

April 2026



April President's Column

By Romulos P. Ragudos, Jr.

ASCE Seattle Section President

Hello Seattle Section,

It was great seeing many of you last March at our Annual Dinner meeting with our Geo-Institute Chapter. Reminder the GI annual Short Course and Spring Seminar will be held on May 1 and 2.

Our next Dinner Meeting will be on April 30th with the Structural Engineers Association of Washington (SEAW) on the newly opened Sound Transit Crosslake Connection, please RSVP in the link below.

Nominations for our Local Outstanding Civil Engineering Awards are live and are due on April 17, and Region 8 Award nominations are due May 1. Please consider nominating your projects/engineers for these awards.

Additionally, please help me in wishing the best of luck to our student chapters from the University of Washington, Seattle University and the University of British Columbia as their Concrete Canoe, Steel Bridge and Timber Strong Design teams compete at the PNW Symposia Competitions on Lake Sammamish on April 12th and Anchorage, Alaska later this month. <https://studentsymposium.asce.org/pacific-northwest/>

If you are looking to get more involved with ASCE, we have many opportunities available so please feel free to contact me at president@seattleasce.org.

Stay updated on our latest events, please check out our Section Website, subscribe to the newsletter and follow us on LinkedIn.

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MAY 2026 NEWSLETTER
CONTENT DEADLINE:
April 20, 2026

SEAW Seattle & ASCE Joint Dinner Meeting: Sound Transit's Crosslake Connection - April 30, 2026

Sound Transit's Crosslake Connection: Rail, Retrofit, and Innovation

[RSVP Here!](#)

Sound Transit's Crosslake Connection represents one of the most technically ambitious rail transit projects ever delivered in North America. Forming the central segment of the Link Light Rail 2 Line, the project converted the I-90 corridor—including the iconic Homer M. Hadley Floating Bridge—from reversible highway lanes to exclusive light rail service. As Sound Transit's prime engineering consultant, WSP led the final design of this unprecedented crossing, delivering the world's first light rail system to operate on a floating bridge. Crossing the floating bridge required the development of a patented "Track Bridge" system at the expansion joints to accommodate the floating bridge's continuous movements and non-invasive track attachment solutions to protect the bridge pontoons.

Beyond the floating bridge, the Crosslake Connection project encompassed extensive seismic and gravity retrofits of existing highway structures repurposed for rail, along with the design and delivery of Judkins Park and Mercer Island Stations, each with unique structural and architectural challenges. The project demanded close coordination with Sound Transit and WSDOT to integrate new rail infrastructure into existing highway right-of-way. This presentation will explore the engineering innovations and collaborative problem-solving that transformed an existing highway corridor into a resilient, high-capacity rail connection.

Speakers:



Matthew Barber, PE

Matthew Barber is a bridge engineer working in the greater Seattle area. He started his career 22 years ago in the New York office of Parsons Brinckerhoff (now WSP) before coming to the Northwest in 2011 to support a WSDOT design build project. On the Seattle to South Bellevue segment of East Link (currently referred to as the Crosslake Connection), he started as the Miscellaneous Structures Lead during the Final Design, before serving as the Design Lead During Construction for the duration of the construction. When not thinking about transportation infrastructure, Matthew enjoys

gardening, cycling, kayaking, cooking pasta with wife, and volunteering at the snack bar of his children's swim meets.



Jake Douglass, PE

Jake Douglass is a bridge engineer in WSP's Seattle office. Prior to joining WSP, he lived and worked on the East Coast, designing and inspecting bridges and waterfront structures. Jake joined the design team for the Seattle to South Bellevue segment of East Link in 2016 during the latter stages of final design and later became the Deputy Design Lead During Construction. Outside of work, Jake enjoys hiking, watching soccer, and touring the city's playgrounds with his two young children.

Local Outstanding Civil Engineering
Achievements Award (LOCEA) 2026 -
Deadline Extended!

locea 2026
project
awards



applications due by:
apr. 17, 2026
extended!

