

OHIO ASPHALT

The Journal of Ohio's Asphalt Professionals

ISSUE 1 • VOLUME 23

SPRING 2026

Ohio's Asphalt EXPOsition

**MARCH MEANS
EXPO TIME! >>>>>**

Page 8

March 17 & 18, 2026



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Flexible Pavements of Ohio is an association for the development, improvement and advancement of quality asphalt pavement construction.

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THE PRESIDENT'S PAGE



ANDREW GALL
PRESIDENT & EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

“This annual conference and trade show has something for everyone: concurrent educational presentations with knowledgeable speakers, indoor and outdoor exhibitors and ample networking opportunities to visit friends and colleagues ... The Ohio Asphalt EXPO is THE place to be if you want to learn more about asphalt construction and materials, see the latest in equipment or connect with others in the industry.”



The Board of Directors and staff of Flexible Pavements of Ohio (FPO) look forward to hosting this year's Ohio Asphalt EXPO on March 17-18, in Columbus. This annual conference and trade show has something for everyone: concurrent educational presentations with knowledgeable speakers, indoor and outdoor exhibitors and ample networking opportunities to visit friends and colleagues.

This day-and-a-half event offers Ohio's asphalt contractors, pavement owners and other industry stakeholders relevant information on new federal environmental health and safety requirements, materials and construction best practices. The program for the asphalt education sessions contains nationally renowned experts presenting a wide range of relevant industry topics. Participating in the Ohio Asphalt EXPO will provide attendees with valuable

insight into the future of the asphalt industry.

The EXPO agenda includes presentations by prominent asphalt paving, materials and plant experts. This year, we welcome the return of popular presenters T.J Young and Tim Murphy, P.E. T.J has more than 40 years of experience as an asphalt plant consultant and returns to the EXPO for the first time since 2017. Tim is a prominent asphalt industry training expert and returns to the EXPO for the first time since 2019 (Go to page 9 to view the complete schedule of events and presenters).

FPO annually recognizes excellence in asphalt pavement construction by presenting the prestigious Quality Asphalt Paving Awards for work performed during the previous calendar year. This year, the Quality Asphalt Pavement Award Luncheon will feature remarks by Ohio Senate President and lieutenant governor candidate Rob McColley and Ohio Department of Transportation (ODOT) Director Pam Boratyn.





Rob McColley



Pam Boratyn

They will discuss their vision for the future of Ohio's transportation infrastructure and the value of partnering and collaboration to construct a quality roadway network.

industry services, products and technologies. Please plan to join the inside exhibitors and outside equipment displays to see the latest the industry has to offer.

The Ohio Asphalt EXPO is THE place to be if you want to learn more about asphalt construction and materials, see the latest in equipment or connect with others in the industry. Also, be sure to mark your calendars for an earlier than usual EXPO in 2027, as it will be returning to the Columbus/Polaris Hilton Hotel on March 2-3.

We look forward to seeing you at the 2026 Ohio Asphalt EXPO!



This award luncheon is the largest event of the EXPO, with nearly 500 attendees celebrating the accomplishments of the industry and pavement owners with well-deserved recognition for quality asphalt pavement construction. This year, we will be presenting 83 awards to 17 contractors for projects on the state and local transportation systems, airports, parks and specialized applications such as sport and recreational facilities.

On Day 2 the EXPO will host the ODOT Update, as members from the Division of Construction Management, asphalt materials laboratory and pavement design offices will provide insight into future Department initiatives and specification changes impacting our industry. Following the ODOT Update is the annual Scholarship Breakfast, which celebrates the awarding of 2026-2027 Ohio Asphalt Pavement Industry Scholarships to successful student applicants. This year, \$65,000 in scholarships will be presented to 13 recipients from six universities in the presence of program sponsoring asphalt contractors, university faculty and their friends and family. In addition to this event, these students will be featured in the fall issue of *Ohio Asphalt* in recognition of their dedication to obtaining education on the design, construction and performance of asphalt pavements.

