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Page 2

Message for the  
SCIECA President

# SCIECA NEWSLETTER

Volume 3 Issue 2

**DECEMBER 2007**

South Central Chapter  
International Erosion Control Association

## Brown Bag Lunch and Learn



The Brown Bag Lunch and Learn is an education program currently taught at several locations in Texas and could come to a neighborhood near you. What exactly is the Brown Bag Lunch and Learn Program? The concept started about three years ago in Austin, Texas.

Andy Johnston, a former SCIECA President, created a simple plan to assemble professionals in the erosion and sedimentation control (ESC) industry to create a local, no cost "get together" with other ESC, water quality and regulatory agency folks. A local regulatory agency offered a conference room, a local environmental company, J.V. Environmental provided the soft drinks, and a local presenter was identified. This established the first of many very successful Brown Bag Lunch and Learns. The monthly program was on the books and is now called the Capital Area Erosion Network. The rest, as they say, is history.

Since that first lunch hour education experience, many presentations have followed with 1 to 1 ½ hour

presentations on topics ranging from ESC, best management practices, tips on SWPPP design, new product technology, regulatory issues, compliance and water quality education.

In 2006 the SCIECA Board of Directors discussed this Austin phenomenon. The primary objective of the SCIECA is to be a regional resource to educate on the causes of erosion and solutions for sediment control with the intent of ensuring regional water quality and preserving valuable property. To provide this educational resource, SCIECA hosts several educational conferences and workshops each year with the focus on providing the membership and regional professionals an opportunity to attend events offering a wide range of educational topics for professional development.

However, a localized, "grass roots" lunch hour education event coordinated by SCIECA members to meet at no cost one or two times a month to discuss local ESC and water quality issues...what an opportunity! The SCIECA Board believed that this

was a worthwhile program to pursue so efforts began to create a Brown Bag Lunch and Learn Guidance Manual. Coordination with Andy Johnston and months of work, created the finalized document. In 2007 the Guidance Manual was available to members. Since the completion of the document, several other local programs have started up in the Dallas/Ft. Worth area and in Houston. In 2008, programs are planned to begin in San Antonio, and Oklahoma City.

It is safe to say that this program has proven successful in Austin. Successful programs will also flourish in the other locations due to dedicated SCIECA members driving the program. Now, it is time to spread the word. SCIECA is here to promote and support other local programs and support those local individuals, SCIECA members who have the desire and dedication to begin a Brown Bag Lunch and Learn program in their local, regional area.

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Visit [SCIECA.org](http://SCIECA.org)

**BROWN BAG  
LUNCH AND  
LEARN  
GUIDANCE  
MANUAL**

### Message from the SCIECA Chapter President Philip Handley

The Brown Bag Lunch and Learn Guidance Manual is available for any member wanting to volunteer to organize a program in their local/regional area. The manual provides guidance through the process of the Brown Bag Lunch and Learn Program development.

This program will engage local professionals, create professional networking opportunities, provide a forum to discuss local ESC and water quality issues, provide free education, and can provide Professional Development Hours locally. Volunteer and develop this program in your local area.

As a SCIECA member, this is a great opportunity to

step up and provide community leadership and service to local professionals.

If you would like organize this program in your local area, please contact me and I will be glad to provide you with an electronic copy of the Guidance Manual and discuss the details. SCIECA and its Board of Directors are here to support your effort.

Have a Happy Holiday  
Season and a  
Prosperous New Year.

Phil

