



# Volunteer Vibes

International Right of Way Association - Tennessee Chapter 32

March 2012

## Inside this issue:

- Officers 2
- Chapter 32 2
- Website News 3
- Biofuels 3
- WE WON!!! 4
- Course Schedule 4
- PIERCE
- Transportation Corner 4

## Message from our President



*John Boynton, President*

### The State of the Chapter Address

My predecessors Sean Sampson, Kim Austin,

Bobby Flowers, and Amy Click got the ball rolling, and Bill Medley kept the fire lit under everyone's feet. In case you haven't heard, Chapter 32 has been undergoing quite a bit of change in the past 3 or 4 years. WOW! In 2011, we received the bid to host the 2016 IRWA International Education Conference in Nashville. It will be held at Opryland. This did not come easy. We have J. Dan Gill, Jenni Kriner, and a host of other members to thank. They put Tennessee back on the map!

I hope you will express your thanks and congratulations to them for their efforts.

Look for exciting times for TN Chapter 32 this year. Come and join us! The late John Wooden once said "do not let what you cannot do interfere with what you can do."

John Boynton  
President



## NEW MEMBER SECTION

Joshua Kriner	joshuakriner@gmail.com	Nashville, TN
George Storey	raystorey@croftandassociates.net	White House, TN
Roger Wilbanks	Roger.wilbanks@tn.gov	Jackson, TN
Lisa Crutchfield	lccrutchfield@tva.gov	Chattanooga, TN
Daryl Lewis	Daryl.lewis@memphistn.gov	Memphis, TN
David Street	David.street@memphistn.gov	Memphis, TN
Carlton Osborne	Trinity-7@comcast.net	Memphis, TN
Gary Godfrey	gagodfrey@tva.gov	Cleveland, TN
Randall Button	ranbutton@aol.com	Kingston, TN
Jytonne Hussey	Jytonne.hussey@memphistn.gov	Memphis, TN
Deborah Daniels	Deborah.daniels@memphistn.gov	Memphis, TN
Thomas Word	tword@mlgw.org	Memphis, TN
DeAnn Tomshack	dktomshack@tva.gov	Hixson, TN



# 2012 Officers

- President**                      **Mr. John Boynton**  
Phone: (615) 202-9726  
E-mail: [jbbjr51@comcast.net](mailto:jbbjr51@comcast.net)
- President Elect**                **Vacant**
- Director (1 Year)**            **Mr. Bobby Flowers**  
Phone: (731) 642-8791  
E-mail: [wrfowersjr@yahoo.com](mailto:wrfowersjr@yahoo.com)
- Treasurer**                      **Brenda Walsh**  
Phone: (615) 973-0075  
E-mail: [brenwal182@aol.com](mailto:brenwal182@aol.com)
- Secretary**                        **Amanda McDevitt**  
Phone: (731) 442-8791  
E-mail: [flowersappraisals@yahoo.com](mailto:flowersappraisals@yahoo.com)



## IRWA Chapter 32 Meeting Overview

Month, Day, Year



Our next chapter meeting will be held on March 15th at the Two Rivers Grille in the Marriott Airport Hotel, 600 Marriott Drive, Nashville, 37214

**5:30pm—Exec. Committee Meeting**

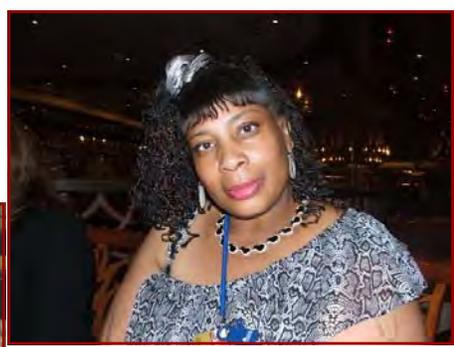
**6:00pm-Dinner for Chapter Members**

**7:00pm-Chapter Meeting, Election of Officers and Guest Speakers**

## Chapter 32 PHOTOS



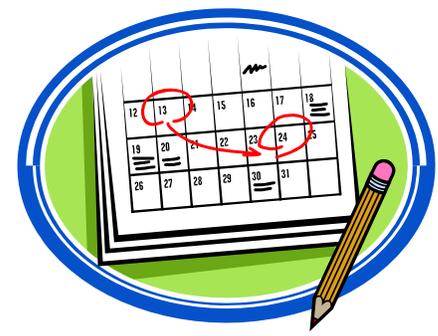
Chapter Members at Spring Forum in Tuscaloosa