The 2026 Ohio Asphalt EXPO will also include the popular outdoor equipment and trade show featuring more than 30 companies displaying



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MARCH MEANS EXPO TIME! >>>>

March 17 & 18, 2026

Why You Should Attend:

- The Ohio Asphalt EXPO is the year's premier asphalt pavement event
- Eight General Educational sessions, along with a Panel Discussion, ODOT Update, Quality Asphalt Awards Luncheon, Chairman's Reception and Scholarship Breakfast
- Celebrating the state's more than 80 Quality Asphalt Award Projects from the 2025 pavement season
- The 2026 Equipment Exhibition & Trade Show features the area's largest collection of asphalt paving equipment, service providers, equipment dealers & vendors (See page 10 for listing.)
- One of the year's best networking opportunities, as the Ohio Asphalt EXPO brings all the industry's major participants – contractors, producers, specifiers, plant operators and public officials – to the Columbus/Polaris Hilton!

Workshop topics:

- Identifying & Managing EH&S Risks
- Smart Milling, Proven Smoothness
- Paving the Way to Quality: A View into Intelligent Compaction
- Volumetrics that Matter
- Mastering Plant Operations
- Commercial & Industrial Asphalt
- Smooth Operations: Essential Plant Operations for Quality Mix Production
- Communications in Award-Winning Asphalt Projects
- ODOT Update
- And more!

What You'll Gain by Attending: Knowledge, Information, Credits & More:

- Expert knowledge from industry professionals
- Information on the latest asphalt technology & equipment
- Professional development credits for certain presentations
- Evening of fellowship & networking at the Chairman's Reception
- Enthusiasm for 2026 asphalt season

For more information and to register, visit www.ohioasphaltexpo.org



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2026 OHIO ASPHALT EXPO SCHEDULE AT-A-GLANCE*

TIME	GEMINI BALLROOM A & B	POLARIS BALLROOM C
Tuesday, March 17, 2026		
7:30 am	EXPO Registration / Equipment Exhibition & Trade Show (Until 5 p.m.)	
8:00 am 9:00 am	Identifying & Managing EH&S Risks Howard Marks, National Asphalt Pavement Assoc.	Smart Milling, Proven Smoothness Aidan McDonnell, BOCA Construction Inc.
BREAK		
9:15 am 10:15 am	Paving the Way for Quality: A View into Intelligent Compaction David Crockett, SAKAI America	Volumetrics That Matter: Properties Drive BMD Phillip B. Blankenship, PE, Blankenship Asphalt Tech & Training
BREAK		
10:45 am 11:45 am	Mastering Plant Operations: Ensuring Mix Success TJ Young, T2ASCO LLC	Communications in Award-Winning Asphalt Projects Tim Murphy, Murphy Pavement Technology Inc.
BREAK		
12:15 pm 2:30 pm	  <p style="text-align: center;">Polaris Ballrooms A, B, C, D, E & F Quality Asphalt Pavement Paving Awards Luncheon Featuring: Ohio Senate President Rob McColley & ODOT Director Pamela Boratyn</p>	
BREAK		
3:00 pm 4:00 pm	Smooth Operations: Essential Plant Maintenance for Quality Mix Production TJ Young, T2ASCO LLC	Commercial & Industrial Asphalt Tim Murphy Murphy Pavement Technology Inc.
BREAK		
5:00 pm 7:00 pm	Chairman's Reception (Polaris Ballrooms A, B, D & E)	
Wednesday, March 18, 2026		
7:30 am	EXPO Registration / Equipment Exhibition & Trade Show (Until 10 a.m.)	
8:00 am 9:30 am	Ohio Department of Transportation Update Josh Bowman, P.E., Deputy Director, Division of Construction Management; Eric Biehl, P.E., Office of Materials Management; & Craig Landefeld, P.E., Office of Pavement Engineering	 <p style="text-align: center;">Reed Ryan</p>
9:30 am 11:00 am	Scholarship Breakfast Featuring: Asphalt Institute President Reed Ryan	

*Program and speakers subject to change

2026 OHIO ASPHALT EXPO EQUIPMENT EXHIBITION & TRADE SHOW EXHIBITORS*



Outdoor Equipment Exhibitors

A&H Equipment Co.
MTech Co.
The McLean Co.
Southeastern Equipment Co.

