



## Newsletter for May 2017

**Branch Meeting Tuesday, May 16<sup>th</sup>, 2017 from 11:30am to 1:00pm**

Meeting RSVP Link:

<http://events.constantcontact.com/register/event?llr=h9o54mhab&oeidk=a07ee4pl1ql1ba3e489>

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### May Branch Meeting

Speaker:

John Rigdon

Topic:

Waller Creek Conservancy

Biography:

John Rigdon is the Director of Planning and Design with the Waller Creek Conservancy. He has been with the WCC since 2013, leading the planning, design, and implementation of the Waller Creek Park project.



John is educated as an urban planner by the University of Texas at Austin and the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill. He brings experience from past professional work with community engagement and planning, as well as earlier work in the music and technology industries, to his role at the WCC. John is passionate about making Austin more green, accessible, and inclusive through planning, community engagement, and public space design.

In his free time, John takes full advantage of Austin's beautiful outdoors. He continues a lifelong passion for sports and recreation and can frequently be found camping or swimming at one of central Texas' many fantastic parks or swimming holes.



Cost if Pre-registered by 3/20 at Noon:

- \$30 - Member / Guest
- \$20 – Gov't / Life Members / Retirees
- \$15 – Students

Cost if Not Pre-registered or Walkup:

- \$40 - Member / Guest
- \$30 – Gov't / Life Members / Retirees
- \$25 – Students

Meeting Information:

- Date and Time: May 16<sup>th</sup> from 11:30 am to 1:00 pm
- Location: Phillips Event Center, 8140 Exchange Dr, Austin, Texas 78754

## May Meeting Sponsor

By: Julia Herrod, P.E., F.NSPE

MWM DesignGroup is an inter-disciplinary design firm providing integrated, client-focused services through professional teams specializing in civil engineering, surveying, architecture, landscape architecture, and permitting. Whether working sole-source or in concert with other firms, MWM provides an integrated approach that minimizes project completion times, maximizes cost efficiencies, and produces consistent, quality results.

In 1980, the founders of MWM DesignGroup established a corporate culture of personal integrity, responsibility, and service to our clients, to each other, and to our community; and we maintain these same high standards of excellence today. As a result, each and every person at MWM DesignGroup is committed to meeting and exceeding client expectations of professionalism, responsiveness, and value on every project

Our broad range of in-house service capabilities combined with our proven ability to provide them is essential to delivering on our commitment to project excellence from start to finish.





## President's Message

By: Steve Zobal, P.E.

We discussed nominations for the 2017-2018 Austin Branch Board of Direction at the May 2nd Board Meeting and will be recommending the following slate of officers at the May Branch Meeting. They are as follows:

- President: Glenn Goldstein, P.E.
- President Elect: Kacey Paul, P.E.
- Past President: Steve Zobal, P.E.
- Vice President Programs: Travis Isaacson, P.E.
- Communications Director: Sam Shorter, P.E.
- Secretary: Bradley East, P.E.
- Treasurer: Aaron Sterns, P.E.
- Treasurer-Elect: Roxanne Cook, P.E.,
- Texas Section Director: David Matocha, BSCE
- Younger Member Director: Austin Helton, P.E.



When you see these people, please take a moment to talk to them about their proposed position and you will see just how enthusiastic everyone is for the coming year.

Please contact Glenn Goldstein at [glenn.goldstein@rsandh.com](mailto:glenn.goldstein@rsandh.com) if you are interested in becoming a committee chair. There are many great positions available that will allow you to spend as much or as little time as you can with ASCE. If you don't have the time to chair a committee, let us know and we will get you plugged in; there are activities for everyone!

I look forward to seeing you at our May meeting!

Best Regards,  
Steve



## YMF News & Events

By: Austin Helton, P.E.