- Geotechnical
- Transportation & Development
- ☞ Water Resources / Environmental updated!
- Structures
- Small Project & Non-Construction Study
- Ports & Waterways
- ☞ Preservation new category!
- ☞ Disaster Resiliency new category!

individual
awards

applications due by:
may 1, 2026

- ☞ Public Sector Civil Engineer of the Year
- ☞ Private Sector Civil Engineer of the Year
- Young Engineer of the Year
- ☞ Advocate of the Year new category!
- ☞ ASCE Officer of the Year new category!

31st Annual Popsicle Stick Bridge Competition



The 31st Annual Popsicle Stick Bridge Competition was a huge success, bringing 22 student teams, 2 corporate teams, and 20 volunteers. Teams had to build bridges out of popsicle sticks that met specific parameters and specifications. They were judged on their technical solutions, aesthetic attributes, and how much load their bridges could withstand. This year's bridges impressed across the board, with the strongest structure supporting an incredible 262 pounds before finally breaking. Thank you to our sponsors and volunteers, whose support helped make the competition one of the most memorable yet.

Sustainability Committee April Update



Bridging Earth and Space: Sustainability Committee Q1 Meeting Recap

The Sustainability Committee held its first Quarterly Meeting on February 25 at Seattle's Westlake Center. The event featured an inspiring keynote by **Dr. Yen Matsutomi**, Vice President of Global Supply Chain Engineering and Make-Buy Optimization at **Blue Origin**. Dr. Matsutomi shared compelling insights on sustainable space operations, Blue Origin's long-term vision for space habitation, and the growing intersections between aerospace and civil engineering.

The meeting brought together professionals from the public and private sectors and academia—underscoring the increasing importance of interdisciplinary collaboration in shaping a sustainable future both on Earth and beyond.


Committee discussions also explored emerging opportunities for civil engineers in areas such as **lunar permanence**, **extraterrestrial infrastructure**, and **In-Situ Resource Utilization (ISRU)**, highlighting how innovations in space can translate into more sustainable practices for terrestrial projects.

Special thanks to **Mott MacDonald Northwest Division** for its continued sponsorship of the Sustainability Committee's quarterly meetings.

Sustainability Committee Upcoming Q2 Event

The Sustainability Committee is pleased to invite you to our **Q2 Networking Event**, featuring guest speaker **Nathan Hart**, from Seattle Public Utilities (SPU). Join us for an engaging afternoon centered on **sustainability, innovation, and cross-industry collaboration**, with opportunities to connect with professionals across the Seattle region who are shaping resilient and environmentally responsible infrastructure. This event is generously sponsored by **Mott MacDonald**.

 **Date:** April 22, 2026

 **Location:** Westlake Center, 1601 5th Ave #400, Seattle, WA 98101

 **RSVP by April 16:** sustainability@seattleasce.org (Space is limited)

Agenda

4:00 – 4:20 PM | Committee Updates

4:30 – 5:00 PM | Presentation (25 min) + Q&A (5 min)

5:00 – 6:00 PM | Networking Cocktail Dinner

About the Speaker – Nathan Hart, Seattle Public Utilities (SPU)

Nathan Hart is a Drainage and Wastewater Senior Stormwater Policy & Regulatory Advisor at Seattle Public Utilities (SPU). He has worked in various roles at SPU over the past 15 years. As part of his current role, Nathan is the emerging contaminants lead for SPU providing guidance and strategic planning on PFAS, PCB, 6PPD-q, microplastics, and other chemicals. His prior roles included serving as the Duwamish Superfund Cleanup Lead for source control and recontamination prevention, and serving as an environmental compliance inspector at SPU. Prior to his work at SPU,



Nathan worked as an environmental planning consultant and obtained his BA in Environmental Studies with a focus on environmental policy and planning, water quality, permitting, and remediation.

Best Management Practices and 6PPD. The emergence of 6PPD-quinone (6PPD-q)—a transformation product of the tire rubber antioxidant 6PPD—brings urgency and challenges to the world of urban stormwater management. Recent toxicological research identifies 6PPD-q as the primary driver of Urban Runoff Mortality Syndrome (URMS) in coho salmon, presenting a significant challenge for civil engineers tasked with balancing transportation infrastructure needs with environmental stewardship. As 6PPD-q is ubiquitous in roadway runoff, traditional stormwater infrastructure must be re-evaluated through the lens of high-performance chemical filtration and source-to-receiving water management.

