



Garrett Hood wins the title of “WORLD’S BEST BRICKLAYER,” at the 2008 SPEC MIX BRICKLAYER 500® National Championship

LAS VEGAS, NEVADA — The 2008 SPEC MIX BRICKLAYER 500® National bricklaying championship decides, “Who is the World’s Best Bricklayer?” Mason Garrett Hood from North Carolina, took first place overall with 791 brick laid. This timed, 60 minute competition was held on Wednesday, 1:30 PM CST, January 23rd, 2008, at the Masonry Construction’s Challenge Arena, located in the Gold Lot, at the 2008 World of Concrete / World of Masonry trade show. This is the largest annual construction trade show in the world. It is held once a year at the Las Vegas Convention Center, in Las Vegas, Nevada. This year’s 2008 official show attendance was over 85,000 paid attendees.

The 2008 SPEC MIX BRICKLAYER 500 National is a bricklaying competition comprised of the best bricklayers in the world. Twenty, 2-man teams made up of a mason and mason tender, compete to lay the most brick while meeting strictly defined quality standards. The competition has the largest winner’s purse of any masonry competition. The competitors compete for well over \$150,000 in cash and prizes before a crowd of 4,500 spectators.

First place winner, Garrett Hood, age 23, a mason with McGee Brothers Company, Monroe, North Carolina, was declared “World’s Best Bricklayer,” with 791 brick laid in just sixty minutes, which is the highest count ever at the National event. Garrett won the grand prize of a new 2008 Ford F-250, XLT, V8, SuperDuty, CrewCab, 4 x 4 truck, \$5,000 in cash and thousands in sponsor prizes. Garrett’s mason tender was Kevin Hallman also with McGee Brothers Company.

The SPEC MIX TOP CRAFTSMAN award was given to mason Dave Moyle, with Steve Moyle Masonry, Manchester, Iowa. Dave laid 652 brick, his combined brick count and quality of his wall was judged the, “most sellable.” thousands in sponsor prizes.



2008 SPEC MIX BRICKLAYER 500 National First Place winner Garrett Hood won the grand prize of a new 2008 Ford F-250, XLT, V8, SuperDuty, CrewCab, 4 x 4 truck, \$5,000 in cash and thousands in sponsor prizes, with 791 brick laid.



A view of the Masonry Construction’s Challenge arena during the preliminary 2008 SPEC MIX TOUGHEST TENDER® competition.

Dave Moyle’s tender was Pat Pope, also with Steve Moyle Masonry. As the SPEC MIX TOP CRAFTSMAN, Dave Moyle won a new 2008 Bobcat 2200 4WD Utility Vehicle, \$5,000 in cash and **(continued on page 2)**



Photo Left to Right: From left to right are: 3rd place mason Jeff Neely, with Advanced Masonry, Oklahoma City, OK, 2nd place mason Mike Boll, with G. Porter & Company, St. Charles, IL, TOP CRAFTSMAN mason Dave Moyle, with Steve Moyle Masonry, Manchester, IA, 1st Place mason Garrett Hood, with McGee Brothers, Monroe, NC, TOUGHEST TENDER Shane Barclay, with Rice Lake Construction, Deerwood, MN.

SPEC MIX BRICKLAYER® 500

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thousands in sponsor prizes.

The 2nd place overall winner was mason Mike Boll, with G. Porter & Company, St. Charles, Illinois. Mike laid 780 brick and his tender was Ken Huizenga. Mike was last year's SPEC MIX BRICKLAYER 500 National 1st place winner. Mike won \$4,000 cash, and thousands in sponsor prizes.

The 3rd place overall winner was mason Jeff Neely, with Advanced Masonry, Oklahoma City, Oklahoma. Jeff laid 729 brick and his tender was Paul Harrison. Jeff won \$3,000 in cash and thousands in sponsor prizes.

