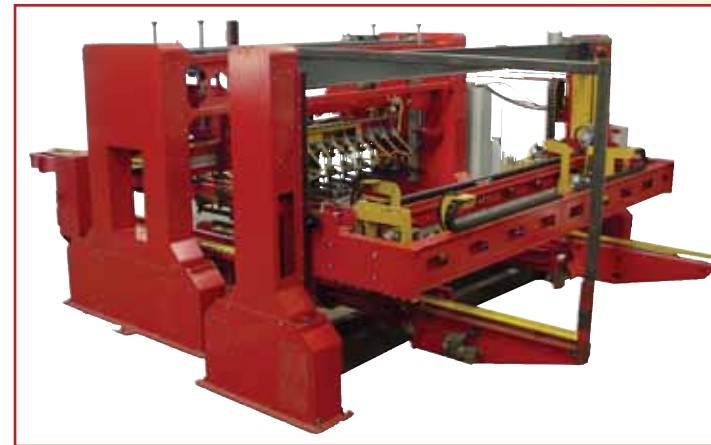


*The first COMPLETELY AUTOMATED framer on the market and the ONLY way to GUARANTEE PRODUCTION RATES!*

Automatic plate feed, consistent stud feeding, insertion of premade components and sub-components, plus guaranteed straight nail insertion all testify to Intelligent Building Systems' superior engineering and design. In addition, the IntelliFRAMER can be interfaced with Plant Net and driven by the IBS IntelliBuild™ software to ensure smooth and accurate assembly.

**KNOWLEDGE, COMMITMENT, GENUINE INNOVATION.**

## Intelligent *EQUIPMENT*



### IntelliSHEATHER with optional ROUTER:

- Indexes the panel under the guns while straightening the studs
- Secures sheathing at the studs and plates
- Tilts to prevent shiners
- Allows for stitch-spacing selections and adjusts for top plate
- Automatically routes openings according to software
- Allows for both nails and staples



### IntelliSTACKER:

- Stacks in a pattern determined by IntelliBuild™ software
- Interfaces with Plant Net
- Handles walls up to 16-0 long x 12-3 tall
- Handles interior and exterior panels
- Automatically retrieves the completed interior and exterior panels from a staging point

### IntelliSAW:

- Interfaces with Plant Net or can be operated in a stand-alone mode
- Automatically cuts in both directions
- Handles up to 4 x 10 sheets
- Allows use of scrap sheets
- Provides user-friendly controls
- Allows for .030" accuracy and repeatability

## Who can you trust with your wall panel needs?

By integrating innovative IntelliBuild™ software with cutting-edge equipment, IBS continues its commitment to developing the very best wall panel systems.

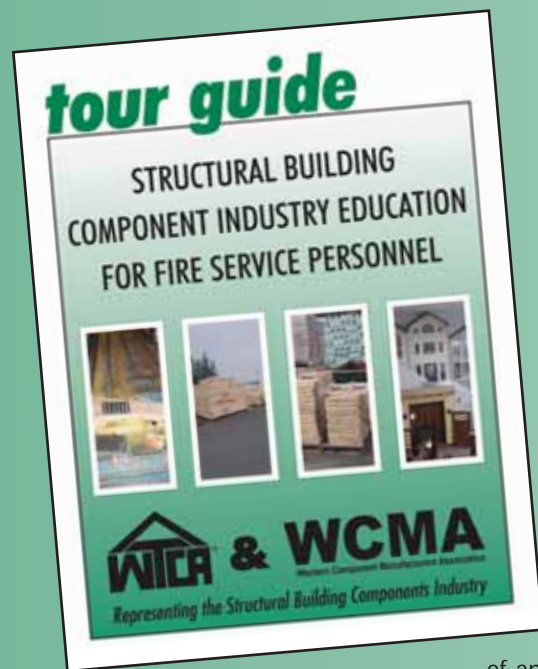


The Leader in Wall Panel  
Manufacturing Systems  
662.342.3434  
[www.intelbuildsys.com](http://www.intelbuildsys.com)

For reader service, go to [www.sbcmag.info/ibs.htm](http://www.sbcmag.info/ibs.htm)

# WCMA, BMC WEST HOST TOUR FOR fire service leadership

A photo recap by Libby Maurer



"Another fine example of the efforts WTCA continues to put forth in educating the manufacturer, building designer, general contractor, building official, and the fire service of the advantages of the component industry."

—Jeff Reynolds, BMC West

It's been said that a picture is worth a thousand words. On February 28, a plant tour for the some of the fire service's most instrumental and involved education/training curriculum developers helped tell the story of an industry that has historically been looked upon unfavorably by the firefighting community.

Together with WTCA staff, the Western Component Manufacturers Association (WCMA) met an American Forest and Paper Association (AF&PA) request to provide a truss plant tour for their Fire Service Awareness Tour. From there we planned the event and put together a package of materials to educate attendees about truss manufacturing. The goal of the tour was twofold:

- Bring to the fire service's attention the work WTCA has done to provide solid technical education on the fire performance of wood trusses.
- Hear their concerns about structural building components in modern building construction.

Gathering at BMC West's Sherwood, OR location, ten fire service representatives and ten members of the lumber industry toured the truss plant, EWP distribution center and the millwork shop to learn about how building components are designed, manufactured and shipped before being installed into a structure on the jobsite.



BMC West Truss Plant General Manager Steve Wethern welcomes the attendees.

"The entire team at BMC West was pleased to have been involved with this tour."

—Steve Wethern, BMC West

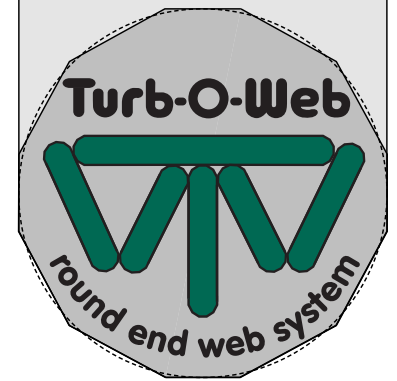


Members of the fire service (Dan Smits, Calumet City Fire Department; Ron Coleman; and Shane Ray, National Fallen Firefighters Foundation) participate in a challenge to pull a metal connector plate from wood members with pliers. Determined to show up his colleagues, Smits spent 20 minutes prying the teeth from the wood before claiming victory.

"The tour was a great way to better understand the truss product and more importantly to see the use of technology to maintain better quality control of their product."

—Dan Smits, Calumet City Fire Department

John Griffith  
**Turb-O-Web USA, Inc.**  
 Daytona Beach, Florida  
 Office 888 887 2693  
 Email: john@turb-o-web.com  
[www.turb-o-web.com](http://www.turb-o-web.com)



Patented in the U.S. and Canada

For reader service, go to [www.sbcmag.info/turb-o-web.htm](http://www.sbcmag.info/turb-o-web.htm)

Quick Delivery  
 Reliable Supply  
 Consistent Quality

MSR Inventory Available  
 in Aurora, IL, & Reading, PA

State-of-the-Art Sawmills  
 in Perry & Preston, GA

SPIB Grade Marked SYP  
 #1, #2 & MSR

Lumbermen Since 1919  
**Tolleson**  
**LUMBER COMPANY • INC**

We believe in long term relationships!

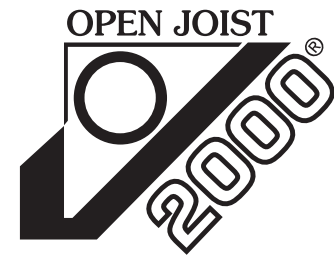


Call 1-800-768-2105 today!  
[sales@tollesonlumber.com](mailto:sales@tollesonlumber.com)  
[www.tollesonlumber.com](http://www.tollesonlumber.com)

For reader service, go to [www.sbcmag.info/tolleson.htm](http://www.sbcmag.info/tolleson.htm)

# Peace of mind underfoot

See y'all in Houston, Texas, October 4-6, for BCMC 2006!



Reengineering Wood Components

www.openjoist2000.com  
**(800)263-7265**  
 mike@openjoist2000.com

For reader service, go to [www.sbcmag.info/openjoist.htm](http://www.sbcmag.info/openjoist.htm)

**the HAINCOMPANY**  
[www.haincompany.com](http://www.haincompany.com)  
 6125 Enterprise Drive Units 1 & 2, Diamond Springs, Ca 95619  
 530-295-8068 Ph - 530-295-0488 Fax

Our Measuring System can be used with any saw and setup is simple!  
 (Shown with Vista Angle Boss® Saw)

**Hain Measuring System**  
 Changes are instant, accurate, and it's the most durable system on the market!

Hain Sub Component Nailer  
 Our new DVD is here! Request your copy today or watch it online!



For reader service, go to [www.sbcmag.info/hain.htm](http://www.sbcmag.info/hain.htm)



Ron Siarnicki (National Fallen Firefighters Foundation) and Charles Smeby (University of Florida Fire & Emergency Services Distance Learning) look on as Rob Brooks of TrusJoist concentrates on prying off the plate.



Jeff Reynolds, BMC West Assistant Truss Manager, explains the truss design process by showing a sequence of roof layouts. The fire service was very impressed with the level of sophistication programmed into the truss design software, and asked questions about 3D layout capabilities, loading, and electronic submittals and how this work could be integrated into the pre-fire planning process.



Siarnicki pauses to ask the sawyer about the automated component saw.

“Observing the process of how trusses are actually constructed was very helpful for me. The level of quality control that the plant workers put in was phenomenal.

When I saw that pile of lumber that didn't make the grade, it caught my attention and I realized there is a whole lot of QC that goes into the manufacturing process that I never knew before.”

—Ron Siarnicki, National Fallen Firefighters Foundation

Continued on page 60

# Over 20 years of product innovation for the structural component industry.



**THGQ/THGQH**  
High Capacity Girder Truss Hangers



**TJC37**  
Skewable Jack Truss Connector



**LGT3**  
3-Ply Girder Truss Tiedown



**GU Series**  
High Capacity Girder Hangers

Since the 1980's, when we introduced our THA double-shear nailed hanger to address truss connection concerns, Simpson has been offering products designed specifically for connecting trusses. Today, we offer more than 100 plated truss products, and continue to develop products for the plated truss and structural component industry.

Each year sees more innovations – like our easy-to-install jack truss connector that is field-skewable to 67.5 degrees; the new 3-ply girder tie-down with over 3500 lbs. of uplift capacity; or the new high capacity girder truss hangers that install with Strong-Drive® screws and eliminate the need for bolts. We also continue to add options – like sloped, skewed, concealed flange, etc. – to keep up with ever-changing needs.

These products are engineered to meet or exceed the IRC/IBC codes and reflect our commitment to serve the building industry. Check our current catalog or website for details.

## Better Connections for Component Systems.

**800-999-5099**  
**www.strongtie.com**

For reader service, go to [www.sbcmag.info/simpson.htm](http://www.sbcmag.info/simpson.htm)



Attendees watch as production employees stack a finished truss.

"During the tour I learned in the past that the lumber and component industry used the wood from trees as product. However, with today's building demand and innovative construction techniques, the tree is now the resource and the product is engineered wood. It was amazing to see how far the component construction and lumber industry have come with technology and products, and it is clear that the fire service still teaches out-dated construction methods."

—Greg Rogers, South Kitsap (WA) Fire and Rescue



A cold mist falls on the cut members staging area in the BMC West yard.

"Each member of the fire service expressed a great deal of interest in the truss manufacturing process. The tour was a great opportunity to show them first hand, the entire process from start to finish. They were all impressed with the amount of effort and coordination involved in designing, fabricating, and delivering the finished product."

