



ALABAMA UTILITY CONTRACTORS ASSOCIATION

TIM AYERS, EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR
SEPTEMBER 2020

Director's Comments:



As if 2020 needed any more calamities, on September 16th Hurricane Sally made landfall in our state as a Category 2 Hurricane. Ironically, the storm made landfall in Gulf Shores on the 16 year anniversary of Hurricane Ivan, which also hit in the same location in 2004.

Despite not receiving much national media attention, the devastation from Sally was immense. Much property was damaged, and many went without power for days as crews worked tirelessly to restore it. FEMA announced that President Trump has approved the request for Baldwin, Escambia, and Mobile Counties to receive the "Major Disaster Declaration" due to Hurricane Sally. Homeowners and renters in these counties should apply to FEMA for federal disaster assistance as soon as possible, and may be eligible to receive assistance for uninsured and underinsured damage and losses resulting from the hurricane.

Amongst the casualties of Sally was the Alabama Damage Prevention Summit that was to be held this month at The Grand Hotel in Point Clear. Thankfully, The Grand Hotel suffered no major damage, and the Summit has been able to be rescheduled for later in the year.

Speaking of events, on October 15th, AUCA will hold our Fall General Meeting & Sporting Clay Shoot at Lower Wetumpka Shotgun Sports Club in Montgomery. Jeremiah Castille is our guest speaker, and we are expecting a great turnout. Most of our shooting team slots have been reserved, so if you plan to participate, and have not already sent in your registration form, please do so immediately in order to guarantee your space.

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Tim

Upcoming Event:

AUCA Fall General Meeting & Sporting Clay Shoot

Current Event Sponsors:

(Additional sponsorship opportunities available - deadline is October 9th)

Gold Sponsors:



Silver Sponsors:





AUCA 2020 Fall General Meeting & Sporting Clay Shoot

Thursday, October 15, 2020
Lower Wetumpka Shotgun Sports Club
4758 Lower Wetumpka Road Montgomery, AL 36110

General Meeting & Steak Lunch - Begins at 11:00 a.m.
Raffle Drawing - 12:30 p.m.
Sporting Clay Shoot - Begins at Approximately 1:00 p.m.



General Meeting & Steak Lunch Guest Speaker: Jeremiah Castille

Cost: \$20/Non-Shooters

(Lunch Included with Clay Shoot Registration or Sponsorship)

Come network with your peers, win great door prizes, and enjoy a delicious steak lunch while listening to our distinguished guest speaker. We will also vote on the 2021 AUCA Board of Directors and Officers, and present the AUCA "Member of the Year" Awards.

Annual Sporting Clay Shoot

Cost: \$600/Team or \$150/Individual

(Participants must provide own Gun and Shells)

Complete attached Registration Form and return ASAP.

Corporate Sponsorship opportunities available.

Sign up now before the event sells out!



AUCA PAC Fundraising Raffle

This year we are again raffling two great prizes that anyone can use:

Prize #1: \$1,000 Cash

Prize #2: \$500 Cash

Tickets are \$10 each and allow two (2) chances to win.

(You do not have to be present to win)

All money raised from the raffle will go towards the AUCA PAC Fund to help support our continued Legislative efforts in Montgomery and Washington.



OCTOBER 15, 2020 - EVENT REGISTRATION FORM



To register, please complete this form and return to the AUCA office by fax or email.
A copy of the registration form should also be submitted with payment.

Registration Deadline is October 9, 2020

Company Name: _____

Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

Contact Person: _____

Phone Number: _____

Email: _____

SPORTING CLAY SHOOT TEAM & SPONSORSHIP OPPORTUNITIES

GOLD SPONSOR - \$1,000 *Includes:* 4-man team, cart, name recognition and company logo on AUCA website, event signage, promotional materials, and four (4) station sponsorships

SILVER SPONSOR - \$650 *Includes:* 4-man team, cart, name recognition on event signage, and station sponsorship

BRONZE SPONSOR - \$250 *Includes:* Admission for two (2) company representatives to attend General Meeting Lunch, name recognition on event signage, station sponsorship, and may provide trappers on course to network with shooters and hand out company prizes or give-a-ways