This presentation explores the intersection of the built environment and aquatic health, focusing on the efficacy of various best management practices (BMPs) in addressing 6PPD-q. We will look at recent data comparing conventional grey infrastructure (e.g., detention vaults and sand filters) against Green Stormwater Infrastructure (GSI). Special emphasis will be placed on the role of bioretention systems, which have demonstrated high removal efficiency for these contaminants. Additional BMP data will be discussed, as well as the scope of the regulatory and environmental challenges at hand.

Attendees will gain insights into:

- The chemical pathway from tire wear particles (TWP) to 6PPD-q
- The challenges associated with understanding presence and concentration in an urban environment
- BMP selection criteria to address this and other common contaminants
- Forthcoming regulatory challenges associated with 6PPD-q and potential outcomes

By integrating water quality engineering with innovative material science, the civil engineering community can lead the transition toward a "fish-friendly" built environment that minimizes the impacts of these contaminants.

**Washington State Delegation Advocates for
Infrastructure on Capitol Hill at
2026 ASCE Legislative Fly-In**



Members of the Washington State delegation joined more than 265 American Society of Civil Engineers (ASCE) leaders in Washington, D.C., on March 17–18 for the 2026 Legislative Fly-In, advocating for critical infrastructure priorities with federal lawmakers.

During the visit, Washington ASCE members met directly with the offices of Marilyn Strickland, Rick Larsen, and Marie Gluesenkamp Perez, as well as with Maria Cantwell and Patty Murray.

These meetings focused on advancing ASCE's key legislative priorities, including continued investment in transportation, water infrastructure, and resilient systems that directly impact communities across Washington State. The Washington delegation helped ensure that the state's infrastructure needs and engineering priorities were clearly represented on Capitol Hill.

2025 Region 8 Award Nominations

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Award Nominations are due by May 1, 2026.

Click on the award below to submit your nomination packet.

[Region 8 Awards](#)



[Dale Nelson Engineer of the Year](#)
[Engineers 36 years of age and over](#)

[Kristina L. Swallow Young Engineer of the Year](#)

[Engineers 35 years of age and under](#)



[Project of the Year](#)

[Large Project - Construction costs > \\$10 million](#)

[Small Project - Construction costs < \\$10 million](#)

Contact Us 

Follow these links to submit a nomination packet:

[Dale Nelson Engineer of the Year - Engineers 36 years of age and over](#)

[Kristina L. Swallow Young Engineer of the Year - Engineers 35 years of age and under](#)

[Project of the Year - Large Project - Construction costs > \\$10 million](#)

[Project of the Year - Small Project - Construction costs < \\$10 million](#)

**ASCE G-I Seattle Chapter 40th Annual Spring Semester & Short Course -
Registration Now Open!**

We are pleased to announce that registration is currently open for the 40th Annual Spring Seminar and Spring Short Course!

The Short Course will be held on Friday, May 1st at the Mountaineers. The short course will be split into two topics including Advanced Tools for Site Response Analysis and Next Generation Liquefaction Models for Susceptibility, Triggering and Manifestation.

The Spring Seminar will be held on Saturday, May 2nd at the Mountaineers. The topic for this year's seminar is "Beneath the Surface – Best Practices in Site Exploration, Lab Testing and Seismic Design." Please reference the Spring Seminar flyer for confirmed speakers and topics.

Attendees will be eligible to receive Continuing Education Units (CEUs) or Professional Development Hours (PDHs).

See the website for event details and the Spring Seminar & Short Course Flyer:
<https://seattlegeotech.org/eventlist/>

Register for these events at Eventbrite. Exhibitor and sponsor options for companies are available.

Spring Short Course

[2026 Spring Short Course Tickets, Fri, May 1, 2026 at 8:00 AM | Eventbrite](#)

Spring Seminar

[2026 Spring Seminar Tickets, Sat, May 2, 2026 at 8:00 AM | Eventbrite](#)

Sponsors and Exhibitors: <https://www.eventbrite.com/e/2026-spring-seminar-exhibitors-tickets-1982600472383?aff=oddtcreator>

ASCE Seattle YMF 2026 Sponsorship Package

ASCE Seattle YMF 2026 Sponsorship Package



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ASCE
SEATTLE SECTION
YOUNGER MEMBER FORUM

The **ASCE Seattle Younger Member Forum (YMF)** supports civil engineering professionals and students across the region through professional development, K-12 outreach, university partnerships, networking, and community service. To operate these programs, YMF manages an annual budget of \$43,240, funded by ASCE Section support, event income, and community sponsorships.