Indoor Exhibitors

A&H Equipment Co.
All States Materials Group
Asphalt Materials Inc.
BOCA Construction Inc.
Blankenship Asphalt Tech & Training (B.A.T.T.)
CEC Smart Positioning LLC
CWMF Corp.
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Columbus Equipment Co.
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GeoShack
Herman Grant Co. Inc.
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IT'S TIME TO UPDATE YOUR INFORMATION

To better serve you, Flexible Pavements of Ohio is updating its membership contact information. But we need your help.



Please use the QR code to update your company's contact information.



Wirtgen Smart Level Pro: Precision Built into Milling Process

By Aidan McDonnell, BOCA Construction Inc.,



As demands for smoother roads and tighter tolerances increase, contractors need more than skilled operators and powerful machines – they need precision engineered into the process itself. Smart Level Pro delivers exactly that.

Smart Level Pro is a data-driven milling solution that integrates high-resolution profiling, advanced software analysis and machine automation to remove only the material required. The result is improved ride quality, corrected slopes and optimized paving conditions.

Be sure to see Aidan McDonnell's presentation on "Smart Milling, Proven Smoothness" during the 2026 Ohio Asphalt EXPO. (See schedule on page 9.)

The technology was further refined through a two-year research and development partnership between the Wirtgen Group and BOCA Construction Inc. Throughout that collaboration, numerous projects were completed across varying conditions, consistently producing excellent results and validating the system's precision, efficiency and real-world performance.

Each project begins with capturing existing pavement conditions using a GNSS-referenced LiDAR Survey Profiler. That data is analyzed to design a customized milling plan tailored to project goals; whether improving IRI (International Roughness Index), restoring smoothness,

correcting transverse profile or achieving a combination of all three.

Once finalized, the profile is uploaded into John Deere's Operations Center, generating GPS reference points and a visual heat map of calculated milling depths across the roadway. Contractors gain clear insight before work begins, allowing them to validate quantities, identify problem areas and better coordinate paving operations. The plan is then transferred directly to the milling machine for execution.

On site, Smart Level Pro automatically controls material removal using the machine's side plates and slope sensors, ensuring each pass follows the engineered profile with consistency and accuracy.

By eliminating guesswork, Smart Level Pro reduces rework, improves smoothness, preserves structural integrity and enhances coordination between milling and paving.

Cold milling is no longer reactive. With Smart Level Pro it becomes precise and predictable, built smarter from the ground up. Advancement to the milling process is an understatement.



Aidan McDonnell is the company president of Norwalk-based BOCA Construction Inc. This article was written in cooperation with Wirtgen Group.



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OHIO ASPHALT PAVING CONFERENCE



Despite more than 12 inches of snow and piles several times higher, the Ohio's asphalt practitioner community traveled to Ohio State University's Fawcett Center, in Columbus, on February 4 for the 51st Annual Ohio Asphalt Paving Conference (OAPC).

The OAPC is a collaborative effort by the state and local government, academia and the asphalt industry.

This year, nearly 350 asphalt practitioners participated in person or virtually with the expectation of expanding their knowledge and skills by learning about the latest technology and trends in asphalt pavement materials, design, construction and maintenance.

This year's morning moderator, Eric Heckert from the Ohio Department of Transportation (ODOT), introduced County Engineers Association of Ohio's (CEAO) John Olivieri to provide the conference's opening remarks. The CEAO Executive Director provided an interesting overview of his experiences with asphalt from the time he was in high school to his current position leading the 88-member association. Despite his diverse civil engineering career experiences, asphalt has and continues to play an important role in Olivieri's professional portfolio.

The conference began with the traditional ODOT Specification Update provided by State Asphalt Materials Engineer Eric Biehl.

Next up, and coming to Ohio from Montana, Asphalt Institute Senior Regional Engineer Dave Johnson presented an interesting session titled **Asphalt MixBusters: Shedding Light on Long-held Beliefs**. Johnson's presentation corrected or confirmed some longstanding industry beliefs about thick-lift paving; tack coat; and the use of rubber tire rollers on asphalt paving projects.

University of Reno-Nevada's Dr. Adam Hand provided practical information in his **Everyone Wins: The Benefits of Warm Mix Asphalt** presentation. Dr. Hand explained the benefits of warm mix asphalt as a compaction aid and identified various advantages and benefits provided when producing and placing warm mix asphalt at reduced temperatures.

