

Fall 2024

Volume 25, Issue 4



the Practitioner

2024 Western Snow & Ice Conference and National Snow Roadeo Celebrates Ten Years in Loveland!

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The 44th annual Western Snow and Ice Conference and 38th National Snow Roadeo were held in Loveland for three days of beautiful September weather. The 2024 Western Snow and Ice Conference and National Roadeo set records for the highest attendance in its history. The conference had a record attendance of over 1,450 attendees. The National Snow Roadeo also saw record registrations, with both the Loader and Skidsteer competitions exceeding the 100 mark in registrants.

During the three days of the conference there were more than 48 speakers offering 46 educational sessions. The Winter Maintenance Supervisor Certificate Program had 110 professionals attend, with an additional 80 participants completing the Winter Maintenance Operators Certificate class. Again, this year, the exhibition hall was sold out with 105 inside exhibitors displaying equipment, products, and services inside the Embassy Suites, and all but one space was sold outside for the display of plows, sweepers, loaders and much more equipment.

A very special thank you to our major sponsors, sponsors of the Coffee and Snack Breaks, National Snow Roadeo Water, as well as our Winter Maintenance Supervisor Certificate Workshop sponsors. Once again 4Rivers Equipment sponsored the "Blades Up Social" an annual event that needs to be experienced. A great time is had by all who attend!

This year's theme "Working in a Winter Wonderland" recognizes the effort operators put forward to serve their agencies throughout the snow and ice season, and to prepare those operators for the upcoming winter season. It really gets you thinking about how prepared your agency is for the upcoming winter season. It seems there are always emerging technologies and a changing workforce. The APWA Western Snow and Ice Conference and National Snow Roadeo is where these questions get answered.



Continued on page 2

2024 Western Snow & Ice Conference and National Snow Rodeo

Highlights from the event:

- National experts presenting opportunities to expand our knowledge and skillsets.
- Panel discussions with industry leaders holding open and frank conversations about de-icing materials, and snow equipment.
- Discovering ideas creating actionable insights on operational procedures and technologies that attendees could take back to their agency.
- Conversations and ideas sparked between old and new acquaintances bonding peers as they ask questions and answer questions. Networking and creating lasting connections with others in the public works field of snow operations
- National Rodeo had 354 snow operators competing from all over the U.S.

The Opening General Session began with the Windsor High School Choir performing the national anthem and a moving ceremonial flag presentation from Associated Veterans of Loveland. Opening remarks were delivered from Interim Loveland City Manager Rod Wensing, Colorado Chapter President Jay Goldie, and APWA Region IX Director Tina Nelson. The keynote speaker for the general session was Tim Gard. Tim now lives in Portland, Oregon, but was a resident of Denver for over twenty years until recently. He relayed life experiences in a humorous way to help attendees look at many situations from a different perspective and realize there is humor in almost all situations.

Our closing speaker was Rick Nelson, a former District Maintenance Manager for the State of Nevada. Rick has spent a lot of time traveling the world to evaluate snow removal operations and techniques. At the closing, Rick talked about a memorable trip to the Andes Mountains in Argentina and Chile, nearly to Antarctica. Rick also has had a podcast called "Talkin' Winter Ops" for a number of years. Pete Adler and Tim Brady from the Rodeo Committee recorded a podcast with Rick about the conference and rodeo that should be publicly available at all the usual outlets the last week of October.

The best equipment operators across the nation, from Maine to Washington, competed in the National Snow Rodeo. We congratulate each and everyone. (See the list of winners on page 3).

I cannot say how much we enjoy putting this conference together and that we cannot wait until we can do it again in 2025. Please mark your calendars for the 2025 Western Snow and Ice Conference and National Snow Rodeo in Loveland on September 24-26, 2025. The conference planning committee thanks everyone from those sponsoring, presenting, teaching, and attending for making the 2024 conference a success.

*Pete Adler
Chairman, APWA Western Snow & Ice Conference
and National Snow Rodeo*

Save the Date!!

September 24-26, 2025



*Embassy
Suites
Loveland*

2024 National Snow Rodeo Champions

First Place



Loader Winners:

First Place: Talmon Gibson, Idaho Transportation Dept.

Second Place: Dakota Morgan, Idaho Transportation Dept.

Third Place: Jed Gregersen, Idaho Transportation Dept.

