



Publisher's Message

Handling, Installing & Bracing

by Libby Maurer

This issue is full of stories of people who are dedicated to making handling, installing and bracing safe.

If you just read Bob's first column as president of our organization on page 7—one of many "perks" he'll enjoy this year—you've gotten the Reader's Digest version of the many iterations of handling, installing and bracing information guides created by various organizations and leaders in the industry. I'm sure you were struck by the amount of consensus and collaboration that must have gone into each of them, and possibly even paused in thanks to the people who felt passionate enough to make jobsite safety a priority.

Thankfully, you don't have to wonder what it would be like to operate without a standard set of industry jobsite safety recommendations. Or whether you've covered yourself adequately from the risk associated with selling products to someone who may or may not know the appropriate or safe way to install them. The BCSI series has proven a powerful and functional set of tools for the industry. It is for that reason that we celebrate the strides we've made in handling, installing and bracing of components in this issue.

Poor framing practices can occur no matter what building material is used. So Steven Spradlin of Capital Structures, whose company services a predominately stick-framed residential market in northwest Arkansas, decided to do something about it. Learn about the approach he took—and how you can do the same—on page 30.

Several years ago, a man named Gerry Sackett wrote to us, pointing out that some photos in an article we printed displayed inadequate bracing at best. He wondered if BCSI would ever fully "catch on" in the industry. As it turns out, Gerry is a builder who has a passion for safety on the jobsite for his own very specific reasons. Find out why on page 42.

One of the best ways to get information like BCSI into the hands of construction industry professionals is through the use of educational tools like Truss Technology Workshops (TTWs). A restructuring initiative was recently approved, providing TTWs to these folks at no cost. TTWs have become easier for component manufacturers and WTCA chapters to use as well. Turn to page 36 to read about these and other changes.

Ken Watters, an engineer in Pennsylvania, first brought his new bracing detail to an industry meeting in July. In "Truss Brace Splicing Methods" (p. 50), he reveals how this new continuous lateral restraint detail saves quite a bit of lumber.

While it's too early to report any data or findings from the industry's new SBCRI testing lab, we're glad to report that several proprietary testing projects are currently underway. It is our hope that in one year's time, we will have sound bracing data to report to the SBC readership—information that will make our products safer and more marketable.

Be sure to check out the Supplier Showcase polybagged with this issue! You'll notice that for the first time, it contains the Annual Supplier Listing. Coming off BCMC, now is the perfect time to check out the products spotlighted in the Showcase and make contact with the vendors in the listing.

Best of luck in your endeavors to communicate the industry's message on jobsite safety to the folks in your market! Be sure to pass along your success stories. **SBC**

at a glance

- The focus of this issue is jobsite handling, installing and bracing.
- Learn about a new educational tool on framing practices on page 30.
- The builder featured on page 42 embraced BCSI out of necessity.
- Polybagged with this issue is the annual Supplier Showcase and the supplier listing.

Thank You to BCMC 2007 Exhibitors Who Discovered New Possibilities in Columbus, Ohio!

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