—Jeff Reynolds, BMC West



Ron Coleman and Kuma Sumathipala (AF&PA) immersed in conversation against a backdrop of stacked lumber ready for shipment to the jobsite.

After the plant tour, attendees received a binder full of educational resources available from WTCA. Among the materials were a listing of Truss Technology Workshops (TTWs) and the new Wood Truss Construction and Fire Performance CD from the Carbeck Structural Components Institute (CSCI). The chapter encouraged the fire service to use this information in its ongoing nationwide curriculum development, especially given the need for supplemental and updated construction methods training for firefighters. By the time the group broke for lunch, it had become clear that the tour helped bridge a gap, bringer the fire service and the lumber and component industry closer. A special thanks to BMC West and the Western Component Manufacturers Association for so generously hosting the plant tour and providing educational literature for the fire service. **SBC**

# Performance SOLUTIONS...

**ROBBINS DELIVERS —**  
When and where you need it.

## Product Performance

### SUPER TORQUE™ FINISH ROLLER PRESS

- Completely enclosed system
- Safety bars on each side of the press
- Built to suit your plant requirements

### ROLLER BEDS

- Two styles: standard or double
- Available powered or unpowered

### JACK TABLE™

- Available in various tops, lengths & widths

## Company Performance



After thirty years, our customers continue to count on our individualized customer service and independent solutions to maximize their return on investment.

Feel the power of performance — with **ROBBINS ENGINEERING**.



**INDEPENDENT SOLUTIONS — Absolutely!**



- SOFTWARE
- ENGINEERING
- EQUIPMENT
- PLATES

**www.robbseng.com • (813) 972-1135**

For reader service, go to [www.sbcmag.info/robbs.htm](http://www.sbcmag.info/robbs.htm)

# SUPERIOR LOAD DISTRIBUTION & PRODUCT DESIGN: IT'S WHAT SETS US APART.

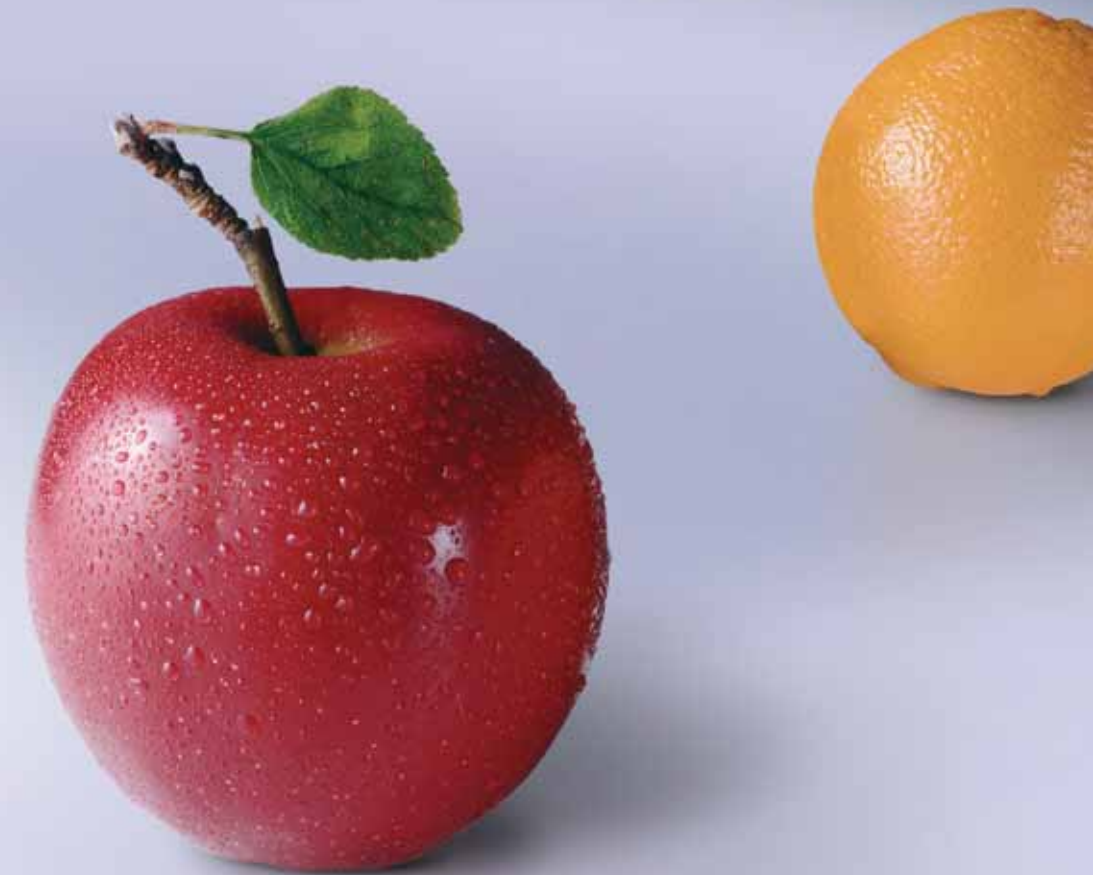
- **SUPERIOR LOAD DISTRIBUTION** means OptiFrame® whole house software takes a comprehensive and realistic approach to distributing loads from the roof down to the foundation, accumulating loads to the decking / sheathing surfaces, then efficiently distributing those loads to the structural members via contact surfaces. Our load distribution methodology is thus easy to understand, accurate and complete. In addition, load paths to the foundation are clearly visible via our Virtual Jobsite™ 3D view.
- **SUPERIOR PRODUCT DESIGN** means our powerful member design process accesses the strength and experience of the MiTek 20/20® truss engineering software as well as the iLevel™ Trus Joist® engineered wood product design engine. Our partners, MiTek and iLevel™ Trus Joist®, lead their respective industries, so you can be confident that your results are accurate and cost effective.

Because we're able to leverage our experience in trusses, engineered wood products and panels, we're truly able to bring you industry-leading whole house design software.

See for yourself what sets us apart at [www.OptiFrame.com/Loads](http://www.OptiFrame.com/Loads)

OPTIFRAME®  
WHOLE HOUSE SOFTWARE:

THERE IS  
NO COMPARISON.



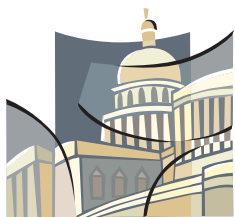
Industry Partners:



© 2006 OptiFrame Software. OptiFrame® is a registered trademark of OptiFrame Software LLC, Greenwood Village, Colorado. MiTek® is a registered trademark of MiTek Industries, Inc. of Chesterfield, Missouri, a Berkshire Hathaway Company. iLevel™ and Trus Joist® are registered trademarks of Weyerhaeuser Company, Federal Way, Washington.

For reader service, go to [www.sbcmag.info/optiframe.htm](http://www.sbcmag.info/optiframe.htm)





## Adventures in Advocacy

Visit [www.sbcmag.info](http://www.sbcmag.info) for legislative updates and alerts.  
Questions or article topics can be sent to [sshields@sbcmag.info](mailto:sshields@sbcmag.info).

### Growing More than Just Corn in Iowa

by Sean D. Shields

While this department is regularly devoted to federal issues and the workings of Capitol Hill in Washington, DC, it's important to point out that state lawmaking bodies can have an equal or greater effect on the economic and regulatory environment in which you operate your business. So while you can sometimes get a bigger bang for your buck by establishing relationships with your members of Congress, it's important to not overlook efforts to grow those same lines of communication with your state lawmakers.

The good news is building those relationships can be relatively easy. For one, a lawmaker on the state level represents a significantly fewer number of people. This can translate into less constituents vying for time and attention. Two, the economic development and employment base your company represents in their district takes on a more significant role in establishing your credibility and adds strength to your message. Third, it can be a lot easier to set up a face-to-face meeting with your state lawmaker because he or she doesn't spend a majority of their time working out of state (in Washington, DC).

However, if setting up a personal meeting with your lawmaker still seems daunting or possibly not something you want to do on your own, having your local WTCA chapter invite state lawmakers to one of its meetings is a great alternative.

The Iowa Truss Manufacturers Association (ITMA) has invited state lawmakers to visit its quarterly meeting in March for three years running. In each of those years, members have had at least one representative from both the Iowa Senate and House attend to discuss pending legislation. Not only has ITMA been able to positively advocate change to bills affecting the structural building components industry in Iowa, it has established close relationships with the lawmakers who have attended.

They've also been successful in attracting lawmakers to return multiple years, and have had representation from both Republicans and Democrats. This strengthens their chances for success because they can get support not only in both lawmaking chambers, but from both sides of the aisle. One example of success from ITMA's efforts is a bill introduced last year to create a statewide fire code advisory board to review the code and give recommendations to the legislature.

During ITMA's meeting with lawmakers last year, members asked them to amend that bill to include representation from the structural building components industry. A state Senator in attendance (who happened to be a retired fire service official) agreed to sponsor the amendment and was successful during debate on the bill the following week to

**"Representing the structural building components industry...will allow us to provide immediate input in the decision-making process."**

—Ray Noonan, Cascade Mfg Co

add the amendment to the bill, which eventually passed and was signed into law.

Finally, in February of this year, the fire code advisory committee had their first meeting, and ITMA members Ray Noonan (Cascade Mfg Co) and Rick Parrino (Plum Building Systems), were invited to attend. Commenting on the experience, Ray said, "Representing the structural building components industry, and having an opportunity to review the baseline codes they are considering for adoption, will allow us to provide immediate input in the decision-making process, particularly if they consider adopting any amendments to the code."

During the ITMA meeting this year, members spoke with lawmakers at length about a number of meaty issues. One, which ITMA was in strong support of, was a pending bill requiring claimants intending to sue builders for damages to give notice and provide a period of time for repairs to be made.

Another piece of legislation ITMA was against was a tort reform bill revising construction contract indemnification laws in such a way that if the component manufacturer had conducted repairs on a roof truss and the roof subsequently collapsed at some time in the future, the CM could be brought in as a party to the lawsuit.

They also discussed legislation pertaining to statewide building codes, safety standards and construction wage standards, as well as a bill on eminent domain. At the conclusion of the meeting, the lawmakers in attendance pledged to report back to the chapter on all the legislation discussed—providing an additional line of communication between the lawmakers and ITMA.