### YMF May Social Mixer @ The ABGB

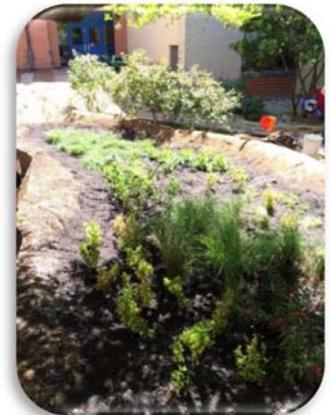
The Younger Member Forum (YMF) of the ASCE Austin Branch invites you to join us at our monthly social mixer! All ASCE YMF, Austin Branch, and UT members are invited. Sign up via the Eventbrite link on our Facebook page (see below). If you have any questions about this event please contact Greg Blackburn at [gblackburn@kfriese.com](mailto:gblackburn@kfriese.com).

- Date/Time: Wednesday May 10<sup>th</sup> from 6:30 pm to 8:30 pm
- Location: The ABGB, 1305 W Oltorf, Austin, Texas, 78704

### Rain Garden Construction

The rain garden construction has wrapped up at Sims Elementary. A big THANK YOU to everyone who participated. EWRI, YMF, UT ASCE, and Keep Austin Beautiful all collaborated to this wonderful and educational project. Instrumental to this effort was EWRI's own Bryan S. Martin who spearheaded the volunteer efforts.

Please be on the lookout for our next rain garden construction project!



### YMF May 2017 Board Meeting

Are you interested in a leadership position with YMF? If the answer is yes, you are invited to come sit in on our monthly board meeting! Come learn all about the YMF Board and what we do! Sign up via the Eventbrite link on our Facebook page (see below). If you have any questions about this event please contact Austin Helton at [austin.helton@kimley-horn.com](mailto:austin.helton@kimley-horn.com).

- Date/Time: Saturday May 15<sup>th</sup> from 6:30 pm to 8:00 pm
- Location: Central Market, 4001 N Lamar Blvd, Austin, Texas, 78756

Interested in learning more about ASCE YMF and how to get involved? ASCE YMF welcomes and encourages young engineers to become actively involved in their local branch chapter. For more information, contact our director Ashley Sullivan, at [ashley.sullivan@aguirre-fields.com](mailto:ashley.sullivan@aguirre-fields.com).

Friend us in order to interact with other young engineers, be kept up to date on current civil engineering issues and be notified of future YMF events. Find us on Facebook at <https://www.facebook.com/ASCE.YMF.ATX>.





## EWRI News & Events

By: Lee Sherman, P.E.

EWRI Austin Continuing Education Workshop is just one month away on June 16 at Pickle Research Center Commons!! The agenda looks to continue our track record of high quality technical content in water resources, including big name speakers (SARA, TCEQ, USACE, others) addressing hot topics such as stream restoration, climate change, 2D flood modeling, green infrastructure, adverse impacts, real-time flood mapping, and designing with nature. We are still seeking sponsorships to fund workshop activities and help EWRI Austin offer additional scholarships and volunteer events next year. We will provide appetizers at our our famous post-workshop happy hour where we can socialize and celebrate another successful event. Sunit Deo is doing a great job as our continuing education chair – please contact him with any other questions related to the workshop ([Sunit.Deo@hdrinc.com](mailto:Sunit.Deo@hdrinc.com)) or if you would like to sponsor the event.

We have selected some top notch scholarship award recipients that will be announced at the EWRI Austin Continuing Education Workshop on June 16! We hope you will attend for the big reveal.

Our raingarden construction event on 4/22/17 at Sims Elementary was a huge success and gave a little bit back to our planet on Earth Day! Thanks for those of you who contributed and we look forward to more volunteer opportunities like this. Please contact Bryan Martin if you would like to participate in future events ([bmartin@bgeinc.com](mailto:bmartin@bgeinc.com)).

EWRI Austin has submitted draft bylaws to the Texas Section and have also drafted Rules of Operation for internal review. We are hopeful that both of those documents will be approved this year.

We are looking forward to seeing you all at the workshop on June 16! Keep up with all of our latest news and activities on our Facebook page <https://www.facebook.com/AustinEWRI> and on the Austin Branch Website here: <http://austinasce.org/ewri/>.