4-PERSON TEAM & CART - \$600
1.) _____
2.) _____

INDIVIDUAL SHOOTER & CART - \$150
3.) _____
4.) _____

CART NEEDED: YES _____ NO _____

Carts provided for all shooters (you may also bring your own cart/ATV)

You must provide your own shells (Factory shells only - #7-1/2 or higher shot load)

Safety rules must be followed; signed waiver required; ear plugs and eye protection recommended

SPORTING CLAY SHOOT TEAM PRIZES

1st Place Team: \$400 + Trophies 2nd Place Team: \$300 + Trophies 3rd Place Team: \$200 + Trophies

GENERAL MEETING LUNCH (INCLUDED w/ TEAM REGISTRATION or SPONSORSHIP)

General Meeting Lunch: \$20/Non-Shooter x Quantity () = \$ _____

PAYMENT REQUESTED BEFORE OR ON DAY OF EVENT! Return form and payment to:

Alabama Utility Contractors Association

P.O. Box 383185

Birmingham, Alabama 35238-3185



Phone: (205) 582-9436

Fax: (205) 582-9155

Email: tim@aluca.org



To pay by credit card, please contact the AUCA office at (205) 582-9436.

Upcoming Meetings & Events:

Alabama Damage Prevention Alliance Virtual Meeting

October 14, 2020

10:00 a.m. - 12:00 p.m.

<https://v.ringcentral.com/join/781078175>

Meeting ID: 781078175

Smartphone Connect: +16504191505,,781078175

Dial In: 1-650-419-1505

Access Code/Mtg ID: 781078175



November 30 –December 2, 2020
The Grand Hotel, Point Clear

Event Rescheduled Due to Hurricane Sally

AUCA Local Industry Lunch Meetings

Meeting Dates and Locations To Be Announced

AUCA Board of Directors Meeting

December 9, 2020

***AUCA 2021 Spring General Meeting,
Golf Tournament and Shrimp & Crawfish Boil***

Thursday, April 22, 2021

Arrowhead Country Club - Montgomery, AL



News & Notes:

**ALABAMA UTILITY CONTRACTORS ASSOCIATION
PROPOSED 2021 LEADERSHIP TEAM**

To Be Voted On At General Meeting Scheduled For October 15, 2020

OFFICERS

PRESIDENT: TIM GILLIAM, *JOHN PLOTT COMPANY*

1ST VICE PRESIDENT: ANDRU BRAMBLETT, *PRAUS MANAGEMENT GROUP, LLC*

2ND VICE PRESIDENT: DOUG BLANKENSHIP, *BLANKENSHIP CONTRACTING, INC.*

SECRETARY/TREASURER: ROBBIE BUTLER, *CLEARY CONSTRUCTION, INC.*

BOARD MEMBERS

BILL McGOUGH, *W.R. MITCHELL CONTRACTOR, INC.**

RANDY BISHOP, *CONSTRUCTION LABOR SERVICES, INC.*

BILL CARTER, *BILL CARTER CONSULTING, LLC*

RONNIE GOLDEN, *GOLDEN CONSTRUCTION COMPANY*

SHAUN GONZALES, *WEAVER ENVIRONMENTAL SERVICES COMPANY, INC.*

ERIC HUDGENS, *SLOAN UTILITY CONTRACTING, INC.*

GAVIN JONES, *BAMA UTILITY CONTRACTORS, INC.*

LARRY LOGSDON, WALLACE, *JORDAN, RATLIFF, & BRANDT, LLC*

MARK MAYFIELD, *MILLER PIPELINE, LLC*

RYAN McCLENDON, *J. SMITH LANIER & COMPANY*

RICHARD MURPHREE, *SOUTHERN PIPE & SUPPLY*

AARON SCHMIDT, *SCHMIDT ENVIRONMENTAL CONSTRUCTION, INC.*

CHARLES SMITH, *VULCAN MATERIALS COMPANY*

STEVE WALKER, *JOHNSON & ASSOCIATES, INC.*

* IMMEDIATE PAST PRESIDENT



News & Notes:

2020 U.S. Census - Alabama Counts! (Response Deadline September 30th)

The U.S. Census Bureau announced on August 3 that the deadline for households to respond to the U.S. 2020 Census has been moved up one month. All census responses are now due by September 30. With this new date comes a renewed sense of urgency and a commitment to counting all Alabamians so that our federal representation, Census-derived funding and ongoing economic development opportunities stand for current and future generations.



