



Thompson Pump's Pumpology School

Thompson Pump & Manufacturing Co. held their bi-annual Pumpology School April 25-28, at their corporate office in Port Orange, FL.

Thompson Pump hosted more than 40 attendees from 18 states and two countries. The four-day workshop included training sessions for sales and service-oriented professionals on pumping fundamentals, dewatering and bypass applications, selecting the correct pumping equipment, designing and supervising pumping systems, troubleshooting, pump maintenance, and more.

Pumpology School offers hands-on demonstrations and classroom training from industry experts. Upon completion of training and an exam, attendees are recognized with an awards ceremony as certified Pumpologist. This educational opportunity is offered complimentary twice a year during the spring and fall seasons. (800) 767-7310; thompsonpump.com

Trenchless legal consultant opens office

Charles T. Curtis, Jr., Attorney at Law, consultant in the field of trenchless technology, is opening a new office and announcing his association of counsel with Gerard G. Metzger, a professional law corporation. He can be contacted at: 829 Baronne Street, New Orleans, LA 70113; ph: (504) 581-9323; email: ccurtis7@cox.net.

Curtis has been a lawyer since 1977. He has served in the trenchless technology industry with Pipe Liners Inc., as the owner and developer of the U-Liner pipeline rehabilitation system, since 1991. As general counsel for the company, and more recently as the manager, Curtis wrote and negotiated virtually all of the company license agreements and was involved with legal aspects of the sale of Pipe Liners Inc., first to Hydro Conduit Corp. and then to PolyPipe Holdings Inc. He also handled patent and trademark issues related to U-Liner on a worldwide basis. In addition, Curtis has been active on the IAB at TTC.

Subsite Equipment/Charles Machine Works

The Charles Machine Works announces the addition of three new official dealers of Subsite electronic locating equipment, which is used to locate and identify underground utilities at construction jobsites. Based in Waukegan, IL, USABlueBook (www.usabluebook.com) represents the largest warehouse of parts and equipment for the water and wastewater industry. The company's entire inventory of more than 25,000 items is available to utility customers worldwide through an efficient on-line ordering system. (847) 775-6921

Since 1998, Gastech Instruments of Milan, Italy (www.gastech.it) has been a leading provider of video and other electronic equipment for locating buried pipe and detecting water and gas leaks. 39 02 4846 3405.

Lokator-K Ltd. of Bulgaria (www.lokatork.com) is a private company that provides a full range of specialized measuring and locating products to utility, telecommunications, and

HCSS User's Group Meeting Draws Record Number Of Attendees

A record 877 customers, representing 48 states and Canada, immersed themselves in intensive classes, feedback sessions and networking opportunities at the HCSS (www.hcss.com) user's group meetings at the Hotel Intercontinental in Houston. The 19th annual event, held in two separate three-day sessions, attracted construction company owners, managers, estimators, field personnel, dispatchers, IT personnel and others.

Attendees came to the conference to learn how to use HCSS products more effectively through formal classes and informal conversations with other customers. Users also shared with HCSS personnel suggestions for features and benefits in future versions of HCSS's HeavyBid Estimating Software; HeavyJob Field Management Software; and The Dispatcher Resource Management Software. Customer suggestions at user's group meetings are a primary source of updates to HCSS products.

As in previous years, the 2007 event offered nearly 60 classes devoted to HCSS products. It also added a new feature: an Executive Series of

management workshops that provided company owners and executives with ideas for operating their businesses and obtaining maximum results from their employees. Consultants Mike Murray and Gene Duckro guided three-hour sessions on "Extraordinary Leadership," "Change Management" and "Running Productive Meetings."

"Many users commented that the Executive Series alone made the trip to Houston worthwhile," said Mike Rydin, HCSS president. "We intended the series to give owners and top managers 'big-picture' advice for their businesses, beyond their use of HCSS products. It proved to be a very successful addition to the user's group meetings."

When they weren't attending classes, users enjoyed social events during their stay in Houston. They mingled with HCSS employees and their fellow users at a welcome reception, played golf in the annual user tournament, and tried their skills at a casino night that featured sports-themed games like a basketball toss and simulated golf.

The HCSS 2008 user's group meetings will be Feb. 7-9 and 21-23 at the Intercontinental Hotel in Houston. (800) 683-3196; hcss.com

avionics companies, as well as Bulgarian government agencies such as the Ministry of Defense and Ministry of Transport. 359 2 962 1881; subsidi.com

Interplastic Corporation

Interplastic Corporation's Thermoset Resins Division made an announcement that it would be raising the price of CoREZYN and Silmar brand products \$0.05 per pound for shipments on or after May 25, 2007. This includes all vinyl ester, polyester, specialty resins, gel coats, colorants, and putties.