## Texas Section Update

By: Brandon Klenzendorf, P.E., Ph.D., CPESC

### Election for ASCE Global President-Elect – May 2017

It's that time of year again... Election Season! I'm not just talking about elections for local municipalities, although those elections are going on as well. Two candidates are running for President-Elect of ASCE Global, and it's up to you as an ASCE member to vote on the candidates. You should have received an email on May 1 telling you how to vote online. The process only takes a couple minutes and is a great way to learn about the future leaders in ASCE. The two candidates are listed at the website below and voting will be held from May 1 to June 1. Please spend a few minutes to review the candidates and do your ASCE-civic duty by voting in the month of May to help shape the future of our ASCE leadership. Unfortunately you don't get an "I Voted" sticker when you're done, but if they had stickers available, I would proudly be wearing mine! <http://www.asce.org/elections/>

### Texas Civil Engineer (TCE) Magazine Survey

Are you a Texas Civil Engineer? Do you read the Texas Civil Engineer (TCE) magazine? It's a great resource to keep you up to date on everything the ASCE Texas Section has going on. The TCE releases quarterly issues digitally (unless you have requested to receive print copies). The Section's Editorial Committee is looking at the best ways to communicate with ASCE Texas members. To help them in this process they would like to get feedback from as many members as possible. To that end, they are conducting a survey during the next Austin Branch meeting in May. Please take the survey and provide your feedback if you attend the May luncheon. If you'd like to contribute but can't attend the luncheon, please email the Editorial Committee Chair, Tyler Dube at [tdube@pape-dawson.com](mailto:tdube@pape-dawson.com) for additional details. Help the Section maximize your membership benefits and ways to communicate activities to you.

### 2017 Texas Civil Engineering Conference (CECON) – September 20-22

This spring has been flying by in a flash and before you know it, the 5<sup>th</sup> annual CECON will be taking place in our own backyard at the Embassy Suites in San Marcos! CECON is the gathering place for civil engineers and industry professional from across Texas and beyond. The ASCE Austin Branch members are highly encouraged to attend to help ensure this State-wide conference remains close to home. Consider getting involved in a technical session, giving a presentation, helping plan a social/networking event, being a corporate sponsor, and more! This year's theme is "Resiliency in Engineering: A Proactive Collaboration". Please let me know if you have an interest in helping plan this event, and we look forward to seeing you in San Marcos this coming fall!

Please contact Brandon Klenzendorf at [bklenzendorf@geosyntec.com](mailto:bklenzendorf@geosyntec.com) if you would like more information on any of these topics.



## ASCE Branch Scholarships

By: Genest Landry, P.E.

The Austin branch of ASCE and YMF are pleased to award four scholarships to deserving college students and members of the ASCE student chapter.

Lyle Zia is a sophomore and has been a member of ASCE since the beginning of his freshman year. He regularly volunteers with ASCE and is involved with many other organizations around campus including the Texas Spirits Service Organization, Women in Engineering Program, the Inside Books Project and the Austin Youth Council. Lyle is currently a lab assistant at the Concrete Durability Center and is the Science and Technology editor for the Daily Texan. We are pleased to recognize Lyle by awarding him a \$2,000 scholarship.

Marcelo Silveyra is a sophomore with a GPA of 3.89. He has been a member of ASCE since the beginning of his sophomore year and has participated in the rain garden project, ASCE IM sports events, and the concrete canoe competition. In addition, he volunteers for St. John Neumann Catholic Church, the Statesmen 10k race, and the Sharaad Sood Soccer Memorial Tournament. We are pleased to award Marcelo with a \$2,000 scholarship.

Raul Olvera is a senior and is currently president of the student chapter of ASCE. He has been an active member in the organization since his freshman year. Prior to serving as president, he also served as Membership and Retention Chair and VP of Corporate Relations. He is also a member of ACI, SEAoT, AEI, SHPE, and the University Leadership Network. Raul currently works as an undergraduate research assistant in the Laboratory for Infrastructure Materials Engineering. He plans to pursue a master's degree in structural engineering in the fall. We are pleased to award Raul with a scholarship of \$1,000.