Many WTCA chapters are actively looking for speakers and topics for their quarterly meetings. Many chapters are also looking for ways to boost membership and meeting attendance. Devoting a meeting each year to inviting state lawmakers can be a very effective means to accomplishing both objectives. If this sounds like something you would like to see happen through your state chapter, contact your chapter officers or WTCA staff, and we'll be happy to help set it up. **SBC**



**Live deck infeed – operator simply loads the lumber and removes the cut components from the outfeed bench.**

**Uniquely engineered ST8 achieves both low angulation and long scarf cuts. The ST8 will cut material from 2x4 through 2x10 and angles as low as 5° attaining long scarf cuts to meet most applications.**

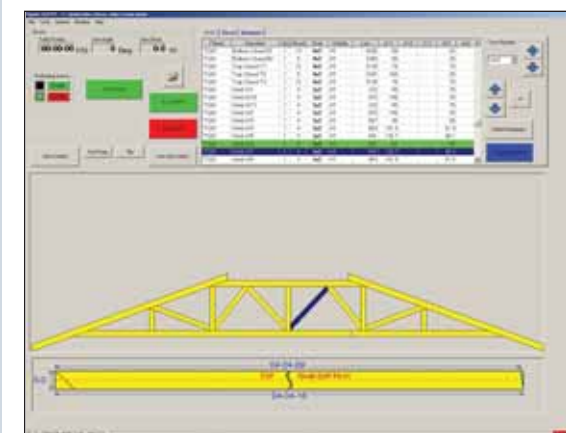
**The ST8 Trussmaster optimizes the cutting list, automatically cutting multiple members from a single piece of lumber.**

**Quality industrial automation, touch screen and advanced operating software.**



## ST8 Trussmaster

*Inline Automated Truss Component Cutting System*

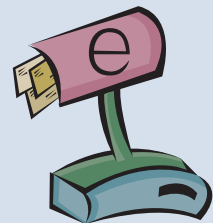


**Built with the same quality and reliability of all SPIDA machinery... this is the latest inline saw technology for component manufacturers!**



Jim Mackie-Smith, USA Sales Agent  
970/481-2513  
SpidaUSA@aol.com • [www.spida.co.nz](http://www.spida.co.nz)

For reader service, go to [www.sbcmag.info/truswal.htm](http://www.sbcmag.info/truswal.htm)



# Readers Respond

Safety and personnel topics took the spotlight in the March issue and you loved it! A perennial favorite due to its tie-in to things like workers' compensation, potentially costly OSHA citations, and the culture of your company, the pages were packed with valuable safety information for the office and the plant. Here is what some of you had to say about the safety articles.

*Scott Arquilla of Best Homes, Inc. found it interesting to read about a fellow manufacturer's Experience Modification Rate, or MOD:*

"Interesting article about Casmin in March. Our MOD is .72 and still too high. We have been trying to convert all of our workers into realizing the benefits of everyone being very safety-conscious in everything they do. It has been a long process for 18 months now; I think we are finally getting through. Our goal is to further reduce Lost Work days, Injuries and Days on Restricted Duty so they are below SIC code averages for 2006."

*Frank Madden of Trussway, Ltd. appreciated that Safety Scene reminded readers not to discount office safety:*

"Great job on bring the office into the safety fray. This is an area that is often overlooked and you are doing a service by bringing it to the attention of all concerned. Keep up the good work!"

"Another good idea is to have a lock box for the local fire department, complete with building layouts (noting the self contained computer room), keys to buildings and any other communication that is helpful to the firefighters so, in the event of a fire during non-working hours, they can get into buildings and lessen their entry damage."

*The office safety article jogged retiree Bill Loeffler's memory of the state of safety in industry decades ago:*

"Thanks for your office safety article in the March issue. It reminded me of some places I called upon in the earlier years of our component industry. Often the office was up open stairs with a slightly loose hand-rail. Floors with shop and parking lot dirt usually became slippery on rainy days. Always there was the old rug or mat near the door with corners dog-eared just waiting to trip me. A decade of success has permitted plant owners to provide much improved office arrangements; it's up to the employees to keep it safe and clean now."

We love hearing from you! So let us know if something revs your engine by emailing us at [editor@sbcmag.info](mailto:editor@sbcmag.info). We look forward to your comments. **SBC**

# retirements

## R. Larry Foley • Trus Joist

After a 35-year career in the engineered wood products industry, R. Larry Foley of Trus Joist retired on April 14, 2006. While he will be missed at Trus Joist, he and wife Mary Anne are looking forward to this exciting transition in their lives. His contributions to Trus Joist have helped shape the company's culture and business. Over the years, his professionalism and caring attitude has gained him the highest respect of his fellow associates.



Foley attended public schools in rural southeast North Dakota through high school. He graduated from North Dakota State University in 1968 with a BS in Civil Engineering. Foley began his Trus Joist career in the early 1970s at the Dubuque Iowa Open Web plant. He left the Dubuque plant in 1974 to work for a short time in Atlanta. His next stop was Oregon, which he has called home ever since. His Oregon career began with the City of Hillsboro where he managed the engineering department. In 1984, Foley left Trus Joist to join Willamette Industries and head up its ELP (StrucJoist) efforts. Finally, he found his way back to the Trus Joist commercial division when TJ acquired Willamette in 2002.

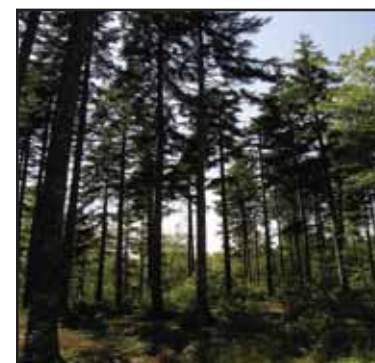
A true team player, Larry served a brief stint on the WTCA Board of Directors as an associate member director in 2002.

Foley noted the industry's continuous growth was what charmed him—and his colleagues—into staying for his entire career. "What I enjoyed the most about my career in the engineered wood industry was that it was a relatively small and in an expanding growth period during my career. Many of the people I met and enjoyed working with changed employment or location, but remained in the industry. I had the opportunity to work in several roles from engineering, sales, manufacturing and marketing during my career. This variety gave me a broad exposure to many people," he said.

Ted Osterberger, PE., Applications Engineering Manager of Trus Joist said, "Larry's fingerprints are all over Trus Joist and will be felt long after his retirement." He began working with the likes of a Don Sharp and eventually would manage and mentor the last two commercial senior engineers, Bruce Hess and Dave Soderquist. Soderquist said of his mentor: "Larry is the consummate professional. During his career, he blended outstanding technical and engineering knowledge with a passion for our business and our customers."

After a long career, Foley still has plans to work. "It may be difficult spending all my time in leisure, so I may end up pursuing part-time consulting opportunities," he told **SBC** staff. In his retirement, Foley plans to spend time with Mary Anne, and will enjoy more frequent visits with his children and grandchildren. He also plans to start guitar lessons and is looking forward to providing daily lunches for the homeless in downtown Portland through his church's social service program. **SBC**

*Thanks to Ted Osterberger of Trus Joist for contributing to this piece.*



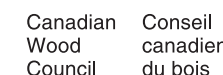
## 9th World Conference on Timber Engineering August 6-10, 2006 • Portland, OR

innovation sightseeing  
**education**  
technology networking

### Register today!

WCTE 2006 will be held at the Portland Marriott Downtown, which is located on the banks of the Willamette River in beautiful downtown Portland, Oregon. A full conference program, as well as pre- and post-conference events are being planned. Visit the conference website for more details!

**MANY THANKS TO OUR OUTSTANDING SPONSORS — THEIR SUPPORT WILL MAKE WCTE 2006 BETTER THAN EVER!**



For more details about WCTE 2006 and its sponsors, visit:

[www.wcte2006.com](http://www.wcte2006.com)

For reader service, go to [www.sbcmag.info/wcte.htm](http://www.sbcmag.info/wcte.htm)

## Housing Starts

Despite a 15.7 percent increase in multi-family starts, total starts fell 7.8 percent in March to 1.96 million (SAAR). Single-family starts fell 12 percent to 1.59 million (SAAR). Permits, an indicator of future activity, were down a more modest 5.5 percent.

U.S. Housing Starts			
Millions - Seasonally Adjusted Annual Rate (SAAR)			
U.S. Totals	Mar	Feb (rev.)	% Change
Starts	1.960	2.126	-7.8%
Permits	2.059	2.179	-5.5%
<b>Single Family</b>			
Starts	1.591	1.807	-12.0%
Permits	1.542	1.657	-6.9%
<b>Multi Family</b>			
Starts	0.369	0.319	15.7%
Permits	0.517	0.522	-1.0%
Starts and Permits By Region:			
<b>NE</b> Starts	0.189	0.190	-0.5%
Permits	0.211	0.204	3.4%
<b>MW</b> Starts	0.291	0.317	-8.2%
Permits	0.334	0.376	-11.2%
<b>S</b> Starts	0.994	1.044	-4.8%
Permits	1.028	1.028	0.0%
<b>W</b> Starts	0.486	0.575	-15.5%
Permits	0.486	0.571	-14.9%

**Analysis & Outlook:** It appears that we are simply returning to a more sustainable level that is supported by basic demographic forces. Depending on your assumptions regarding immigration, demand for second homes and demolition demand, annual demand for shelter is estimated to be 1.85 to 2.05 million units. Assuming that 150,000 units for manufactured (HUD code) housing, that means demand for conventional housing is about 1.7 to 1.9 million. Very attractive interest rates, innovative financing and a surplus of capital (encouraging speculative buying of real estate) pushed demand beyond sustainable levels for the past few years. We are still at the upper end of that range, but we're certainly getting closer to what most analysts would call "sustainable." In that respect, the fixed rate mortgage, although moving up to 6.49 percent, remains attractive by historical standards. The job picture continues to improve with the unemployment rate dropping below five percent and incomes are still increasing faster than inflation. The April 18 PPI report tells us that inflation is "tame" (with the exception of volatility in the oil markets) and should remain so; however, tighter labor markets are becoming a growing concern with the Fed. Residential fixed investment (the dollar amount invested in housing) is slowing, and prices are pulling back in parts of California and southern Florida. Additional signs are: (1) the inventory of new homes on the market is 548,000, a 6.3 month supply at current sale rates; (2) builders are starting to offer "deals"; (3) price increases are moderating (actually falling in some areas); (4) sellers are seeing fewer "multiple offers"; (5) mortgage delinquencies are increasing; and (6) lending standards are tightening. To summarize, in my opinion, it is still a solid housing market that is simply correcting to more sustainable levels.

SBC

This housing starts report is provided to SBC on a monthly basis by SBC Economic Environment columnist Al Schuler. Visit [www.sbcmag.info](http://www.sbcmag.info) for more economic news.



## Builder Banter

### Rebuilding a Hurricane-Proof New Orleans

Hurricane Katrina hit land as a category four storm in Louisiana on August 29, 2005. At that moment the world would never be the same. The devastation Katrina wreaked on New Orleans has given new focus to researchers. Experts are searching for ways to ensure that New Orleans will never again suffer this kind of extensive and overwhelming damage from a storm. The following are five innovative solutions that if used together could provide defense against a category five storm.

1. Sea Gates: Giant air-filled walls that would hold back storm surges.
2. Engineered Wetlands: Restoring wetlands would provide natural barriers against storms.
3. Mega Plumbing: A giant subterranean plumbing system that would carry floodwaters out of the city to keep it dry.
4. Community Havens: Limits flooding to a smaller area by dividing the city into sections.
5. Amphibious Houses: Foundations would double as life rafts and lift homes to safety if flooding became serious.

For details on these five ideas, visit [www.popsoci.com](http://www.popsoci.com). [SOURCE: Michael Behar, *Popular Science Magazine*, [www.popsoci.com](http://www.popsoci.com)]

### Fortified Homes Gaining Recognition from Insurance Industry

Insurance companies are beginning to offer lower insurance premiums for fortified homes. Fortified homes exist in Florida, Louisiana, South Carolina, North Carolina, Missouri and Illinois. In Louisiana, the American National Property and Casualty Company offers a 25 percent discount on the hurricane portion of a homeowner policy premium for fortified homes. Debi Harper, a spokeswoman for the company estimates that the discount would lead to a 12.5 percent savings on the total property cost in many cases in Louisiana.

According to Carlos Martin, a researcher at Partnership for Advancing Technology in Housing (PATH) offices in Washington, DC, the threat of more storms prompt people to invest in better built homes. "I think you are going to see a lot more of that (investment in housing). It takes a crisis for people to realize the physical performance of their house matters to them."

