



Hard Facts

N e w s l e t t e r

Summer 2008 - June

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President's Letter

Hank
Gottschalk
PCAV



This year brings many challenges to the precast industry, as well as the construction industry as a whole. The economic outlook for the year does not put a smile on many faces; however, we must each stand firm in our resolve to pursue our goals.

Precast concrete products offer several advantages over build-in-place products as well as non-concrete products. We, as an industry, need to stay focused on the fact that we bring value to everyone involved with our products. Value to the contractor who saves time using precast; value to the developer who saves money because Precast was used; value to the owner who will have a lasting infrastructure built of precast; value to the public who

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Thermal Krete™ by Permatile Guarantees Strong Foundation

When plans were being designed for this beautiful home that overlooks Wadlow Gap and the Clinch Mountains of Tennessee, the owners knew that they wanted only the best materials in their dream home. They chose a Thermal-

Krete™ Precast Foundation System from Permatile Concrete Products Company in Bristol, Virginia because of its strength, efficiency, economy and performance. Thermal-Krete™ was competitively priced and would ensure strength, sound insulation and a dry basement. The foundation was installed in one day, allowing the contractor to begin framing the home very quickly.

Thermal-Krete™ is an engineered precast concrete foundation wall system. It consists of prefabricated panels of varying heights and widths that are erected on a concrete



foundation to form basement walls. Each panel is monolithically poured and incorporates thin gauge galvanized steel wall studs on the interior—ready to finish! The interior of the wall may be covered with drywall or other types of finishes as desired. The system allows for fast field installation in all weather conditions. Thermal-Krete™ has been designed to take advantage of thermal insulation barriers as well as thermal mass characteristics due to the nature of concrete and the inherent density of the material.

Each foundation is specifically designed for the home, including

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PCAV Happenings



Mark Singer
PCAV Exec.
Director

PCAV members are starting to feel the effects of the strained economy. Depending on what part of the state you work in and sector of the market you primarily serve, orders for precast products are either relatively flat, or have taken a nosedive.

For example, subdivision projects in Northern Virginia have all but dried up, while in Central, Tidewater, and Southwest Virginia the work has slowed but continues. Commercial and institutional projects in many parts of the state remain strong. But with each passing day's difficult national news on the economy, precast producers and their suppliers are having to make difficult decisions regarding their volumes in the coming 12 to 18 months.

The 2007 *NPCA Benchmarking Report* estimates that precasters sold more than \$26 billion in product last year, about the same amount as was sold in 2005. The top-selling precast components were underground products such as manholes, concrete pipe, catch basins, septic tanks and utility vaults. But the survey also highlighted strong growth in building foundation wall panels and prestressed building components.

Publicizing Precast

The association believes that there is a need to tell the story of the many

benefits of precast products both in bear and bull markets. So our presence at industry events and tradeshows continues to be strong. Scott Crumpler's marketing committee continues to do a fine job ensuring that the PCAV gets noticed at such events as the Virginia Concrete Conference and the meetings of the Virginia Transportation Construction Alliance.

Legislative News

The first of the year also saw the convening of the 2008 session of the Virginia General Assembly, which for the fifth time in the last seven years had to be extended for legislators to reach agreement on the two-year state budget. Economic forecasts forced the original budget to be reduced by over a billion dollars based on the sagging economy.

State transportation funding is the one of the key indicators for precasters, and VDOT continues to suffer mightily as revenues decrease and legislators cannot find consensus about how to fix the downward trend. To make matters much worse, with just a few days left in the session the Virginia Supreme Court ruled that last year's substantial transportation funding legislation, which in part created regional taxing authorities, was unconstitutional and could not go forward.

Consider these facts:

- The economic hit facing VDOT is equal to one year of the current *Six Year Plan* for new construction, or over \$1 billion.

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PCAV Happenings

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- There are over 1,700 bridges in Virginia that VDOT deems “structurally deficient.”
- The state road maintenance budget is currently \$300 million short per year, money that comes right out of the new construction fund—meaning less new projects get built.
- Legislators this year killed the bill they passed last year creating “abusive driver fees” thereby punching a \$360 million hole in the state’s transportation funding budget.

Yet despite the efforts of lobbyists, business groups and citizens, no fix to this transportation-funding crisis was found. It is hoped that the Governor will call a special session of the legislature to deal specifically with this issue. From the perspective of the PCAV, the sooner the better!

Coming Events

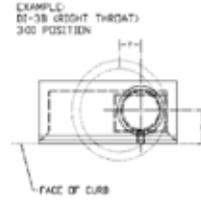
Members are reminded to note on their calendars that the next PCAV scheduled events are as follows:

- **July 15, 2008:**
Joint PCAV/VDOT Meeting
Holiday Inn—Richmond
- **September 23–25, 2008:**
PCAV Fall Conference
Wintergreen

I look forward to seeing you at both of them.

