

North Carolina Masonry News

The Newsletter of The North Carolina Masonry Contractors Association

December 2020

Vol. 46 No. 4

This Issue Sponsored by

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See Page Three



Home Sweet Masonry Home
NCMCA's Ryan Shaver moved into his own masonry framed home in 2019. Wife Brandy says, "The house stays cleaner and of course I love the lower power bills. Less noise from outside." *Photos by Brandy and Ryan Shaver*



Residential Masonry Framing

By James Cain

The Southeast Concrete Masonry Association (SCMA) is a true believer in learning from the past.

In 2021, the SCMA plans to relaunch the Concrete Masonry Frame Home Program with the use of technology while educating the consumer on the advantages of building with concrete masonry. Revisiting this program started with making sure we get the full picture of past program challenges, the advantages concrete masonry offers, as well as understanding the challenges in today's marketplace.

The SCMA reached out to the National Association of Home Builders (NAHB) to understand their position on whether Concrete Masonry Framed Homes are still viable in today's residential landscape.

For better or worse, wood framing remains the dominant construction method for single-family homes in the U.S., according to NAHB analysis of Census Bureau data. For 2019 completions, 90% of new homes were wood framed. Another 10% were concrete masonry framed homes, and less than half a percent was steel framed. On a count basis, there were 814,000 wood-framed homes completed

in 2019. This was an 8% gain over the 2018 total. As noted above, steel-framed homes are relatively uncommon, with a total of only 3,000 housing completions in 2019, which was the same as the 2018 tally.

However, concrete masonry framed homes experienced accelerated growth. The total was up 46%, increasing from 59,000 completions in 2018 to 86,000 in 2019. The gains over the last 10 years are more striking. From 2009 to 2019, the concrete-framed total increased by 258% and the market share doubled from 5% to 10%.

Some of these gains came from a shift in geography. Concrete masonry framed homes are more common in the south. In fact, such homes made up 17% of all homes completed in the south. But the shift to home building in the south was not the only factor, as the share of all homes in the U.S. built in this region increased from 50% in 2009 to just 55% in 2019. The national gain for concrete masonry framed housing was also driven by share gains within the south itself, rising from 8% in 2009 to

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Annual Convention

The 2021 NCMCA Annual Convention is April 29 - May 2 at Kingston Plantation in Myrtle Beach. Tentatively scheduled speakers are Masonry Society President Christine Subasic and National Technical Honor Society Executive Director Peyton Holland.


NCMCA
www.ncmca.com



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TriSure Corporation, Raleigh, NC

Pete Schantz RHU, Insurance Consultant
Mountcastle Insurance, Winston-Salem, NC

Lynn Nash, Executive Vice President
Hickory, NC

Ryan Shaver, NCMCA WDTC
Mount Pleasant, NC



Golfing! President Danks (left) and son Jake were among the participants in the September Annual Fall Golf Tournament, raising funds for the NCMCA Sigmon Memorial Scholarship and other projects. See more on page #10.

Message From the President

Greeting to the members of NCMCA!

What to say? Lynn requested my comments for this newsletter weeks ago and I have struggled to come up with worthy comments. Normally I can highlight association activities, but they have been limited. The one bright spot is our workforce development and training initiatives. Ryan continues to engage our apprentices, please read his comments in this newsletter.

The coronavirus will not go away; in fact, as winter is upon us it appears to be worsening. The elections are over for the most part, thank goodness! I can't say I'm in favor with all of the results, but we now know who's leading us. Hopefully the attack ads, insults, dishonesty, arguing and bickering will subside a little.

I am optimistic that 2021 will be a better year and so NCMCA is going forward in planning for our April convention and the Sam McGee Memorial Apprentice Contest, to name a couple of events. They are on the calendar and with a little luck, prayer, and vaccine we can hold these events. Stay tuned!

The holiday season is upon us; I hope everyone had a Happy Thanksgiving, has a Merry Christmas, and a Happy New Year. Spending time with family, stepping away from work momentarily and celebrating these events is a welcome break from a year we will want to put behind us.

Thanks for each and every member of NCMCA for your support and confidence in the leaders that make it the best masonry association in the country. And to those that give above and beyond – their time, energy, and resources – to make it happen, Thank You!

Sincerely,

Danks Burton CME
President 2020-2022

Maintain Continuing Education to Maintain Personal Certification

Certified individuals must report a day's worth of continuing education within every two-year period to maintain certification.