"I think there is a movement in the country to build homes better structurally," said Mike Moran, Vice President of Builder Programs at Simpson Strong-Tie. "The insurance industry (could have) a lot of impact." [Source: John Anderson, *The Morning News*, [www.nwaonline.net](http://www.nwaonline.net)]

### Builder Confidence Declines in April

Rising mortgage rates, continued affordability issues and subsiding demand from investors/speculators are prompting single-family home builders to adjust their perspectives on the new-home market, according to the National Association of Home Builders/Wells Fargo Housing Market Index (HMI) for April, released on April 17. The HMI declined four points from a downwardly revised reading in the previous month to hit 50 for the latest report.

### Housing Market Index 2005-06 (HMI)

The HMI is a weighted, seasonally adjusted statistic derived from ratings for present single family sales, single family sales in the next 6 months and buyers traffic. The first two components are measured on a scale of "good" "fair," and "poor," and the last one is measured on a scale of "high," "average" and "low." A rating of 50 indicates that the number of positive or good responses received from the builders is about the same as the number of negative or poor responses. Ratings higher than 50 indicate more positive or good responses.

June	July	Aug	Sept	Oct	Nov	Dec	Jan06	Feb	Mar	Apr	May
72	70	67	65	68	61	57	57	56	54	51(r)	45

Source: National Association of Home Builders

"Home builders definitely view this as something of a transition period, where demand from speculators is easing off and the market is heading to a more sustainable level of activity following the record-breaking performance of 2005," said NAHB President David Pressly, a home builder from Statesville, NC. "This process should help restore a healthier balance between supply and demand going forward."

"With mortgage rates back up to the 6.5 percent range and serious affordability issues in the highest-priced markets, today's HMI numbers are neither surprising nor alarming," noted NAHB Chief Economist David Seiders. "Indeed, a reported reduction in home buying by investors/speculators in the market for new single-family homes is a positive development. Furthermore, we expect solid growth in employment and household income to essentially offset the minor increases in the interest-rate structure that we're projecting for the balance of this year."

Derived from a monthly survey that NAHB has been conducting for nearly 20 years, the NAHB/Wells Fargo HMI gauges builder perceptions of current single-family home sales and sales expectations for the next six months as "good," "fair" or "poor." The survey also asks builders to rate traffic of prospective buyers as either "high to very high," "average" or "low to very low." Scores for each component are then used to calculate a seasonally adjusted index where any number over 50 indicates that more builders view sales conditions as good than poor. [Source: [www.nahb.org](http://www.nahb.org)]

### Earth-Friendly Materials Go Mainstream

Consumers are continuously becoming more environmentally conscious. Increased interest in green homebuilding retailers is predicted to give these stores a national presence.

According to Greg Snowden, the chief executive of Green Fusion Design Center in San Anselmo, CA, "The time is ripe, the market is ready, and the products are mature." You will find plant-based paints, organic bedding, cork flooring and more environmentally friendly materials at Green Fusion. Green retailers are springing up all over the country, not just in California. There is Environmental Home Center in Seattle, WA, Environmental Building Supplies in Portland, OR, Environmental Construction Outfitters in the Bronx, Green in Scottsdale, AZ, and Greenmaker in Chicago.

National retail chains are also joining the ranks of stores offering consumers "green" building products. EcoOptions is part of a marketing effort from Home Depot to promote environmentally friendly products, including natural fertilizer and mold resistant drywall. Home Depot is testing these in all of its Canadian stores. [Source: Ernest Beck, *The New York Times*, [www.nytimes.com](http://www.nytimes.com)]

# Our future forests are in good hands.



*Planting more trees, protecting wildlife and preserving water quality are a way of life for us at Anthony Forest Products Company.*

*We practice the Sustainable Forestry Initiative® to ensure future generations of superior, environmentally friendly building products as a part of our Powerful Building Solutions™.*



Power Beam® Power Column® SYP Lumber Power Joist® Power Log®  
P.O. Box 1877 El Dorado, AR 71731 800-856-2372 [www.anthonyforest.com](http://www.anthonyforest.com)



For reader service, go to [www.sbcmag.info/anthony.htm](http://www.sbcmag.info/anthony.htm)

### Construction Web Sites Benchmarked in Study

The Internet Standards Assessment Report (ISAR) recently released by the Web Marketing Association says construction industry web sites are generally inline with the overall ISAR Index. This shows a substantial improvement from their significant underperformance in 2003. The ISAR study provides industry benchmarks for site development and is based on data collected from 9,748 site evaluations in more than 80 industries over the past decade. The Web Marketing Association also conducts an annual WebAward Competition for web site development. To view past WebAwards Best Construction web site winners, or to nominate a site, visit [www.webawards2006.org](http://www.webawards2006.org) to download a copy of the full ISAR report. [Source: 03/23/06, [www.toolbase.org](http://www.toolbase.org)] SBC

Email ideas for this department to [builderbanter@sbcmag.info](mailto:builderbanter@sbcmag.info).

For more information about WTCA Chapters and how to become more involved, contact Anna L. Stamm (608/310-6719 or [astamm@qualtim.com](mailto:astamm@qualtim.com)) or Danielle Bothun (608/310-6735 or [dbothun@qualtim.com](mailto:dbothun@qualtim.com)). Contributions to Chapter Corner, including pictures, are encouraged. Submissions may be edited for grammar, length and clarity.



## Chapter Spotlight

Addressing Chapter Issues with WTCA Tech Notes

by Anna L. Stamm

All component manufacturers have days when they wish they had a standard industry policy that they could simply refer to resolve an issue with a building official, architect, engineer, or someone else in the industry—a simple piece of paper that says how our industry has already addressed a particular question and has a recognized response. To fill that need, WTCA has developed *Tech Notes*.

WTCA *Technical Notes* address specific component industry situations, pulling together all of the facts we have and applying building code regulations, professional engineering law, truss industry standards, etc. to define a logical approach. *Tech Notes* use a Background, Issue, Analysis and Conclusion template, and all *Tech Notes* are reviewed by the WTCA Engineering & Technology Committee. Through this consensus process, all industry members can be sure that we are speaking from a united industry position.

Once finalized, *Tech Notes* are posted online at [www.sbcindustry.com/technotes.php](http://www.sbcindustry.com/technotes.php) and freely available for use by anyone online or as printable PDFs at any time. Please bookmark this site and refer anyone with a question to it, email them the PDF, or print one out for a meeting and hand it out. The bottom line is that the information is at your fingertips and theirs!

Importantly, *Tech Notes* are developed in cooperation with WTCA Chapters and are state-based where applicable. On the web site, there is an interactive map so that anyone browsing may click on a particular state to see what *Tech Notes* are available.

So, the question to ask your chapter now is: what issues do we have that could be resolved with a *Tech Note*? The most common issues to date are those surrounding requests for sealed truss placement diagrams. Missouri and Kentucky were the first states to act as templates (see also the Chapter Corner item on Missouri). The latest work for the State of Missouri is being edited where this issue arises in other states and the pertinent state laws are incorporated into the text. Also in the works are *Tech Notes* on design responsibilities, web member bracing, bottom chord live loads and more. Many issues can be addressed through *Tech Notes*, so be sure to let WTCA staff know what issues you need to resolve in your marketplace—we'll gladly work with you, since it is likely that if you are facing an issue, another component manufacturer will too. **SBC**

*"I just wanted to let you know how much we appreciate the team effort in dealing with the sealed placement plan issue in Kentucky. By submitting the *Tech Note* Position Statement to the local engineering companies, things have quieted down at least for now. Please pass on to those responsible our gratitude."*

—Clyde Bartlett, Bluegrass Truss Company, WTCA—Kentucky Chapter

## Chapter Highlights

### California Engineered Structural Components Association

The Southern and Northern Regions of the California Chapter held back-to-back meetings on March 14 and 15. Chapter members had two chances to lend their thoughts and feedback on all of the issues the chapter is pursuing. The subcommittee addressing the Safety Zone project is moving forward. Plans are underway to determine the first beta site using a flatbed trailer. Sites with roll off trailers and top plate delivery will be selected next. The Department of State Architect (DSA-SS) has written proposed changes to the requirements for trusses in the 2007 California Building Code. WTCA staff will submit comments per the agreements made at the CalESCA meeting on changes for DSA-supervised projects such as schools and essential public facilities. The current status of the CalTrans Transportation Permits Advisory Council (CTPAC) activities was reviewed. A member happened to have an issue with a wall panel load that was ticketed by the California Highway Patrol as a reducible load violation. This will allow the chapter to use this as a test case for working with CTPAC on issues like this so that there is consistent interpretation and enforcement of the law.

Finally, members discussed ways to encourage more companies to take advantage of the publications cooperative offered by WTCA. Members will also recruit attendees for this summer's WTCA Open Quarterly Meeting in San Diego on August 2-4. The next chapter meeting will be a statewide meeting in Sacramento on May 23 with a golf outing to follow on May 24. All members and nonmembers are welcome to attend.

### Central Florida Component Manufacturers Association

At its March meeting, the Central Florida Chapter swore in its new officers: Bill Heine of CBS Builders Supply as President, Herb Hildebrand of Casmin as Vice President and Chuck Stillwaggon of Casmin as Secretary. The featured topic of the evening was In-Plant WTCA QC. Tony Piek of WTCA staff was on-hand to discuss the features and benefits of In-Plant WTCA QC as well as the recent work by the WTCA Quality Control Committee and the anticipated 2006 priorities.

For its May meeting, the Central Florida Chapter is jointly sponsoring a statewide Florida Chapters meet-

Continued on page 72

# 7th Annual WTCA Membership Drive

# "It ain't over till it's over!"

—Yogi Berra

You know membership in WTCA is a great deal!  
Spread the word to potential members and you could WIN!

**The race is on for: #1 WTCA Component Manufacturer Recruiter  
#1 WTCA Supplier Membership Recruiter  
#1 WTCA Recruiting Chapter**

Visit [www.sbcindustry.com/memdrive.php](http://www.sbcindustry.com/memdrive.php)  
for details and the current standings!

*"It seems as though everyone at WTCA is headed for a common goal and is doing more (far more) for the advancement of the industry than any company or group of companies could ever do on their own."*

—Keith Cresotti, President, NU-Truss, Inc., Westfield, MA

**Will it be a 3-peat for Texas, or will someone else take the lead? Don't wait...**

# Start recruiting today!

For more information, contact Anna at 608/310-6719 or [astamm@qualtim.com](mailto:astamm@qualtim.com).



Alan Esch presented a Fire Performance of Wood Trusses workshop on behalf of the Iowa Chapter at the Regional Fire Service Training Event in Emmetsburg, IA.



The 2006 North Carolina Chapter Board (left to right): Mike McIntosh, David Green, Chris Lambert, Tom Hollinshed, John Presley and Jack Parker (not pictured: Glenn Traylor).



IL State Police Officer Joe Mata of the Commercial Vehicle Enforcement Div. "arrests" James Griffin of Component Systems Inc. during his presentation at the Illinois Chapter meeting.

### Chapter Corner

Continued from page 70

ing. The guest speaker will be WTCA Legal Counsel Kent Pagel. The meeting will be held on May 16 in Orlando. For more information, contact WTCA staff.

### Colorado Truss Manufacturers Association

At their March chapter meeting, Colorado Chapter members agreed to allow Wyoming component manufacturers to join their association. The chapter is in the process of updating its bylaws, so this is one of the changes they will implement. The chapter is also planning to develop a CTMA web site. The guest speaker for the day was Jerry Weintraub from the Weintraub Organization. With a presentation on truss bracing and wind loads, many pertinent issues were raised. The chapter thanks him for his presentation and an evening well spent.

