

## Skanska USA Sustainability Agenda – Opportunities and Challenges

The 7th Annual ASCE-NCS Sustainability Award and Keynote Address, Tuesday, March 26, 2013

### 2013 Sustainability Award Keynote Address

Courtney Lorenz, LEED AP BD + C, will be speaking about the current state of sustainability in civil and building construction operations. Ms. Lorenz is the Director of Environmental Management for Skanska USA, working on building and civil projects throughout the U.S. Her focus is on reducing the environmental impact of the built environment, and importantly, the construction process. In the reality of “what gets measured, gets managed,” much of the sustainability focus in the industry is on developing and executing on sustainability metrics. Courtney has been leading these efforts for Skanska’s global Green Strategic



Indicators. From executing the first of its kind comprehensive carbon footprint for a construction project, to transforming the perception of “green” in civil construction, Skanska has demonstrated competence as a green industry builder. Courtney serves as the U.S. representative on Skanska’s Global Environmental Performance Network, was named as a Green Pioneer for North Carolina, a Sustainability Champion by Sustainability North Carolina, and currently serves on the Energy Policy Council for the State of North Carolina.

### 2013 Sustainability Award

The ASCE-National Capital Section (NCS) Sustainability Award recognizes sustainable development of infrastructure, the built-environment, and the conservation of natural resources in the DC metropolitan area. The 2012 winner was the Architect of the Capitol, Washington, DC, for its renovation and upgrade of the East House Underground Garage. Some of the features of this

project included a construction pollution prevention policy for controlling dust and debris from contaminating the air and sewer run-off systems, new water-efficient plumbing fixtures, high-performance energy-reducing mechanical systems, and diversion of more than 99 percent of the 8.5 million pounds of construction debris from landfills. The project used 8.7 million pounds of new materials with more than 18 percent recycled content (including 28,000 pounds of new reinforcing steel and 2,500 cubic yards of new concrete), and more than 50 percent of the new materials were obtained from regional sources.

Other past recipients include Sidwell Friends School; the Wolf Trap Foundation for the Performing Arts; the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency

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### ASCE-NCS Sustainability Award Criteria

1. The project/initiative advances or promotes sustainable development as defined by the ASCE’s Code of Ethics:  
*Sustainable development is the challenge of meeting human needs for natural resources, industrial products, energy, food, transportation, shelter, and effective waste management while conserving and protecting environmental quality and the natural resource base essential for future development.*
2. The project/initiative adopts a long-term view cognizant of environmental, social, and economic implications, and places heavy emphasis on the impact of choices made now on succeeding generations.
3. The project/initiative is located within the jurisdictions of Montgomery County, Prince George’s County, Loudoun County, Fairfax County, the City of Alexandria, Arlington County, or the District of Columbia (i.e., within the geographical limits of the NCS’ territory).

### Sustainability Award Nomination Process – Still Time to Nominate for 2013!

Send a description of the program (limited to 100 words) to the Chair of the ASCE-NCS Sustainability Committee, Alex Rosenheim, P.E., LEED AP, and M. ASCE, at [tcc-sus@asce-ncs.org](mailto:tcc-sus@asce-ncs.org). The description should

include (1) the public or private entity responsible for the program (including point-of-contact), and (2) how the nomination meets each of the three award criteria. The nominating individual should include his/her

name, affiliation, telephone number, and e-mail address with the nomination. **Nominations for the ASCE-NCS Sustainability Award will be received through March 17, 2013.**

## President's Corner

Our February meeting guest, Ms. Shirley Ybarra, a senior transportation policy analyst at Reason Foundation, a nonprofit think tank and former Secretary of Transportation for the Commonwealth of Virginia, discussed the topic of transportation infrastructure and congestion. She described ways the states are addressing congestion, such as High Occupancy Toll (HOT) lanes, HOT arterials, and other challenges to the



transportation network. Ms. Ybarra also commented on funding challenges that lie ahead in the area of transportation infrastructure. How will we continue to make our systems work with the resources at hand?

