



**California/Nevada Section  
Bimonthly Update  
March 2, 2011  
Thirty First Edition**

- \* **ASABE CA/NV Meeting - February 9, 2010 in Tulare, CA**
- \* **ASABE Executive Director Darrin Drollinger attends CA/NV Section Meeting**
- \* **New ASABE CA/NV Website Launched!**
- \* **Engineer of the Year - Kevin Johansen, Provost & Pritchard**
- \* **1-2-3-4-5 Member Highlight - Nadia Sabe, Guttman & Blaevot Consulting Engineers, Senior Building Performance Engineer**
- \* **Cover Crops for Tomatoes and Cotton - March 18, 2011, Five Points**

\* **ASABE CA/NV Meeting - February 9, 2010 in Tulare, CA**

On the evening of February 9th, 2011, over 100 members, students, and guests met after the World Ag Expo/Tulare Farm Show at the Edison AgTAC Center in Tulare, CA. Betsy Gerwig, our Membership Chair, provided a licensure update. We heard school reports from Butte College, Cal Poly SLO, CSU Fresno, and UC Davis. Additionally, ASABE Executive Director Darrin Drollinger addressed us briefly (see note below). Our featured speaker was Dr. George Conway, Director of NIOSH's Ag/Fisheries/Forestry Sector. He split the presentation between fishery safety and engineering interventions his group has led, tractor roll-over protection structures, tractor safety, high adoption of ROPS in Europe, and promotional programs on the East Coast. Both of the Quarter Scale Tractor teams received a last-minute donations from Ag Industrial Manufacturing (AIM). Thanks, AIM!!! Thanks to all officers and attendees and we hope to see you again very soon!

\* **ASABE Executive Director Darrin Drollinger attends CA/NV Section Meeting**

The Section was delighted to see Darrin Drollinger come out to California, take in the World Ag Expo, and deliver brief comments to our assembled members and guests. If you haven't seen the February issue of Inside ASABE, here is part of what Darrin wrote:

"I also traveled to Tulare, Calif., and attended both the World Ag Expo show (which has changed a lot since I last attended) and the CA/NV Section meeting. Carolyn Jones and the Section leaders have a vibrant group, and it was exciting to hear in person what they are up to. We recognized 64-year member Bill Adams (who established the ASABE Foundation Adam's Scholarship) for both his long-term membership and his 94th birthday, which was the day of our meeting. After a spirited rendition of "Happy Birthday," Bill promised everyone he'd be back next year."

\* **New ASABE CA/NV Website Launched!**

Our new Section website has been born! Please point your Firefox/Chrome/Safari/Internet Explorer browsers to <http://www.asabecanv.org>. While it's sure to experience some growing pains, it will be THE place for Section news, photos, and links of interest. Read the bios for our current officers and send us email. Did you miss a recent Section Update or want to read one from years past? Perhaps you want to see who the keynote speaker was at the 2007 Section meeting. Check out the Newsletter and Meetings archives. Get information about California and Nevada ASABE landmarks, see schools in our Section, and visit the sites of the great sponsors that support us. We'll also post this year's poster competition winners and award honorees.

We are currently hosting the site on tractors.ucdavis.edu (Thank you, UCD BAE), but plan to move the site to a more permanent home in the near future. There is still much work to be done in plugging all of the information holes, so please forward any information, links, or images to Bob Coates at Bob.CANV@gmail.com. Suggestions for site improvement or browser-specific bug reports are also welcomed!

**\* Engineer of the Year – Kevin Johansen, Provost & Pritchard**

The California/Nevada Section's Engineer of the Year award was presented to Kevin Johansen of Provost & Pritchard Consulting Group. Kevin is a principal engineer and project manager with over 26 years of experience in water resources design and consulting, primarily for irrigation and water districts throughout the San Joaquin Valley. He has an extensive background in design and administration of water distribution system improvements, project planning, environmental documentation, funding acquisition, studies and investigations, water supply planning, preparation of irrigation/water district water management plans, facilitating water transfers and exchanges, groundwater recharge and banking investigations, water district management, and on-farm water management.

Kevin was the project manager for the recently completed North Side Regulating Reservoir project for Oakdale Irrigation District. The 30 acre reservoir provides 360 acre feet of storage and vital flow control on the District's North Main Canal to balance surpluses and shortages in irrigation water demand. It also provides measurement capability and controlled flow rates into three District laterals, servicing approx 40% of the District's service area. The annual water savings created by the project through re-regulation is estimated at 6,000 acre feet per year. The project utilized fully automated control structures to improve efficiencies and simplify District operations and recently received a "2011 Engineering Excellence Merit Award" from the American Council of Engineering Companies (ACEC).

Kevin has managed several water districts as a consultant, from water operations to financial management. He has lived on a farm all his life and provides a unique perspective to agricultural clients, being able to provide multiple viewpoints - as a grower, consultant, and water district manager.