Chapter Member—Cathy Pelt



Chapter Members—Sean Sampson and Carol Croft



# SAVE THE DATE

**The Region 6 Spring Forum is schedule for April 26-28 in Montgomery, Alabama!**



# CHAPTER 32 WEBSITE



Our NEW website is now up and running! Please take a few minutes to review the website at [www.irwachapter32.org](http://www.irwachapter32.org)! Many thanks to Sharon Gill for all of her hard work in setting up our website and getting it up and running in such a short amount of time.



## Pipeline and Environmental Articles

### Biofuels Summary

Opponents of fossil fuel production and transportation projects, such as the Keystone XL Pipeline, often claim that these projects are unnecessary because more sustainable alternatives are available. Over the next several issues of this newsletter, I will explore the contributions that various alternatives can make to diminish our reliance on fossil energy. As you will see, I am not optimistic:

I will start with an analysis of conventional biofuels, a topic I first addressed in 2003 because the state of Minnesota was undertaking substantial subsidies of corn ethanol, along with the federal government. Ethanol proponents were publicly optimistic that their product would eliminate our dependence on foreign oil, evident in articles with titles like [Iowa: the next Saudi Arabia](#). My motivation in exploring the topic was purely financial – I wanted to know where to invest. But my analysis quickly disabused me of the notion that ethanol would make any difference at all. What I discovered was a pervasive ignorance of just how much petroleum the US consumes in a day or a year, and a public that did/does not understand the difference between a barrel and a gallon. I still read articles which claim that annual production of one or two or several billion gallons of alternative fuel will make a significant dent in petroleum consumption – it will not. The US consumes about 21 million barrels of petroleum each day. A petroleum barrel contains 42 gallons. Do the math, and you will see that this country consumes nearly a billion gallons (882 million gallons) of petroleum-based products – every day! So how much can we expect to get from conventional biofuels – ethanol and biodiesel? My analysis was published as a letter in 2005 in Oil and Gas Journal. Here is the letter:

Continued on page 6



# WE WON!

Friends, I wish all of you could have been with us in Atlanta! Chapter 32 did Nashville proud and we won the bid to host the 2016 IRWA Education Conference in Music City!

Thanks to Jenni Kriner’s vision, our booth was a big hit! Filled with boot-scootin’ music, a life-size Elvis stand-up, and happy, friendly faces, we not only won the conference but the hearts of conference attendees as well. By the time the exhibit hall closed, there was a neon orange sticker on nearly every name tag promoting "NASHVILLE in 2016."

Dan Gill’s presentation before the Board of Directors was nothing short of sublime!!! A video of Nashville created by his wife Sharon flashed on the big-screen behind him during his talk and the result was slick and flawless! After he spoke, it was really no contest!

Of course, none of this would have been possible without Bill Medley's hard work over the past five years. As Education Committee Chair, Bill has worked tirelessly to educate and credential right of way professionals throughout the great State of Tennessee. As a result of his effort and enthusiasm, Chapter 32 had the resources to seek and win the bid to host the conference in Nashville.

It took many hands on deck to initiate and complete phase one of this process. Being the small chapter we are, it will take ALL our manpower to “git ‘er done.” Now that phase one is complete, we’ll be asking chapter members to chair key committees. Please keep an open heart if you’re asked to help. And if you can’t open your heart, consider opening your wallet, as we’ll be looking for sponsors, as well!



