



## Six regional SPEC MIX Bricklayer 500® events held across the U.S.

Since September, six regional SPEC MIX Bricklayer 500® events have taken place in Chicago, Wisconsin, Michigan, Salt Lake City, Denver and Northeast Ohio.

The 2005 national competition will see two returning regional champions. Mike Boll won the Chicago regional competition in 2003 and came back this year to win again. Jaysen Walter also returns as the Wisconsin regional champion for the second year in a row. Michigan held its first regional event this year and will send Michael Bradley to Las Vegas. (Winners of Salt Lake City, Denver and Northeast Ohio were not available at the time of publication of Trowel Tales.)

Winners of each regional competition will receive air



fare, hotel and entry fee for the national competition to be held on January 19 in Las Vegas, Nev.

New to the SPEC MIX Bricklayer 500 is the Craftsmanship Award (see sidebar on Page 2). To date, this year's winners are Jeff Lykins (Chicago), Jaysen Walter (Wisconsin) and Tim Lowe (Michigan).

"The regionals are quickly becoming the best tool to unify and promote the masonry industry in the markets where they are held," says Nick Blohowiak, SPEC MIX midwest regional manager. "As the regionals mature, the quality of the competitors improve both locally and nationally making the contest better each year."

If you are a mason interested in competing in the national competition, fill out the entry form on Page 5 in this issue of Trowel Tales. Space is limited to 20 competitors, so don't delay getting your entry form and fee in.

**Continued on Page 2**



**Jaysen Walter (above) and Mike Boll (left) show skill, speed and stamina. Walter took first in the Wisconsin regional SPEC MIX Bricklayer 500, and Boll championed in the Chicago regional event. Both will be going to Las Vegas for the national SPEC MIX Bricklayer 500 to vie for the title of Nation's Fastest Bricklayer.**

# SPEC MIX Bricklayer 500<sup>®</sup> regionals (continued)

## Chicago SPEC MIX Bricklayer 500 winners

**1st place:** Mike Boll  
Tender: Ken Huizengs  
Brick count: 785

**2nd place:** Bert Snyder  
Tender: Paul Shiarys  
Brick count: 665

**3rd place:** Jeff Lykins  
Tender: Dillon Burnett  
Brick count: 518

**Craftsmanship Award:** Jeff Lykins

## Wisconsin SPEC MIX Bricklayer 500 winners

**1st place:** Jaysen Walter  
Tender: Mike Luthi  
Brick count: 655

**2nd place:** Mike Snell  
Tender: Jeremy Lewis  
Brick count: 622

**3rd place:** Tony Hanus  
Tender: Jim Hanus  
Brick Count: 588

**Craftsmanship Award:** Jaysen Walter

## Michigan SPEC MIX Bricklayer 500 winners

**1st place:** Michael Bradley  
Tender: Don Theiner  
Brick Count 572

**2nd place:** Tim Lowe  
Tender: Dave Paul  
Brick Count: 509

**3rd place:** Robert Smith  
Tender: Donald Baker  
Brick Count: 495

**Craftsmanship Winner:** Tim Lowe



Tim Lowe works quickly and cleanly to win the Craftsmanship Award in the Michigan regional SPEC MIX Bricklayer 500, as well as take second place overall. The Craftsmanship Award was created in response to industry concern that not enough emphasis was being placed on quality of workmanship.

### The Craftsmanship Award

The Craftsmanship Award recognizes not only speed but quality of work. The award was created in response to industry concern that the SPEC MIX Bricklayer 500<sup>®</sup> places too much emphasis on speed and not enough on workmanship. Winners of this award stand on their own merit, not as an honorable mention to the contest. We believe the Craftsmanship Award brings the SPEC MIX Bricklayer 500 to a new level and strengthens the integrity of the competition.

The Craftsmanship Award is determined upon the following criteria:

1. A minimum of 500 brick must be laid.
2. The competitor must meet the quality standards of the contest and not be disqualified.
3. The field will be narrowed to the top 25 percent.
4. Judges will inspect the walls and determine the best wall based on "Call the wall be sold?"

## Precision Packaging follows mission statement to grow business

In 1976, a group of investors headed by Earnest Boyland started Quikrete Materials Company. Since those early days, we have seen many changes within the company. In 1982, Arkansas Cement purchased the company, and later in 1985, Ash Grove Cement acquired Arkansas Cement. For the past 20 years, we have been a part of the Ash Grove family.

To better define who we are and to allow for greater growth, the name of the company was changed in 1993 from Quikrete Materials to the present name Precision Packaging/Materials Packaging. We had a desire to grow the company, but not at the expense of our employees' well being. We also wanted to serve our customers in such a way as to become a WOW experience for them while making a profit for Ash Grove. Seeing the need to define who we were and how we wanted to grow, we engaged Ash Grove and the vision of our leadership team to develop our Vision and Mission Statement, which now serves as a filter to determine the way we do business.