The SPEC MIX TOUGHEST TENDER winner was Shane Barclay, with Rice Lake Construction, Deerwood, Minnesota. Shane won \$2,500 in cash and hundreds in sponsor prizes. The SPEC MIX TOUGHEST TENDER is a preliminary event held just before SPEC MIX BRICKLAYER 500 National. In this event the tenders race the clock to set up a predefined work area for the mason. Shane's winning time was 17 minutes, 40 seconds.

Established to showcase the skill and craftsmanship of masonry, the general description of the bricklaying competition is as follows: The contest requires all masons to meet the quality standards of the event. They have 60 minutes to complete their 26 foot, double wythe brick wall.

Competitive bricklaying at new level.

The competition has four awards, 1st, 2nd, and 3rd place are based on the highest brick count meeting the quality standards. The 4th award given, the SPEC MIX TOP CRAFTSMAN award, is judged by laying the most sellable wall over 500 brick. This award is the second most coveted award at the event, yet for some winning the SPEC MIX TOP CRAFTSMAN award is their main goal, and has the second highest award purse.

This year's competition is made up of winning regional bricklayers from 15 regions nationwide in the United States. In addition, for the first time, masons from Canada and Great Britain competed as well. Competition bricklayers come from states such as Ohio, California, Utah, Michigan, Iowa, Oklahoma, Arizona, Colorado, Arkansas, South Dakota, Minnesota, Illinois, Texas, North Carolina and Georgia, and the Canadian province of Alberta, and the West Midlands of central England. The mason competitors who were the 1st Place and SPEC MIX TOP CRAFTSMAN winners of the 2007 SPEC MIX BRICKLAYER 500 National also returned to defend their titles.

For more details about the 2008 National event and the upcoming 2008 Regional competition schedule go to www.specmixbricklayer500.com

Photograph Directory

1. MC Tom Clark and Ford Commercial Truck Marketing Manager Dave Guttman talk Ford trucks.
2. Timon Kaple, a guitarist with the STIHL corporation plays a custom STIHL guitar with a diamond blade trim while Tom Clark and Joe Hickey, Industrial Product Manager, of STIHL Inc., look on.
3. First Place winner Garrett Hood and SPEC MIX GM Brian Carney hold up the champion's jacket.
4. Masonry teams are introduced to the crowd while the sponsor tools and prizes are handed out.
5. A sweep of the Hydro Mobile arena stage and 17' x 12' Jumbotron screen and Garrett Hood and his tender Kevin Hallman in the foreground.
6. Shot of the bricklaying fans in the arena stands.
7. The Canadian team of Ken Rutley and his mason tender Ryan McNally in action.
8. SPEC MIX BRICKLAYER 500 winners with TXI's race car driver Kristin Bumbera.
9. SPEC MIX TOP CRAFTSMAN Dave Moyle on his new Bobcat 2200 with his check for \$5,000.
10. Garrett Hood gets a hug from his fiancé Megan Huntly, as he wins the keys to a new 2008 Ford F250.
11. Competitor Dave Moyle, from Strawberry Point, IA, brought his own uniformed team of fans.

A special, "Thank You," to our sponsors for their generous support.

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2008 SPEC MIX BRICKLAYER 500® National DVD available

LAS VEGAS, NV — A DVD of the 2007 SPEC MIX BRICKLAYER 500® National competition broadcast held at the WOC/WOM in Las Vegas, Nevada, will be available in late April. See the drama as the best bricklayers in the world compete for over \$150,000 in cash and prizes. At over 2 hours long this DVD gives you a great idea of what the SPEC MIX TOUGHEST TENDER® and the SPEC MIX BRICKLAYER 500 National events are about; you will feel the energy and excitement.

Once a year the best masons gather to compete in this test of skill, speed and stamina. There is nothing else like this event in masonry and this DVD captures it from start to finish. Join bricklaying fans from around the world as they cheer their favorites on.

The DVD will be available for purchase \$9.95 through the web store at www.specmixbricklayer500.com or order it through your SPEC MIX® licensee.