In a change to policy because of the pandemic, the Certification Board of Governors now accepts documented online training for continuing education.

Whether online or otherwise, documented training is acceptable from a variety of sources including but not limited to MCAA webinars, Southeast Concrete Masonry Association (SCMA) training, OSHA and first aid training, in-house company training, and product training from suppliers.

<https://scmaonline.org/concrete-masonry-academy/>

<https://www.masoncontractors.org/live/#newsletter>

On-line training obtained before the policy change may also be accepted if the training was obtained within the last twenty-four months.

It is concerning that so many individuals are losing certified status because continuing education is not being maintained.

Especially in light of the extraordinary circumstances, NCMCA is being extremely generous with the "grace period" allowed for reporting continuing education. There is the possibility many folks have received training that would qualify but have not thought to report the training to NCMCA.

For questions regarding certification continuing education status, contact the NCMCA office.

2021 Raleigh "Murdell" Falls Victim to COVID

Event Chairman Doug Burton sends us this message: "After conversations and consultations with charter members, chapter and state officers, Dr. Fauci and a few others, we have opted to cancel Murdell 21 and will regroup and return January 14–16, 2022."

"There are still a lot of unknowns, we have fifty of us in confined spaces, out to dinner, on a bus, in a room, etc and some hoodlums are even known to go out after dark... so we have decided that COVID has beaten us for our January 2021 trip but we will do something special for January 2022 – 458 days from now. Counting on seeing everyone then."

"There are discussions and planning going on for a Friday afternoon January 15, 2021 golf outing at Pine Hollow in lieu of our Murdell trip. Stay tuned for those details as they develop."

"Get some sleep."

Raleigh's golf tournaments have raised in excess of \$100,000, all dedicated to the promotion of masonry and the masonry trade

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The Quarterly Newsletter of
**The North Carolina
Masonry Contractors
Association**

109 11th Avenue NW
Post Office Box 3463
Hickory, NC 28603-3463
Telephone (828) 324-1564
www.ncmca.com
Information@ncmca.com

Andy-the-Cat Productions



Merry Christmas and a Happy, Healthy and Safe New Year!

As this extraordinary year draws to a close, we extend our sincere thanks to all our Clients and Friends for their trust and support over the years.

In the spirit of the season, we count you as part of our many blessings!
On behalf of everyone at TriSure, we look forward to seeing you in 2021.

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4325 Lake Boone Trail, Suite 200
Raleigh, NC 27607
919-469-2473
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Apprentice Training for Member Companies WDTA Ryan Shaver, pictured center, was in Durham during November conducting training for working pre-apprentices employed by Raleigh area NCMCA member firms. Seventeen apprentices from six companies participated at the event hosted by Triangle Brick. Sessions have been hosted by Pine Hall Brick, Custom Brick & Supply, Adams/Oldcastle and Pinnacle Masonry. Additional sessions are planned throughout the state.

From the WDTA - Workforce: Buy or Build?

By Ryan Shaver

Photos by Tu Phan, Brodie Contractors

Recently, I have been on webinars, Zoom meetings, as well as presenting in other states at meetings on how the NCMCA took a leap of faith almost three years ago and started what I believe is an industry model nation wide. Other states, such as Texas and Arizona, have hired their own workforce development and training coordinators and are working their state hard like we have been working ours.



Ryan Shaver

We have started multiple programs that are touching many students statewide such as the NCMCA Pre-Apprentice Program, Apprenticeship, after school Masonry Clubs, Member Apprentice Training, and curriculum sponsorship.

I ask the question to many companies: Is it better for us to Buy a Workforce or Build a Workforce? I am so glad that the NCMCA has chosen to build the workforce because a skills shortage makes buying a workforce way more difficult than taking our students or employees and building them into the next generation of the trade.

We have started on-site apprentice training in a few areas across the State with Raleigh being the first to try this. I take the young folks for a morning of training and teach them the trade as well as teach them what is needed on the job for them to move up the ladder and be more productive.

The companies that send the young folks to me pay them for the time they are with me just like they

are on the job. My goal at the first session is to build the relationship with them so they are more engaged in the training they will receive during our sessions. I get their phone numbers and call each one of them



Judging the Projects Macy Williams, left, and NCMCA President-Elect Bo Black were on hand to assist with Raleigh-area apprentice training at Triangle Brick during November. At each such event, training participants get to compete in a competition to test how their skills are developing, this time judged by Macy and Bo. Apprentices with the best scores are awarded masonry tool prices and “bragging rights.” Recent contributors have included Adams/Oldcastle, Stabila Levels and iQ Power Tools.

before the next training session to check on them and encourage them to keep putting all they have in their job daily.