**PRECISION PACKAGING CORPORATION'S  
MISSION STATEMENT**

PRECISION PACKAGING CORPORATION  
IS COMMITTED TO BECOMING A LEADING COMPANY  
IN THE CEMENT PACKAGING INDUSTRY BY BEING A:  
SERVANT OF OUR CUSTOMERS  
SHEPHERD OF OUR EMPLOYEES  
STEWARD OF ASH GROVE MATERIALS CORPORATION

When the opportunity came to produce SPEC MIX®, our leadership team embraced this wave of the future. We are having great success in our markets with SPEC MIX and the industry is indeed changing. We are grateful to our current group of mudslingers as well as our past team members, who paved the way for our present success. B J Cherry in northwest Arkansas; Todd Mascagni in Mississippi; Gene Drennen in Memphis, Tenn.; and Craig Sainsbury in Salt Lake City, Utah; are now able to go into the market place and prosper due to the hard work of their predecessors. Whether matching color, getting submittals, or performing jobsite maintenance, these guys are always keeping the WOW experience out in front of the customer.

Due to the commitment of production, sales, and administrative staff, WOW is now an everyday experience for our contractors. We are pleased that SPEC MIX mortars and grout are on many major projects, such as the new Clinton Presidential Library in Little Rock, Ark. We were asked to produce a type K mortar with very small sand particles to repair a 100-plus-year-old passenger depot for The Chicago, Rock Island and Pacific Railroad Company that will be incorporated into the Presidential Library.

## U.S. nonresidential building construction

	Actuals	Forecasts	
	2003	2004	2005
(billions of U.S. current dollars)			
Lodging	10.8	11.6	13.0
(year vs. previous year)	-0.5%	7.4%	12.1%
Office	40.2	43.9	49.4
	-11.0%	9.2%	12.5%
Commercial (Retail)	60.6	66.1	74.6
	-2.1%	9.1%	12.9%
Health Care	29.5	31.0	35.9
	6.5%	5.1%	15.8%
Education	71.3	72.8	79.0
	1.1%	2.1%	8.5%
Religious	8.4	8.7	9.5
	2.0%	3.6%	9.2%
Public Safety	8.5	9.0	9.8
	-2.7%	5.9%	8.9%
Amusement/Recreation	19.1	20.3	21.9
	1.8%	6.3%	7.9%
Manufacturing	13.9	14.3	17.3
	-18.0%	2.9%	21.0%
TOTAL	262.3	277.7	310.4
	-2.4%	5.9%	11.8%

Actuals: U.S. Census Bureau (Department of Commerce)  
Forecasts: Reed Business Information  
Table: Reed Construction Data

## Building masonry's future

BY MELISSA POLIVKA, MCAA DIRECTOR OF MEMBERSHIP

Without a doubt, the influence of the masonry industry is strengthened by the unification of our contractors and suppliers. The Mason Contractors Association of America (MCAA) is a national trade association representing masonry contractors and suppliers in national legislative and regulatory affairs, codes and standards composition, workforce development, education, market promotion and general industry advocacy. All together, this means bigger market share for masonry systems, more work for our contractors and suppliers, and savings to the cost of doing business.

Our members have access to MCAA benefits including:

- a profile in our "Find-A-Contractor" function online, where their contact information and specialties can be identified by customers visiting the site nearly 3 million times annually
- subscription to *Masonry* magazine;
- bimonthly e-mail newsletter;
- members-only access to OSHA, safety library, business resources and more online; and
- discounts on all association publications, training materials and registration to all MCAA events, including our Masonry Showcase and annual meetings.

We also offer technical support and assistance and when confronted with federal agencies, members can turn to MCAA's Washington office to assist in resolving those issues. Also, members benefit from the MCAA/OSHA alliance, which provides for training, a safer work environment and an edge over competitors.

Much of what the national association does is intangible, yet extremely important. For example, what is the benefit to members when the MCAA can eliminate an OSHA regulation that requires every mason contractor to remove all materials from scaffolding at the end of every shift and then restock the scaffolding at the beginning of the next shift? What benefit is there when the MCAA can stem the tide of an ergonomics standard that would require up to two hours of additional work breaks for employees in an eight hour shift or limits the weight that a mason can install in a day's work to 1,500 pounds? Intangible, but integral to the survival of our industry and businesses.

MCAA needs the support of every member of our industry to continue our fight. We believe the benefits are immeasurable for all of us. Join us today!

Call MCAA's Director of Membership Melissa Polivka at (800) 536-2225 for more information.

## RMMI fights to preserve masonry ordinance in Aurora, Co.

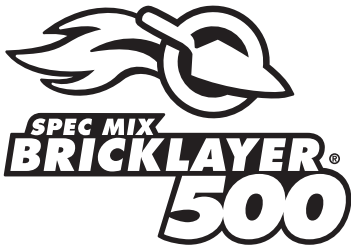
The Rocky Mountain Masonry Institute (RMMI) is taking on the Aurora, Co., City Council to preserve a masonry ordinance that was passed four years ago to improve the quality of new construction developments. While the Council acknowledges that the ordinance has made a significant impact in the design and construction of new homes, the local Home Builder's Association has taken steps to get it repealed.