SPEC MIX BRICKLAYER 500® has revised its 2008 rules and wall diagram

MENDOTA HEIGHTS, MN — The SPEC MIX BRICKLAYER 500® has revised the competition rules and wall diagram for the 2008 SPEC MIX BRICKLAYER 500® Regional and 2009 National. The major rules change is a brick deduction formula for various quality infractions. If you have any questions about these new rule changes please contact Nick Blohowiak, who heads up the SPEC MIX BRICKLAYER 500 rules committee, at 920-661-0940.

The new rules and wall diagram are posted on the SPEC MIX BRICKLAYER 500 web site at: www.specmixbricklayer500.com

2008 SPEC MIX BRICKLAYER 500® Rules and Competition Wall Drawing now in Spanish

MENDOTA HEIGHTS, MN — SPEC MIX has posted the 2008 SPEC MIX BRICKLAYER 500® competition rules and 2008 Wall drawing in Spanish on the SPEC MIX BRICKLAYER 500 and SPEC MIX corporate web sites. The file is listed as 2008 SPEC MIX BRICKLAYER 500/Spanish. The 2008 Wall Drawing/Spanish shows the competition wall specifications in Spanish as well. To download these files go to: http://www.smbi500.com/documents/2008_bi500_rules_spanish.pdf or http://www.smbi500.com/documents/2008_wall_drawing_spanish.pdf

Good leaders give back, and then some



EL MIRAGE, AZ — What does it take to be elected “Leader of the Year” by your peers and local masonry colleagues? Ask Mike Sutter, who in 1991, with his wife Colleen, founded Sutter Masonry, Inc. of El Mirage, Arizona. In January 2008, at the 2nd Annual Arizona Mason Contractors Association (AMCA) meeting, the Board of Directors for the AMCA honored Mike by naming him their “Leader of the Year for 2007.”

For Mike, who is currently a Regional Vice President of the Mason Contractors Association of America (MCAA), past president and current member of the AMCA and active, long-time member of the AMG, building one of Arizona’s top masonry contracting companies isn’t always his primary focus. In fact, ask anyone that knows or works with him and they will tell you Mike’s real passion is giving back to the masonry trade, particularly developing and supporting masonry training & educational programs for young, aspiring masons.

On behalf of the masonry industry and SPEC MIX, Inc., congratulations and thank you for your continued dedication to the masonry trade.

For more information on Sutter Masonry, Inc., go to:
www.suttermasonry.com

SPEC MIX Masonry and Stucco videos available to view on the SPEC MIX web site

MENDOTA HEIGHTS, MN — SPEC MIX, Inc. has added the Masonry Solutions video and the Stucco Delivery System video to the list of web streaming videos available on the SPEC MIX corporate web site. These short 8-10 minute videos show SPEC MIX products in use, delivery system benefits and end-user testimonials. You will need a recent version of MediaPlayer software and minimum broadband speed of 700 KPS to play these web streaming videos off the SPEC MIX web site www.specmix.com. We suggest you set the MediaPlayer VIEW setting to Skin Mode and adjust the size of the player screen to how it plays best on your system.



industry highlights

Mike Griffin joins the SPEC MIX, Inc. team

MENDOTA HEIGHTS, MN — SPEC MIX, Inc. is please to announce that Mike Griffin has joined the SPEC MIX team and is responsible for new product development and sales. Mike was previously the National Sales Manager with Ultra-Kote, and has an extensive background in following markets: restoration, waterproofing, coatings, stucco and EIFS.

Mike started out in the construction industry as a tuck pointer/caulker with a brick endorsement in historic restoration in Minneapolis. In the early 90's Mike was with Sonneborn Building Product's R&D, his positions in this area revolved around real jobsite applications for new products. Later in the 90's Mike's career expanded to product management and marketing in the areas of Division 3- Concrete Repair, Restoration and Curing Compounds, Division 7 Waterproofing and Sealants, and Division 9- Painting/Coatings and Finishes.

In the earlier 2000's Mike joined outside wall sales at Sonneborn/ChemRex as a regional sales manager. Then from 2004 on, Mike took the Ultrakote National Sales Manager position. He sold Ultrakote Stucco Systems and Shurkote EIFS System through a distribution network. This also covered interior finishes (Venetian style) both in Acrylic base and true Lime Putty plaster. This market area involved Mike with the National One Coat Association as a



manufacture member.