### Iowa Truss Manufacturers Association

The winter educational sessions of the Iowa Chapter were a hit once again. This year, the focus was on fire and the chapter was able to use the newly revised Carbeck CD on fire performance. See photo (above) of the April 1 workshop for the Regional Fire Service Training Event held in Emmetsburg, IA, at Iowa Lakes Community College, one of many current and ongoing ITMA workshops being given to the Iowa Fire Service.

### Missouri Truss Fabricators Association

The hot topic at the March meeting of the Missouri Chapter was sealed placement diagrams. The MTF/WTCA staff team has been working on this issue since November. This includes several meetings with the Kansas City Planning and Development Office. The following WTCA *Technical Notes* were also created to address the situation: "Position Statement on Sealed Truss Placement Diagrams for Commercial Projects in the State of Missouri," "Position Statement on Sealed Truss Placement Diagrams for Residential Projects in the State of Missouri" and "Recommended Truss Placement Diagram Note for Projects Constructed in Missouri." To view these and other *Tech Notes*, visit [www.sbcindustry.com/technotes.php](http://www.sbcindustry.com/technotes.php).

### North Carolina/South Carolina Joint Chapter Meeting

On March 15, the South Carolina Component Manufacturers Association and the Wood Truss Council of North Carolina held a joint chapter meeting in Matthews, NC, a suburb of Charlotte. Before the meeting, attendees were invited to an informal lunch at a nearby restaurant.

A North Carolina Chapter Board meeting also preceded the joint meeting and the 2006 Board of Directors and Officers were confirmed as: Chris Lambert of Southeastern Materials as Chapter President, Tom Hollinshed of Comtech as Vice President, Corey Misenheimer of Stock Components as Treasurer, John Presley of Universal Forest Products as Secretary, and additional Directors David Green of Stock Components, Jack Parker of Eastern Building Components, Glenn Traylor of Alpine Engineered Products and Mike McIntosh of MiTek Industries (see photo above).

The special guest for the day was WTCA Legal Counsel Kent Pagel. Kent delivered his presentation on "Successfully Negotiating an Acceptable Customer Contract," which focused on general considerations to follow when reviewing a customer's proposed purchase order or subcontract agreement, a review of problematic provisions from a sample agreement and guidelines on how to address problematic provisions. In addition, a preview was shown of his new program for WTCA, *ORisk: Online Risk and Liability Management*. Everyone enjoyed the presentation and this special joint meeting.

### WTCA - Illinois

Following its special downstate meeting in December, the chapter welcomed a second Illinois State Police Commercial Vehicle Enforcement Officer as the guest speaker at the March meeting in Rockford, IL. Officer Joe Mata delivered a presentation on the rules of the road and emphasized several pertinent issues including oversize loads, permits, inspections and log books. Many questions were raised, especially regarding load securement, and the component manufacturers in attendance demonstrated that they know their cargo well and have great suggestions on how to make sure their loads are secure (see also photo above).

Additional issues discussed at the chapter meeting included the Governor's Task Force on the Uniform Building Code for the State of Illinois, activity in Belvedere to require sprinklers in residential buildings and an update on the WTCA Open Quarterly Meeting in San Antonio. The next chapter meeting will be held on June 6 in Rockford.

*For more information, about WTCA Chapters, contact Anna L. Stamm (608/310-6719 or [astamm@quallim.com](mailto:astamm@quallim.com)) or Danielle Bothun (608/310-6735 or [dbothun@quallim.com](mailto:dbothun@quallim.com)). Contributions to Chapter Corner, including pictures, are encouraged. Submissions may be edited for grammar, length and clarity.*

# APOLLO

## WE SAW A SAFER WAY!

*Introducing The Apollo Clam-Shell Saw Guard*

### AN INDUSTRY FIRST IN SAFER SAWS

Another innovation from  
MangoTech! Now you  
can have automation AND  
superior safety features.



- Sturdy aluminium construction protects operator from blade.
- Simple design easily field retrofits to existing Apollo saws.
- Accommodates lumber from nominal 1½" to 6" depths.
- Works in conjunction with standard Mango Stroke Limiter, Plexiglas guard. Includes Laser Guide to provide enhanced safety in the industry's finest high-performance radial arm saw.



For Automated Solutions to Increase **YOUR**  
**PROFIT, PRODUCTIVITY, SPEED & ACCURACY**

 **MangoTech**  
FRESH AUTOMATED SOLUTIONS

For reader service, go to [www.sbcmag.info/mangotech.htm](http://www.sbcmag.info/mangotech.htm)

**CALL 1-866-GO-MANGO**

[www.mangotech.com](http://www.mangotech.com)



## Calendar of Events

Check out WTCA's web site at [www.sbcindustry.com](http://www.sbcindustry.com) for the most current calendar information.

### May

- **11:** Wisconsin Truss Manufacturers Association (WTMA) Chapter Meeting. For more information, contact Chapter President Gene Geurts at 920/336-9400 or ggeurts@richcostr.com.
- **16:** Florida Chapters Meeting with guest speaker Kent Pagel, The Castle Doubletree Hotel, Orlando, FL. For more information, contact Dani at WTCA-National, 608/310-6735 or dbothun@qualtim.com.
- **18:** Minnesota Truss Manufacturers Association (MTMA) Chapter Meeting. For more information, contact Chapter President Tom Nomeland at 507/872-5195 or tnomeland@ufpi.com.
- **18:** Mid Atlantic Wood Truss Council (MAWTC) Chapter Meeting. For more information, contact Anna at WTCA-National, 608/310-6719 or astamm@qualtim.com.
- **18:** Western Component Manufacturers Association (WCMA) Chapter Meeting, The Century Hotel, Tualatin, OR. For more information, contact Chapter Vice President David Hughes at 503/581-8787 or davidh@oregontruss.com.
- **23:** California Engineered Structural Components Association (CalESCA) Statewide Chapter Meeting. For more information, contact Anna at WTCA-National, 608/310-6719 or astamm@qualtim.com.

### June

- **1:** Inland Empire Truss Fabricators Association (IETFA) Chapter Meeting. For more information, contact Dani at WTCA-National, 608/310-6735 or dbothun@qualtim.com.
- **6:** WTCA-Illinois Chapter Meeting. For more information, contact Dani at WTCA-National, 608/310-6735 or dbothun@qualtim.com.
- **7:** Iowa Truss Manufacturers Association (ITMA) Chapter Meeting. **Date changed from June 14.** For more information, contact Chapter President Tom Lambert at 515/283-7100 or tlambert@robertsdybdahl.com.
- **7:** Southwest Florida Truss Manufacturers Association (SWFTMA) Chapter Meeting. For more information, contact Chapter President Jim Swain at 239/437-1100 or jimsw@carpentercontractors.com.
- **8:** Missouri Truss Fabricators Association (MTFA) Chapter Meeting. For more information, contact Dani at WTCA-National, 608/310-6735 or dbothun@qualtim.com.
- **8:** West Florida Truss Association (WFTA) Chapter Meeting. For more information, contact Chapter President Rick Cashman at 727/585-2067 or rcashman@ffptruss.com.
- **8:** Wood Truss Council of Michigan (WTCM) Chapter Meeting. **Date changed from June 15.** For more information, contact Anna at WTCA-National, 608/310-6719 or astamm@qualtim.com.
- **13:** Colorado Truss Manufacturers Association (CTMA) Chapter Meeting. For more information, contact Chapter President Dennis Wilson at 303/307-1441 or DWilson@HomeLumber.com.
- **15:** South Florida WTCA Chapter Meeting. For more information, contact Dani at WTCA-National, 608/310-6735 or email dbothun@qualtim.com.
- **15:** Truss Manufacturers Association of Texas (TMAT) Chapter Meeting, Cool River Restaurant in Austin. For more information, contact Anna at

WTCA-National, 608/310-6719 or astamm@qualtim.com.

- **20:** South Carolina Component Manufacturers Association (SCCMA) Chapter Meeting. For more information, contact Anna at WTCA-National, 608/310-6719 or astamm@qualtim.com.
- **21:** Wood Truss Council of North Carolina (WTCNC) Chapter Meeting. For more information, contact Anna at WTCA-National, 608/310-6719 or astamm@qualtim.com.

### July

- **11:** Georgia Component Manufacturers Association (GCMA) Chapter Meeting. For more information, contact Chapter President Bob Burkett at 770/534-0364 or bob.burkett@gamtn.com.
- **11:** Northwest Truss Fabricators Association (NWTF) Chapter Meeting and Golf Tournament, Harbour Pointe Golf Club, Mukilteo, WA. For more information, contact Laurie Motter at ldmotter@juno.com.
- **12:** Southwest Florida Truss Manufacturers Association (SWFTMA) Chapter Meeting. For more information, contact Chapter President Jim Swain at 239/437-1100 or jimsw@carpentercontractors.com.
- **13:** Alabama Component Manufacturers Association (ACMA) Chapter Meeting. For more information, contact Dani at WTCA-National, 608/310-6735 or dbothun@qualtim.com.
- **18:** Central Florida Component Manufacturers Association (CFCMA) Chapter Meeting. For more information, contact Dani at WTCA-National, 608/310-6735 or dbothun@qualtim.com.
- **18:** Tennessee Truss Manufacturers Association (TTMA) Chapter Meeting. For more information, contact Chapter President Jerry Robertson at 931/645-3324 or orgaintruss@earthlink.net.
- **19:** WTCA-Arizona Chapter Meeting. For more information, contact Chapter President Terry Lillard at 623/584-8151 or tsl@sunstateaz.com.
- **19:** WTCA-Northeast Chapter Meeting, Holiday Inn Worcester, MA. For more information, contact Anna at WTCA-National, 608/310-6719 or astamm@qualtim.com.
- **20:** North Florida Component Manufacturers Association (NFCMA) Chapter Meeting. For more information, contact Anna at WTCA-National, 608/310-6719 or astamm@qualtim.com.
- **20:** South Florida WTCA (SFCMA) Chapter Meeting. For more information, contact Dani at WTCA-National, 608/310-6735 or dbothun@qualtim.com.
- **20:** Southern Nevada Component Manufacturers Association (SNCMA) Chapter Meeting, Memphis Championship Barbeque at 1401 South Rainbow Blvd, Las Vegas, NV. For more information, contact Anna at WTCA-National, 608/310-6719 or astamm@qualtim.com.
- **20:** WTCA-New York Chapter Meeting, NRLA Educational Center, Rensselaer, NY. For more information, contact Anna at WTCA-National, 608/310-6719 or astamm@qualtim.com.
- **25:** Mid South Component Manufacturers Association (MSCMA) Chapter Meeting. For more information, contact Dani at WTCA-National, 608/310-6735 or dbothun@qualtim.com. **SBC**

# What's all the *buzz* about? (ask someone who owns one.)

The WizardPDS™ is a truss jiggling system that sets the perimeter of any shape truss: commons, scissors, step-downs, gambrel, etc., even round top or barrel vault trusses, in less than 30 seconds – with no additional jiggling required. *If your software can design it, the WizardPDS™ can jig it!*

*Want to know more? Contact EIS. We'll give you the name of someone who owns one — you can discover for yourself why the WizardPDS™ is creating such a buzz!*

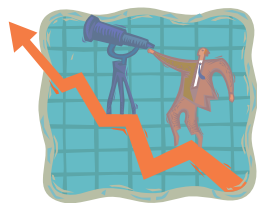
**WizardPDS™**  
Automated Perimeter Definition System



*We bring the best together!*

Toll free 800-344-3433 Ph. 612-521-9193 Fax 612-521-9307 [www.eidemachinery.com](http://www.eidemachinery.com)  
Eide Integrated Systems, LLC PO Box 11397 / 3219 North Second Street Minneapolis, MN 55411-0397

For reader service, go to [www.sbcmag.info/eide.htm](http://www.sbcmag.info/eide.htm)



# Industry News & Data

Visit [www.sbcmag.info](http://www.sbcmag.info) for additional industry news & announcements!

