



Construction Tech Tips

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 <http://www.adobe.com/products/captivate.html> 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, as things change, 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 Power Point, 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

(Continued on page 4)

Member News

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Stiles Construction Company is constructing a state-of-the-art 610,000 SF air cargo facility at the northeast corner of Miami International Airport which includes 190,000 SF of cold-storage and 240,000 SF of concrete pavement, all being constructed within a very aggressive schedule and airport logistical constraints.

Steel Fabricators LLC was selected to furnish and install all the structural steel for this project totaling nearly 5 million pounds of steel fabricated by 85 workers running over three shifts.

This relates to an astonishing 21,000 shop man hours and 17,000 site man hours erecting 248 tons per week.

Woodland Construction will construct the concrete tilt wall with 204 panels erected in 22 days and over 25,000 CY of concrete poured on this project to date. The extensive site utilities package and concrete aircraft pavements are being constructed by **Redland Company, Inc.**

Kaufman Lynn Construction has completed the Tilt Wall erection for the new classroom building, administration building, and the bridge connecting the two buildings at Fort Lauderdale High School. Many of the three-story tall, 60 feet high panels exceeded 275,000 pounds, which ranks them among the heaviest panels erected nationwide, according to the Tilt-up Concrete Association.



Centurion Air Cargo Facility



Ft. Lauderdale High School

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.

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62nd Annual Installation Banquet

Renaissance Hotel, Plantation
Friday, June 15, 2012



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
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35-year Member
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Terry Stiles recognizes John Custer for his 30-years as Chair of Craftsmanship Awards



(l to r) Bill Bower, John Siegle, Terry Stiles, John Custer and C. Tony Martin



20-year Member
Proietto Painting Tom Welsh



20-year Member
Trans Coastal Construction Co. Duane Burgard



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



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



15-year Member
GFA International Fritz Mackey



15-year Member
Katz, Barron, Squitiero, Faust Mathai Jacob



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



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ROUTE TO:

Tech Tips

(Continued from page 1)

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.

CASF at the Marlins Game

Thursday, June 7