Over the past 6 years, the Section has highlighted the aspect of sustainability in our profession by holding the ASCE-NCS Sustainability Awards annually. The event recognizes sustainable development projects, programs, and initiatives in the Washington, DC, metropolitan area. The 7th Annual ASCE-NCS Sustainability Awards will be held on Tuesday, March 26, 2013. The program will be followed by the 8th Annual ASCE-NCS Sustainability Lecture/Keynote by Ms. Courtney Lorenz, Director of Environmental

Management with Skanska USA, in Durham, NC.

The solution to various issues that face our profession – some of which have been mentioned in this column in the past – cannot be found if we do not pay attention to sustainability; doing more with less, preserving what we have, improving how we implement our projects, and taking a holistic approach. Sustainability is not just an abstract aspect of our projects. It is something we need to seamlessly incorporate in our projects as well as day-to-day living. This is not only something we can do; it is something we must do.

As we recognize our leaders in sustainability this month, let us also endeavor to incorporate sustainability in our projects and our lives.

Take care,



Qamar A. O. Kazmi, P.E.  
President, ASCE-NCS

*We humans are smart enough to have created complex systems and amazing productivity; surely we are also smart enough to make sure that everyone shares our bounty, and surely we are smart enough to sustainably steward the natural world upon which we all depend.*

– Donella H. Meadows (1941–2001)

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for People, Prosperity, and the Planet; the Metropolitan Washington Council of Governments for Greening Metropolitan Washington Region Built Environment; and the Anacostia Waterfront Corporation for Environmental Standards for Development.

Please join us for this annual event on **Tuesday, March 26, 2013**. The meeting will be held at our usual meeting place, the Hilton Arlington, 950 North

Stafford Street in Arlington, VA, on the second floor in the Gallery Ballrooms. Parking is available at the hotel (\$8), at the Ballston Mall garage (\$1 after 6 p.m.), and on the street (free after 6 p.m.).

This location is in the same block as the Ballston Station on Metro's Orange Line. Registration and networking will be from 6:00 to 6:30 p.m., followed by dinner. The program will conclude by 8:30 p.m. The cost will be \$10 for students, \$40

for those who pre-register, and \$50 for walk-ins. **Please RSVP by March 20, 2013**. One Professional Development Hour (PDH) will be awarded to attendees. Click [HERE](#) to register. For questions, please contact Qamar Kazmi at [qkazmi@schnabel-eng.com](mailto:qkazmi@schnabel-eng.com) or 240-238-2218.

**Please Note:** The NCS encourages its members to attend the monthly *continued on page 3*

## Newsletter

**L.J. Sauter, Jr., Editor**  
Telephone: 703-243-5298

**April 2013 Issue Deadline:**  
**March 15, 2013**

**To Submit Articles:**  
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**Address Changes:**  
Call 1-800-548-ASCE, email [member@asce.org](mailto:member@asce.org), go to <http://www.asce.org>, or write: ASCE – Membership, 1801 Alexander Bell Drive, Reston, VA 20191. Remember to include your membership number.

## National Capital Section

### Officers (2012–2013)

**Qamar A.O. Kazmi, President**  
240-238-2218  
[qkazmi@schnabel-eng.com](mailto:qkazmi@schnabel-eng.com)

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703-994-4849  
[rsahai@ram-corp.com](mailto:rsahai@ram-corp.com)

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[scott.wolf@dot.gov](mailto:scott.wolf@dot.gov)

**Rollie Berry, Treasurer**  
301-415-6119  
[rollie.berry@nrc.gov](mailto:rollie.berry@nrc.gov)

**L.J. Sauter, Jr., Newsletter Editor**  
703-243-5298  
[cm.ljsauterjr@verizon.net](mailto:cm.ljsauterjr@verizon.net)

**David R. Dajc, Director**  
703-404-6363  
[david.dajc@fhwa.dot.gov](mailto:david.dajc@fhwa.dot.gov)

**Christian Manalo, Director**  
703-377-1697  
[manalo\\_christian@bah.com](mailto:manalo_christian@bah.com)

**Stephen Powers, Director**  
703-528-8296  
[stephen@designpowers.com](mailto:stephen@designpowers.com)

**Fady Afif, Director**  
301-556-4403  
[afiff@bv.com](mailto:afiff@bv.com)

**Jordan Pitt, YMF President**  
703-245-0452  
[wjpitt@mbakercorp.com](mailto:wjpitt@mbakercorp.com)

**John Casana, Past President**  
703-377-8980  
[casana\\_john@bah.com](mailto:casana_john@bah.com)

**Mark E. Leeman, Past President**  
703-591-4855  
[mark.leeman@feapc.com](mailto:mark.leeman@feapc.com)

**Sara Guerrero, Webmaster**  
703-591-4855  
[sara.guerrero@feapc.com](mailto:sara.guerrero@feapc.com)

### Committee Chairs

Please refer to the NCS website at <http://www.asce-ncs.org> for a current list of NCS committees and chairs.