## Consumer Price Index

[an index measuring the change in the cost of typical wage-earner purchases of goods and services expressed as a percentage of the cost of these same goods and services in some base period - called also cost-of-living index]

Expenditure Category	Changes from Preceding Mo.			Compound annual rate 3-mo. ended Feb 06
	Dec	Jan	Feb	
All Items	-.1	.7	.1	2.7
All Items Less Food & Engrery	.1	.2	.1	2.0

Source: Bureau of Labor Statistics

## Unemployment Rate

Dec	4.9%
Jan06	4.7%
Feb	4.8%
Mar	4.7%

Source: Bureau of Labor Statistics

## Producer Price Index - Customized Industry Data

An inflationary indicator published by the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics to evaluate wholesale price levels in the economy.

Engineered Wood Mem. (exc. truss) Mfg.	Jan06	Feb	Mar	Truss Mfg.	Jan06	Feb	Mar
Eng. Wood Mem.	122.4(P)	122.0(P)	119.3(P)	Truss Mfg.	122.4(P)	121.8(P)	121.8(P)
LVL	126.4(P)	126.4(P)	126.4(P)	Wood Trusses	120.2(P)	119.5(P)	119.5(P)
Other	121.9(P)	121.3(P)	121.6(P)	Primary Products	120.2(P)	119.5(P)	119.5(P)
				Secondary Products	107.8(P)	109.6(P)	107.0(P)

Source: Bureau of Labor Statistics

## Producer Price Index General

% changes in selected stage-of-processing price indexes

Month	Total	Ex. Food & Energy
Dec	0.8(r)	0.2(r)
Jan06	0.3	0.4
Feb	-1.4	0.3
Mar	0.5	0.1

Source: Bureau of Labor Statistics

## U.S. Prime Rate

Month	2006	2005	2004
Dec 1	-	7.00%	5.00%
Jan 1	7.25%	5.25%	4.00%
Feb 1	7.50%	5.25%	4.00%
Mar 1	7.50%	5.50%	4.00%
Apr 1	7.75%	5.75%	4.00%

Source: Federal Reserve Board

## Consumer Confidence Index

The Consumer Confidence Index is a measure of consumer optimism toward current economic conditions. The consumer confidence index was arbitrarily set at 100 in 1985 and is adjusted monthly on the basis of a survey of consumers.

The index considers consumer opinion on both current conditions (40%) and future expectations (60%).

July	Aug	Sept	Oct	Nov	Dec	Jan06	Feb	Mar	% +/-
103.2	105.5	87.5	85.2	98.9	103.8	106.8	102.7(r)	107.2	4.2%

Source: [www.consumerresearchcenter.org](http://www.consumerresearchcenter.org)

## MARCH 2006 ISM BUSINESS SURVEY AT A GLANCE

	Series Index	Direction Mar vs Feb	Rate of Change Mar vs Feb
ISM Manufacturing Index (formerly PMI)	55.2	Growing	Slower
New Orders	58.4	Growing	Slower
Production	57.5	Growing	Faster
Employment	52.5	Growing	Slower
Supplier Deliveries	53.1	Slowing	Faster
Inventories	48.7	Contracting	Faster
Customers' Inventories	48.0	Too Low	Faster
Prices	66.5	Increasing	Faster
Backlog of Orders	59.5	Growing	Faster
Exports	57.3	Growing	Faster
Imports	57.0	Growing	Slower

For an in-depth explanation of this summary, go to [www.ism.ws/ISMReport/ROB042006.cfm](http://www.ism.ws/ISMReport/ROB042006.cfm).

## Industrial Production Index

The industrial production (IP) index measures the change in output in U.S. manufacturing, mining, and electric and gas utilities. Output refers to the physical quantity of items produced, unlike sales value which combines quantity and price. The index covers the production of goods and power for domestic sales in the United States and for export. It excludes production in the agriculture, construction, transportation, communication, trade, finance, and service industries; government output, and imports. The IP index is developed by weighting each component according to its relative importance in the base period. The information for weights is obtained from the value added measures of production in the economic censuses of manufacturer and minerals industries, and from value added information for the utility industries in Internal Revenue Service statistics of income data. The weights are updated at five-year intervals to coincide with the economic censuses. The current index base year is 1992. (r=revised)

	Dec	Jan06	Feb	Mar
Industrial Production Total Index (% change)	1.0	-0.4(r)	0.5(r)	0.6
Capacity Utilization Total Industry (%)	81.1(r)	80.7(r)	81.0(r)	81.3

Source: Federal Reserve Board

## CM News

### STOCK PURCHASES HOME LUMBER

Stock Building Supply, the largest U.S. pro dealer, has purchased Home Lumber Company in San Bernardino, Calif. Terms of the deal were not disclosed.

"Home Lumber is located in one of the most robust economies in the United States," said Fenton Hord, Stock president and CEO. "The company has been a consistently strong performer for many years."

Founded in 1947, Home Lumber's product mix includes lumber, OSB and plywood, engineered wood products and miscellaneous building materials. For the year ending November 2005, Home Lumber reported sales of \$92.2 million.

Home Lumber operates additional locations in Bishop, CA, and Yerington, NV. The acquisition adds 143 associates to the Stock team. All senior management, including company owner and founder's son, Milt Johnson, will remain with the company. [Source: [www.homechannelnews.com](http://www.homechannelnews.com), 4/4/06]

### MCGUIRE RECEIVES POST-FRAME INDUSTRY'S HIGHEST HONOR

During the National Frame Builders Association's (NFBA) Award Luncheon on March 1, Patrick McGuire, PE., chief engineer for Borkholder Buildings in Napanee, IN, was bestowed with the Bernon Perkins Award.

The Bernon Perkins Award is NFBA's highest honor. It is presented each year to an

# Welcome to our newest SBC Program Advertisers...

## Clark Industries Inc.

(Gold Advertiser)

## Biomass Combustion Systems

(Silver Advertiser)

## Construction Lifters

(Bronze Advertiser)

# Many thanks for your support!

individual giving exemplary service to the post-frame industry. Bernon G. Perkins is credited with refining the evolution of the modern post-frame building from a temporary "pole building" to a longlasting structure. Red cedar poles were used before Perkins' time, lending up to a decade or more of longevity to structures. When red cedar poles became scarce in the mid-1930's, Perkins used creosote-treated poles to provide primary structural support. This extended a typical pole building's life by several decades. Perkins pioneered several design enhancements, and postframe has since proven an economical and efficient building concept for many uses.

As a chair of the NFBA technical and Research Committee, in the past decade Pat McGuire spearheaded some very important breakthroughs for the Post-Frame Industry. He united industry factions that were often at odds to push for new technical research projects that safeguard the continued growth of the post-frame industry. His vision led the way for acceptance of postframe design in the International Building Code. He identified the urgent problem created when ring-shank "pole-barn nails" were deleted from the National Design Standard, and coordinated efforts to create a new ASTM Standard, F1667, for ring shank nails under the new title of "Post-Frame Nails."

McGuire also served as WTCA President in 1995. [Source: NFBA Press Release, [www.nfba.org](http://www.nfba.org), 3/21/06]

## News

### 218,000 ACRES OF U.S. FORESTLAND PROTECTED VIA HISTORIC LAND ACQUISITION PROJECT

International Paper, The Nature Conservancy and The Conservation Fund have reached an agreement to protect 218,000 acres of forestlands across 10 states in the single largest private land conservation sale in the history of the South, and one of the largest in the nation.

The Nature Conservancy will acquire more than 173,000 acres in North Carolina, Virginia, Georgia, Florida, Alabama, Arkansas, Tennessee, Louisiana and Mississippi. The Conservation Fund will acquire more than 5,000 acres in Florida and 500 in North Carolina. The two groups will jointly purchase an additional 39,000 acres in South Carolina.

International Paper will receive approximately \$300 million for the land at closing, which is expected to occur in the next several months. The tracts included in the sale are some of International Paper's most ecologically important lands. The majority of the land will remain working forests. Under the terms of the agreement, timber will be sustainably harvested from some tracts and a set amount of timber volume will be supplied to International Paper for local production. Sensitive areas will continue to be set aside from harvesting activities. [Source: [investor.internationalpaper.com](http://investor.internationalpaper.com), 3/28/06]

## Announcements

### STILES ADDS NEW PERSONNEL

Stiles Machinery Inc. is proud to welcome two new District Sales Managers. David Brooks will

Continued on page 78



## Classified Ads

### WOOD TRUSS & PANEL COMPONENT PROFESSIONALS

Are you looking for a career that rewards and promotes individuals based on performance?

84 Components is currently seeking enthusiastic wood truss and panel professionals. Available positions include **General Managers, Sales, Design Managers, Senior or Experienced Designers, and Production Management.**

This is an excellent opportunity for motivated individuals to grow with a rapidly expanding, debt-free company. 84 Components currently has 18 manufacturing facilities, with plans for major expansion!

**Qualifications:**  
Qualifying candidates MUST possess experience in the wood truss and/or panel industry.

**Locations:**  
GA-FL-IN-MD-NJ-NC-OH-PA-TN-WV-AZ-CO

For confidential consideration, please forward your resume to:  
**Attn: Bill Dove, Job Code MAG-BD**  
**Fax: 724-228-2888**  
**Email: careers@84lumber.com**



EOE M/F/D/V Drug Free Workplace

### CARPENTER PENCILS

Printed 7000 16¢ • 10,000 14¢ • 20,000 12¢  
Your Copy • Coop Logo. L. I. Industries: 800/526-6465 • Fax 520/748-0809. Fax for Samples.

### DESIGNER/ENGINEER

Top Pay, Benefits and Working Conditions for Wood Truss & Panel Professionals. TRUSSCO is looking for the best in the industry to join our growing team in the Arizona high demand component market. Relocation assistance available with a competitive compensation package, full medical, dental and vision plan plus vacations and a 401K program. If you are interested in becoming one the industries best, please email résumé to [trusscojd@msn.com](mailto:trusscojd@msn.com) or see website at [trusscocomponents.com](http://trusscocomponents.com).

### EXPERIENCED TRUSS DESIGNERS

Manning Building Supplies in Jacksonville, FL, is seeking Experienced Truss Designers utilizing the Alpine Design Program. Salary based on experience. Managerial experience a plus. Relocation expense negotiable. Benefits include paid

medical and dental, profit sharing, paid vacation and holidays. For confidential consideration, please forward your résumé to: Mark Rose, Fax: 904/260-2981, email: [mrose@mbs-corp.com](mailto:mrose@mbs-corp.com)

### PIGGYBACK® PBX TRUCK-MOUNTED FORKLIFT

Off-load and deliver an entire load from just one-side of any truck or trailer...with Princeton's new PiggyBack® PBX truck-mounted forklift. Its 5000 lb. cross-deck capacity makes the PBX ideal for delivering virtually any heavy-duty building supply material. To learn more, call Toll Free: 800/331-5851 or email [sales@piggy-back.com](mailto:sales@piggy-back.com).