Providing the morning's final presentation was National Center for Asphalt Technology's (NCAT) Senior Research Engineer Tom Harmon, who spoke about **High-Rap Mixes; Trends, Terminology & Case Studies**. Providing a wealth of information, Harmon discussed ways to successfully produce mixes with high(er) RAP contents and achieve both performance and durability.

The OAPC Lunch's keynote was provided by acclaimed Vietnam War fighter pilot and prisoner of war (POW) Captain Guy D. Gruters. Introduced by Flexible Pavements of Ohio President/Executive Director Andrew Gall, Capt. Gruters provided a riveting talk describing his experiences as a 5-year POW and how he persevered, survived and returned home to become a successful businessman and



Capt. Guy D. Gruters

motivational speaker. Capt. Gruters' first-person accounts and experiences likely left attendees with a new perspective of what having a bad day really means.

Kindler Associates' Joe Kindler presided over the afternoon session and its concluding presentations. The session's opening speaker, Asphalt Institute Regional Engineer Jason Weilinski presented information on **Pavement Distress – Identification, Repair and Resources**. The presentation was highlighted with very practical examples, explanations and suggestions on how to address various types of pavement distress typically encountered by Ohio practitioners.

Concluding the 2026 OAPC was a two-part presentation about **How COTA's LinkUS Will Modernize Central**



Representing four generations of Asphalt Institute involvement at the OAPC, from left, were Dave Johnson, Wayne Jones, George Villacres and Jason Wielinski

designs and provided practical tips and guidelines on constructing asphalt shared-use paths.

The 2027 OAPC is set for February 3. Be sure to mark your calendars!

Ohio's Transit System & Pathways. Central Ohio Transportation Authority (COTA) Zach Sunderland gave a thorough overview of various transit and pathway improvements planned for the Greater Columbus Area. Following Sunderland, Franklin County Engineer's Brad Foster reviewed various central Ohio shared-use path





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UPDATED ODOT JOB MIX FORMULA MIX DESIGN PACKETS RELEASED

In 2024, the Ohio Department of Transportation (ODOT) initiated a research proposal to update and optimize Job Mix Formula (JMF) design packets to make them consistent with the current Construction and Material Specifications.

Developed by Dr. Ala Abbas from the University of Akron, the revised packets are a more user-friendly version of the previous Excel-based documents. The new packets were initially released for optional use during the 2025 construction season and have been updated several times with the most-recent version released in 2026.

The new forms include dropdown lists for approved materials and plants, conditional formatting and color coding to “flag” potential data errors or items that appear to not meet ODOT mix design requirements. These packets were designed to minimize data entry errors by contractors and result in a more expeditious review and approval by ODOT.

The final component of this research is to provide training videos for users on how to enter required data and information into the packets.



Scan the QR to access an introductory tutorial video of the JMF packets presented by Dr. Abbas:



Scan this QR to access the full tutorial video by Dr. Abbas on the use of JMF packets:



Scan the QR (left) to access ODOT's complete Asphalt Job Mix Formula and Mix Design webpage:



New Members

WELCOME

Flexible Pavements of Ohio would like to welcome the following companies as new Associate Members of the association:



A&H Equipment Co.

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Please join us in welcoming our new members.



Complete Information on the NCAT Professor Training Course can be found at <https://eng.auburn.edu/research/centers/ncat/education/academic-programs/professor-training-course.html>.



NCAT OFFERS PROFESSOR TRAINING

MORE THAN 30 OHIO INSTRUCTORS HAVE PARTICIPATED



An important goal of Flexible Pavements of Ohio (FPO) is to promote research and education in asphalt pavement technology at universities in Ohio.

Toward this end, in 1995 the FPO Board of Directors, under the leadership of Chairman Bill Burgett and Executive Director Fred Frecker, established the FPO Scholarship Program to be funded by member contributions to endowments in the National Asphalt Pavement Association Research & Education Foundation (NAPAREF). A requirement of the scholarship is that the receiving student takes a course in asphalt pavement technology. Therefore, FPO and NAPAREF began encouraging university faculty to offer courses in asphalt pavement technology.