Natalie Weston is a senior and has been a member of ASCE since the beginning of her freshman year. She has participated in the Concrete Canoe team and various fundraisers. She is the president of Texas THON, volunteers for Dell Children's Center, is the Peer Assistant Leader of WEP, and serves on committees for the Texas Orange Jackets and Texas Lonestars. She works part time as a Special Needs Ministry Aid assisting children with developmental disabilities. We are happy to award Natalie with a scholarship of \$1,000.



## History – Interstate Highways in Texas

By: Melinda Luna, P.E.

The Federal Aid Highway Act of 1956 was signed by President Dwight Eisenhower on June 29, 1956. The purpose of the bill was to create a 41,000-mile national system of interstate and defense highways and to make transcontinental travel possible. Eisenhower understood that good roads were necessary after participating in the US Army's transcontinental motor convoy from Washington D.C. to San Francisco. He had to stop and repair 88 wooden bridges and automobiles along the way with some states lacking roads. The difficult roadway conditions caused the journey to take longer than anticipated with an average speed of less than 6 mph.

The Act also set some design standards for engineers to follow including: naming conventions for road numbers, full access control to limit entrance and exit ramps, a minimum of four lanes, medians to separate oncoming lanes, and moderate curves. The standards allowed for increased traffic speeds and roadway capacity. The interstate also promoted a need to refine traffic control device design. This led to signing including "WRONG WAY" and "DO NOT ENTER" signs to prevent drivers from entering the highway via the exit ramp. The Manual on Uniform Traffic Control Devices for Streets and Highways became the standard for signing, which in turn helped the design of other roads.

Most Americans loved the idea at first, but when construction started, some citizens decried the impacts to communities and rural lands. However, the interstate system gave Americans greater choices of where they lived, worked, and traveled. The interstate also provided more economic productivity as it reduces cost for producers and consumers.

In the United States, the first interstate was a tollway in Pennsylvania. Other states also claim the first interstate. The first interstate in Texas was the Gulf Freeway (aka IH 45) in Houston in 1952. The second was IH 35 in Bexar County from county line to county line in 1962. The Interstate system took 30 years to build in Texas and the last of the interstate was completed in 1992. While the building of the interstate was a great undertaking there were challenges. Some of the building of interstates called for demolishing of historical landmarks. Getting Labor to work on the construction of the interstate was an issue. The building of roads in Texas was a big strain on labor resources. The building of the interstate was very much in the public eye as various newspapers reported on the progress of the construction.

In Texas, there are 3,233 miles of the 45,000-mile Interstate Highway System and a total of 17 Interstate Highways. Interstates are also being evaluated to better serve increasing and changing traffic patterns. With the Interstate system now over 60 years old, the Interstate System has challenges from maintenance and increased traffic volumes. Interstates will continue to evolve and provide efficient transportation for the state of Texas.



## Corporate Sponsorship

By: David Matocha, BSCE

The ASCE Austin Branch is seeking corporate sponsorships for our 2016-2017 year. We are offering meeting sponsorships, branch sponsorships, and sponsoring of the Thinkery outreach event in February. Your generous support will allow us to continue to serve the engineering community of Central Texas and provide for a multitude of our programs and outreach initiatives. Please contact David Matocha at (512) 914-0674 or [david.matocha@forterrabp.com](mailto:david.matocha@forterrabp.com).

## Calendar of Events

By: Various

- May 10, 2017 – YMF Social @ The ABGB
- May 16, 2017 – Branch Meeting @ Phillips Event Center
- May 1 to June 1, 2017 – Election Period for ASCE Global President-Elect
- June 16, 2017 – EWRI Continuing Education Workshop
- June 28, 2017 – YMF Lunch and Learn
- September 20-22, 2017 – CECON (get this on your calendars today!)