Grader Winners:

First Place: Spencer Esch, US Bureau of Reclamation

Second Place: Benjamin Smith, Montrose County

Third Place: Brian Snyder, City of West Des Moines, IA

First Place



Second Place



Second Place



Top Agency: Idaho Transportation Department



Third Place



Third Place



First Place



Single Axle Winners:

First Place: Jed Gregersen & Brandon Steffens, Idaho Transportation Dept.

Second Place: Lalo Martinez & Mike Martinez, City of Greeley

Third Place: David Johnson & John Prather, RTD

Second Place



Third Place



First Place



Second Place



Tandem Axle Winners:

First Place: Troy Dussart & Nate Sullivan, City of Greenwood Village

Second Place: Talmon Gibson & Jedediah Henderson, Idaho Transportation Dept.

Third Place: Charwon Walter & Jason Willis, Town of Windsor

First Place



Second Place



Third Place



Third Place



Skid Steer Winners:

First Place: Tomas Vigil, CDOT

Second Place: Brandon Steffens, Idaho Transportation Dept.

Third Place: Austin Teig, City of Grimes, IA



Loveland Acting City Manager Rod Wensing, APWA Colorado Chapter President Jay Goldie, National APWA Region IX Director Tina Nelson and Snow & Ice Committee Chair Pete Adler welcomed attendees at the opening session



Keynote speaker, Tim Gard presented "Serious Levity" at the opening session on Thursday. He helped attendees discover how to overcome challenges, deal with stress and how we all can use humor as a business skill.



2024 Western Snow & Ice Conference



Taterology! A great session on how to lead, manage and work alongside all types of taters... er, personalities!



It takes a lot of work to get ready for this conference! The Colorado Chapter would like to thank the committee and all of the volunteers who so generously share their time and resources to make the Conference and Rodeo such a big success!





2024 National Snow Rodeo



Message from the President

Jay Goldie



As I am writing this, I have just returned from PWX in Atlanta and am going to the Western States Snow and Ice Conference in Loveland in just a few days. This got me to thinking about APWA and what it brings to the Public Works Community. APWA's Mission is to support those who operate, improve, and maintain public works and infrastructure through advocacy, education, and member engagement. In this newsletter alone you will read about events, conferences and educational opportunities that the Chapter provides including the Snow and Ice Conference, Rockies Night, and the 2025 Construction Inspection Conference. The Chapter has something to offer no matter what you do or where you are in your career path or interests.

These events don't just happen, it takes a lot of work behind the scenes to bring these events and conferences to you and ensure you are getting meaningful and relevant education and networking experiences. It takes hundreds of volunteer hours from each committee to organize and plan these events. I would like to take the time to thank each and every one of our volunteers that make these events possible and encourage you to do the same. These individuals are finding venues, negotiating prices, soliciting sponsors, tracking down speakers, and much more to keep your cost to attend as low as possible while making certain that what you get is appropriate and useful to you as a professional.

Just as important as the education and training that the Chapter provides is the networking opportunities. As the old saying goes "it's not what you know but who you know." I'm not talking about getting certain privileges or advantages because you are well connected. I am talking about having a support system of like-minded and seasoned professionals that you can call upon when you have a problem or need some sage advice. Use these events and conferences as an opportunity to make connections that will serve you throughout your career.

Have a great Fall!

*Jay Goldie, City of Cherry Hills Village
Deputy City Manager / Public Works Director*



PWX 2024 was held in Atlanta, Georgia in September 8-11 at the Atlanta Convention Center. Over 100 PWX attendees were from Colorado. The first education sessions started at 8am on Sunday, and a session on Paving County Line Road presented by the Cities of Littleton and Centennial kicked off the conference. Throughout the conference, registrants had the opportunity to attend education sessions and the exhibit floor, network with other public works professionals, listen to expert speakers, experience interactive learning, and find out about the latest trends, products, and services available.

It is always great to see so many speakers from Colorado leading sessions at PWX. This photo shows Laura Kroeger, Mile High Flood District and National APWA Leadership & Management Technical Director.



PWX National Awards

Monday afternoon of PWX is the Annual National APWA Awards Ceremony recognizing individuals and projects from across the nation. The Colorado Chapter received the PACE Award for chapter excellence for the seventh straight year!



Colorado was proud to see the Town of Windsor receive a National award this year.

Congratulations!



