

# Scenes from Atlanta: The ICRI 2007 Spring Convention



**B**uilding on the success of the ICRI 2006 Fall Convention held in Denver, CO, the 2007 spring event again had near-record attendance. Held April 19-20, 2007, at the Sheraton Buckhead Hotel in Atlanta, GA, this convention introduced a variety of industry professionals to new procedures, unique uses of common materials, and distinctive ways to handle environmental challenges.

*First Place winners in the Georgia Chapter Golf Outing on Wednesday were, from left, Mike Strickland, Ken Strickland, Tate Painter, and Bobby Griffin*



The host, ICRI's Georgia Chapter, kicked things off on Wednesday morning with a trip to the Stone Mountain Lakemont Golf Course where 11 four-somes took to the fairways for an adventurous golf tournament. Even with a few requests for scuba gear, chain saws, and some mountain-climbing equipment, prompted by the abundance of natural hazards on the course, the event featured a great day for golf and a beautiful setting provided by Georgia's famous Stone Mountain.

On Thursday morning, attendees dove into a full morning of technical presentations; committee meetings; and convention exhibits, featuring a variety of products and services that fit well with the convention theme: "Innovative and Advanced Techniques." Attendance at committee meetings continued to rise at the spring event as more and more convention attendees found the value of getting involved in both the technical and administrative aspects of ICRI. Meeting for only the second time, the Guide Specifications Committee filled its room with participants eager to contribute.

As of this convention, the spring event is now the official gathering where ICRI and its members recognize many of the associations' annual honors. The Recognition Luncheon and General Session introduced attendees to the new ICRI Officers and Directors for 2007 and also provided a platform for ICRI to recognize its Supporting Members. Past President Dennis Pinelle officially passed the gavel to incoming President Marty Sobelman. The highlight of the luncheon was the presentation of new ICRI Fellows William "Bud" Earley, Tom Ouska, and Patrick "Doc" Watson. The first full day was brought to a close with the Welcome Reception on Thursday evening.

The graciousness of the Georgia Chapter extended to spouses during this convention as they were treated to a tour of the Georgia Aquarium on Thursday and a unique history tour of Atlanta on Friday.

Friday was the last day of the convention and it too was packed with activities. Attendees filed through the exhibits for the last time before a few more committee meetings and the final technical sessions rounded out the morning. On Friday afternoon,



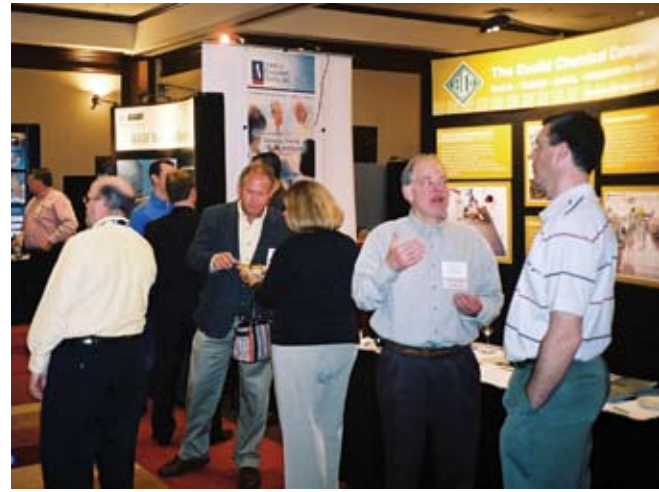
*Attendees at the Annual Recognition Luncheon on Thursday*

*Dennis Pinelle (left), ICRI Past President, receives recognition from Marty Sobelman, current ICRI President*





*The Welcome Reception at the Spring Convention gives attendees the opportunity to network with each other*



*Exhibitors enjoy the Welcome Reception as well, greeting attendees and introducing them to new products and services*



*Two Past Presidents of ICRI, Steven Royer (left) and Bob Johnson (center), and an ICRI Fellow, Ken Lozen (right) enjoy catching up at the spring Welcome Reception*



*Another lively discussion takes place during the popular Inter-Chapter Luncheon with Chapters Committee Chair Mark Nelson (right) and ICRI Chapters Manager Dale Regnier (left) taking the lead*



*Representing the Georgia Chapter and greeting the arriving guests at the Social Outing are past ICRI President Bob Terpening (left) and Derick Bridges, current Georgia Chapter President*



*(Left to right) ACI Executive Vice President Bill Tolley, ICRI Executive Director Kelly Page, ACI Past President Tom Verti, and Tanya Komars at Maggiano's*

Technical Activities Committee (TAC) Chair Rick Edelson moderated a lively and very interactive forum designed to "Stump the Experts." Participants were able to look on as industry experts tried to identify innovative repair techniques through a series of before and after photos submitted by ICRI members.

The final convention social activity was put together by the fine folks of the Georgia Chapter. Several bus-loads of attendees stayed through Friday evening to participate in the Georgia Chapter Social Outing to Maggiano's Little Italy Restaurant. After some networking and social time, not to mention Maggiano's famous plate-loads of

food, the group was entertained by the infamous Restoration Brothers Blues Band. This band debuted at the previous year's spring convention in San Diego, and was brought back at the request of the Georgia Chapter. The band, featuring the talents of ICRI members Peter Craig, Tom Ouska, David Rodler, Marty Sobelman, Thomas Quinn, Robert Higgins, and Jim Jaillet, wowed the crowd once again. Not to be missed was a command performance by Scott "Rock Star" Tarr of his "Freeze-Thawing" (sung to the Tom Petty tune "Free-Falling").

ICRI conventions are jam-packed with activities, networking opportunities, and the most comprehensive educational offerings the industry can pull together. And it IS the industry that pulls it all together for every convention. ICRI staff, the Board

of Directors, committee Chairs, chapter representatives, and technical session presenters work together to bring you information you can use to make the most of your ICRI membership.

The great news is that ICRI is getting ready to do it again! Plans are set for "Architectural Repair & Repair in New Construction" this fall in Las Vegas, NV, November 7-9, 2007 (a convention preview is included in this issue of the *CRB*), and the association is also preparing to celebrate ICRI's 20th anniversary at the 2008 Spring Convention next April. Arrangements are being made to shake things up a bit, expand the programs, create the best social and networking environments, and raise the bar once again, all while continuing to bring you what you need to be the best in the business.



*(Left to right) John McDougall, Sarah Thaxton, Robert Thaxton, and Monica Rourke all enjoy the leisure time on Friday during the Georgia Chapter Social Outing*



*(Left to right) Rick Edelson, Steven Royer, and Susie Edelson*



*Dennis Pinnelle (left), Lee Eliseian, and Alfred Kessi (red sweater) ham it up for the camera*



*Smiles abound on Friday evening with (left to right) Garth Fallis, Beth Newbold, Pat Winker, and Kevin Michols*



*Scott "Rock Star" Tarr lives up to his modest new moniker*



*Tanya Komars (right) from California State University, Chico, enjoys a relaxing moment with Mark deStefano and his wife, Faith*



*... and the show must go on—costume changes and all. No price is too high to pay for quality entertainment!*

*The band rocked with Peter Craig at the keyboard*