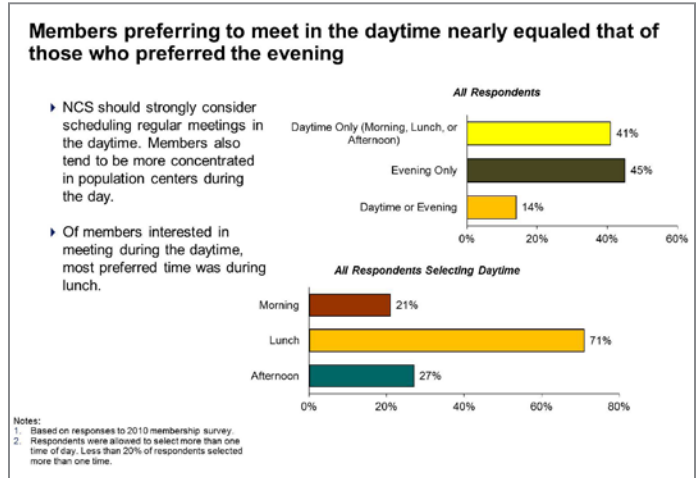
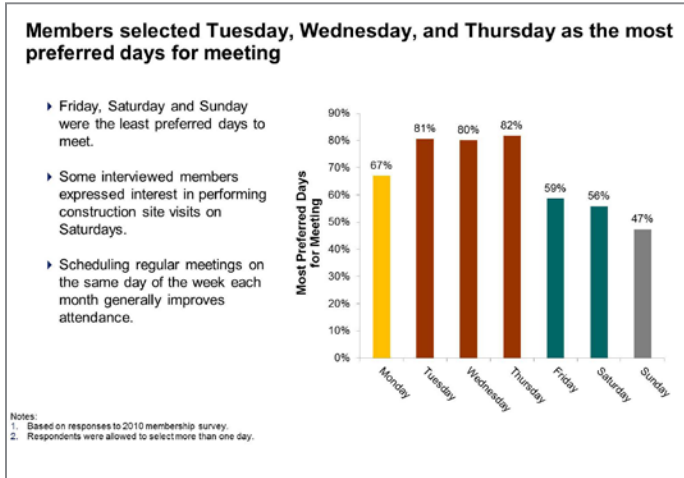
## Improving the Value of ASCE-NCS Membership

In July 2010, the NCS commissioned a new Management and Best Practices Subcommittee to evaluate Section activities and identify means for optimizing the value of NCS membership. The Subcommittee interviewed NCS leadership, conducted a full membership survey, identified core interests, interviewed university faculty advisors and young member representatives, and

identified opportunities for partnering with peer organizations. Additionally, leadership from other ASCE sections was interviewed, and best practice reference materials were reviewed. The Subcommittee's findings were presented to the NCS Board of Directors in July 2011.

We are presenting graphical representations of the Subcommittee's findings

as a monthly feature, "At a Glance...". For more information about the Subcommittee, please contact Christian Manalo at [manalo\\_christian@bah.com](mailto:manalo_christian@bah.com). This month's graphics present insights into how we selected the day and time of our monthly meetings. ■



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Section meetings and believes the programs provide valuable opportunities for acquiring new knowledge and networking with colleagues. The hotel that hosts us requires that a guarantee be provided in advance of the meeting. This is standard in the business, and allows the hotel to order ample

food and coordinate its staff. To meet this requirement, the NCS will close registrations for meetings held on our typical Tuesday evening on the **preceding Wednesday evening**. Because the NCS is charged for each meal guaranteed, those registered who were not able to attend may be charged the full

registration fee after the meeting. We welcome "walk-up" attendees, including any registration made after the guarantee is given to the hotel. The cost for the "walk-ups" is higher because the Section is charged accordingly by the hotel for late registrations. ■