Aurora, a community on the eastern outskirts of the Denver metro area, was long plagued by poorly designed housing developments. The masonry ordinance stipulated that single-family homes contain at least 50 percent brick, stone or cementitious stucco and multifamily units contain 60 percent masonry or stucco.

"The Council had good reasons to pass the masonry ordinance four years ago," said Ann Sullivan Wolter, executive director of the RMMI. "They have every reason to preserve it now. It seems to me that when the Council voted for this ordinance in 2000, they voted for neighborhoods and homes that would stand the test of time. Now they're actually starting to get them. Why give up on the best looking communities they've ever built, just when they are starting to see the results of their visionary decision?"

The RMMI organized a letter writing campaign to influence the City Council's vote on the issue, which is slated for mid-November.

**sign up  
now!**



# **THE THIRD ANNUAL SPEC MIX BRICKLAYER 500®**

## **COMPETITOR ENTRY FORM**

Become an official competitor of the second annual SPEC MIX BRICKLAYER 500® contest at the World of Masonry/World of Concrete in Las Vegas, Nev. Please complete and fax back to SPEC MIX®, Inc. at 888-329-7732 by Friday, December 17. Only the first 20 teams will compete for more than \$20,000 in cash and prizes. The entry fee is \$200.

Bricklayer's Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Shirt size \_\_\_\_\_

Tender's Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Shirt size \_\_\_\_\_

Company / Sponsor: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_  
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### **The "TOUGHEST TENDER" Competition:**

Just prior to the start of the SPEC MIX BRICKLAYER 500®, before any units are laid, each tender will simultaneously race to set up their mason's entire work station — CMU base course, mortar stands and boards. The first tender who completely lays out all the materials needed for the bricklayers' contest wins the SPEC MIX "Toughest Tender" contest and \$2,000 cash!

For additional information to enter your team in the SPEC MIX Bricklayer 500®, call Jamie Mavec at 888-SPECMIX (773-2649).

**FAX YOUR ENTRY FORM BACK TODAY!!! 888-329-7732**

## Andrew Miller: Persistence pays off

Andrew Miller knew exactly what he wanted to do after competing in his first national masonry competition. He wanted to win it!

Just like an athlete eyeing a state championship, Miller worked hard at developing his skills, and each year he placed higher in the competition. In 2002, Miller was just a sophomore at Pisgah High School in Pisgah, Ala., when he placed seventh in his first national competition. In 2003, he finished second.

It was no small feat just to return to the national masonry contest. Again, for the third year in a row, Miller won his state contest and an invitation to his third national contest in Kansas City, Mo. Participating in the 40th annual SkillsUSA National Leadership Conference, June 23



Participating in the secondary competition of the National Masonry Contest, Andrew Miller takes first place in his division. This was Miller's third attempt at the contest. He finished second in 2003.

through June 25, Miller was determined to win it. And win it he did!

In recognition of his hard work and exceptional accomplishment, Miller is the first young mason to twice be honored as Masonry Apprentice of the Month.

Miller's efforts to make his dream become a reality were enhanced by masonry training experiences at the Earnest Pruet Center of Technology (EPCOT), an educational extension of eight Alabama high schools.

His instructor Charles Wes, says Miller took advantage of every opportunity. "Andrew was the kind of hard-working student that any instructor would enjoy having in their classroom. He never shied from accepting and meeting a challenge.

Miller continues to work to improve his masonry skills by working with his father, owner of his own masonry construction business.

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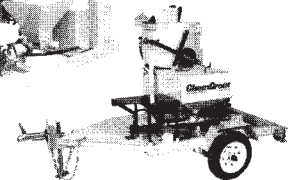
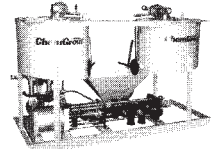
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## UPCOMING EVENTS

### 2004 International Pool & Spa Expo

November 30-December 3  
Las Vegas, NV

### ASTM Committee Meetings

December 5-10  
Washington, DC

### World of Concrete/World of Masonry

January 17-21  
Las Vegas, NV



### SPEC MIX Bricklayer 500®

January 19  
Las Vegas, NV

### NCMA Annual Convention

February 9-13  
Indianapolis, IN

### Manufactured Concrete Products Exposition (MCPX)

February 11-13  
Indianapolis, IN

### CONEXPO-CON/AGG 2005

March 15-19  
Las Vegas, NV

### BIA Brick Show

March 17-19  
Hollywood, FL

### The International Tile and Stone Show

March 31-April 2  
Miami, FL

### MCAA Masonry Showcase

April 20-22  
Chicago, IL



### Fastest Trowel on the Block

April 22  
Chicago, IL

### No-Dig Show

April 24-27  
Orlando, FL

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