



## Excitement builds as growing number of regional SPEC MIX BRICKLAYER 500's® are held

MENDOTA HEIGHTS, MN — Several successful regional SPEC MIX BRICKLAYER 500's® were held around the country in July and August. The excitement is growing as the regionals build the national competition of 20, two-man teams who will compete again at the World of Concrete/World of Masonry trade show in Las Vegas, Nevada. On January 24, 2007, the winners from the regionals will compete for the coveted title, "World's Best Bricklayer."

Three regionals were held over July and August, they were Package Concrete Inc., Chicago, IL, Quikrete Cincinnati, Cincinnati, OH, and Quikrete Wisconsin, Milwaukee, WI. All the events were big successes with new records set for competitors competing for a seat at the national.

Next up are regionals in September at Quikrete Denver, in Denver, CO, on September 9, Quikrete Detroit, Detroit MI, on September 16, and TCC, at Omaha, NE, on September 16. Good luck to those competitors.

Like most of the country the weather was a factor in the summer regional competitions. Rain caused some start and judging delays but none were more than an hour or so. The Chicago regional saw record high temperatures during competition, with a heat index of 109 degrees. Still, a solid performance by Mike Boll, from Boll Masonry, Oak Lawn, IL, won with 709 brick laid in that incredible heat.



SPEC MIX Mudslingers supported the Chicago area regional competitors in record heat. Upper Right; First Place winner Mike Boll/ Boll Masonry, Oak Lawn, IL, on the winners stand at event host PCI. Lower Left; Chicago's PCI competition arena floor.



Due to it's success 2006 continues to be a growth year for the SPEC MIX BRICKLAYER 500 with new regionals added in Ohio and Northern California. Expect to see even more growth in the near future.

The SPEC MIX team and the national sponsors of the SPEC MIX BRICKLAYER 500 met to begin the planning process for the 2007 national competition. Several new ideas to grow the competition are being considered. All of them intended to make the event even more entertaining and viable in promoting the trade of masonry to show attendees and the public alike. **(continued on page 2)**

## SPEC MIX BRICKLAYER 500 (continued from front page)

There will be a rule change for 2007, Nick Blohowiak, SPEC MIX Central Regional Sales Manger, said, "The implementation of this new rule will force competitors to maintain work that is in line with what is acceptable for quality in the field to qualify to win the competition." The rule change reads as follows: *In addition to the 1/4 inch tolerance for 9 plumb points, 1/4 inch tolerance for 3 height points, 20 maximum voids, 1/4 inch tolerance for lipped brick and zero tolerance for brick not laid face shell out; a new tolerance for head and bed joint thickness has been implemented. The tolerance comes directly from ACI 530 which states that head joints must be between 1/8 inch and 3/4 inch while bed joints must be between 1/4 inch and 1/2 inch.*

Who will be watching in 2007? With national television coverage from CBS NEWS Sunday Morning and several major market newspapers providing additional coverage, the event had literally millions of people seeing coverage of the 2006 national. We are looking forward to building on that success for 2007.

Our thanks to the national sponsors of the 2006 SPEC MIX BRICKLAYER 500 who support regional events.

They are:

SPEC MIX	Prism Pigments
EZ Grout	Marshalltown
Hydro Mobile	Masonry Construction
Ford Trucks	Magazine

### SPEC MIX BRICKLAYER 500 Regional 2006 winners

Results-to-Date:

**Iowa / Central Illinois:** 497 brick

1st - Ben Houghton	Tender - Doug Havil
Craftsmanship - Ben Houghton	Tender - Doug Havil

**Chicago:** 709

1st Place - Mike Boll	Tender - Ken Huizenga
Craftsmanship - Bert Schneider	Tender - Bob Schwartz

**Ohio:** 609 brick

1st Place - Jeff Burton	Tender - Raymond Burton
Craftsmanship - Korey Burrer	Tender - Dale Burrer

**Wisconsin:** - 605

1st Place - Eric Gruber	Tender - Scott Neefe
Craftsmanship - Chris Guminey	Tender - Gary Cook

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## SPEC MIX announces Lean Six Sigma guest speaker for 2006 Licensee Meeting in Colorado Springs

COLORADO SPRINGS, CO — SPEC MIX, Inc., has arranged to have Lean Six Sigma expert Jeff Stankiewicz be a guest speaker at our 2006 SPEC MIX Licensee meeting this month at the Broadmoor Resort in Colorado Springs, Colorado. Below is a brief overview of the goals and benefits this proven business methodology to get your business operating at its full potential.