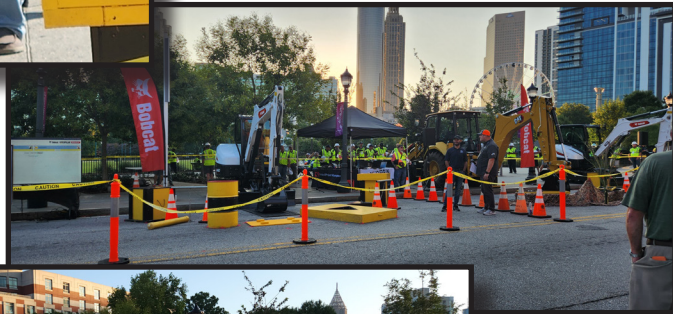
APWA's Asset Management Award
Town of Windsor, Colorado

The 2024 National Equipment Rodeo was held on Marietta Street between the Atlanta Convention Center and the Atlanta Olympic Park in downtown Atlanta. Competitors participated in the backhoe and mini excavator events.

The 2025 National Equipment Rodeo will be held in conjunction with PWX in Chicago on August 18. The first two finishers in the Colorado state backhoe competition, which will be held once again at the Spring Street Conference in Grand Junction, will have their expenses covered by the Colorado Chapter to attend the 2025 event.



Colorado was proud to have **Jimmy Romero** from Lake County represent the Chapter at the competition. Jimmy won the Colorado State Backhoe competition in April in Grand Junction.



PWX National Equipment Rodeo



Engineering the Future: The Innovation Imperative in Public Works

We in public works are challenged with building resilient infrastructure so our communities can thrive before and after a disruption. For years this has meant approaches like factors of safety, redundancy, and risk registers. But what if ensuring true resilience in today's world requires us to step beyond our comfort zones and embrace uncertainty? What if keeping people safe required taking some risks?

To meet this challenge, we as an industry urgently need to embrace innovation and continuous improvement. While the fundamental laws of physics and math remain constant, this doesn't mean that engineering and public works are immune from change. In fact, it is even more critical for us to evolve than it is for tech giants like Apple or Tesla because we are society's last line of defense for public health and safety.

Look back at history and it's clear: everything we've built can be improved. Things that were once state-of-the-art are now relics of the past, like the Roman aqueducts. Just as the aqueducts evolved into the long-distance pipelines of today, the built environment has continuously changed, often in response to urgent issues like sanitation, natural disasters, and transportation safety. Change often comes from other fields, such as how advances like CAD and strengthened steel have enabled now-common design and construction techniques. Everything was once a new, unproven idea, even the things that are now standards.

Standards, criteria, and guidelines are crucial – they ensure that every project is safe and of high quality. But standards are not the limits of what we can achieve; they're just the starting point. Too often we use the excuse "It's not in the criteria," to avoid the discomfort of change. If standards dictated everything that could be done, our world would stagnate, and that's not a future anyone wants. We as an industry must open our eyes to ideas with potential and start to view standards as a foundation to build on. We must dare to imagine what's possible and not tether ourselves to the past when it doesn't serve us.

Innovative doesn't mean reckless. Safety always comes first, and some areas lend themselves to innovation more than others. But we need to ask ourselves what's truly at risk if we try something new. Sometimes the potential benefits of innovation far outweigh the risks. We must avoid letting fears of unlikely scenarios stifle progress across the board, because missed opportunities can have more severe consequences than trying something new that might not work out. The consequence of failure from testing a new technique is often relatively limited, but if it works, it could benefit the entire industry.

In 1870, a Belgian chemist named Edmund J. DeSmedt laid the first modern asphalt pavement in Newark, New Jersey on a small stretch of road in front of City Hall. There were concerns about the cost and durability of his new alternative to cobblestone and brick. It wasn't in the standards, and it wasn't a huge success, failing relatively quickly. Six years later, DeSmedt applied a refined version of his mixture on Pennsylvania Ave. in Washington D.C. The success and visibility of this project helped spur the widespread adoption of asphalt pavement in America.

Roundabouts, water treatment systems, subways, LED street lighting, and many other established practices in public works can trace their beginnings to pioneering applications where we overcame our fear of the unknown and said yes to trying something new despite our legitimate concerns about the risks.

Emerging technologies like artificial intelligence, robotics, digital twins, decentralized treatment facilities, additive manufacturing, and smart materials – to name a few – have the potential not only to save us valuable time and money by doing old things in new ways, they can also open the door for new people to join our industry and even for entirely new products and solutions we haven't imagined yet.