### WALL PANEL DESIGNER

Woodinville Lumber, WA's leading Wall Panel supplier, is looking for a Wall Panel Designer for our Woodinville, WA location. Must have exp w/CAD, AutoDesk exp. preferred, understanding of load calculation/transfer, familiarity w/wall panel and/or pre-engineered wood products, ability to read construction blue prints & execute take-off list, & min. 2 years exp in construction industry. Ideal candidate will display initiative, orderliness, patience, thoroughness & endurance. Excellent benefits inc. medical/dental/vision, 401k w/match & immediate vesting. Pay DOE. EEO/Drug Free Workplace. Email résumé to: [lisa.wesolowski@woodinvillelumber.com](mailto:lisa.wesolowski@woodinvillelumber.com) or fax to 425/951-8206.

### WOOD FIRED SHOP HEATERS

Heat your shop with waste wood! Biomass Combustion Systems' 450,000 BTU and 800,000 BTU Shop Heaters will reliably heat your industrial facility. The 25 year field-tested design is safe, durable and clean burning. Eliminate your fuel bills with BCS Shop Heaters. [biomasscombustion.com](http://biomasscombustion.com)

### YOUR AD HERE

Do you have a job opening, used equipment for sale or some other business opportunity to communciate? A classified ad in **SBC Magazine** is the perfect medium to reach the industry. Plus, when you place a classified ad in **SBC Magazine**, that ad will also be posted as a word-only classified on our web site—at no extra charge! In a hurry? Can't wait for the next issue to come out? You can place your ad online. Visit [www.sbcmag.info](http://www.sbcmag.info) for more information and to check out the current list of classifieds. To make a space reservation for your classified ad, call Melinda Caldwell at 608/310-6729 or email [mcaldwell@sbc-mag.info](mailto:mcaldwell@sbc-mag.info).

### Industry News

Continued from page 77

serve their dealer partner, Brooks Machinery of Georgia, in its South East Region, which includes Georgia, Alabama and North Florida. Brooks has over seven years of industry experience as a sales representative for panel saws and other CNC machinery.

Steve Williams will serve their dealer partner, John G. Weber Co. of Wisconsin. Williams has been in the woodworking industry for over 10 years, most recently as a sales representative with a large hardware distributor. Williams also worked as a project engineer with Krueger International (now known as KI). KI is a large office furniture company that manufactures a comprehensive and diverse line of office, commercial, institutional and educational furniture. [Source: Press Release, 3/30/06. For reader service, go to [www.sbcmag.info/stiles.htm](http://www.sbcmag.info/stiles.htm).]

### CMF INC. EXPANDS OPERATIONS

CMF Inc. is tripling its facility size to accommodate the increase in sales. The new additions are to increase production flow and maintain equipment quality. [Source: Press Release, April 2006. For reader service, go to [www.sbcmag.info/cmfm.htm](http://www.sbcmag.info/cmfm.htm).]

### In Print & on the Web NEW STRUCTURAL COMPONENTS PUBLICATION NOW AVAILABLE

A new publication from the Southern Pine Council is now available: *Southern Pine for Structural Components*. To order a free copy, call 504/443-4464 (ext. 207) and request publication #215; e-mail [info@southernpine.com](mailto:info@southernpine.com); or visit [www.southernpine.com](http://www.southernpine.com). Online, in the Publications section, a PDF download is also available. [Source: Southern Forest Products Association Newsletter, 3/27/06. For reader service, go to [www.sbcmag.info/spc.htm](http://www.sbcmag.info/spc.htm).]

### LSU WEB SITE TACKLES TERMITES

Louisiana State University has launched a web site designed to raise awareness of Formosan subterranean termites, the threat this pest poses and possible management strategies. To learn more about the termite, go to [www.agctr.lsu.edu/termites/](http://www.agctr.lsu.edu/termites/). **SBC**

Visit [www.sbcmag.info](http://www.sbcmag.info) for additional industry news!

## Rip Rogers Inducted into Trussway Hall of Fame

Palm Springs, CA – Industry icon Rip Rogers was inducted into the Trussway Hall of Fame during the Trussway National Sales Meeting held at the beautiful LaQuinta Resort and Club in Palm Springs, CA in February. The sales meeting was a celebration of a successful 2005 and a look forward to the future. In addition to meetings and golf, the sales and design staff at Trussway learned about the art of negotiation from renowned speaker John Patrick Dolan. But the highlight of the meeting was the awards dinner.



Rogers was recognized for a long and distinguished career that dates back over forty-six years. He graduated from the University of Texas at Arlington with a BS in Civil Engineering and began his career with Barnes Lumber and Manufacturing in 1960 in Dallas. He later joined Trussway and moved to Houston. Trussway has since grown to over 1300 employees with manufacturing facilities stretching from Virginia to Arizona. Always an industry advocate, Rip was elected to the WTCA Board in 1984 and was one of the original board members of the Truss Manufacturers Association of Texas. He served as WTCA President in 1989 and was elected to the WTCA Hall of Fame in 1990.

"After serving on the WTCA Board for 15 years, I decided several years ago that it was time to step aside," Rip said recently. "In doing

so, I felt I was leaving it in good hands and my feelings have not changed. WTCA is far beyond anything I ever envisioned it to be 20 years ago. My commitment to the industry has always been to put more into it than you take out and to constantly strive to raise the level of professionalism within the industry."

"I feel the same about Trussway," he continued. "I feel comfortable that Trussway is healthy and strong. The company is in a position to grow with committed ownership and experienced management. The

people in place are among the best in the business and I feel good that I'm leaving the company stronger than it's ever been."

Rip was presented with a Trussway "Green Jacket" and Trussway Hall of Fame ring by President and CEO Bill Adams. "Rip is one of a kind—totally dedicated, having played a major role in the success of Trussway and the industry over the years," said Adams. "He will be missed."

Rogers retired at the end of 2005 and is looking forward to spending more time with his children and grandchildren.

Congratulations and best wishes for a happy and healthy retirement to Rip and his "first wife" of over forty years, Sally. **SBC**

## Custom Connectors Holding Up Your Project? We Can Help!

For fast, quality, solutions to your connector challenges, call Simpson Strong-Tie in Columbus, Ohio or our new Warehouse and Specials facility in Eagan, Minnesota.

Not only can you pick up orders locally, you also have a full service source for specials. More than 30 different Simpson standard models can be modified with up to 15 different options. Custom connectors can be fabricated from your Engineer's signed drawings. Quick turns and special finishes available on request.

To keep your project moving on schedule, call **800-999-5099**, or check our web site at [www.strongtie.com](http://www.strongtie.com).

### Helping to Build Better Buildings.

For reader service, go to [www.sbcmag.info/simpson.htm](http://www.sbcmag.info/simpson.htm)

### SIMPSON STRONG-TIE COMPANY, INC.

• Northeast Regional Offices & Factory: Columbus, OH • Warehouse & Specials Fabrication Plant: Eagan, MN • Northeast Regional Distribution Center: Enfield, CT



15 different options for more than 30 different base models



Quick turn and special finishes upon request





# Advertiser Index

★ Gold Program Advertiser

★ Silver Program Advertiser ★ Bronze Program Advertiser

For more information on *SBC* advertisers, visit the "Our Advertisers" section of [www.sbcmag.info](http://www.sbcmag.info).

## Alpine Engineered Products ★

Pages: 42-43, 83

Don Kitzmiller • 800/735-8055 • 954/781-7694 fax  
Web site: [www.alpeng.com](http://www.alpeng.com)

## Anthony Forest Products ★

Page: 69

Kerlin Drake, Marketing Director • 800/221-2326  
Email: [kdrake@anthonyforest.com](mailto:kdrake@anthonyforest.com)  
Web site: [www.anthonyforest.com](http://www.anthonyforest.com)

## A-NU-PROSPECT ★

Page: 11

Joe Wilhelm • 800/615-5122 (519/349-2202) • 519/349-2342 fax  
Email: [joewilhelm@quadro.net](mailto:joewilhelm@quadro.net)  
Web site: [www.trusstrailer.com](http://www.trusstrailer.com)

## Building Component Manufacturers Conference (BCMC) ★

Page: 19

Peggy Pichette • 608/310-6723 • 608/274-3329 fax  
Email: [ppichette@qualltim.com](mailto:ppichette@qualltim.com)  
Web site: [www.bcmshow.com](http://www.bcmshow.com)

## Chemical Specialities, Inc. ★

Page: 36

Dave Fowle • 800/421-8661 • 704/527-8232 fax  
Email: [davef@chemspec.com](mailto:davef@chemspec.com)  
Web site: [www.treatedwood.com](http://www.treatedwood.com)

## Clark Industries, Inc. ★

Page: 37

Sales • 800/743-9727 • 417/235-8262 fax  
Email: [sales@clark-ind.com](mailto:sales@clark-ind.com)  
Web site: [www.clark-ind.com](http://www.clark-ind.com)

## Commercial Machinery Fabricators, Inc. ★

Page: 39

Edward G. Joseph • 800/662-2857 • 517/323-8939 fax  
Email: [ed@cmfstealth.com](mailto:ed@cmfstealth.com)  
Web site: [www.cmfstealth.com](http://www.cmfstealth.com)

## Eagle Metal Products ★

Page: 24

Tom Whatley • 800/521-3245 • 903/887-1723 fax  
Email: [twhatley@eaglemetal.com](mailto:twhatley@eaglemetal.com)  
Web site: [www.eaglemetal.com](http://www.eaglemetal.com)

## Eide Integrated Systems LLC ★

Page: 75

G. Mitchell Eide • 800/344-3433  
Email: [Mitch@eidemachinery.com](mailto:Mitch@eidemachinery.com)  
Web site: [www.eidemachinery.com](http://www.eidemachinery.com)

## The Hain Company ★

Page: 58

Dan Martin • 530/295-8068 • 530/295-0468 fax  
Email: [sales@haincompany.com](mailto:sales@haincompany.com)  
Web site: [www.haincompany.com](http://www.haincompany.com)

## HOLTEC Corporation ★

Page: 4

Sam Rashid • 800/346-5832 • 813/752-8042 fax  
Email: [info@holtecusa.com](mailto:info@holtecusa.com)  
Web site: [www.holtecusa.com](http://www.holtecusa.com)

## Hundegger USA L.C. ★

Page: 25

Steve Shrader or Kip Apostol  
435/654-3028 • 435/654-3047 fax  
Email: [info@hundeggerusa.com](mailto:info@hundeggerusa.com)  
Web site: [www.hundeggerusa.com](http://www.hundeggerusa.com)

## Intelligent Building Systems, a Truswal Company ★

Pages: 54-55

Carl Schoening • 800/521-9790 • 817/652-3079 fax  
Email: [carlschoening@truswal.com](mailto:carlschoening@truswal.com)  
Web site: [www.truswal.com](http://www.truswal.com)

## Klaisler Manufacturing Corp. ★

Page: 28

Sean Hubbard • 877/357-3898 • 317/357-3921 fax  
Email: [info@klaisler.com](mailto:info@klaisler.com)  
Web site: [www.klaisler.com](http://www.klaisler.com)

## The Koskovich Company ★

Pages: 41

Jerry Koskovich • 507/286-9209 • 507/285-1730 fax  
Email: [jerryk@omnisaw.com](mailto:jerryk@omnisaw.com)  
Web site: [www.omnisaw.com](http://www.omnisaw.com)