From our first session to now having completed our fourth session in Raleigh I have watched these young apprentices grow using the trowel as well as gain the confidence needed to move up the ladder on the job site. I truly enjoy working with them and hope they are telling the masons on their jobs the crazy stories about what they learn with me during the sessions.

If you would like to start training in your area, please reach out to me! Winston-Salem has joined in and will have their second session in December.

Remember, *Building our Workforce* is way more rewarding than trying to *Buy* them!

Please answer your phone when I call and call me if you need anything!

Have a Merry Christmas and thank you for all you do to support our trade!

Ryan Shaver is NCMCA Workforce Development & Training Coordinator. Reach him at ryan.shaver@ncmca.com or (704) 791-5240

Third Session (below) In October, Custom Brick & Supply Company hosted the third session of apprentice training for Raleigh-area NCMCA member apprentices.

A New Partnership is Underway

By Ryan Shaver

The NCMCA workforce development and training program that started almost three years ago, has impacted students, employers, industry, and education not only in our state but many other places as well. We have set forth on a journey that has truly been a team effort to promote our trade to the highest level.

I am pleased to announce the latest program that has been approved and is in forward motion to complete. While the summer was fairly tough for me recovering from brain surgery, my brain never stopped working and thinking of what we could do to help our instructors as well as help future instructors to succeed in their training efforts.

I made a few calls to our partners at the NC Department of Public Instruction (NCDPI) and started a conversation about our Association becoming the sponsor of the curriculum that is taught in North Carolina; National Center for Construction Education and Research (NCCER). After multiple emails, phone calls, and Zoom meetings, I was told to put together a proposal letter to be submitted to the state leaders at one of their sessions.

In September, I first put it before the NCMCA Board of Directors for approval and once I had that, I submitted the proposal.

NCCER has been very supportive of things that can help training multiple trades and have a curriculum that has been respected across the country for multiple trades. I have been fortunate to work side by side with the folks at NCCER at the national level and have built a great relationship with their team. I toured their corporate office in Alachua, Florida in January of this year while presenting many of our programs to various masonry associations in Florida. It was during that tour that I had a thought of this program but didn't act on it then.

NCDPI has various key people in place that help oversee the curriculum taught in North Carolina. Craig Pendergraft is one of the consultants that handle many of the trades that are taught. Craig has been a great voice for the trades and the work he does daily to support the CTE teachers in North Carolina is unmatched. I sent my proposal to Craig who then worked at the state level to get our idea to the table. I proposed that the NCMCA become a sponsor of the masonry curriculum in NC and this would allow us to train new instructors, help start new masonry programs in places where they are needed, as well as provide continuing education for seasoned instructors when needed.

This new venture had a price of course and I addressed this as well. NCDPI agreed to pay half of the sponsorship fee, which was a huge help. We also did a foundation construction fundraiser project where we had over twenty-five folks show up after their workday and install a slab foundation. I am

pleased to say that our fees are covered and our application has been approved.

I am set to take the Master Trainer course in mid December and then we should be ready to offer our assistance in all areas of the state when it comes to masonry curriculum!

There are so many people that need to be thanked for this project and I would not be in the place I am without their support.

If you have any questions about this please feel free to give me a call. We are the support that our instructors need and I thank everyone in the Association for doing that daily!

Be ready for me to be calling you and have a key person with your company ready to take a course so we can have multiple performance evaluators statewide. Macy Williams with Brodie Contractors has already done that. Macy completed training through ABC and received his certification to be a performance evaluator as well as a craft instructor for "Core and Sustainable Construction" as well as "Masonry." He's ready to teach! It would be great to set this goal for many companies statewide to get an individual at this level for instructing apprentices as well as seasoned masons. NCMCA, as an NCCER sponsor and with my "Master Trainer" status, can provide that opportunity to any company that wishes to do so.

Again, I appreciate everyone that had a part in this and can't wait to see how we can continue to grow masonry training for many years to come! Thanks.