For 2026, YMF offers three sponsorship tiers:

Platinum - \$3,000+

Includes premier recognition, newsletter and website placement, social media spotlights, and top tier event sponsorships such as PSB, Pickleball, Summer Picnic, and the Holiday Party.

Gold - \$1,500+

Includes newsletter + website recognition with one specialty event sponsorship (PSB or Pickleball) and one networking event sponsorship (Picnic or Holiday Party).

Silver - \$500+

A single event sponsorship (PSB or Pickleball) including marketing visibility and day of recognition.

Community - Donate your own amount

Community Sponsorship will match the benefits of Platinum, Gold, or Silver based on the amount donated.

These sponsorships directly fund YMF's biggest programs, including the Popsicle Stick Bridge Competition at the Museum of Flight, the annual Pickleball Tournament, scholarships, conferences, and student support helping inspire and empower the next generation of civil engineering leaders.

Please email us for the full sponsorship package and additional information.

Volunteer Opportunity: Awards Night Planning

Are you passionate about recognizing excellence and celebrating civil engineering achievement? We're looking for enthusiastic volunteers to join our Awards Committee!

We especially need volunteers to help plan the Awards Dinner, ensuring a fantastic and memorable celebration for all honorees.

Interested? Reach out to Bianca Casem (biancasem819@gmail.com) to get involved today!

Legislative Committee Recruiting



I'm Grace Amundsen Barnkow, chair of the Legislative Committee. I hold a BS in Civil Engineering and Business from the University of Alaska Fairbanks and an MPA from the University of Colorado Denver. Over the years I've worked with the Alaska and Washington State DOTs, the City of SeaTac, Pacific County, and in private practice.

Our committee keeps an eye on legislation that matters to engineers, gathers input from members on priority issues, and helps make sure our profession's voice is heard.

We're looking for new members to join us—whether you're interested in tracking bills, sharing your perspective, or just learning more about how policy affects engineering.

If you'd like to be involved, we'd love to have you! Those who are interested can email president@seattleasce.org.

ASCE Seattle Job Board

[Click here to view open positions](#)

Clark Regional Wastewater District Engineering Program Manager

Posted 3/6/2026

Clark Regional Wastewater District is seeking an experienced Engineer to serve as **Engineering Program Manager** to lead a team of professional staff and manage the operations of an assigned program area in the engineering division. Great opportunity to join a professional, community-oriented and growing utility located in the beautiful Pacific Northwest in Clark County, Washington. [For more information about the position\(s\) and to apply, visit: http://www.crwwd.com/jobs/](http://www.crwwd.com/jobs/).

City of Tacoma Water Principal Engineer

Posted 3/12/2026

[Tacoma Water](#) is seeking a Principal Engineer who wants to lead a team of engineers delivering a variety of capital projects, providing engineering support for maintenance and operations, and coordinating with other municipalities. People at Tacoma Water love working here because we care so much for each other and our community, we get to apply ourselves to interesting and important work, and we get to contribute to and benefit from the incredible talent and knowledge base at Tacoma Water. We are looking for someone to utilize their experience and knowledge in engineering and project management to provide engineering judgement, analysis, and leadership skills to support the delivery of clean, reliable, and cost effective water to our customers. This position supervises a team of engineers, who lead water infrastructure projects located throughout Tacoma Water's service area and may manage larger multi-project programs such as the Pipeline 1 Pressurization Program.

Advertise your current open positions to ASCE Seattle members today for only \$75 for the first month and \$50 for each subsequent month of the same content.

[Email communications@seattleasce.org](mailto:Emailcommunications@seattleasce.org) to learn more.

Upcoming Committee Meetings

Younger Member Forum (YMF)

Interested in networking events and opportunities with ASCE Seattle's Younger Members? Be sure to [subscribe to the YMF Newsletter here](#) to stay up to date.

History & Heritage Committee

Our next meeting is on 4/25 at 8:30 am on Zoom.





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