

The Drawing Board



A Publication of the PSPE Reading Chapter

February 2018

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Upcoming Chapter Events

March 15 > Winter Mixer
March > City of Reading WWTP
April > High Industries
May 18 > Annual Golf Outing



Tour Summary

US Army Corps of Engineers Blue Marsh Dam

The Reading Chapter of PSPE enjoyed a tour of the US Army Corps of Engineers Blue Marsh Dam on October 30, 2017.

The Chief Dam Operator, Jeffrey J. Omlor, provided an entertaining and thorough tour of the facility, including the dam control facility and the lake's spillway. Construction of the earthen dam and facilities occurred between 1974 and 1979 primarily for flood control.

The tour included traveling down through the multiple levels of the control tower to understand how the level of the lake is adjusted including valve operation and controls as well as the maintenance involved. The 48-inch diameter discharge pipe from the control tower extends 500-feet horizontally to the stilling basin. It was interesting to learn that the difference between the typical high and low level for the lake is within 5-10 feet.

*Photos: Blue Marsh Lake Dam
(above) and Control Tower and
Control Room for Dam (right)*



Message from the President

Greetings fellow PSPE Reading Chapter members! My name is Matthew Boggs and as of May 2017, I am your new chapter President. I have been involved in multiple municipal organizations as an appointed Engineer, but this is my first opportunity in assuming a leadership role among a group of my peers. I thank the Board for their trust in me and for all of the guidance they have provided and continue to provide. We have been very active since last fall and this newsletter captures the activities and events which we have sponsored.

Being engineers, we are all focused on problem solving. In addition, we continually seek out new challenges and adventures. As is common with engineers, I am mildly introverted - sometimes this gets in my way, but I find that the more I am willing to try new things, I become a better engineer. The Reading Chapter pulls in engineers from all different disciplines and gives us a great platform to learn, share, and grow through tours and events, while maintaining our licenses with PHD credits. Perfect examples are the tours we have offered so far in 2017 and 2018 outlined in this issue.

More personally, I currently have two seniors in high school which will be pursuing higher education in the fall. One of my children (after a little prodding) wants to pursue chemical engineering. Through our network at PSPE, I was able to reach out and get him a job shadowing opportunity so he could see what he was working towards, if he chooses that career. This wouldn't have been easy without being an involved member of the Chapter network, and I encourage all of you to take a more active role in the Chapter and help make our network even stronger.

Over the next few months, we have multiple events planned, highlighted by our annual golf outing in May. Our golf outing, which we co-sponsor with the Valley Forge Chapter, provides funding for our annual MathCounts competition, which we recently held at Penn State Berks for more than 120 middle-school students from 16 Berks County schools.

Another great upcoming event is our social mixer at the Canal Street Pub on March 15th. More information is to follow for this event which will coincide with the first full day of March Madness and will be a great opportunity to meet other members of our Chapter and enjoy some great food and drinks. I hope to see you there!



Matthew Boggs, PE



**Pennsylvania Society of
Professional Engineers
Reading Chapter**

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Distribution of Drawing Board via

website: In the coming months, each subsequent release of the PSPE Reading Chapter drawing board will be initially available for viewing via the website link above. Then after a period of two (2) days the PDF copy of the Drawing Board will be emailed out to the membership. If you have any questions or will request hardcopy of the Drawing Board please contact Jasen Book, EIT jbook@libertyenviro.com or at 610-375-9301.

Advertising is available in the Drawing Board and on the Chapter web site for \$50.00 per year. If a company wants to advertise and also place positions available on the web site, then the cost is \$100 per year.

To Advertise: send a check in the appropriate amount payable to “Reading Chapter PSPE”. Please include a jpeg or tiff file with your payment.

Mail to: Jasen Book, EIT
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Tour Summary

Spring City Electrical Manufacturing Company

The Reading Chapter of PSPE participated in a thorough tour of the manufacturing facility for the Spring City Electrical Manufacturing Company on November 29, 2017. The tour was conducted by Alan Brink, the President of Spring City Manufacturing. Spring City manufacturing's facility was founded back in 1843 and the foundry has remained there since.

The tour included a step-by-step of the process for constructing the lamp poles from the patterns used (of which they have more than 3,000) to the flask entombing the pattern where it is then outlined with compacted sand making the impression for the iron which is poured in after reaching a white-hot state. After the iron is cooled, the finishing of the product includes grinding, drilling and painting. The tour and process was unique in that we were able to witness a process performed over hundreds of years integrated in with finishing practices utilizing robotics and precise equipment relying on computerized inputs with a finished product which looks both historic and utilizing the latest patented LED lighting technology.



*Photos of Lamp Post
Molds and Painted
Finished Lamp Posts*



Tour Summary

Hidden Still

Hidden Still Spirits hosted the Reading Chapter on January 25, 2018 for a distillery tour, followed by dinner and product tasting. The distillery occupies a former cigar manufacturing facility located in the City of Lebanon, and has been operated by founder David Stein since 2015. Still Master Coty Edwards provided an informative tour that highlighted the distillation and maturation processes integral to creating award-winning bourbons, gins, vodkas, rums and whiskeys. Stein is committed to sourcing locally grown raw materials such as corn and malted barley to craft the liquors.