## Chapter 32 Course Schedule

### Upcoming Classes thru May 2012

Course	Date	Days	Location	Course Coordinator	Facilitator
Managing the Consultant Process (C 303)	March 6 & 7, 2012	2	TDOT Reg I auditorium-Knoxville	Bill R. Medley, SR/WA	Joe Liebhauser, SR/WA
Easement Valuation (C 403)	April 10, 2012	1	TDOT Reg III auditorium-Nashville	Brenda Walsh	William B. Milton, SR/WA
Appraisals in Eminent Domain (C 410)	April 11, 2012	1	TDOT Reg III auditorium-Nashville	Mandy McDevitt, CRA	William B. Milton, SR/WA
Ethic and the Right of Way Profession (C103)	May 9, 2012	1	TDOT Reg III auditorium-Nashville	Marc Headden	Richard D. Schreiber



# TDOT's Visionary Principles



- P = Professional
- I = Innovative
- E = Efficient
- R = Responsible
- C = Communicate
- E = Expeditious



## PIERCE: A New Direction for TDOT

In kicking off his second year at the helm of TDOT, Commissioner John Schroer called his senior leadership together on January 3, to announce "a new direction and a new purpose" for TDOT. Commissioner Schroer identified six principles which will help reach the desired goal of better serving Tennesseans and becoming the best Department of Transportation in the nation. PIERCE stands for Professional, Innovative, Efficient, Responsible, Communicate and Expeditious. In a video message to all agency employees on January 6, Commissioner Schroer said, "I believe that if we can follow these six principles under the term PIERCE that we, in time, will be the best

Commissioner Schroer linked "Professional" to the professionalism of each employee leading to a more professional organization. "We want people when they walk into TDOT to know that they are dealing with a professional organization; that we look and act professionally. On top of that means our organization needs to conduct its business professionally," he said. The success of any organization starts with "Innovation" and a willingness to find a different and better way of conducting business. "There are probably better ways to do the things that we do. I want to have the organization that welcomes that innovation," he said.



On "Efficient" Commissioner Schroer said, "We are going to have to learn better ways to do the things that we do now, and that just means efficiency." Accepting responsibility means from a personal standpoint as well as being "Responsible" for the actions of others. "I want you to take responsibility and I want you to be proud of the things that we do," said Commissioner Schroer.

Commissioner Schroer identified communication as the weakest link in TDOT and encouraged employees to "communicate upwards to the people you report to and we have to communicate down to people that report to you". "Expeditious is the last principle. We

have a responsibility to our taxpayers to produce products that are good and well-built, but we also have to do it fast," he said. While the goal is to become one of the leading transportation agencies in the nation, Commissioner Schroer said our ultimate goal is to the people of Tennessee, "At the end of the day, if you adopt these policies and do these things, you will work for an agency that you will be proud of and that the state of Tennessee can be proud of."

PIERCE will become an important acronym in TDOT and one that will guide our actions in our jobs and our interactions with the public and our fellow employees.



## Biofuels Summary Continued

Continued from page 3

Oil and Gas Journal August 1, 2005 *Letters Biofuel Potential*

“As the price of crude oil continues to rise, political leaders and public officials have called for increased reliance on biomass-based fuels, such as ethanol made from corn and biodiesel made from soybeans, as substitutes for petroleum-based fuels. What is the potential contribution of biomass-based fuels to relieving America’s dependence on petroleum (of which 60 percent is now imported from foreign sources)?

To answer this question I calculated the amount of ethanol and biodiesel that could be produced from the 2004 US corn and soybean crops and compared it to our nation’s annual consumption of petroleum. Crop totals are from the USDA, the biofuel potentials of corn and soybeans are from industry sources.

The 2004 US corn crop totaled about 11.7 billion bushels, the largest ever. One bushel of corn yields 2.66 gallons of ethanol, so hypothetically the 2004 crop could be converted into 31.122 billion gallons of ethanol. However, a portion of the energy in the ethanol represents energy invested in growing, harvesting, transporting, fermenting and distilling the corn. According to the corn ethanol industry, the energy yield is 1.67 btus for each btu consumed in production, or a net yield of about 40.1 percent of total ethanol produced. Multiplying the hypothetical 2004 production of corn ethanol by this factor leaves a net yield of 12.48 billion gallons. But ethanol has less energy content than petroleum. One gallon of crude oil contains about 138,100 btus, while a gallon of ethanol contains about 84,100 btus, or about 60.9 percent of petroleum. So on an energy-equivalent basis, 12.48 billion gallons of ethanol would equal about 7.6 billion gallons of petroleum.