### Increasing Business Performance Through LEAN SIX SIGMA – An Overview

All types of organizations, ranging from manufacturing, to the service sector, to the Federal government are realizing significant bottom and top-line benefits from deploying Lean Six Sigma. This introductory seminar will provide you with the basics of Lean Six Sigma and how it can immediately impact your organization.

#### Topics covered will include:

- Who is using Lean Six Sigma and the benefits they're realizing
- An overview of Lean Six Sigma's basic philosophy, methodology, tool-set, and organization

- Specific opportunities within the Construction Materials industry
- Lessons learned and critical success factors for deploying Lean Six Sigma in both large and small organizations
- How to start Lean Six Sigma in your business

Powerful real-world examples and hands-on exercises incorporated throughout the seminar will give you a practical, highly effective overview of Lean Six Sigma.

The seminar will be led by Jeff Stankiewicz, President of Value Via Process Institute. Jeff is a highly accomplished Lean Six Sigma leader and Master Black Belt, with more than 15 years experience in helping organizations navigate large-scale change. He has played a leading role in multiple highly successful Fortune 500 corporate-wide Lean Six Sigma deployments, has trained and certified hundreds of Lean Six Sigma professionals, and has personally led numerous successful Lean Six Sigma projects across diverse process environments. successful demonstration.

## Josh Kimery is number one at the SkillsUSA National Masonry Competition in Kansas City



Josh Kimery, with parents Terry and Venita, following the North Carolina state competition.



KANSAS CITY, MO — Josh Kimery is number one, “Josh has a great attitude and is a hard worker,” says Scott Griffin, president of Griffin Masonry in Charlotte, N.C. He’s also the first place winner of the national masonry competition held in conjunction with the SkillsUSA — National Leadership Conference in Kansas City, Mo.

A recent graduate of Mount Pleasant High School, Kimery is now enrolled at Stanley Community College. When he can find time, he is an avid hunter and fisherman.

Kimery’s high school masonry instructor, Doug Drye, calls Kimery “an exceptional young man.” Drye explained, “I had him for three years, and he always had a strong desire to achieve in the field of masonry.. Josh is a very well-rounded individual as exemplified by his membership in the National Technical Honor Society, an organization which recognizes the high academic achievement of students enrolled in technical as well as academic courses.”

Griffin Masonry president Scott Griffin concluded, “Our apprenticeship program was approved last year by the North Carolina Department of Labor. That program, and our partnership with Mount Pleasant High School, brought Josh



Photograph taken at the National Masonry Contest, held in Kansas City, in conjunction with the SkillsUSA National Leadership Conference in June of this year.

to work at our company. Employees like Josh are hard to find, and we are very excited to have him on our team. I truly believe that young men like Josh are the future of Griffin masonry and the masonry trade in general.”

# SPEC MIX SCG Video Coming Soon!



STRAWBERRY POINT, IA — If you're interested in seeing the performance of SPEC MIX Self Consolidating Grout (SCG), you'll soon be able to see instructional video footage at [www.specmix.com](http://www.specmix.com). The SPEC MIX Team partnered with Seedorff Masonry of Strawberry Point, Iowa to build a masonry wall specifically designed to show the fluidity and cohesiveness of SCG, without any mechanical vibration. Coupled with the upcoming "SCG Product Data Sheet," it's clear SPEC MIX is committed to advancing the Masonry Industry. Special thanks to Larry Larsen and friends at Seedorff Masonry.