The distillery also has plans to expand to additional locations over the next year. After the tour ended, the group contemplated the liquid offerings via tasting flights and sampled the well-curated menu. There was general recognition of the David E Bourbon as a particularly tasty offering.



Mathcounts

The 35th annual Berks County MathCounts competition was held on Saturday, February 10, 2018 at Penn State University – Berks Campus. MathCounts is a competitive program designed to improve and encourage the study of mathematics by junior high school students. The program culminates in one day of mathematics exams for both individuals and teams.

A total of 129 sixth, seventh and eighth grade students representing 16 Berks County schools took part in the local competition, which was sponsored and staffed by the Reading Chapter of the Pennsylvania Society of Professional Engineers (PSPE).

The top four finishers, along with the winning team, will travel to Harrisburg on March 23-24 for the State Competition. The National Competition is set for Washington D.C. in May.

2018 INDIVIDUAL WINNERS



1st Place | Cole Kratz
 Boyertown Middle School East
 Coached by Joan Sartor and Katie Hogentogler



2nd Place | Cameron Kratz
 Boyertown Middle School East
 Coached by Joan Sartor and Katie Hogentogler



3rd Place | Tolga Zabun
 Boyertown Middle School East
 Coached by Joan Sartor and Katie Hogentogler



4th Place | Alex Wittig
 Exeter Township Junior High School
 Coached by Kathy Topper



5th Place | Dylan Klass
Boyertown Middle School East
Coached by Joan Sartor and Katie Hogentogler



8th Place | Jay Schoenen
Governor Mifflin Middle School
Coached by Joel Calata



6th Place | Luke Kline
Wilson West Middle School
Coached by Christie Viscariello



9th Place | Joshua O'Conner
Boyertown Middle School East
Coached by Joan Sartor and Katie Hogentogler



7th Place | Michael Perry
Boyertown Middle School East
Coached by Joan Sartor and Katie Hogentogler



10th Place | Rouhan Chen
Fleetwood Area Middle School
Coached by Lisa Bernet

MATHCOUNTS®

TEAM WINNERS



1st Place | Boyertown Middle School East
Team Members: Dylan Klass, Cameron Kratz, Cole Kratz, Zachary Rothermel
Coached By: Joan Sartor and Katie Hogentogler



2nd Place | Exeter Township Junior High School
Team Members: Evan Curtin, Prateek Kunduru, Karthik Taranath, Alex Wittig
Coached By: Kathy Topper



3rd Place | Boyertown Middle School West
Team Members: Lucas Famous, Charles Patterson, Matteo Smith, Gavin Tews
Coached By: Kristy Parish and Mallory Jakoby

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Off the Board

What is your name and engineering discipline?

Matthew L. Boggs, I am a Civil Engineer focusing on Wastewater.

Where do you or did you work?

I work for Entech Engineering Inc., which is a consulting engineering firm located in Reading, PA.

How long have you worked there or been in business?

I have worked at Entech for the past eight years.

What do you do there?

I am a Project Manager for Entech. I also have a few municipal clients that I manage as well as a small wastewater treatment plant which I needed to get my wastewater operator's license for.

Any work accomplishments you would like to speak of?

A few years ago I was involved in the design of the 42-inch force main project for the City of Reading which extended from the 6th and Canal Pumping Station under the Schuylkill River and extending approximately a mile and a half to the Fritz Island Wastewater Treatment Plant. The most fascinating aspect for that job was the microtunneling involved for the pipe installation under the river.

Are there other notable employers in your career?

There are two. Out of college I worked for a computer company where I was able to travel around the country setting up computer systems. Hit all the States except for 14! The other was Yerkes Associates out of West Chester, PA. With only a few wastewater engineers, I was able to get familiar with design, permitting and coordination which provided a great base for future work. Also was able to operate a few plants and get my operations license before my professional engineer license.

What is your educational background?

After growing up in Massachusetts, I attended Villanova University where I received my undergraduate degree in Civil Engineering.

What licenses do you have?

Professional Engineer, Licensed Wastewater Operator and Sewage Enforcement Officer, all in PA.

What historical figure do you admire the most?

Mother Teresa. If our primary goal in life is to help other people, I cannot think of a better example.

Tell us about your family.

I am married to my high school sweetheart and we have five beautiful children that are now in middle school and high school. There is never a dull day at our house!

What are your hobbies?

I used to respond that my kids were my hobbies. Going on adventures with them and my wife was the perfect weekend activity. I now appreciate being outdoors and visiting the great parks and trails in Berks County and Eastern Pennsylvania.

What is your favorite quote?

How do you eat an elephant? One bite at a time! (For those occasions when a task can seem overwhelming).

What is your favorite equation?

Bernoulli's Equation, at least I use that one the most!

What is your favorite book?

I have been enjoying the Rabbit book series from John Updike. I like that he has his roots in Shillington and the story takes place in Berks County.

What cartoon character best describes you?

Bugs Bunny (according to my kids)

What trait do you most dislike in others?

Dishonesty

Name something you'd like to learn to do during your lifetime.

Play guitar.

What or who inspired you to get into engineering?

Childhood toys – Lincoln logs, Erector Set, Star Wars vehicles

How long have you been a member of PSPE?

Approximately 10 years

Any advice for other PSPE members?

Take risks, try something new!

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