As of early September, less than 80 percent of Alabama households had responded to the Census. This ranks Alabama last of all 50 states, and is also the only state in the country with a response rate lower than 80 percent. The response rate for the United States as a whole is 88.8 percent.

AUCA PAC Fundraising Raffle

Tickets have been distributed to AUCA member companies for the annual AUCA PAC Raffle. All proceeds from the raffle will be directed to the AUCA PAC Fund to help support our continued legislative efforts for improved infrastructure funding, as well as fair and consistent governmental policies that impact business, taxes, and environmental regulations.

This year we will be once again be raffling two great prizes that anyone can use - CASH:

- \$1,000 Cash - Prize #1
- \$500 Cash - Prize #2

Tickets are \$10 each, and will allow you two (2) chances to win. The drawing will be held at our October 15th General Meeting / Sporting Clay Shoot in Montgomery. You do not have to be present at the event to win.

We hope that you will consider purchasing these tickets for yourself, or provide the opportunity to your employees or co-workers. If you would like to purchase any additional tickets, please contact the AUCA office at (205) 582-9436.



News & Notes:

Alabama Damage Prevention Alliance (ADPA)

The Alabama Damage Prevention Alliance (ADPA) was established to promote public safety and prevention of damages to utility infrastructure through education, co-operation and communication efforts among all stakeholders.



The next ADPA meeting will take place virtually on October 14th. One of the critical items on the Agenda will be an update regarding the Large Project Task Team. The intent of the Large Project Task Team is to better define a project, what parameters should be included, and how to establish a process around those excavation/survey activities designated as a project. The impacts of the "Extended Ticket Life" will also be discussed.

AUCA members, especially Contractors, are strongly encouraged to get involved with the ADPA and participate in the upcoming call.

Common Ground Alliance Wants Your Input On Underground Utility Damage Prevention!

The Common Ground Alliance (CGA) recently launched the Next Practices Initiative to clearly identify, communicate and focus the damage prevention industry on the most pressing issues facing the industry today. As part of the Next Practices Initiative, CGA is requesting member/stakeholder feedback on the issues that present the greatest challenge to damage prevention.

Click the link below to take a brief survey to provide your input so that Excavators can be represented on the most pressing damage prevention issues facing our industry!

<https://survey.sogosurvey.com/Survey1.aspx?k=SsQYPTSySsPsPsP&lang=0>



Common Ground Alliance



News & Notes:

ALDOT Training Grants

The Alabama Department of Transportation (ALDOT) will be awarding grants for training potential workers. AUCA is partnering with the Construction Education Foundation of Alabama (CEFA) in an effort to convince ALDOT to spend some of their approved grant money on specific training that would directly benefit our industry, since it is often performed in conjunction with ALDOT road and highway projects.

Our request for the proposed training course outline would include:

- OSHA 10
- Heavy Equipment, forklift and Crane Safety
- Employability/Communication Skills Training: Show up for work on time, every day, put cell phone away and work. How to work in small teams and find ways to resolve problems.
- Handling and Placing Concrete
- Reinforcing Concrete
- Ives Training/Certification on Mini Excavator & Skid Steer
- Flagger Training

Student Selection: Based on ALDOT criteria

Students must have:

- Reliable transportation
- Pass a 5 panel drug test pre and post training

Many AUCA member companies have already sent letters on our behalf in support of the potential training. If you have not, but would still like to do so, please let us know ASAP. Your letter of support in no way binds your company to hiring any of the students that complete the training. However, it helps build the case for ALDOT to spend the grant money in the best way possible to benefit our industry.

2020 Federal Motor Carrier Safety Administration Hours of Service Rule

The Federal Motor Carrier Safety Administration (FMCSA) has revised the hours of service (HOS) regulations to provide greater flexibility for drivers without adversely affecting safety. The new HOS regulations go into effect on September 29, 2020.



Clean Water Construction Coalition Report

From Bob Briant, Jr. - Chairman CWCC & Sante Esposito - Key Advocates

House Passes Continuing Resolution to Keep Government Running

A stopgap funding bill to keep the government running through Dec. 11 was passed by the House of Representatives late Tuesday evening. The bipartisan vote on the Continuing Resolution (CR) came shortly after both parties reached a deal to include increased funding for nutrition assistance and trade relief payments for farmers.

