

Another Big Year For NASTT



Founded in 1990, the North American Society for Trenchless Technology (NASTT) is a non-profit, educational and technical society dedicated to promoting the benefits of trenchless technology for public awareness through

education, training and research.

The annual No-Dig Show is NASTT's education flagship event, offering a collection of quality papers, exhibition, a series of specialized training courses and entertainment and networking events and special awards. The 2008 No-Dig Conference & Exhibition will be held at the Gaylord Texan Resort and Convention Center in Dallas, TX, April 27-May 2.

Piero Salvo, president of WSA Consultants, Ottawa, Ontario, who is serving a second term as NASTT chairperson, reflected on the past year.

"In 2007, NASTT held its most successful No-Dig Show in San Diego, CA," says Salvo. "More than 112 technical papers were presented, and over 1,600 attendees participated in the technical paper program, the exhibition and networking events. And nearly 200 new members joined NASTT as a result of attending No-Dig."

Also, in 2007, two new training modules were introduced: Sewer Lateral Rehabilitation and New Installation Methods. Membership increased to over 1,200 people. In addition, NASTT has three new Student Chapters and the Regional Chapters have held successful shows in their respective areas."

NASTT has a network of seven regional chapters and 11 student chapters throughout North America. Regional chapters offer valuable educational and networking opportunities in local areas. As a NASTT member, regional chapter membership is automatic.

Changing of the guard

As 2007 came to a close, John Hemphill announced his retirement as executive director of NASTT. After an in-depth search, NASTT selected Michael Willmets to replace Hemphill. Willmets has more than 35 years experience in infrastructure management. He recently retired from the city of Ottawa in Ontario, Canada, where he worked as project manager. Throughout his career, he has received a number of awards including the Award of Merit for Canadian Engineering Excellence, as well as the No-Dig Outstanding Paper Award in Rehabilitation in 2002.

Other leadership changes that occurred include the election of Tom Hayes and Isabel Tardif who will serve on the NASTT board of directors. Hayes is the vice president of North American Rehabilitation for Insituform Technologies Inc. Tardif is a technologies director pertaining to underground infrastructures for the Centre for Expertise and Research on Infrastructure in Urban Areas (CERIU). Hayes and Tardif were elected to replace two outgoing board members whose terms have expired – Joe Abbott of Godwin Pumps and Mike Spero with Future Pipe Industries.

The following directors will continue to serve in 2008: Alan Atalah, Bowling Green State University; David Bennett, Bennett Trenchless Engineers; Chris Brahler, TT Technologies; Jack Burnam, CH2M Hill Engineers; Ken Chua, City of Edmonton; Ben Coté, Sanexen Environmental Services; George Cowan, New York City, DDC; Mark Hallett, Miller Pipeline Corp.; Keith Hanks, City of Los Angeles; Jim Hoggatt, South Tahoe Public Utility District; Mark Knight, University of Waterloo; Dan Liotti, Midwest Mole; George Ragula, Public Service Electric and Gas; Kaleel Rahaim, Interplastic Corp.; Piero Salvo, WSA Consultants; and Robert Westphal, Michels Corp.

Salvo notes that NASTT offers special training courses, such as CIPP, HDD, pipe-bursting and lateral lining, in addition to the trenchless technology primer courses. At present, there are 25 training sessions scheduled for 2008, with that number likely to grow.

Coming up

Looking ahead at what NASTT plans to achieve in 2008, Salvo comments: "The year 2008 is shaping up to be another big year for NASTT with respect to the upcoming No-Dig Show in Dallas and the training courses to be held. I am anticipating more involvement from the regional chapters this year in holding their regional conferences, as well as in holding our NASTT training courses. Also, we are looking forward to hosting another International Conference next year in Toronto, Canada at the Sheraton Centre Toronto on March 29-April 3, 2009."

Salvo says participating in NASTT and serving as chairperson has been "truly rewarding and a humbling experience." He adds, "The biggest satisfaction that I've gained from working with NASTT is the camaraderie and friendships that have been created over the years."

NASTT is dedicated to advancing trenchless technology and promoting its benefits

for the public and the environment by increasing awareness and knowledge through information dissemination; research and development; education and training; and partnerships with organizations and agencies interested in trenchless technology and its benefits. Membership is open to individuals, agencies and companies involved with providing gas, water, sewage, communications and electrical services.

NASTT is affiliated with the International Society for Trenchless Technology (ISTT) and shares the same basic concerns for the environmental and social costs of utilities trenching. NASTT members are automatically members of ISTT.

For more information, contact Michael Willmets, executive director, or Angela Ghosh, assistant executive director, at (703) 351-5252 or nastt.org.