Ryan Shaver is NCMCA Workforce Development & Training Coordinator. Reach him at ryan.shaver@ncmca.com or (704) 791-5240

Dates to Note

1/6/21 NCMCA "Zoom" Board of Directors Meeting

1/15/21 Raleigh Chapter Alternate Golf Tournament, Pine Hollow (details pending) - Raleigh

2/7-2/10/21 MCAA Annual Meeting, South Sea Island Resort - Captiva, Florida

4/29-5/2/21 NCMCA Annual Convention, Kingston Plantation - Myrtle Beach

5/15/21 Annual Samuel A. McGee Memorial Apprentice Contest, Adams/Oldcastle - Colfax

6/7-6/10/21 World of Concrete/Masonry, Convention Center - Las Vegas

6/20-6/23/21 SCMA Conference, The King & Prince Resort - St. Simons Island, GA

1/14-1/16/22 Annual Raleigh Chapter Murdell Golf Tournament & Bus Tour - Grand Strand

3/24-3/26/22 NCMCA Convention, Hyatt Regency Downtown - Greenville, SC

Additional details and registration forms are always available on the "Calendar" page of NCMCA.com.

Display the Association Logo

By maintaining your firm's membership in the North Carolina Masonry Contractors Association, you support masonry as the building material of choice and promote craft skills as a solid opportunity for young people to be successful in life. Membership demonstrates professionalism and indicates a company's long-term commitment to the industry. That's a message that needs to be conveyed to customers and to the community.

Display the NCMCA logo to make that message clear. As a member in good standing, your company has the right to display the NCMCA logo on stationary, business cards, checks, invoices, company vehicles, your website and on wearing apparel. Doing so is good for business.

NCMCA logo graphic files are available in a variety of file types, both black and white and in color. The files are available to any member and can be sent via email or file sharing service to your office or directly to your printing company, web designer or embroiderer.

Use of the logo is mostly unrestricted however NCMCA insists that the style guide be referred to for color, fonts, and other "rules" to insure uniformity in appearance. The style guide is provided with the logo. It is suggested designs be submitted to the NCMCA office for review before production. The NCMCA Board of Directors must approve the terms and use of the logo for re-sale items.

Contact the NCMCA office for more information.

Show your company's pride in membership. Display the logo!



“Framing” continued from Page One

17% as mentioned above.

The SCMA is extremely optimistic for future generations of Concrete Masonry Framed homebuyers in many locations. Let us be clear, we are not going after the tract builder market and the subdivision market but rather the custom home buyer market. It is the people who are looking to upgrade or make the long-term investment in the lives of their family and home.

With launching this program, the SCMA will need to address several avenues to be successful.

1. Educating & training builders on building concrete masonry framed homes
2. Educating & training masonry contractors on building concrete masonry framed homes

3. Educating consumers on the benefits of concrete masonry to demand a concrete masonry framed home from builders. This way the consumer will help drive the market.

Many homeowners assume that a concrete masonry home will cost considerably more than a comparable stick-built house. But you may save money by building with concrete masonry when you factor in life-cycle costs, utility and insurance savings, maintenance requirements and overall health of the occupants.

Other important benefits you cannot put a price tag on include increased safety from disasters and comfort from even temperatures throughout the home, improved air quality and decreased outdoor noise levels. All this equates to better quality of living due to a healthier, safer environment.

The future homebuyer really has no clue on what is behind the wall of their future home. This is where the SCMA educating the public comes in. Reaching the consumer is the way to drive future demand. Most builders are not going to offer to build a concrete masonry framed home so it's up to the consumer to be educated on concrete masonry and why what is behind the wall is so important to the health and safety of their family.

The most common myth about concrete masonry is that it is too expensive. At a time when the country is reeling from the COVID induced recession, the price of lumber has skyrocketed by 170% in a matter of months bringing the average price to \$800 per thousand board feet. The total of a new multifamily home has increased by a stunning \$6,107. With wood prices soaring, new home prices have jumped in some markets between \$25,000 – \$46,000 due to lumber.

Fire Safety - Consumers today are under this

civilian home fire fatalities reported by U.S. news media between January 1, 2020 and November 9, 2020. We can, and must, do our part to help educate future homebuyers.