"Key raw materials used in the manufacture of polyester and vinyl ester resins have escalated sharply over the past two months. Planned and unplanned outages have restricted supply, while strong demand worldwide for many feedstocks has surpassed existing manufacturing capabilities," explains Steve Wetzel, national sales manager. "In addition, there have been force majeure declarations that are causing shortages and very tight supply on some materials." Wetzel continued.

Also, strong demand in Asian markets for a wide range of products will contin-

ue, and put added pressure on benzene and other key petrochemicals. (651) 481-6860; interplastic.com

HOBAS promotes Simonson



John Simonson has been promoted to sales division manager by HOBAS Pipe USA, a manufacturer of centrifugally cast, fiberglass reinforced, polymer mortar pipe systems.

Simonson will expand the HOBAS technical education program to respond to the emerging demand for assistance and training in fiberglass pipe design, application and installation requirements. Utilizing his more than 25 years of experience in construction, trenchless rehabilitation, tunneling and project management, Simonson will communicate HOBAS' unique benefits to the municipal, engineering and contracting communities. (800) 856-7473, jsimonson@hobaspipe.com

U.S. Pipe

U.S. Pipe has launched its redesigned Web site, www.uspipe.com, an interactive, user-friendly resource for learning about U.S. Pipe and its products.

The site is attractive for both its usefulness and for providing information in an entertaining way. It's the kind of resource that provides everything the customer needs to find product information, print submittals and make use of time-saving calculators.

Some new features include: Interactive Media Player; Product Audio Clips; MJ FIELD LOK Time-Savings Calculator; Training/Educational Videos; and HDD with TR FLEX Pipe Calculator. Some longstanding favorites are: U.S. Pipe Submittal Engine and DIP Load Builder. (866) DIP-PIPE; uspipe.com

Plastics Pipe Institute

Bringing more than 35 years of technical expertise with extensive background in trenchless technology, Bruce G. Kuffer, P.E. has joined the Plastics Pipe Institute (PPI) as manager-market development for PPI's Municipal & Industrial Division.

Kuffer will focus on expanding knowledge in trenchless applications for municipal, rural, marine, forced



main and other applications in which high density polyethylene pipe (HDPE) offers a compelling construction advantage.

Before joining PPI, Kuffer worked for two consulting engineering design firms and for Insituform Inc. as head of business development. Kuffer holds a bachelor of science degree in civil engineering from Michigan Tech. He will be located in East Lansing, MI. (469) 499-1048; plasticpipe.org.

WilsonMiller's

WilsonMiller's design of an emergency water main replacement program in southwest Florida earned the firm its second consecutive Consultant of the Year award from the Florida Chapter of the American Public Works Association (APWA). The award was presented at an April 23 luncheon during the Florida APWA's annual meeting, held at the Rosen Centre Hotel in Orlando.

WilsonMiller was recognized as the 2007 Consultant of the Year in the field of Solid Waste/Wastewater/Stormwater/Water for its efforts on a horizontal directional drilling project associated with the "Greater Pine Island Water Association Emergency Water Main Replacement." The project was facilitated through WilsonMiller's Fort Myers office.

Last year, WilsonMiller was named Consultant of the Year in the same category for a Bahia Vista/Lockwood Ridge flood plain reclamation project in Sarasota.

The award-winning Pine Island project, which marked one of the longer horizontal directional drilling (HDD) applications in the country, became necessary following Hurricane Wilma in October 2005. The storm severely damaged a portion of the existing water transmission main under the Matlacha Drawbridge. As a result, the Greater Pine Island Water Association Inc., which services Matlacha and other barrier island communities, was unable to provide adequate fire flow to the Matlacha area east of the bridge or to its "off-island" commercial and residential customers on Cape Coral.

The WilsonMiller design team decided to use HDD technology to replace the existing water main, which was constructed in mid-1960s. The project encompasses a total length

of approximately 2,915 feet, at a depth of cover below the mudline, 97 feet below the Matlacha Pass waterway. Construction of this historic directional drill commenced in November of 2006.

"The project serves as an example of the successful integration of utility engineering expertise, team leadership, consensus-building skills, and creative problem-solving," said WilsonMiller Vice President Jeffrey A. Wilson, P.E., who leads the firm's Public Infrastructure Business Unit, which develops cost-effective solutions for everyday public water needs and provides leadership for community response and recovery during natural disasters.

