



Publisher's Message

Can't Have One Without the Other

by Libby Maurer

With 2006 winding down, now is a good time to brush up on quality control and manufacturing topics.

We look at Quality Control and Manufacturing issues in this issue, two topics that once took up two separate magazines. As the industry has evolved, it seems to make more sense to combine them into the same issue. After all, you can't have one without the other. We could talk about improving manufacturing processes and efficiency all day, but how can we prove our commitment to a quality product without integrating quality control procedures?

That said, there are some important changes coming your way with regard to the industry's quality control standard. Currently undergoing revisions, ANSI/TPI 1-2002 Chapter 3, component manufacturers can soon start inspecting trusses using the "new" inspection method. This change essentially combines two old inspection methods: the Tooth Count Method and the Plate Placement Method. This and several other noteworthy changes are being made primarily to improve efficiency in the inspection process and will eventually be part of the 2007 edition of TPI 1.

Also in this issue, we revisit BCMC 2006. Not even a last minute change of venue could prevent the show from being a true success. You'll see that attendees had overwhelmingly positive feedback about the opportunities available to them. And exhibitors commented that despite their relative uncertainty going into the event (due to a marked slowdown in homebuilding), attendee decision makers showed up in force this year. Relive the highlights of the show starting on page 61.

If there is one topic that affirms my decision to be a career journalist, it's economics. I'll go out on a limb and suggest that a healthy discussion about economics could cure masses of insomniacs. However dry and cerebral this subject is, we all have cause to be extremely interested in the sustainability of the homebuilding industry these days. Turn to page 52 for an up-to-date economic picture of the structural building components industry based on several economists' recent forecasts. Suddenly (I can't believe I'm admitting this), studying economics doesn't seem like such a drag.

We continue our series on plant tours, "One Tour at a Time," with another success story from Illinois. Atlas Components in Rockford opened its doors to a local lawmaker whose understanding of the industry broadened during the one-hour plant tour. You may question the potential impact of hosting a plant tour, hesitate to interrupt operations for a few hours, or share your trade secrets with the world, but as Sean Shields writes on page 28, the time has never been better to forge a relationship with your elected official(s).

Finally in this issue, we debut a lighthearted segment created to recognize the often unrecognized efforts of our peers. Thanks to Don Groom for gifting this idea to **SBC** staff—a truly fitting contribution in his final month as WTCA president. Please help us recognize the people around us who put smiles on our faces, encourage us to excel, and inspire positive change in our companies by nominating someone for **Success Is What You Make It**. Turn to page 97 for this issue's team player. **SBC**

at a glance

- ❑ This issue of **SBC** focuses on quality control and manufacturing. It also houses the BCMC 2006 Recap.
- ❑ Recent changes to the industry's quality control standard are explained in this issue.
- ❑ The current state and future growth of the industry is summarized in "Economists Forecast End of Housing Correction."

Isn't It About Time?

Look To Viking To Improve Your Productivity.



Viking Wall Panel Systems
Minneapolis, Minnesota 55432-5437 U.S.A.
1-800-328-2403
e-mail: sales@vikingeng.com
www.vikingeng.com
Employee owned since 1981

No Automation Manufacturer Drives More Nails. Contact Us Today For Details!

STRUCTURAL BUILDING **COMPONENTS**TM

THE FUTURE OF FRAMING

www.sbcmag.info

Dear Reader:

Copyright © 2006 by Truss Publications, Inc. All rights reserved. For permission to reprint materials from **SBC Magazine**, call 608/310-6706 or email editor@sbcmag.info.

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 of structural building components to ensure growth and continuity, and to be the information conduit by staying abreast of leading-edge issues. SBC will take a leadership role on behalf of the component industry in disseminating technical and marketplace information, and will maintain advisory committees consisting of the most knowledgeable professionals in the industry. The opinions expressed in SBC are those of the authors and those quoted solely, and are not necessarily the opinions of any affiliated association (WTCA) .



6300 Enterprise Lane • Suite 200 • Madison, WI 53719
608/310-6706 phone • 608/271-7006 fax
www.sbcmag.info • admgr@sbcmag.info