One of these new people, ideas, or tools might very well hold the key to solving critical challenges like aging infrastructure, sustainability, or workforce shortages. If we turn them away because "It's not in the criteria," we risk losing the one truly limited resource at our disposal to solve these urgent problems: time.

For a deeper dive into the role of innovation in public works, please check out the Channeling Change podcast from the Mile High Flood District and Naranjo Civil Constructors.



*Jon Villines, PE
Innovation Manager
Mile High Flood District*



G.J. (Jerry) Weiss

APWA Colorado sadly recognizes the passing of one of the Colorado Chapter's founding members and Past President, G.J. (Jerry) Weiss.

Mr. Weiss passed away August 14, 2024 at the age of 98. He was born on the family farm near Imperial, Nebraska and grew up during the Great Depression and attended a one-room country school. After graduating from high school he served during World War II in the US Navy as a radio operator on a Destroyer Escort ship in the South Pacific. He graduated from Colorado A&M, now CSU. He was the City Engineer for both the City of Fort Collins and the City of Colorado Springs. He then worked as a consulting engineer for the rest of his professional career.

Jerry enjoyed construction projects which were a major part of his career. He worked on dams, power lines, utility and street construction projects. One of the larger projects he worked on was as Resident Engineer for the construction of the Colorado Springs Airport runways in 1991.

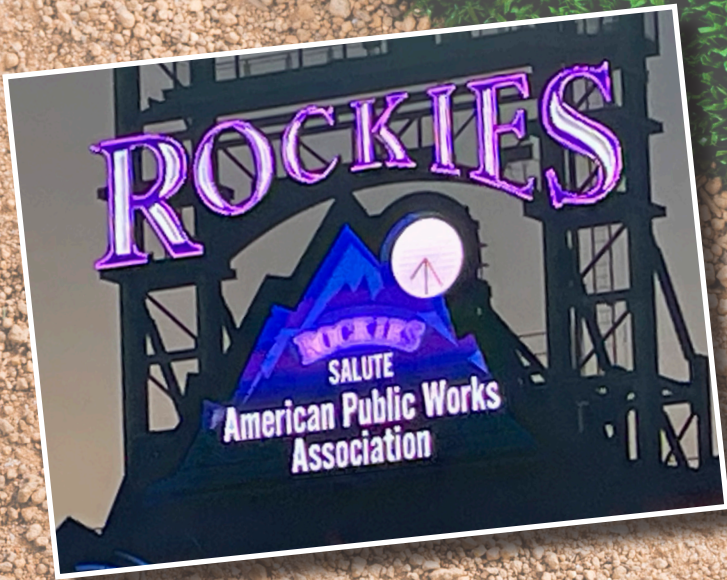
It was during his tenure as Fort Collins City Engineer, that the Colorado-Southern Wyoming Chapter of APWA was organized (1962). Jerry was a Charter Member along with Bill Korbitz, Ted Diefenderfer from Boulder, Merv Miller from Greeley, Jim Murray from Colorado Springs and Sam Ward, Bob Lewis and Gene Lewan from Denver. Eventually the logistics became too difficult for the Wyoming members to attend meetings so it became just the Colorado Chapter. The first annual meeting of the APWA Colorado Chapter was held in Fort Collins in 1963 on the CSU campus. Jerry was elected Colorado Chapter President in 1969 at the previous year's annual meeting.

Jerry renovated two historical houses and researched their history. In retirement, Jerry donated time to build handicap facilities for those in need. He volunteered for many years at Corpus Christi Catholic Church and the John Zay Guest House at Penrose Hospital. He also helped design, plant and maintain the median flower bed sponsored by the Springs in Bloom program in his neighborhood.

We are so grateful for the leadership and support he showed our organization. And we are so lucky he passed that on to his son, Chuck, who is a vital part of our organization today.

A donation was made by the Chapter to the John Zay Guest House at Penrose Hospital.

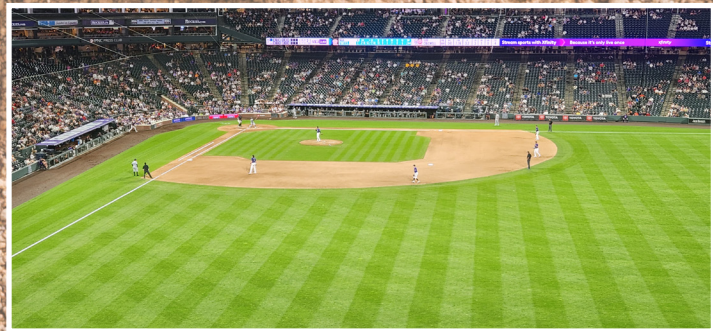
9th Annual Rockies Night



The Young Professionals hosted the Annual Colorado Chapter Rockies Night on Wednesday, August 28th. It was an exciting win over the Florida Marlins!