In November, 2007, Mike joined the SPEC MIX team as a National Sales Representative serving licensees in all regions. We are confident Mike's strong construction products background will be a great resource in our efforts to increase SPEC MIX's market penetration and product development for our licensed organization.

Mike will be based out of the SPEC MIX, Inc. office in Mendota Heights, MN. When he is not traveling the country or in the office, Mike spends much of his time with his wife Sandy and three children, Sean (24), Kelsey (20) and Conner (16). Please call Mike if you want to say hello or if you have any questions—he'll be happy to help.

SPEC MIX TrowelTales goes electronic in the near future

MENDOTA HEIGHTS, MN — Getting industry news and business communications is essential in today's marketplace. How we get that information is an ever changing thing. SPEC MIX TrowlTales was created to keep our readers informed about news and developments with SPEC MIX and the masonry industry. In an effort to be Green and improve our timely communication with our SPEC MIX TrowlTales readers we are in the process of creating something new. We will be creating an electronic version of SPEC MIX TrowelTales in the near future.

Our goal is to keep our readers informed about news developements happening at SPEC MIX and the industry

in an electronic format. To do this effectively we need your help in providing us with your email address. We will be working in the next few months to revise our current print mailing list into include a digital email list for SPEC MIX TrowelTales.

In the near future you may recieve a contact about signing-up for an email version of SPEC MIX TrowelTales. Please take the opportunity to subscribe.

You can sign up on the future electronic mailing list to get SPEC MIX TrowelTales online by sending a subscription request email to: cmeyer@specmix.com

A mason's prospective

KILLEN, AL — An experienced masonry instructor from Alabama sent us a letter: "As a mason for 45 years, teaching for 32 years, I have seen a lot of amazing things concerning masonry, but the trip to the SPEC MIX BRICKLAYER 500 is the best. Your company has done more to promote masonry than anyone in the industry. The silo system is incredible. This system eliminates so many mistakes associated with mortar making, color control and time that it takes to make a batch of mortar. If you would send me literature about your product, I would be glad to talk to masonry contractors about your product."

— Don Darling, Masonry Instructor

Safety is the name of the game at Seedorff Masonry, Inc.

STRAWBERRY POINT, IA — Seedorff Masonry Inc. (SMI) of Strawberry Point, IA has achieved a goal every mason contractor aspires to hit: One million consecutive safe work hours. As a result, SMI won 1st place in the Specialty Contractor Division (300,000 to 700,000 annual work hours) in the Associated General Contractors of America's 9th Annual Construction Safety Excellence Awards (CSEA) Program. The awards recognize and honor construction

companies who excel in safety processes, performance, and innovation. "It is truly an honor to have won first place in AGC's Construction Safety Excellence Awards," said Mark Guetzko, SMI president and CEO. "This national award is well-deserved recognition for our entire team. We take great pride in our effort to make safety an integral part of all of our operations."

This is quite an accomplishment considering SMI employs approximately 330 field personnel that are spread over 45 project sites and supported by over 50 teammates. With as many as 45-50 SPEC MIX silos on projects at any given time, we hope the SPEC MIX silo system, which eliminates shoveling and lifting, contributed to SMI's level of safety. We tip our hard hats to the great people of Seedorff Masonry Inc. Congratulations!

For more information on Seedorff Masonry, Inc. go to:
www.seedorff.com

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For information on advertising in Trowel Tales, contact Jeff Farmakes, editor, at (651)905-8109 or via e-mail at jfarmakes@specmix.com.



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June 25
Marriott Plaza Hotel
Kansas City, MO

**SkillsUSA National Leadership
and Skills Conference
Masonry Competition**
June 26
Kansas City, MO

BSI Fall Study Tour
Sept 14-17
Richmond, VA

**World of Concrete/
World of Masonry 2009**
February 3-6, 2009
Las Vegas, NV



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