Cost Savings - Heating and Cooling Costs and Equipment: At the SCMA, we have been working to build a platform based of real facts to help future homebuyers. Let us put the facts into perspective on heating and cooling costs. Concrete masonry framed homes provide 20 to 25 percent savings in annual heating and cooling costs. Over the last year, NC-



Debra's New House Past NCMCA President Calvin Brodie visited Ryan Shaver's masonry frame house while it was under construction to compare notes as he built his own masonry framed home. Debra and Calvin plan to be moved in before the Holidays. *Photos by Calvin Brodie*



MCA's Ryan Shaver has been working with the SCMA on an energy study for his 2,900 sq. ft home. In October 2020, Ryan's power bill was \$110.92 for the entire month! This is less than \$3.50 per day! We will have the full annual study at the end of 2020. The SCMA understands that how much you'll save depends on many factors including the thickness of the walls, the number and types of windows and doors in your home, ceiling insulation, the size and efficiency of the heating and cooling equipment, and the climate in the region where you live. Moreover, concrete masonry construction allows the installation of smaller heating and cooling equipment, which can save you hundreds or even thousands of dollars in up-front costs.

Insurance - The SCMA found talking with

the NAHB most consumers do not even know they can recoup their investment in a concrete masonry home with big savings in insurance costs. Many agencies offer discounts on homeowner policies of up to 25% for concrete masonry homes because of their resistance to fire, tornadoes, hurricanes, and earthquakes. This all starts with education. To put that into perspective, if your insurance costs run \$2,500 a year, then you can save roughly \$625 a year. Over a ten-year period, that is \$6,250 which allows you to put this money back into other life investments.

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Maintenance - Costs to maintain a concrete masonry home through the years may be considerably lower due to its resistance to dry rot, pests such as termites and other forms of degradation. Let us

take a quick look at exterior painting. A 2,300 sq.ft. single-story wood siding home will require around two painters to paint the entire house and will take a minimum of three days to complete for a rough average of \$3,000 depending on the market. Experts say you should paint wood siding every 5-7 years. So, a homeowner can spend another \$9,000-\$12,000 in maintenance costs over a twenty-year period!

Other Tangible Benefits - The many benefits of concrete masonry framed homes are invaluable. From the SCMA's viewpoint, there are many we will include in our overall program from fewer warranty claims, better structural integrity, sustainable green building products, termite resistance, wind borne debris resistance, sound barrier, mold resistance, rot resistance, rust resistance, locally sourced materials and storm surge resistance to name a few.

So, what are the steps the SCMA will be taking to get this program launched in 2021? We will:

1. Create a presentation on Safer Environments with Concrete Masonry Framed Homes
2. Research the Florida Residential Program with Matt Sitter in December 2020
3. Create a builder training program to train builders on concrete masonry framed homes
4. Create a masonry contractor training program to train masons on concrete masonry framed homes
5. Research angles to help promote the advantages of concrete masonry frame homes to the future homebuyer.
6. Build out a page for Concrete Masonry Frame Homes on the SCMA website showcasing homes
7. Create a listing for each state a listing of ap-

proved builders and contractors with the five-state footprint. This will be a resource for consumers so they can find approved builders and contractors in their area. The SCMA has enlisted the support of a recognized concrete masonry framed homebuilder to help train future builders. The SCMA also plans to partner with a masonry contractor to help train future masonry contractors on concrete masonry framed homes.

To move the needle on concrete masonry, we must have complimentary programs in both commercial and residential markets. The SCMA has a long-term strategy for this program. We understand this will be a marathon and not a sprint. We know it will take many resources in the marketplace to help drive future demand for masonry. The SCMA Concrete Masonry Frame Home Program has the support from the producers, masonry contractors, builders and even the NHBA. The program will be driven by the demand from the consumers who will be educated and start demanding quality construction by building concrete masonry framed homes. Even with the CMU checkoff program looming there is a great chance this program could be picked up nationally to create more residential promotional awareness across the United States. The future is bright for the concrete masonry world and the SCMA is excited to begin building with safety and security in mind, one block at a time!

James Cain is President of the Southeast Concrete Masonry Association. Reach him at (704) 352-6831 - jcain@scmaonline.org