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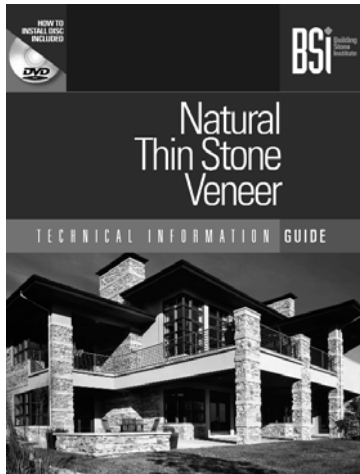
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### BSI creates new Natural Thin Stone Veneer Technical Information Guide



ELGIN, IL — The Building Stone Institute (BSI) is in the final stages of creating a Natural Thin Stone Veneer Technical Information Guide on how to install the product properly. The guide will address a variety of different topics including: what is Natural Thin Veneer, Product Specification Descriptions, Waterproofing Procedures, General Surface Preparation, Types of Mortar to be used and a variety of other topics. The target audience of the piece is installers and the design community.

The SPEC MIX technical team will be working with BSI to develop a "Guide To Selecting Mortar" for thin stone veneer applications. There are several things to consider when selecting a mortar for thin stone veneer applications. Factors, such as rock type, absorption of the stone, and the stone's bond surface texture, are import to consider when targeting mortar properties. For instance a stone with a low absorption would require a mortar with a significantly different water-retention characteristic than a stone with a high absorption.

The BSI is also planning to provide an accompanying DVD with each guide. The manual is scheduled to be released with the DVD before the end of the year. The guide is a first in a series of technical information pieces to be produced by the BSI technical committee. For more information on the guide or to find out how to obtain a copy of the guide, please contact the BSI office at 866-STONE13 (866-786-6313).

### SPEC MIX presented at the Fall BSI Study Tour, Sept, 9-12th



MEMPHIS, TN — Each year the BSI offers members an extended, hands- on educational program. This year's Study Tour, headquartered at the Peabody Hotel, Memphis, offered participants the opportunity to visit the Barden Stone showroom in Memphis and their slab and fabrication shop in Byhalia, Mississippi as well as Christie Cut Stone's facility in Memphis.

While at the Barden Stone facilities, study tour participants viewed operations processes and machinery that center on counter top production, structural stone of all types and landscape products. Christy Cut Stone offered a perspective on the fabrication of specialty cut limestone.

New to the study tour this year were four interactive presentations. Study tour attendees had the opportunity to participate in four hands-on stations. SPEC MIX employees Brian Carney and Nick Blohowiak did a great job involving participants as the demonstrated "The Proper Mortar for your Stone". Other topics include Repairing Countertops, Thin Stone Veneer Installation and Flagging and Stair Installation.

SPEC MIX also provided the additional mortar for the other stations.

The BSI is an international trade association of quarries, fabricators, installers and design professionals from all aspects of the natural stone industry.

If you would like to get more information on BSI go to: [www.buildingstoneinstitute.org](http://www.buildingstoneinstitute.org)



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**UPCOMING EVENTS**

**SPEC MIX BRICKLAYER 500®**  
Regional Competition  
Quikrete Denver  
September 9  
Denver, CO



**WOC/WOM**  
January 22-26  
Las Vegas, NV



**IPCA Fall Meeting**  
September 15-18  
Williamsburg, VA



**SPEC MIX BRICKLAYER 500®**  
National Competition  
**WOC/WOM**  
January 24  
Las Vegas, NV



**SPEC MIX BRICKLAYER 500®**  
Regional Competition  
Quikrete Detroit  
September 16  
Detroit, MI



**BSI Annual Convention**  
February 9-12, 2007  
Captivea, FL

**MCPX**  
February 22-24, 2007  
Orlando, FL

**SPEC MIX BRICKLAYER 500®**  
Regional Competition  
TCC  
September 16  
Omaha, NE



**MCAA's**  
**Masonry Showcase**  
February 23-24, 2007  
Orlando, FL

**SPEC MIX 2006**  
Licensee Meeting  
September 20-22  
Colorado Springs, CO



**MCAA Mid-Year Meeting**  
November 8-11  
Maui, HI

**StoneExpo**  
November 9-12  
Las Vegas, NV

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