The CR ensures that most federal program levels hold steady at the FY20 levels, prorated until December when the CR expires.

It maintains Army Corps of Engineer funding, as well as maintaining the FY20 levels of \$1.6 billion for the Clean Water SRF and \$1.3 billion for the Drinking Water SRF.

For transportation, the CR includes a one-year extension of surface transportation funding known as the Fixing America's Transportation (FAST) Act. The extension maintains surface transportation programs at current levels of \$47.1 billion for highway programs and \$12.3 billion for transit programs, and provides a transfer of \$14 billion to the Airport and Airway Trust Fund.

The bill will now go to the Senate, where it's expected to pass.



cleanwaterconstructioncoalition.org

Health & Safety:

Provided by www.oshatraining.com

A Brief Overview of OSHA's Soil Classification System

[Reference 1926 Subpart P]

One of the primary duties of the Competent Person at an excavation site is to examine the soil and other conditions present in and around the excavation to make a determination as to what type, or types, of soil are present. That, in turn, will determine type, size, strength and/or configuration of the protective system that is utilized to protect workers inside of the excavation from cave-ins. The Competent Person will initially make this determination of soil types through visual observations, and then usually confirm it by performing at least one manual test. Here is an overview of the different rock and soil types spelled out in the OSHA excavation standard, starting with the most stable and least likely to cave-in, and ending with the most unstable type:

- **Stable Rock** is natural solid mineral matter that can be excavated with vertical sides and remain intact while exposed. However, the rock must be free of cracks or fissures after it has been excavated to be considered Stable Rock. Examples of Stable Rock could include some deposits of granite or sandstone. While rock is certainly present at many of our excavation sites, "stable" rock is relatively rare to find on an excavation site. That is because there are usually cracks or fissures detected in rock that has been excavated with a jack-hammer, rock breaker, dynamite, or similar mechanical means. Rock that has cracks or fissures in it is usually classified as Unstable Rock, which falls into another classification covered below.
- **Type A Soils** are cohesive soils with a high clay content and which are very hard to penetrate. Examples of Type A cohesive soils are clay, silty clay, sandy clay, clay loam and, in some cases, silty clay loam and sandy clay loam. However, no soil can be classified as Type A if it is fissured or cracked, if it is subject to vibration that affects the stability of the soil, if it has been previously excavated, if it is part of a sloped, layered system where the layers dip into the excavation on a slope of 4 horizontal to 1 vertical or greater, or if there is water seeping into, or standing in, the excavation; in these cases it will have to be downgraded.
- **Type B Soils** are cohesive soils that are a little softer than Type A soils, or they were a Type A soil that had to be downgraded due to the various reasons we just covered. In addition, there are other kinds of Type B soil, including angular gravel, silt, silt loam, dry unstable rock, and layered systems sloping into the trench at a slope less than 4 horizontal to 1 vertical, so long as the soil meets all other criteria for Type B soil. In addition, Type B soil cannot have any water seeping into, or standing in, the excavation.



Health & Safety:

(Continued from page 11)

- **Type C Soils** are cohesive soils that are extremely soft, and therefore are easy to penetrate or mold with light finger pressure. Type C soils also include granular soils such as sand, loamy sand, and non-angular gravels. Type C soils also include all submerged soils, soil from which water is freely seeping, and unstable rock that is submerged in water. Also included in this classification is any material in a sloped, layered system where the layers dip into the excavation at a slope of four horizontal to one vertical or greater.

On excavation sites where there is more than one soil type present, the Competent Person will test and classify each area or layer separately, and then adjust the selection of protective systems accordingly.

The purpose of this discussion is not to try and teach you how to classify soils; that is solely the responsibility of our Competent Person. Instead, we just want you to be aware that the classification of various soil and rock deposits can vary on the job. And that, in turn, can impact the type, or types, of protective systems we decide to use on the job.



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***AUCA IS A MEMBER-DRIVEN, NEEDS
FOCUSED TRADE ASSOCIATION CREATED
SOLELY TO PROMOTE AND ADVANCE THE
UTILITY INDUSTRY IN THE STATE OF
ALABAMA.***

**We're on the Web !
www.aluca.org**

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