~Mark Singer

VDOT Curb Inlet Stake-Out Information



A major advantage of using precast drainage inlets is the speed and ease of construction when using these products. For the precast units to properly “stake out” and assemble the required inlet, it is critical to properly stake out the location of the precast inlet in the field and correctly set the adjacent pipes.

Stake-out procedures for precast curb inlets differ from those for cast-in-place inlets. Because precast companies utilize the most economical shapes and sizes available to function as the intended drainage inlet, the dimensions, including center of structure, and the pipe locations will differ from the cast-in-place design.

Several years ago, the Precast Concrete Association of Virginia member companies standardized inlet dimensions and nomenclature for establishing stake-out procedures. The result is a unified system of providing proper stake-out information for contractors, engineers and the survey crew.

A copy of the PCAV *Stake-Out Manual* is available on our website (www.GoPCAV.com) and training is available for contractors, surveyors and designers. If you would like more information on inlet stake out or on other items regarding precast concrete, or if you would like to schedule a training session at your facility, contact the PCAV office.

New Member

The PCAV is pleased to announce that we have a new Producer member. Tindall Corporation recently joined the association. Barry Phillips will represent the company on the Board of Directors. Please add this information to your directory:

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Field Study Results Available

The University of Texas at Arlington has recently posted a publication on their website titled *Evaluation of HDPE Pipelines Structural Performance on Virginia DOT and Municipal Projects* by Ali Abolmaali, Ph.D., P.E., Associate Professor of Structural Mechanics, and Ardavan Motahari, Ph.D., Research Scientist.

This publication states the results of field investigation of 19 HDPE pipelines throughout the State of Virginia. Several failure modes were identified, and 100 percent of the pipelines tested showed some or many of the identified modes of failure. The average value of deflection for all of the pipes was recorded at 10.5 percent with a maximum deflection of 22.3 percent, well above the 5 percent allowable deflection noted by AASHTO in their 2007 *LRFD Bridge Construction Specifications*. The full report can be viewed at the University of Texas at Arlington's website; download the PDF document directly at <http://tinyurl.com/4no6zl>

Permatile Earns Two NCPA Awards

Permatile Concrete Products Co. of Bristol, Virginia, earned two plant certification awards from the National Precast Concrete Association at the MCPX 2008 and the NPCA Winter Conference held in Denver, Colorado from February 7-9, 2008.

Permatile Concrete was named one of the Top 25 plants in NPCA's Quality Merit Awards category, based on scores from NPCA's independent certification inspection firm. The Top 25 list represents the top 10 percent of the scores in the plant certification program. More than 300 plants participate in NPCA's certification program.

NPCA also presented awards to plants that have been continuously certified for 5, 10 and 15 years. The NPCA Plant Certification Program ensures a uniform, high-degree of excellence in plant facilities, production, processes and quality control operations. This year Permatile received a 10-year certification award.

Founded in 1965, NPCA is an international trade association that represents the precast concrete products industry. The association serves more than 1,100 member companies in all 50 states, 12 Canadian provinces and several other countries throughout the world.

President's Letter

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will safely travel in, on and around our precast structures.

Our mission is clear: Tell everyone we meet about the advantages of precast concrete, and the value that it brings to their lives. Let us stand firm, shoulder to shoulder, to face our challenges together.

~Hank Gottschalk

Inspiration Corner

"A wise man will make more opportunities than he finds."

~Anonymous

"The entrepreneur is essentially a visualizer and an actualizer...he can visualize something and when he visualizes it, he sees exactly how to make it happen."

~Robert L. Schwartz

"Never get so busy making a living that you forget to make a life."

~Anonymous

PCAV Annual Conference: Don't Miss the Fun!

PCAV Annual Conference September 24-25, 2008 Wintergreen Resort

The annual conference committee, consisting of Marie Derby, Weldon Mitchell and Craig Whitten, has met and is in the process of developing the final agenda for the PCAV Annual Conference.

As usual, the conference will open with our annual golf tournament followed by reception, dinner and group activity. Our general meeting will include communications from Mal Kerley, Chief Engineer–VDOT and much more. It's always a fun and productive time. Please plan to attend.

Details will be out soon! Watch your mail. Thank you for your continued support.

~Marie Derby



Here are a few pictures from last year's PCAV Annual Meeting. Do you know all these people? If not, be sure to come to this year's conference so you can meet these fun folks!



Virginia's Student Conference: Fun for All!



Fairmont State University's winning canoe.

The 2008 Virginia's Student Conference was held in Summersville, West Virginia in April. The event involved 12 schools, with students from the Virginia Section, West Virginia Section, and National Capital Section. Members of the Precast Concrete Association of Virginia volunteered to participate and judge several events.

Not only did students compete by building and racing concrete canoes, but students also competed with concrete bowling balls as well as concrete Frisbees. Students gained firsthand experience in designing and fabricating "Precast" products.

