

MAPA Seminar

Smooth riding

By Tanya Bentley

MAINE'S 2018 construction season is in full swing and asphalt pavers are at it again! Asphalt pavement (sometimes called blacktop) is a combination of aggregate – stone, sand or gravel – bound together by a small amount of asphalt cement, a product of crude oil. Asphalt cement is heated and mixed with aggregate at special facilities found all over Maine. The mix material is then trucked to the construction site where it is spread and compacted into a finished pavement. Used almost exclusively on all roadways in Maine, asphalt pavement continues to gain momentum each year and this year is no different.

On April 3 and 4 the Maine Asphalt Pavement Association held its 15th Annual Spring Paving Seminar. Hauling in more than 70 vendors and more than 350 guests from the industry, this equipment trade show and educational seminar combination under one roof continues to set the standard for paving throughout all of New England.

PRESENTERS

The latest paver, trucking and rolling technologies along with best pavement practices were presented in workshop fashion. Steve Forsley, New England regional manager for E.D. Etnyre & Co., brought emulsions and tack coating to the surface with a formidable educational speech to the group.

Laikram Narsingh, product manager at Wirtgen America, shared the intricacies of operating the paver machine from the past, present and future. Dave Reposa, Wirtgen America's New England district sales manager continued to profile the group with a bang-up presentation on cold planing and asphalt milling

best practices, while offering a sleek look into the newest technologies emerging on the market.

SAFETY

Although highly rewarding, it is no secret that roadway construction has been and continues to be one of the most physically demanding and dangerous professions in the construction sector. Motivational safety speaker Eric Giguere, author of *The Buried Truth Uncovered*, provided the group with a stark and sobering story about a workplace accident that changed his life forever.

AWARDS

Each year MAPA looks to recognize an Industry Professional of the Year. Awarded annually, this prestigious honor is given to an individual who meets the highest standards of excellence. This year, MAPA recognized Gene Alley of Pike Industries as its 2018 Industry Professional of the Year. Previous recipients have included F.R. Carroll, Inc. (2013); Don "Biz" Picard of Pike Industries, Inc. (2014); Larry Turcotte of Harry C. Crooker & Sons, Inc. (2015); Rusty Keene of Dayton Sand & Gravel Co, Inc. (2016) and Chris Eisenhower of Glidden Excavating & Paving, Inc. (2017).

MAPA also recognized Rollan Walker of MaineDOT and Herrick Randall of Pike Industries as Lifetime Achievement Award recipients for their many years of dedicated service to the Industry as they both head into retirement.

THANKS TO THE 2018 MAPA SEMINAR SPONSORS

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Top: MAPA President Ron Simbartl. Bottom left: Laikram Narsingh of Wirtgen America. Bottom right: MaineDOT Commissioner David Bernhardt and MAPA Lifetime Achievement Award recipient Rollan Walker.