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## Upcoming Volunteers Events

### National Building Museum Event, March 16

On March 16, the NCS will be helping Cub Scouts build arch bridges at the National Building Museum (NBM), 401 F Street NW, in Washington, DC. The NBM is located at the Judiciary Square Station on Metro's Red Line. Free parking will be available at the NBM lot for volunteers. The event runs from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m., with a break at noon for pizza. Volunteers are needed for the morning



and afternoon shifts. All materials will be provided by the NCS. Contact Dean Westman at [dwestman@wrallp.com](mailto:dwestman@wrallp.com) for additional information or to volunteer.

### People, Prosperity, and the Planet Event, April 19-21

Join ASCE World Headquarters Staff and NCS volunteers for the U.S.

Environmental Protection Agency's (EPA) *People, Prosperity, and the Planet* (P3) *Student Design Competition for Sustainability* event on the National Mall in Washington. The event will last the weekend of April 19-21. See the April newsletter for additional information or click [HERE](#) for information on the design competition. ■

## NCS Committee News and Updates

### Sustainability Committee – EPA P3 National Sustainable Design Expo and Sustainability Award

ASCE World Headquarters and the NCS will be continuing our annual participation in the National Sustainable Design Expo featuring the EPA P3 Sustainability Award. For additional information on this annual event, click [HERE](#).

ASCE will be providing an educational outreach exhibit for the EPA P3 Expo. They are planning a fun exhibit that will feature an interactive model of permeable pavement and a computer

kiosk where visitors can play the ASCEville sustainability game!

The exhibit will be on display for three days; at this point, the greatest need is for volunteers to come out and have a fun time staffing the booth. They would love it if members of the NCS Sustainability Committee could join us. Your help in spreading the word about this activity would be greatly appreciated.

Volunteers are needed for the following shifts (typically about 4 hours each):

- Saturday, April 20, 2013
- Sunday, April 21, 2013
- Monday, April 22, 2013

Please let Alex Rosenheim, NCS Sustainability Committee Chairman, know what hours you will be available to help out. You can contact Alex at [tcc-sus@asce-ncs.org](mailto:tcc-sus@asce-ncs.org) or 202-412-3090 with any questions. ■

### NCS Younger Members Group – 2013 ASCE Eastern Region Younger Member Council

The 2013 ASCE Eastern Region Younger Member Council was held February 7-9, 2013, in Warwick, RI. The NCS was represented by NCS-YMF Vice President



Kelly Cronin (NCS), Robert Turnage (MD Section – Baltimore), and Chris Cusick (MD Section – Baltimore) at the ASCE Eastern Region Younger Members Council in Rhode Island which received over 2 feet of snow during the event.

Kelly Cronin (WJE) and Student Relations Leader Michelle Everett (NAVFAC). The Council brought leaders from all the younger member groups in the Eastern Region (Regions 1, 2, 4, and 5) together to network and exchange ideas on how to continually improve the ASCE younger member groups. Younger member leaders shared information on new and upcoming ASCE activities/events both locally and regionally. As each section is unique with their own speakers, tours, volunteer activities, social events, etc., younger member leaders were given the opportunity to discuss which events were the most enjoyable and beneficial to their members. In addition, the Council allowed younger member groups to be heard on the Society level and learn about affiliating ASCE Institutes, legal issues, and disaster relief efforts, among other topics. Awards were also given to outstanding younger member groups and their leaders from the past year.

The Council was held in conjunction with the Workshop for Section and Branch Leaders, including

regional governors and directors, and the Workshop for Student Chapter Leaders, including university student chapters. The NCS was represented by Region 2 Director Robert Victor and Region 2 Governor Robert Efimba. Students were able to interact with the practicing engineers to gain knowledge of the profession and the Section leaders were able to provide mentoring to the student members. Presentations were given by ASCE National and regional leaders on the status of the organization, exciting upcoming events, and the future of civil engineering.

The 2014 ASCE Eastern Region Younger Member Council will be held in February 2014 in Indianapolis, IN.