The spirit of the competition was impressively shown by the University

of Virginia when a collision in the next to the last race, split their canoe in half, directly in the middle. Students from every school pitched in with Styrofoam, duct tape, and bracing materials to patch the boat back together in order to run the final race. The camaraderie shown by the competing schools was by far the highlight of the event.

Hopefully, these students will take their experience into the world, as they now have a better understanding of concrete and some of the limitless possibilities of Precast.

The following is the final standing for the concrete competitions:

Concrete Canoe—Overall

1. Fairmont State University
2. University of Virginia
3. West Virginia University Institute of Technology

Concrete Frisbee

1. University of Virginia
2. Fairmont State University
3. Bluefield State University

Concrete Bowling

1. West Virginia University Institute of Technology
2. Fairmont State University
3. Bluefield State University

Permatile Home

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Thermal-Krete™ by Permatile created this sound foundation.

windows and doors. The single-piece corner sections are monolithically poured for exceptional strength. Most foundations can be set in a single day and provide a wall 10 times stronger than block or poured-on-site walls. The foundation is laid with the same technology used to make precast concrete bridges. This technology

ensures that all components will match precisely and your foundation will be square and true to specifications. Precast foundations are a cut above and Thermal-Krete™ by Permatile gets the job done!

~Mimi Coles

The home in various stages of framing.



The stunning final product.

2008 Calendar of Events

MONTH	EVENT/LOCATION
July 15	PCAV/VDOT Joint Meeting Richmond, Va.
July 17-20	VTCA Meeting Hilton Va. Beach Oceanfront Virginia Beach, Va.
Sept. 18-22	NCPA Annual Conference Ottawa, Canada
Sept. 23-25	PCAV Fall Conference Wintergreen
Nov. 3-5	ACPA Fall Short Course Savannah, Ga.

More events are being added now. Visit www.gopcav.com for all the details.

PCAV/VDOT Meetings

At the PCAV/VDOT meetings listed above, there will also be numerous committee meetings held in conjunction with these meetings. These meetings will run from 9:00 a.m. to 1:30 p.m. Please note these dates on your calendars. Further information on these meetings will be sent out 30 days in advance of each meeting.

Check out the PCAV website!
www.gopcav.com

PCAV Members

Producer Members

Americast - Division of Valley Blox, Inc.
Contractors Precast Corp.
Frederick Precast Concrete, Inc.
Hanson Pipe & Precast, Inc.
Mack Industries
Nansemond Pre-Cast Concrete Co. Inc.
Permatile Concrete Products Co.
Rinker Materials
Rotondo Precast/Oldcastle Precast
Winchester Building Supply Co., Inc.

Government Members

City of Chesapeake

Associate Members

A.L. Patterson, Inc.
A-LOK Products, Inc.
Boral Material Technologies, Inc.
Capital Foundry of Virginia, Inc.
CDS Technologies, Inc.
Concrete Sealants, Inc.
Dayton Superior Corp.
East Jordan Iron Works, Inc.
Engineered Wire Products, Inc.
Essroc Cement
Fullerton & Knowles, P.C.
Hamilton Form Company
Hamilton Kent LLC
Insteel Wire Products
Ivy Steel & Wire
Kaufman Products, Inc.
La Farge North America
Lehigh Portland Cement Co.

Luck Stone Corporation
M.A. Industries, Inc.
Martin Marietta Aggregates
Master Builders
Meadow Burke Products
NPC Inc.
Press-Seal Gasket Corp.
Roanoke Cement Company
Seaboard Asphalt Products Co.
Spillman Company
St. Lawrence Cement Corp.
Swope & Associates, Inc.
The Euclid Chemical Company
The SEFA Group
Universal Sales
U.S.F. Fabrication
Vulcan Construction Materials
W.R. Grace & Co.

Not a member? What's stopping you? Join now!
Call 888.503.4800 or visit www.gopcav.com.

PCAV Mission

The Precast Concrete Association of Virginia is dedicated to the growth of the precast concrete industry. We pursue that purpose by educating and partnering with specifiers, installers and end users on the advantages and proper utilization of our products and systems. The association will represent its members in the Commonwealth of Virginia

PCAV Past Presidents

Bill Tichacek, Americast	1991-1993
Jim Richmond, CP&P	1993-1995
Kirby O'Malley, Hydro Conduit	1995-1996
Don Anger, CP&P	1996-1997
Richard Rotondo, Rotondo Precast	1997-1999
Scott Crumpler, Americast	1999-2001
Mimi Rainero Coles, Permatile	2001-2003
Stephen Rodgers, Contractors Precast Corp.	2003-2005

Hard Facts is a publication of the Precast Concrete Association of Virginia for its members. Submissions, story ideas, member kudos, letters to the editor and comments are welcomed. Contact the editor, Lois Carter Fay, at 800.203.8660 or lcf@marketingideashop.com.

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