"Florida is facing many environmental, economic, and societal challenges in accommodating its growing population," Wilson said. "The holistic approach utilized in this project yielded a solution that offers promise for other regions facing similar problems."

Midwest Mole

Midwest Mole Inc. has promoted Jose Ortega to foreman. Ortega has been

an employee of Midwest Mole for more than six years, and has extensive expertise in every type of tunneling method the Mole has performed.

Godwin Pumps

After more than 100 years on the same site and nearly 30 years in the same factory space, Godwin Pumps Limited (GPL) in Gloucestershire, England, has received a major makeover that includes a 15,300-square-foot expansion. Not only has the expansion enabled the factory to be more flexible and efficient, but Godwin Pumps officials say it will also benefit end-users by providing quicker deliveries and better product availability.

Godwin Pumps, the worldwide manufacturer of the original Dri-Prime automatic self-priming pump, has been manufacturing pumpsets at the U.K. facility since the end of the 19th century. It supplies a range of pumpsets for the construction, municipal, oil and gas, petrochemical and industrial markets through a worldwide distributor base. In addition, Godwin Pumps also manufactures a range of fire pumps, to both LPCB and



FM specifications, which are sold to many countries around the world.

A newly enlarged factory area – 12,000 square feet – has been added enabling the productions assembly area to be split. Today, the original factory floor is used only for building bare shaft pumpsets, which are then moved to the new workspace and mounted to the engine and base assembly to make a complete pumpset. There are a total of eight new fitting assembly bays in the expansion area.

Along with a new service area and electrical department, Godwin Pumps has added a new test facility as part of its expansion.

The remaining 3,300 square feet was designated for offices. The two-

story office portion of the expansion houses the design and engineering department, purchasing and production control departments, as well as the offices for the production and materials directors. The top floor comprises 65 percent of the additional office space and is devoted to the design

and engineering department, which includes seven computer-aided design (CAD) stations, project engineers and the service management and quality assurance departments. The lower floor houses the purchasing department, new production control room, offices for the production and materials directors and a new canteen.

In addition to the new factory building and offices, Miller said an area adjacent to the building was paved and partially covered. Today, the area serves as storage for engines, canopies and base plates, but that could change in the next few years. (856) 467-3636; godwinpumps.com ■

New Book Offers Valuable Insight Into Infrastructure Design & Construction

A new publication, *Advances in Underground Pipeline Design, Construction and Management*, will familiarize engineers and contractors interested in pipeline design, construction and asset management with the recent body of knowledge and to alert them to common problems.

The book is written by Dr. Jey K. Jeyapalan, P.E., a former professor, global consultant and expert witness. "The primary goal of my new book is to familiarize owners, utilities, engineers and contractors interested in pipeline design, construction and asset management with the recent body of knowledge and to alert them to common problems," he said. "In the book's 400-plus pages, I have documented many valuable lessons learned over 35 years working on over 300 pipelines around the world."

Jeyapalan added that it is not easy for a design engineer to select the most suitable type of pipe for a particular project because of the following reasons:

- The lack of formal classes in underground pipeline design, construction and management in any of the world's universities;
- Inadequate understanding of the pipe/soil interaction principles;
- The wide ranging behavior of pipe materials;
- Claims and counterclaims of pipe manufacturers;
- Inconsistent design standards, sometimes by the same governing body, for different pipe materials; and
- Political pressure brought by pipe interest groups.

Jeyapalan pointed out that the pipeline industry today is often faced with costly design or construction mistakes resulting in pipes failing, time-consuming litigation, and premature aging of infrastructure,

taxing (literally) the public coffers that often fund the systems. Contemporary pipeline technology can produce extremely reliable and cost-effective systems and yet many outcomes are compromised due to limited resources to keep industry professionals current on advances in the field. Additionally, utilities and municipalities are not taking advantage of the potential to collaborate in order to build solutions together. Roads are ripped up multiple times as each utility lays pipe solely to meet its specific purpose.

However, Jeyapalan says, engineering professionals can address the challenges and bring new opportunities into play by integrating the latest advances and thinking into their work.

The book is priced at \$200. For more information or an outline version of *Advances in Underground Pipeline Design, Construction and Management*, contact: Dr. Jey Jeyapalan, (860) 354-7299, jkjeyapalan@earthlink.net.

Advances in Underground Pipeline Design, Construction and Management