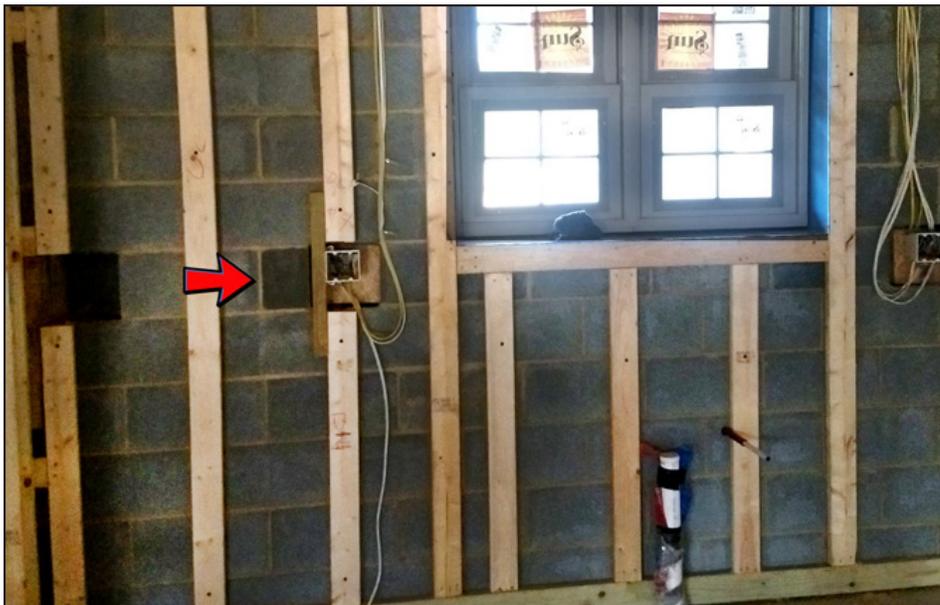
The Shaver Home

- 2,700 Heated Sq. Ft. on concrete slab
 - 8" CMU exterior walls with two interior load bearing CMU walls
 - Wall Composition- 8" CMU with rebar and grouted cells every 4' and aminoplast foam in the ungrouted cells. The exterior of the CMU has 2" of closed cell foam, then a 1" airspace and brick veneer exterior. The interior of the CMU has been furrow stripped with a 2"x 4" and the drywall.
 - CMU totals- 4,200
 - Brick Totals- 18,000
 - Rumford 42" fireplace. The Rumford design makes the fireplace more productive as far as heat is concerned. The design of the Rumford, unlike a conventional fireplace, gives out more radiant heat, burns cleaner, and minimizes the loss of heated air up the chimney.
 - Conditioned attic space that is spray foamed with open cell foam. This has kept the attic within five degrees of the house temperature year round.
 - Air Quality- A dehumidifier was installed and paired with the HVAC system. This has been a great addition! Our humidity in the house is 48%. I keep a Hygrometer in the house and love walking by it and seeing 48%.
 - Power Bill- Average monthly bill for a full one year period on our 2,700 sq. ft. masonry frame, all electric home- \$107.57
 - We received a 12.8% reduction in our homeowners insurance policy because of the "Superior Fire Rating."
- Ryan Shaver*

The Brodie Home

- 2,800 Heated Sq. Ft on a concrete slab
- 8" CMU exterior wall including to top of 3 gables
- 6" CMU wall between garage and living space.
- Interior CMU are plaster with Portland and sand
- Rebar 32" on center and bond beam last course with 2-#4 rebar
- 2.5" of closed cell foam 1" airspace and brick veneer
- CMU 6,000
- Brick 16,200 Norman Brick
- 42" open convention fireplace
- Conditioned attic space

-Calvin Brodie



Tips and Technique for Masonry Framing There is a "learning curve" for residential masonry framing and we learn as we go. For instance, Ryan Shaver explains, "Pictured is a detail for the wiring and the electrical boxes installed during the rough in. If you lay a half 6" CMU where the outlets or switches need to go, you can use a normal box because this gives you 2" in the inset on an 8" CMU wall plus the thickness of 1 1/2" if you furrow strip with 2 x 4's for a total of 3 1/2" which is what you would have on a frame wall application." A goal of the masonry framing promotion is to make this sort of information available to builders and masonry subcontractors. *Photo by Ryan Shaver*

If your masonry contracting firm would like to know more or participate in the SCMA residential masonry framing promotion, contact the NCMCA office or visit www.scmaonline.com



How Many in Twenty Minutes? The November SPEC MIX BL500 Carolina Qualifier held in Bowman, South Carolina, included a Junior Bricklayer Competition for apprentices and masonry students. Contestants were given twenty minutes to lay as many brick as possible. The Columbus College & Career Academy team of Annayeli Dionosio and tender Leslie Maldonado (pictured) won with an adjusted score of 182. They are instructed by Fred Mason. David Hernandez and tender Manuel Hernandez of Creative Masonry finished in second place and Kalyn Stover with tender Israel Bugarin of Columbus Career & College Academy finished third. *Photograph by Jodie Helms.*

Member News

Mitzi McGee Little (Sam's daughter) is recovering from surgery earlier in October.

