

STRUCTURAL BUILDING COMPONENTS MAGAZINE

September/October 2004

Editor's Message



The Year in Review by Daniel Holland

BCMC is upon us and another year is winding down. Take a few moments to reflect on the accomplishments that have defined the months since BCMC 2003.

It is difficult to write this final piece as editor of SBC Magazine as I reflect on all of the things that have been accomplished this year and all of the people who have worked so hard. Each of their names should be written here, but space will not permit and I am afraid I would fail to include all who deserve credit and recognition. However, I am compelled to recap the best of the good things that have occurred in the structural building components industry this year.

Topping my list for 2004 are the Building Component Safety Information (BCSI 1-03) document and its companion B-Series Summary Sheets. I don't have words to describe the selfless cooperation and effort on the part of the TPI Board of Directors and Technical Advisory Committee (TAC), the WTCA Board of Directors and Engineering and Technology (E&T) committee, and the incredible effort of WTCA staff to get these documents to the marketplace in less than eight months. The value of this work to our industry cannot be overstated.

Closely tied to this is the WTCA/TPI joint publications agreement and its significant positive effect on both TPI and WTCA. This agreement has removed the appearance of competition between our associations and has allowed both organizations to focus on industry advancement without any duplication of effort. The synergy and industry value that this creates cannot be underestimated.

Next on my list is the great work that has been and is being done with building codes and code officials across the country. WTCA and TPI have worked with code officials, engineers, insurance industry groups and others to clarify the scope of work of component manufacturers and design professionals with regard to the truss design and engineering process and, in particular, the component placement diagrams. This work is resulting in a better understanding of our product and its use and the need for the design professional to consider truss bracing as a building design issue. The goal is to ensure that all the engineering work on a building is performed by those that have the required expertise.

We were also successful in having truss friendly changes adopted to the IBC and IRC model codes clarifying, simplifying and harmonizing their treatment of truss design and use. However, as important as these accomplishments are, the ongoing work to create what we are calling our "Guide to Good Practice for Applying Loads to Metal Plate Connected Wood Trusses" continues.

This will be an industry guide drafted by an E&T subcommittee and reviewed by the full E&T committee and TPI TAC to arrive at a consensus approach to applying loads to trusses. The interpretation and application of loads, as required by the various building codes, is probably going to be one of the more important and valuable projects we have undertaken in quite some time. Our customers need to know that all of us are applying the same loads the same way. This can only increase our value and market share as residential building design shifts away from traditional prescriptive design methods.

Finally, I must recognize BCMC for the incredible event it is going to be this year. After the spectacular show we had in Phoenix last year, I had the feeling we could not possibly repeat such a performance. I was wrong! As I write, we have already sold more than 80,000 sq. ft. of show space "raising the bar" by more than 9,000 sq. ft. from last year's record-setting show floor.

If you don't come to this year's show, you will be home alone. Alone is not good, especially when representing the building component industry. Through the time I have had the good fortune to be involved in WTCA I have come to believe that collective association is the only way to have any credible influence on the design community, code community and market. Alone you will always be suspect of seeking competitive gain. Sometimes working in association with other component manufacturers is difficult due to our egos and authoritative positions within our own companies. Yet, the experience is profoundly useful for our common good as well as being the most stimulating and pleasant social experience one might seek as an individual. Everyone I have met in the process brings value and knowledge that WTCA and I would otherwise not have. Perhaps you should get involved with WTCA. Consider attending a quarterly board meeting. Our meetings are open to everyone. I hope to see you there.

[SBC HOME PAGE](#)

Copyright © 2004 by Truss Publications, Inc. All rights reserved. For permission to reprint materials from SBC Magazine, call 608/310-6706 or email editor@sbcmag.info.

The mission of Structural Building Components Magazine (SBC) is to increase the knowledge of and to promote the common interests of those engaged in manufacturing and distributing of structural building components to ensure growth and continuity, and to be the information conduit by staying abreast of leading-edge issues. SBC will take a leadership role on behalf of the component industry in disseminating technical and marketplace information, and will maintain advisory committees consisting of the most knowledgeable professionals in the industry. The opinions expressed in SBC are those of the authors and those quoted solely, and are not necessarily the opinions of any of the affiliated associations (SBCC, WTCA, SCDA & STCA).