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FORGING AHEAD TOGETHER



# Editor's Message

Looking Forward to Better Days Ahead

by Bob Becht

Make a renewed commitment to quality in the plant one of your New Year's resolutions!

At the Building Component Manufacturers Conference (BCMC) this year, I concluded my acceptance speech for the presidency by saying that "WTCA has a great future." I meant what I said, and BCMC 2007 is just the first bit of proof I have to share.

It's true our industry has come upon challenging times, but I was encouraged by the showing at this year's BCMC. So many different people—attendees and exhibitors alike—expressed in positive ways how they felt about BCMC. In addition to some of the new, improved products on display, as attendees we also had access to numerous first-rate educational sessions and, as always, quality time with our industry peers.

Speaking of quality, the topics we're focusing on for December are Manufacturing Issues and Quality Control. Some of you may already know this about me, but I'm a systems guy. I like to develop, refine, program, manipulate...well, you get the picture. It began early in my career when I was programming systems that did everything from writing cut-lists to payroll. With that in mind, it probably comes as no surprise that I have also developed a system for Quality Control at Chambers Truss. I take great pride in the fact that not only do we inspect every truss, we have, over time, adjusted our system to make it even more fool-proof. We inspect for lumber grade and quality in addition to proper assembly and we're third-party inspected, too.



You don't need to develop your own system, because WTCA has put together a complete and easy-to-use package that anyone can afford to implement. Or maybe I mean to say, can't afford not to implement.

Not everyone is a systems guy the way that I am; it's a hobby, maybe even a passion. That's ok. However, no matter what challenges your company is facing, quality is something none of us should be sacrificing in our products—especially in this market! This gives me the opportunity to mention WTCA's Quality Control program: In-Plant WTCA QC. You don't need to develop your own system, because WTCA has put together a complete and easy-to-use package that anyone can afford to implement. Or maybe I mean to say, can't afford not to implement. The latest software release, In-Plant WTCA QC 4.3, became available in late September and includes revisions and upgrades that keep the program in line with the upcoming TPI 1 update.

WTCA In-Plant Version 4.3 also incorporates online inspector training modules, which make implementing "the system" easier and provide a 24-hour resource for your company. If you ask me about my quality control system I'll tell you "it's working." Is yours?

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### at a glance

- Quality is something that no one should sacrifice, no matter what.
- Part of manufacturing is discovering the nuances that make a world of difference.
- Make it a goal to get your systems tuned up, in place and ready for the New Year.

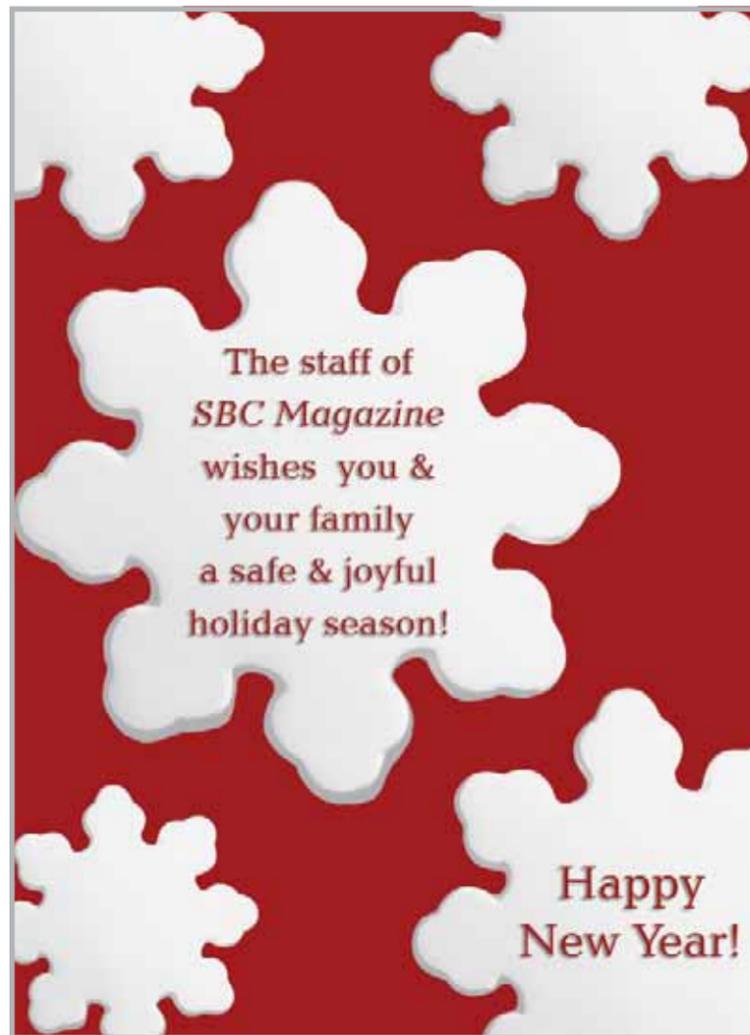
## Editor's Message

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On the Manufacturing Issues front, I find myself a bit at a loss for words. It's easy to focus on the equipment and software upgrades, anything flashy and new can be a good distraction, but once you've been in this business for a number of years, you begin to realize that success comes from the nuances. As the year comes to a close, I encourage you to find the little things in your production facility you can refine as time and budget allow and tap your resources, such as WTCA's QC program, to keep everything moving in a forward direction.

Do I know when the industry will turn the corner? No. Do I trust that together as an industry we'll come out stronger, more efficient and more effective on the other side? For certain. With a new year quickly upon us, take this opportunity to rededicate yourself and your company to comprehensive quality in everything you do. Whatever your systems may be, get them tuned-up, in place and ready for another year! **SBC**

*SBC Magazine encourages the participation of its readers in developing content for future issues. Do you have an article idea for a future issue or a topic that you would like to see covered? Email your thoughts and ideas to editor@sbcmag.info.*



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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 structural building components. Further, *SBC* strives to ensure growth, continuity and increased professionalism in our industry, and to be the information conduit by staying abreast of leading-edge issues. *SBC's* editorial focus is geared toward the entire structural building component industry, which includes the membership of WTCA – Representing the Structural Building Components Industry. The opinions expressed in *SBC* are those of the authors and those quoted, and are not necessarily the opinions of Truss Publications or WTCA.

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