Using the same methodology one can calculate the potential contribution of soy-based biodiesel (soybeans constitute about 90% of the total US oilseed crop). The 2004 US soybean crop was 3.15 billion bushels, also an all-time record. One bushel of soybeans yields about 1.4 gallons of biodiesel. The energy yield of biodiesel is about 3.2 btus for each btu consumed in production, or a net of 68.75 percent, a much better rate than ethanol from corn. The energy content of a gallon of biodiesel is much higher, 128,000 btus, about 92.7 percent of petroleum. The 2004 US soybean crop converted to biodiesel would equal about 2.81 billion gallons of petroleum (3.15 billion bushels times 1.4 gallons of biodiesel per bushel is 4.41 billion gallons; adjusted for net yield, 4.41 billion gallons times 68.75 percent is 3.032 billion gallons; in terms of energy equivalency, 3.032 billion gallons of biodiesel would equal 2.81 billion gallons of petroleum).

Continued on page 7



The entire 2004 US corn and soybean crop, converted to biomass fuels, could replace about 10.41 billion gallons of petroleum (7.6 billion as ethanol and 2.81 billion as biodiesel). Petroleum is measured in 42-gallon barrels; the 10.41 billion gallon biofuel total would be equivalent to 248 million barrels of petroleum. The US consumed about 7.49 billion barrels of petroleum last year, or about 20.5 million barrels a day. This means that the total biofuel potential of the record 2004 US corn and soybean harvests would offset about 12 days of US petroleum consumption, or about 3.3 percent of our total yearly petroleum consumption.

The fundamental issue is simply that the nation's entire corn and soybean crop converted to biofuel (all my conversion figures are industry-based, which means that they are the most optimistic rates possible) is trivial compared to the total petroleum consumed each year in the USA.



Now, I also want to underscore that this analysis was published in 2005 in a petroleum industry journal, because I had spent the previous two years shopping the analysis to local newspapers, the governor of Minnesota, my state representatives, tv stations, green journals, and popular journals, but nobody took me up on it because it completely debunks biofuels. And this is anathema to politicians and green activists. It is anathema to politicians because it robs them of their only reply to constituents who want to know what we will do to reduce our reliance on foreign oil. The real answer is “drive less” but the automobile is so critical to the US economy that nobody actually wants to cut back its use. When you add up all the road work, parking lots, insurance policies, gas sales, tires, car repairs, garages, speeding tickets, malls, drive-in fast food restaurants, not to mention the employment to build and sell new cars, it is plainly evident that the interests vested in automobiles are huge. So driving less is a reasonable but politically unpopular answer (incidentally the only way to make people drive less, or burn less gas by driving smaller/more efficient cars, is to raise the price of oil, which is also politically unpalatable). So one of the main reasons that politicians and public officials like biofuels is because when constituents ask” what we are going to do about our dependence on foreign oil?,” they can sagely intone the word “ethanol” and the average voter is comforted in the knowledge that something is being done and goes away without asking any more embarrassing questions.

In the next issue of the newsletter we will look at cellulosic ethanol.

**Written by: Ted Lofstrom, VP of Environmental Affairs for Ellis & Associates, Inc.**





INTERNATIONAL RIGHT OF WAY ASSOCIATION

Tennessee Chapter 32

Ellis & Associates, Inc.
Kim Austin
1102 Falcon Drive
Ashland City, TN 37015

Phone: 615-792-0006
Fax: 615-792-0006
E-mail: kimberly1949@charter.net



Right-of-Way, Land Acquisition,
Environmental Permitting
and Environmental Inspection Services



Colorado
Twenty Mile Station
18801 E Mainstreet
Suite 180
Parker, CO 80134
(303) 770-2005

Minnesota
2835 Fourth St. SE
Suite 200
Minneapolis, MN 55414
(612) 331-3886

Tennessee
1102 Falcon Dr.
Ashland City, TN 37015
(615) 792-0006

New Mexico
2014 San Juan Blvd
Suite C
Farmington, NM 87401
(505) 326-1730



If you would like to advertise in the
newsletter, let me know

Kim Austin
(931) 302-1077