It was another great group this year with almost 60 attendees cheering the Rockies on!

The Chapter would like to thank the YP group, especially YP chair *Ryan Garringer* for organizing the event and Benesch for sponsoring the concessions ticket everyone received!



Register Now!!

2025 APWA COLORADO CONSTRUCTION INSPECTION CONFERENCE

Lone Tree Arts Center
10075 Commons Street
Lone Tree, Colorado 80124

WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 29, 2025
Check-in/breakfast 7:30am
Sessions begin at 8:00am

THURSDAY, JANUARY 30, 2025
8:00am-1:00pm

Registration is open!: <https://colorado.apwa.org>



APWA COLORADO CHAPTER
2025 CONSTRUCTION
INSPECTION CONFERENCE

*Check out the
registration website
for more information
and updates!*



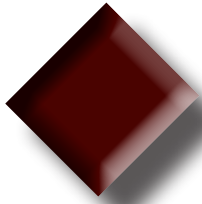
PROGRAM

PWX
PUBLIC WORKS EXPO
ATLANTA

www.apwa.org/pwx



News & Announcements



News

Check out the APWA Colorado Articles in the Colorado Public Works Journal!

APWA Colorado contributes to each issue of the Colorado Public Works Journal with timely topics. *APWA Insights* articles are written by public works professionals from across the state. [APWA Awards](#) were recognized in the Fall 2024 issue along with articles from APWA Colorado Chapter Past President, **Jay Goldie**, City of Cherry Hills Village, and the APWA Insights article was written by **Kristin Brownson**, Assistant Director of Public Works, Town of Breckenridge and current Director on the Colorado Chapter Board. You can view the [Fall 2024](#) issue as well as archived issues on their [website](#).

The Colorado Chapter would like to thank the *Colorado Public Works Journal* for putting together another great awards issue recognizing the APWA Colorado award winners. We appreciate the partnership and the opportunity to recognize the extraordinary projects, programs and individuals from around the state!

APWA Reporter

It's always exciting to see Colorado contributors/articles/recognitions in National's publication, APWA Reporter.

[August 2024](#)

Recognition of the following for receiving their certifications:

Roberto A. Ogarrio, CPII, City of Durango

Tanna L. Boisvert, CSM, IDES LLC (recertified)

Raymond L. Hill, CPWP-M, City of Lakewood

[September 2024](#)

National APWA Asset Management Award

Town of Windsor

Presidential Award for Chapter Excellence - **Colorado Chapter**

Recognition of the following for receiving recertification:

Juliana M. Archuleta, CSM, Adams County

[October 2024](#)

"Engineering & Public Works Roadshow Stops in Golden, Colorado"

"Revolutionizing Winter Road Maintenance with Dynamic Spreading", **Mark DeVries & Brett Murillo**, Vaisala Inc., Louisville, CO

Email Scams

Unfortunately, APWA and the Colorado Chapter can be targets of email scams. These emails are sent by scammers impersonating as APWA or Chapter Board members claiming to have an association with APWA, PWX, or the Colorado Chapter and asking for gift cards or claiming to have access to APWA National or Colorado membership or attendee lists. Please delete these emails and do not respond.

The Practitioner

Do you have information on an emerging topic of interest, project, or news that would be of interest to our members? All members are welcome to contribute to future newsletters. *The Practitioner* is published quarterly. The submission deadlines for the 2025 issues will be January 10, April 11, July 11 and October 10.

Interested in Membership?

When you join APWA, you join a network of professionals dedicated to excellence in all aspects of public works. Discover the many benefits of APWA membership and options for joining by visiting the [Membership](#) page of National APWA's [website](#).

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Colorado Chapter
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Littleton, Colorado 80127

Did you know that much of the
information contained in this newsletter
is also available on the Web? Go to the
APWA Colorado Chapter website at
<https://colorado.apwa.org/>



**APWA Toll Free Membership Hotline
1-800-848-APWA**

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