Rush Masonry Management recently visited instructor Fred Mason's masonry program at Southeastern Community College. Mr. Mason's award-winning program moved to the Whiteville college campus when Columbus College and Career Academy in Fair Bluff was closed. To assist with the expense of the relocation and re-equipping the class, Kendra Blackmon and Travis Plymell of Rush Masonry Management presented Mr. Mason with a \$5,000.00 check. Richlands High School masonry instructor Darryle Jones and his students are building a storage room for the school using eight-inch block and metal doorframes and doors. When Rush Masonry Management learned about the project, they stepped up to pay for all the materials. Rush Masonry Management's recent support for school masonry training has been extraordinary!

Roy Zinn with MH Masonry passed away unexpectedly at the end of September. He was forty years old and lived in Lynchburg. Roy held "Certified Masonry Professional" status in the NCMCA Masonry Contractor Certification Program.

SPEC MIX is the latest member to step up to "Distinguished" membership status. Distinguished members voluntary pay double their NCMCA annual membership dues and maintain membership in the Mason Contractors Association of America (MCAA.)

White Cap Supply Holdings, LLC ("White Cap") and Construction Supply Group ("CSG") announced the separation of White Cap from HD Supply and its combination with CSG. A press release says, "The combined transaction, valued at approximately \$4 billion, creates the leading North American distributor of a diverse mix of concrete accessories and specialty construction and safety products by revenues with more than \$4 billion annually."

Chris Merrill, grandson of NCMCA's third presi-

dent, the late Bob Merrill, and nephew of Steve and Debbie Stout of Merrill Masonry, died in October as the result of a swimming accident. He was 34.

Fourteen-year-old Morgan Eudy, daughter of Jeremy Eudy at Gates Construction Company is slowly recovering from a serious head/brain injury suffered in a golf cart accident at Myrtle Beach at the end of October. A "Go-Fund-Me" page has been established to help cover expenses.

Mel Herring's (Custom Match) brother Danny died October 28. He was 67 and lived in Kenansville. Danny was a former member of NCMCA.

Jody Little's (McGee Brothers) mother passed in

November. Virginia Little of Monroe was ninety.

SPEC MIX has been producing a special training mortar mix, which they provided to high school masonry programs at "no cost." Recently, Custom Brick & Supply Co., Raleigh; Cason Builders Supply, Brevard and Hendersonville; Morrison Brothers Building Center, Concord; and EastWest Products, Kinston have all volunteered to stock the training mix in their warehouses to make it possible for schools to pick up the material as needed.

Former J. F. Webb High School masonry instructor Gabe Russell passed away in late November. He was 73. Mr. Russell was a VICA (now SkillsUSA) advisor, and was the first student state VICA President back in 1965 when he was a student at Warren County High School. (1965 was the year VICA was started, both nationally and in North Carolina.)



How Many in an Hour? The Carolina Qualifier for the SPEC MIX Bricklayer 500 was in Bowman, South Carolina in November. First Place and "Top Craftsman Award" with an adjusted total of 465 brick laid, went to David Kelly of Kelly Masonry of South Carolina, who along with tender Nick Campbell, will head to the Las Vegas National Championship now set for June 2021. 2019 North Carolina National SkillsUSA Champion Grant Helms of NCMCA member firm Helms Masonry, along with his father Scott Helms tending, placed second with an adjusted total of 452. Pictured left to right, NCMCA's Ryan Shaver, Steve Bell of SPEC MIX, and Grant and Scott Helms. Grant was the youngest and Scott was the oldest participant in the November competition. Creative Masonry of Greenville, Tennessee will be representing NCMCA at the 2021 Las Vegas SPEC MIX Bricklayer 500. Owner Fred Campbell will be returning to the contest as the Champion of the 2020 competition. Seven teams of masons and tenders recently competed in the Grey, Tennessee Regional Qualifier where mason Manuel Hernandez and mason tender Jose Perez of Creative Masonry were the winners. Hernandez also took the title of "Best Craftsman" for the Tennessee regional. *Photograph by Jodie Helms.*

2020 Sigmon Memorial Design Competitions Conducted “Virtually”

The team of Grace Polo-Wood, Ben Stradling, Mylam Nestor, and Taylor Ligon have won the Annual NCMCA Sigmon Memorial Scholarship Design Competition at North Carolina State University. Their project is pictured top, right.

