The Technology Committee has been revived under the direction of Jeff Slade, committee Chairman. Each month IT professionals from CASF membership meet to share information about hardware and software they use in their construction businesses. The topic in June was Training and Implementation.

It was agreed by all present that in order to be successful in training there must be a buy-in from all levels, especially executive, to be sure that everyone gets onboard. Training needs to be real-time and specific. As an example, if an employee is assigned the task of creating an RFI and requires help with how to do it, a perfect solution is an on-demand tutorial specific to creating an RFI. While several companies still provide classroom training, it is not as effective. Most found that different experience levels among those who attend classes and keeping everyone focused during the class can prove to be challenging.

Miles Willson, Pirtle Construction Company, pointed out that his company has moved to using Adobe Captivate to create interactive videos. They try to keep them less than 15-minutes long with added humor or illustrations to keep the user’s attention. Having used private videos they found that it was expensive and very time intensive. Plus, changing, editing the videos is very cumbersome.

Adobe Captivate videos are mobile ready, internet ready and you can add tests or click-throughs to monitor the user’s progress. They are also similar to PowerPoint, so sections of each training interactive can be updated and/or changed very quickly.

Jack Horan, Titan Stone, discussed the availability of interactive guides for many software programs that they use. Microsoft is a good example providing interactive guides such as MS Office on the Microsoft Site. http://office.microsoft.com/en-us/word-help/interactive-word-2003-to-word-2007-command-reference-guide-HA010074432.aspx allows users to perform a function in Office 2003 and then the guide shows them how to perform the same function in Office 2007.

Eddie Mull, CADD Centers of Florida, explained that his company has been using Adobe Captivate to create interactive videos. They try to keep them less than 15-minutes long with added humor or illustrations to keep the user’s attention. Having used private videos they found that it was expensive and very time intensive. Plus, changing, editing the videos is very cumbersome.

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Wanted: Good, Happy Customers!

Each month Construction FOCUS features a CASF member company, selected by drawing a business card from among those attending the monthly networking breakfast. The next breakfast, sponsored by Miller Construction Company, will be held on Thursday, July 19, 7:30 a.m. at Shula’s Hotel in Miami Lakes.

Be Green Landscape Contractors, Inc. was founded in 2005 by Mike Burak (no longer with the company) and current President Frank Tursi, who has been in the local landscape business for more than 20 years. Frank’s experience began in the late 1980’s where he advanced from lawn maintenance laborer to tree trimmer to eventually landing a job with another local landscape firm in 1992. From that company he learned every aspect of both commercial and residential landscape contracting and in 2005 it was time for him to venture off on his own and say goodbye to his 13 year security blanket. The first 2 years in business were wonderful; the company hit the million dollar mark in gross sales both years. Then in 2008, just like everyone else, the company started to see a big decline in work and forced a split between partners Mike and Frank. The company could no longer sustain two owners, so Mike chose to move on, giving Frank complete creative control. With hard work, integrity, excellent customer service, knowledge and skill the company was able to fight through the hard times and are now stronger than ever. Frank is proud to say that with all that has happened there were no bridges burned along the way. BGL was able to maintain an excellent credit rating and are bondable up to $300,000.

Customer service is the company’s main philosophy. "Always do the right thing by your customers and you can’t go wrong”, says Tursi. Their constant goal is to build the core of their business with good, happy customers that are not rude or difficult and pay their bills and to let all of the negative, hard to work with people find another company to abuse. This in turn makes a great environment for both the employees and owner. BGL currently has 12 employees. Their key people include: Head of Maintenance, Isidro Perez, Head of Landscape, Juan Rodriguez and office manager/estimator Lucinda Tursi.

The company specializes in both upscale residential and commercial projects with an extreme sense for detail. Some of the services they provide include: lawn maintenance, landscape design, irrigation systems, tree pruning/trimming, removal and planting, fertilization, weed control, mulch installation, insects and disease control, waterfalls and ponds, outdoor lighting, brick paver patios, holiday decorations, as well as brick and stone retaining walls and steps. One could say that they are the "jack of all trades".

Be Green Landscape Contractors, Inc. recently rejoined CASF this past month and are very excited to be back. "CASF is a great way to bring the industry together and we are very interested in reconnecting with some of the great members of CASF", expresses Tursi.

Be Green Landscape Contractor, Inc.'s office is located at 7498 Hazelwood Circle, Lake Worth, FL 33467. For more information call 561-966-8558 or visit www.begreenlandscape.com.
Terry Stiles recognizes John Custer for his 30-years as Chair of Craftsmanship Awards.

Bill and Peggy Bower receive thanks and recognition for his Year as President.

CASF’s FIU Scholarship Winner, Emmanuel Okwar, Jr. (right) with Prof. Jose Faria and his father.

2012-13 Board of Directors: (l to r) Jim McConchie, Past Pres. 2002-03; Doug Wallace, President; Bob Baer, 1st V.P.; Craig Heiser, 2nd V.P.; Bill Bower, Immediate Past President; Directors: Don Ferguson, Justin Lord, Mindy Szarowicz, Jeff Slade and Chris Long.

45-year Member Latite Roofing & Sheet Metal: Jim Engskow and Rosalee Tucker
35-year Member Mowrey Elevator Co.: Bill Grabin

Bill and Peggy Bower receive thanks and recognition for his Year as President.

Doug Wallace states his objective as President... Building Relationships

20-year Member Proietto Painting: Tom Welsh
20-year Member Trans Coastal Construction Co.: Duane Burgard

15-year Member GFA International: Fritz Mackey
15-year Member Katz, Barron, Squitero, Faust: Mathai Jacob

10-year Member Fastrac Electric Corp.: Leo Bly
10-year Member Hypower: Rich and Bernard Paul-Hus
10-year Member Kelley Kronenberg: Heath Eskalyo & Frank Reilly
10-year Member Northwestern Mutual: Matt Olsen
10-year Member Plaza Construction Grp Fla.: Mike Palermo

62nd Annual Installation Banquet
Renaissance Hotel, Plantation
Friday, June 15, 2012
WikiHelp to “host” their training and help guides. The example he gave is http://wikihelp.autodesk.com/edu for the help guide on AutoDesk.

Seth Cheever, Stiles Construction Co., uses Power Point to teach SmartBidNet, www.smartbid-net.com/ to estimators in the company. He provides a hard-copy of the Power Point presentation in a binder and refers users to the software’s Knowledge-base for more needed information. They also meet to review users’ experiences.

Jeff Slade, Miller Construction Co., conducts “Lessons Learned” sessions late in the work day to make sure everyone is on the same page.

The next meeting on Data Preservation is July 11.