## Lakeside Trailer Manufacturing, Inc. ★

Pages: 32-33

Lee Kinsman • 573/736-2966 • 573/736-5515 fax  
Email: [lee@rollerbed.com](mailto:lee@rollerbed.com)  
Web site: [www.rollerbed.com](http://www.rollerbed.com)

## Mango Tech International ★

Page: 73

1866-GO-MANGO  
Web site: [www.mangotech.com](http://www.mangotech.com)

## MiTek Industries, Inc. ★

Pages: 2-3, 45, 49, 53

Michael Klein • 800/325-8075 • 314/434-5343 fax  
Email: [mike.a.klein@mii.com](mailto:mike.a.klein@mii.com)  
Web site: [www.mii.com](http://www.mii.com)

## Monet DeSaw Inc. ★

Page: back cover

877/642-4900  
Email: [desaw@socket.net](mailto:desaw@socket.net)  
Web site: [www.desaw.com](http://www.desaw.com)

## MSR Lumber Producers Council ★

Page: 46

Kathy James, Business Manager  
888/848-5339 • 888/212-5110 fax  
Email: [msrlpc@msrlumber.org](mailto:msrlpc@msrlumber.org)  
Web site: [www.msrlumber.org](http://www.msrlumber.org)

## Open Joist 2000 Inc. (Distribution) ★

Page: 58

Mike Beauchamp • 800/263-7265 • 514/990-0078 fax  
Email: [mike@openjoist2000.com](mailto:mike@openjoist2000.com)  
Web site: [www.openjoist2000.com](http://www.openjoist2000.com)

## OptiFrame Software, LLC ★

Pages: 62-63

Ms. Katie Bassani • 303/723-4950 • 303/221-3532 fax  
Email: [kbassani@optiframe.com](mailto:kbassani@optiframe.com)  
Web site: [www.optiframe.com](http://www.optiframe.com)

## PANELS PLUS ★

Page: 40

Stan Axsmith  
Toll Free 866/726-7587 (PANPLUS) • 507/373-7110 fax  
Email: [sales@panplus.com](mailto:sales@panplus.com)  
Web site: [www.panplus.com](http://www.panplus.com)

## Pratt Industries, Inc. ★

Page: 46

Danilo "Dan" Claveria • 727/584-1414 • 727/584-2323 fax  
Email: [dan@prattinc.com](mailto:dan@prattinc.com)  
Web site: [www.prattinc.com](http://www.prattinc.com)

## Precision Equipment Mfg.

Page: 38

Michael J Syvertson or Bill Adams  
701/237-5161 • 701/280-0946 fax  
Email: [sales@precisionequipmfg.com](mailto:sales@precisionequipmfg.com)  
Web site: [www.precisionequipmfg.com](http://www.precisionequipmfg.com)

## Qualltim, Inc. ★

Page: 52

Suzi Grundahl • 608/310-6710 • 608/271-7006 fax  
Email: [info@qualltim.com](mailto:info@qualltim.com)  
Web site: [www.qualltim.com](http://www.qualltim.com)

## Robbins Engineering, Inc. ★

Page: 61

Doug Folker • 813/972-1135 ext. 268 • 813/978-8626 fax  
Email: [info@robbseng.com](mailto:info@robbseng.com)  
Web site: [www.robbseng.com](http://www.robbseng.com)

## SFS intec, Inc.

Page: 13

Cindy Weaver • 610/790-2622 • 610/376-0932 fax  
Email: [wcyn@sfsintec.biz](mailto:wcyn@sfsintec.biz)  
Web site: [www.sfsintecusa.com](http://www.sfsintecusa.com)

## Simpson Strong-Tie Company, Inc. ★

Pages: 59, 79

Mike Bugbee • 925/560-9060 • 925/833-1496 fax  
Email: [mbugbee@strongtie.com](mailto:mbugbee@strongtie.com)  
Web site: [www.strongtie.com](http://www.strongtie.com)

## SL Laser Systems

Page: 31

John Ridgway • 704/561-9990 • 704/561-9994 fax  
Email: [jridgway@sl-laser.com](mailto:jridgway@sl-laser.com)  
Web site: [www.sl-laser.com](http://www.sl-laser.com)

## Southern Pine Council ★

Page: 29

Catherine M. Kaake, P.E.  
504/443-4464 ext. 213 • 504/443-6612 fax  
Email: [info@southernpine.com](mailto:info@southernpine.com)  
Web site: [www.southernpine.com](http://www.southernpine.com)

## Stiles/Homag Canada/Weinmann ★

Page: 9

Michael Miller • 616/698-7500 ext. 232 • 616/698-9411 fax  
Email: [mmiller@stilesmachinery.com](mailto:mmiller@stilesmachinery.com)  
Web site: [www.stilesmachinery.com](http://www.stilesmachinery.com)

## Stoll Trailers, Inc. ★

Page: 48

Bradley Stoll • 864/446-2121 • 864/446-2116 fax  
Email: [stolltrailer@wctel.net](mailto:stolltrailer@wctel.net)  
Web site: [www.stolltrailers.com](http://www.stolltrailers.com)

## Temple-Inland

Page: 47

Pat Patranella • 800/231-6060 • 936/829-1730 fax  
Email: [patpatranella@templeinland.com](mailto:patpatranella@templeinland.com)  
Web site: [www.templeinland.com](http://www.templeinland.com)

## Tolleson Lumber Company Inc. ★

Page: 57

Joe Kusar • 478/988-3800 • 478/987-0160 fax  
Email: [jkusar@tollesonlumber.com](mailto:jkusar@tollesonlumber.com)  
Web site: [www.tollesonlumber.com](http://www.tollesonlumber.com)

## Truswal Systems Corporation ★

Pages: 14-15, 65

Carl Schoening • 800/521-9790 • 817/652-3079 fax  
Email: [carlschoening@truswal.com](mailto:carlschoening@truswal.com)  
Web site: [www.truswal.com](http://www.truswal.com)

## Turb - O - Web USA, Inc. ★

Page: 57

John Griffith • 888/TURB-O-WEB (888/887-2693) • 321/747-0306 fax  
Email: [john@turb-o-web.com](mailto:john@turb-o-web.com)  
Web site: [www.turb-o-web.com](http://www.turb-o-web.com)

## USP Structural Connectors ★

Page: 17

Steve Hanek • 800/328-5934 ext. 236 • 507/364-8762 fax  
Email: [shane@uspconnectors.com](mailto:shane@uspconnectors.com)  
Web site: [www.uspconnectors.com](http://www.uspconnectors.com)

## Viking ADT LLC ★

Page: 27

800/328-2403 • 763/571-7379 fax  
Email: [sales@vikingeng.com](mailto:sales@vikingeng.com)  
Web site: [www.vikingeng.com](http://www.vikingeng.com)

## Weima America, Inc. ★

Page: 17

Vikki Van Dam • 803/802-7170 • 888/440-7170 • 803/802-7098 fax  
Email: [info@weimaamerica.com](mailto:info@weimaamerica.com)  
Web site: [www.weimaamerica.com](http://www.weimaamerica.com)

## Wood Truss Council of America ★

Pages: 23, 28, 51, 71

608/274-4849 • 608/274-3329 fax  
Email: [wtca@sbcindustry.com](mailto:wtca@sbcindustry.com)  
Web site: [www.sbcindustry.com](http://www.sbcindustry.com)

## World Conference on Timber Engineering

Page: 67

Jamie LeGore, Oregon State University • 541/737-6443  
Email: [jamie.legore@oregonstate.edu](mailto:jamie.legore@oregonstate.edu)  
Web site: [www.wcte2006.com](http://www.wcte2006.com)



## Parting Shots

Share your stories and photos with us! Send submissions to [partingshots@sbcmag.info](mailto:partingshots@sbcmag.info).



During his career as a forensic consultant and expert witness, John Meeks, PE., has become known for building small scale models of the structure and trusses in question to use as examples (see photo above). This was often his method for making the rather sophisticated topic of truss bracing and collapse a little easier to understand. "John is able to relate to the lay person," remarked Steve Cabler, PE., Senior Vice President of Engineering and Technology Services for MiTek, Inc. "He is proficient at making complex engineering theories understandable to anyone." Here Cabler greets Meeks in front of Cal Jureit's first Gang-Nail plate at BCMC 2005 in Milwaukee, WI, where the 50th anniversary of Jureit's invention was celebrated. (For more about Meeks' contributions to the industry, see page 44 of this issue.) **SBC**



THE KOSKOVICH COMPANY

# PRODUCT SHOWCASE



## RAM Easy Rider™

The RAM Easy Rider is the component industry's leading trackless truss fabrication system. Why? Because you can build more trusses with less labor. Its unique distribution of workload keeps the manufacturing process smooth, efficient and highly productive. Now, with the introduction of the AutoSet C4 automated jiggling system, it's even more productive. The C4's innovative offset drive keeps table slots clear and open to the floor for easier maintenance. What's more, it may be the fastest setup system in the industry.

Now With **ALPINE AUTOSET C**



## Hi Speed Linear Saw™

The ALS saw is the most sought after cutting machine in the component industry. No wonder. It is the only automated component cutter that cuts all standard truss parts from any lumber width: single, double, and step webs – off center – regular and scissor bottom chords – scarfs longer than 60 inches – and bevels of 90 to 30 degrees. The ALS will cut parts as short as 3 inches and engineered wood products as large as 40 by 14 by 1 1/2 inches with no machine modification. To see it for yourself call for a free video that shows the ALS in action.



## Speed Cut Express™

The Speed Cut Express installed on a new or existing Metra-Cut turntable saw can make even a relatively new sawyer cut like a pro. Using information created with truss design software, the Speed Cut Express automatically sets up both length and angle for every piece. On-screen graphics show the orientation for the lumber while the saw sets up for the next cut. Machine movement occurs after the blade returns to safe position behind the fence. Setup is fast and pieces are cut to exact design specifications. Tough servo motor technology is the same as in the machine tool industry.



## AutoMill Component Cutters™

With 5 cutting heads, setup times of less than 20 seconds, 23 axes of automation, and auto sequencing, AutoMill component cutters are the standard of the industry. The AutoMill RS can cut more than 3,000 pieces in lengths of 13" to 20' in a single 8-hour shift. The AutoMill SC version is the most accurate saw ever produced for the wood truss industry, thanks to servo technology. Get all the facts from the Alpine Equipment Division.



**ALPINE EQUIPMENT**  
A Division of Alpine Engineered Products, Inc.

[www.alpeng.com](http://www.alpeng.com) – Videos are available of most Alpine equipment – 800-755-6005

For reader service, go to [www.sbcmag.info/alpine.htm](http://www.sbcmag.info/alpine.htm)

# Desawyer 2000

The only fully computerized, five-bladed saw on the market with a complete manual backup system. This saw can be operated in one of three modes: Automatic, Semi-Automatic and Manual.



MANUAL BACKUP SCALES



HEAVY DUTY CONSTRUCT



FAST & EASY SETUP



- Automatic** - Jobs are downloaded by Network or removable disks.
- Semi-Automatic** - Sawyer uses the touch screen to enter the values from cut sheet.
- Manual** - Bypasses the computer allowing the sawyer to use conventional push buttons

**1-877-642-4900**



**MONET  
DESAUW,  
INC.**

3100 Dogwood Drive, Fulton  
Missouri 65251  
573/642-4900 - Fax 573/642-3736  
email: [sales@desauw.net](mailto:sales@desauw.net)  
<http://www.desauw.net>