The competition required the team to design and model a hypothetical masonry office building. The competition is part of Professor J. Patrick Rand’s “Architectural Construction Systems” class at NC State University’s College of Design and is a graded class assignment.

Ten teams participated.

Projects were judged by NCMCA Past President Doug Burton and by architect and teacher Frank Harmon.

Second place went to the team of Micah Holdsworth, Meg Maley, Selya Furukawa, and Ryan Fluharty. Third place was the team of Drew Dunphy, Brooklyn Scotto, Lauren Waterman, and Grace Riley and fourth place was the team of Barbara Espitia Toledo, Trent Baker, and Rushabh Patel.

Appalachian State University announced its 2020 Sigmon design competition results in early November. Eleven teams of two competed with an infill design of a hypothetical building façade featuring masonry as a graded assignment in Associate Professor D. Jason Miller’s Architectural Design Studio III and Integrated Design Studio.

The projects were judged by NCMCA Chairman of the Board Kent Huntley and NCMCA Past President Doug Burton along with architect Phillip Jefferson, Program Director/Associate Professor at Wake Technical Community College.

Finishing in “First Place” was the team of Sandra Anglesjo and Jesse Wilson with their project titled “Funnel Effect.” (Pictured left.) Finishing in second to fourth place respectively were Sam Lee and Lindsay McNeil, followed by Alexis Cabra and Olivia Forish, and Serlina Francisco and Madison Hedrick.

The first place teams share their prize of a semester’s tuition. Runner-up teams receive masonry tool prizes.

All aspects of the 2020 competitions and judging were conducted virtually because of the virus.

The 2020 competition marks its twentieth year at NC State and the tenth year at ASU.

The Sigmon Family created the scholarship fund in memory of David, Dwayne and Randy Sigmon. Primary funding comes from the Annual NCMCA Fall Golf Tournament.



Visiting French Lick Among NCMCA members attending the September Mason Contractors Association of America (MCAA) Mid-Year Meeting in French Lick, Indiana were, left to right, NCMCA President Danks Burton; NCMCA Chairman and MCAA Treasurer Kent Huntley and wife Robin; NCMCA Past President and MCAA Regional Vice President Gary Joyner; NCMCA Past President and MCAA NC Representative Calvin Brodie and wife Debra; Shelly Joyner; and NCMCA Workforce Development & Training Coordinator Ryan Shaver. During the meeting, the MCAA Masonry Foundation Trustees elected to award NCMCA with another \$20,000 grant for workforce development. The Foundation awarded NCMCA a \$20,000 grant in 2019 for a total of \$40,000. *Photograph by Ruth Hill*

**NCMCA Board of Directors Meeting
Planned “Zoom” Session
1:00 PM Wednesday January 6, 2021**



**2020 NCMCA
Golf Tournament**

Tournament Chairman David McQueen (right) announced the results of the September 24, 2020, NCMCA Annual Fall Golf Tournament in Mebane, North Carolina. First Place, after implementing the tiebreaker, was the Palmetto Brick team of, left to right, Justin Bryant, Dwayne Bryant, John Sanderson, and Tom Hughes. In second place was the Brodie Contractors team of Chase Werner, Frank Werner, Calvin Brodie, and Matt Spitzer. The Adams/Oldcastle team of Brandon Roberts, Matt Cash, Greg Huntley, and Bill Broadway finished in third place. Matt Cash and Justin Bryant won "Closest-to-the-Pin" recognition. The annual tournament is (almost) always played on the fourth Thursday in September and is the primary funding source for the NCMCA Sigmon Memorial Scholarship program at North Carolina State University and at Appalachian State University.

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Thanks Golf Committee for your many years of service to the tournament:

- David McQueen, Chairman**
- Bill Reed, Chairman Emeritus**
- Doug Burton**
- Danks Burton**
- Dwayne Bryant**
- Chris Mitchell**

Volunteers make the day go smoothly:

- Herb Jeffreys**
- Cheryl Gaw**
- Jimmy Wall**
- Katie DeJarnette**
- Ryan Shaver**
- Dwayne Bryant**
- Chris Mitchell**

And our appreciation to Mike Long and the staff at Mill Creek Golf & Country Club for their great partnership for many years now. Great folks!

**See more pictures from
NCMCA events and
activities linked at the
NCMCA.com News page**