If you would like to become more active with the NCS Younger Members Group, please contact Jordan Pitt ([wjpitt@mbakercorp.com](mailto:wjpitt@mbakercorp.com)) or Kelly Cronin ([kcronin@wje.com](mailto:kcronin@wje.com)). ■



# Discover Engineering Family Day at the National Building Museum

Dean Westman and Emily Dean lead another successful event on February 16!

The NCS congratulates Dean, Emily, and Andrea Putscher for once again leading our volunteers at Discover Engineering Family Day at the NBM. Over 5,000 kids and their friends and families attended the event.

This year, the ASCE-NCS teamed with Bechtel Corporation to sponsor the popular High Rise activity. "High Rise" involves building a structure at least

18-inches high from a 4-foot by 3-foot sheet of paper, drinking straws, string, and lots of masking tape. The structures were tested by adding a dead load (tennis ball) and a wind load (fans).

After the event, Bechtel hosted a Happy Hour for volunteers and ASCE President Greg DiLoreto and Mrs. Diane DiLoreto at the DC Chophouse. Many thanks to our wonderful volunteers:

Julio Castellanos and Family

Barbara Cook  
Charlie Griffith  
Sara Guerrero  
John Jacobson  
Pam Jacobson  
Tyler Jacobson  
Conor Kevit  
Rachel Lute  
Jennifer Nicks

Rupa Patel  
Leslie Payne  
Jordan Pitt  
Davis Smith  
Sarah Steele  
Norine Walker  
Kate Williamson  
Scott Wolf  
Justin Yeash



Future civil engineers are born! At right, past NCS president Fernando Pons gives his son a lesson in structural engineering.

## ASCE Past President David Mongan to Speak at NCS Annual Awards Banquet on April 16th

Save the date for this year's NCS Annual Awards Banquet. This annual event is the highlight of the year, and we are honored to have ASCE Past President David Mongan, P.E., F.ASCE, as our keynote speaker. The event also gives us the opportunity to recognize

and celebrate local excellence in projects, engineers, and students who have contributed to our community and our society. Recognized parties will include our Meritorious and Community Service Award winners, student scholarship award winners,

and those individuals who have achieved Life Member status. More details will be provided in the April newsletter.

**SAVE THE DATE!**

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## February Meeting Recap – Transportation Infrastructure and Congestion

Presented by Shirley Ybarra, Senior Transportation Policy Analyst at Reason Foundation

In a very timely presentation in days of budget uncertainty here in Washington, Shirley Ybarra discussed funding for U.S. transportation in the 21st century at the February 2013 NCS meeting. Ms. Ybarra is a policy analyst at the Reason Foundation and a former Secretary of Transportation for the Commonwealth of Virginia (1998–2002).

In her presentation, she discussed the changing federal role in transportation funding and alternates from the current practices.

Starting off, Ybarra outlined her position that “cuts are coming” due to fiscal realities at the federal level. With a reduced role in transportation funding, she opined that four areas make sense for the Federal government to invest: (1) interstate commerce, (2) goods movement and intermodal connections, (3) safety, and (4) research.

A discussion of alternates to federal funding of transportation projects occupied much of the interest of the audience. A “per-mile” charge as an alternate to the current fuel tax was proposed as a better way to finance transportation projects. Recognizing that vehicle fuel economy has been

rising over the years and raising the fuel tax has been politically impossible to increase, the per-mile charge is a method of keeping pace with contributions from past years.

Ms. Ybarra also suggested that wider use of public-private partnerships (PPP) will have a larger role in the future. The primary advantages are risk transfer (construction over-runs, late completion, shortfalls of traffic and revenue), guaranteed long-term maintenance, additional investments, and innovation. She cited several innovations on the Virginia HOT Lanes project brought about by private concerns that helped make the project viable. The PPP model presents a vehicle to meet the demand for private equity investment in U.S. infrastructure. However, tolls will be needed as these projects come online. She made the case that without private investment, many of the large projects completed in the U.S. in the last couple of years would not have gone forward. The government funding was not available; private investment was the only way to make those projects a reality.