Besides funding scholarships, NAPAREF created the National Center for Asphalt Technology (NCAT). NCAT was established in 1986 as a partnership between Auburn University and the NAPAREF to provide innovative, relevant and implementable research, technology development and education that advances safe, durable and sustainable asphalt pavements.

To help promote asphalt education on the widest scale, NCAT has a long-standing educational program for college and university civil engineering faculty that provides clear and up-to-date lectures and laboratory material for the asphalt portion of an undergraduate civil engineering materials course. NCAT provides stipends to accepted professors to cover the cost of participation. More than 570 instructors from all 50 states, Washington, D.C., Costa Rico, Puerto Rico and Nova Scotia have taken part in these training courses.

FPO has encouraged and endorsed professors at universities in Ohio to participate in the NCAT Professor Training Course to enable asphalt pavement education.

NCAT reports that to-date 33 professors from 14 Ohio educational institutes have participated in the Professor Training course at NCAT.

FPO continues to encourage university professors to take advantage of this educational opportunity. If interested, contact FPO, so that we may endorse your application to NCAT.

NCAT PROFESSOR TRAINING

Listed by universities and institutes, here are the professors in Ohio who have participated in NCAT's Professor Training courses:

- Air Force Institute of Technology** – Corey Enderby
- University of Akron** – Chun-Yi Kuo & Robert Y. Liang
- Bowling Green State University** – Richard Allen, Alan Atalah, Robert Austin & L. Travis Chapin
- Case Western Reserve University** – Jianying Jane Hu, Yan Liu, Xinbao Yu, Xiong Yu & Ben Zhang
- University of Cincinnati** – Rajagopal Arudi
- Cleveland State University** – Nader Amer & Jacqueline Jenkins
- University of Dayton** – Riad Alakkad, Deogratias Eustace & Joseph E. Saliba
- Lima Technical College** – Brad Core
- Ohio University** – Vicki Green & Sang-Soo Kim
- Ohio Northern University** – Subhi M. Bazlamit, Mohammad Ali Khasawneh & Donald E. Milks
- Ohio State University** – Osama Abdulshafi, Lisa Burris, Yeou-Shang Jeng & Joe Kindler
- Stark State College** – Dorey Diab & Geoff Wopershall
- University of Toledo** – Eddie Y.T. Chou
- Youngstown State University** – Shakir Husain & Joe Sanson



Mark Your Calendars



Ohio Asphalt EXPO
March 17-18
Columbus/Polaris Hilton Hotel
8700 Lyra Drive
Columbus, OH 43240

The Asphalt EXPO is Ohio's premier asphalt pavement event with multiple concurrent educational sessions and an indoor and outdoor trade show and exhibition. If you construct, inspect, manage or maintain local or private transportation infrastructure, the Ohio Asphalt EXPO has the information you need to ensure a successful, long-lasting asphalt pavement.

Mid America Association of State Transportation Officials Annual Conference
August 10-13
TBA
Cincinnati, OH

The Mid America Association of State Transportation Officials (MAASTO) is the regional organization of state departments of transportation from 10 Midwestern states operating under the larger national organization of the American Association of State Highway and Transportation Officials (AASHTO).



Constructing Resilient & Sustainable Transportation Infrastructure for Ohio's Future: A Workshop
June 2-3
Columbus/Polaris Hilton Hotel
8700 Lyra Drive
Columbus, OH 43240

Sponsored by the Ohio Department of Transportation (ODOT) and Ohio University, this workshop will create a path to guide and influence pertinent ODOT policy by integrating resilience and sustainability into all project phases and leveraging new technologies and industry innovations.

2026 North Central Asphalt User Producer Group Conference
September 15-17
The Madison Concourse Hotel
1 West Dayton Street
Madison, Wis. 53703

The North Central Asphalt User Producer Group (NCAUPG) is a regional organization of state governments, industry and federal highway representatives from 12 states in the central and north-central United States and two Canadian Provinces.



National Asphalt Pavement Association 2026 Midyear Meeting
July 14-17
TBA
Columbus, OH

The National Asphalt Pavement Association (NAPA) Midyear Meeting consists of committee meetings and educational sessions focused on advancing the asphalt pavement industry.

Visit FPO's website at www.flexiblepavements.org for more information regarding these events.



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