Kevin is a part-owner (stockholder) and member of the Board of Directors of Provost & Pritchard Consulting Group. Provost & Pritchard is an employee-owned company that specializes in civil and agricultural engineering, environmental and land use planning, hydrogeology, dairy design and permitting, and surveying services in the areas of water resources, municipal infrastructure, agriculture, site development, and environmental compliance.

In his personal time, Kevin is an elder and former Deacon of Fowler Presbyterian Church, the Vice President of Fowler Babe Ruth Baseball, a youth baseball and flag football coach, member of California Irrigation Institute, member Tau Beta Pi, is a licensed Engineer, and holds a B.S. in Agricultural Engineering from Cal Poly (1984).

**\* 1-2-3-4-5 Member Highlight – Nadia Sabeh, Guttman & Blaevoet Consulting Engineers, Senior Building Performance Engineer**

Nadia has been a Senior Building Performance Engineer with Guttman and Blaevoet (G&B) since June 2010. She received her B.S. in Biological Systems Engineering from UC Davis in 2000, her M.S. in Agricultural Engineering from Penn State University in 2002, and her Ph.D. from the University of Arizona in 2007, with a minor in Remote Sensing. Nadia specializes in designing energy and water efficient mechanical systems for agricultural and commercial buildings. At Penn State she studied ventilation distribution for commercial mushroom production houses. At the University of Arizona,

Nadia studied evaporative cooling systems for greenhouses in a semi-arid climate, with the goal of reducing water use while maintaining high crop yields and quality. Nadia left academia to gain hands-on design and consulting experience, and to learn how buildings are designed and constructed. Her current job responsibilities with G&B include performing whole building energy simulations, designing advanced and innovative mechanical HVAC systems, and managing green building projects. One of her life goals is to integrate agriculture into the built environment, and reconnecting people with their food and with the people who grow it. She envisions a city in which greenhouses grace the top of buildings and crops climb through ventilated façades, capturing sunlight and utilizing building “wastes”, such as condensate water, CO<sub>2</sub>-enriched air, and heat rejected from the mechanical systems.

One - piece of advice I'd give new graduates:

1 - Keep in touch with your professors. They will often tip you on new projects, jobs, and news related to your career path and interests.

Two - things I learned on the job that I didn't learn in college:

1 - There is never a single solution. In fact, your clients expect you to propose multiple solutions to the same problem.

2 - How to budget time and fees spent on a project to make money.

Three - concepts I learned in college that I use regularly:

1 - Teamwork! You will work on many, many, many teams in your career.

2 - Crunch time on multiple projects always comes in December.

3 - Ask questions. It is the best way to learn.

Four - favorite technical aspects of my job:

1 - Crunching numbers in a spreadsheet or modeling software, plotting the results, finding trends, and discovering solutions.

2 - Demonstrating to clients how an innovative design or simple management method can help them save energy, water, and other resources.

3 - Doing site walks of buildings and facilities to determine energy and water saving opportunities, and learning how various systems interact and function.

4 - Studying the effectiveness and efficiency of different systems and presenting the results in manuscripts, technical reports, or seminars to colleagues and clients.

Five - places I've been or things I've seen in my career:

1 - Tsukuba, Japan: I studied greenhouse natural ventilation in the world's largest ag-based wind tunnel using lasers, smoke, and a 1/20th scale model of my greenhouse. Those lasers are hot!!

2 - Almería, Spain: I gave a presentation to the world's greenhouse experts on how to design more water-efficient evaporative cooling systems.

3 - Sonora, Mexico: I took a 5-day tour of Mexico's greenhouse to learn their technology and to provide their growers with crop management advice.

4 - Bliss, Idaho: I worked on a shiitake mushroom farm for 3 months my junior year at UC Davis in a town of 98 people. It's where I learned to love agriculture, mushrooms, and controlled environments!

5 - Flood irrigation of crops near the Nile in Egypt.

#### **\* Cover Crops for Tomatoes and Cotton - March 18, 2011, Five Points**

The UC Westside Research and Extension Center will be hosting a field day on Cover Crops for California Tomato and Cotton Production on March 18<sup>th</sup>, 10am - 12:30pm. Presenters include Jeff Mitchell, UCD Plant Sciences; Greg Wittenborn, Lockwood Seed and Grain; and Chuck Campbra and Tom Johnson, Kamprath Seed. They will discuss benefits of cover crops, what species grow well in the San Joaquin Valley, what types of cover crops are available, how they're established, what they cost, the “next generation” of SJV cover crops, and the “Tillage Radish™” cover crop. Please RSVP to Jeff Mitchell at [mitchell@uckac.edu](mailto:mitchell@uckac.edu) with the subject of “Cover crop field day”.

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- For previous editions of the Update, please visit [www.asabecanv.org](http://www.asabecanv.org).
- If you have questions or comments, feel free to contact Carolyn at 707-252-4189x114 or [carolyn.jones@ca.usda.gov](mailto:carolyn.jones@ca.usda.gov).
- If you have ideas for Update items or would like to get involved in the leadership group, please let us know.