Ybarra’s presentation gave the audience an overview of how the



transportation sector may see changes in the years ahead. It was colored with many of her real-world experiences while leading Virginia’s Department of Transportation, including several large projects in the territory of the NCS, such as the Wilson Bridge and the Springfield Mixing Bowl. The attendees were treated to a view of the future by a seasoned policy analyst in the transportation field. They may not have agreed with all of the predictions, but it was a lively and enlightening evening. Civil engineers will play a major role in that future, however it comes about. ■

### Employment Clearinghouse

*The ASCE-NCS provides the Employment Clearinghouse as a free service to its membership. The Clearinghouse allows members to post short notices for available positions or candidates seeking employment. All employers listed herein are equal opportunity employers. If you have questions or would like to post a position, please contact the Employment Conditions Committee, National Capital Section ASCE, 8502 Buckhannon Drive, Rockville, MD 20854-3503; phone: (301)983-9777; fax: (301)983-1953; or e-mail [sassi22@verizon.net](mailto:sassi22@verizon.net).*

### ASCE-NCS Newsletter Patrons





## Upcoming Events *(Also available on the NCS website under the Events tab)*

### **March 6**

Younger Members Group Happy Hour from 6–8 p.m. at Ireland's Four Courts, 2051 Wilson Boulevard (Courthouse Station on Metro's Orange Line in Arlington). Join younger members from the area for free appetizers and drink specials. Watch for an announcement with more details. Contact Sonja Hinish at [SHinish@wje.com](mailto:SHinish@wje.com) for additional information.

### **March 16**

Join the NCS for Cub Scout Day at the NBM. The event runs from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Volunteers are needed for the morning and afternoon shifts. Contact Dean Westman at [dwestman@wrallp.com](mailto:dwestman@wrallp.com) for additional information or to volunteer. (See newsletter brief.)

### **March 19**

The NCS Younger Members will meet for the next Professional Development event from 6:30–8:30 p.m. at Ragtime (Courthouse Station on Metro's Orange Line in Arlington). The speaker will be Mike Drerup of Walter P. Moore, who will discuss Tools and Techniques for Forensic Investigations. Mr. Drerup is currently serving as the Executive Committee Chair for the ASCE Technical Council on Forensic Engineering. Attendees will be awarded 1 PDH. Watch for an announcement soon with more details. Contact Paul Parfitt at [PParfitt@wje.com](mailto:PParfitt@wje.com) for additional information.

### **March 26**

NCS monthly meeting at the Hilton Arlington. The program will feature the 7th Annual ASCE-NCS Sustainability Award. The 8th Annual Sustainability Lecture will be presented by Courtney Lorenz of Skanska USA. (See newsletter lead article.)

### **April 4–6**

Volunteers are needed at the Virginia and West Virginia ASCE Student Conference, hosted by Howard University. The Howard University ASCE Student Chapter needs volunteers and/or judges for the Steel Bridge and Concrete Canoe Competitions. Volunteers/judges that did not attend any of the NCS area schools (Howard University, the Catholic University of America, The George Washington University, the University of the District of Columbia, and George Mason University) are preferred. Contact Robert Efimba at [efimba@howard.edu](mailto:efimba@howard.edu) to volunteer or for additional information.

### **April 5**

The American Water Resources Association-National Capital Region will host an all-day symposium at the University of the District of Columbia, "The Past, Present, and Future of Water Resources." For agenda and registration information, click [HERE](#).

### **April 16**

NCS Annual Awards Banquet at the Hilton Arlington. Our keynote speaker for the event will be David Mongan, P.E., F.ASCE, and former ASCE National President. The festivities will include presenting awards for the Project of the Year, ASCE-NCS life members, student ASCE member scholarships, and Community and Meritorious Service. See the April newsletter lead article for all the exciting details!

### **April 19–21**

Join ASCE World Headquarters Staff and the NCS for the EPA's P3 Student Design Competition for Sustainability event on the National Mall in Washington. (See newsletter brief.)

### **May 21**

NCS monthly meeting at the Hilton Arlington. The program will feature a presentation by DC Water on the \$2.6 billion Clean Rivers Project and the Northeast Boundary Neighborhood Protection Project. The Clean Rivers Project is the largest construction project ever undertaken by DC Water. (See the April newsletter for additional information.)