

# National Masonry Instructors Association

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● **Make checks payable to/Mail to: National Masonry Instructors Association; P.O. Box 669 Stevensville, MD 21666** ●

## Upcoming Events

June	19-23	SkillsUSA National Conference Louisville, Kentucky	Sept	09-11	NCMA Mid-Year Meeting Toronto, Ontario, Canada
July	09-12	NMIA Annual Conference St. Augustine, FL	October	18-20	Hardscape North America Expo Louisville, Kentucky
August	28-30	MCAA Mid-Year Meeting Steamboat Springs, CO	January	17-20	MCAA Annual Convention World of Concrete Las Vegas, Nevada



# National Masonry Instructors Association

## Letter from the President

Dear NMIA members, business partners and sponsors,

Greetings from the National Masonry Instructors Association, it gives me great joy to report that the NMIA has been very involved in helping our youth to develop and become skilled in the masonry field and productive in their desire to become successful workers in the construction arena.

This year at the World of Concrete the NMIA was glad to attend and participate in helping the MCAA judge the Masonry Skills Challenge. This contest challenged skills and training in the masonry industry. Contestants were divided by experience level, first year, second year and third year apprentices. On Wednesday, January 18, 2017 during Masonry Madness, over \$100,000 was given away. Masonry Skills Challenge spec mix toughest tender, MCAA fastest trowel on the block, spec mix brick layer 500, are the four contest that took place that day. We, the NMIA would like to thank the MCAA organization for honoring one of our members, Milton Young for dedicated service in teaching our youth.

The NMIA will attend the National Skills USA Championship and Leadership Conference in Louisville, Kentucky where some of our members will help set up the masonry contest. Some of us will also be judges for the contest. We feel that it's our duty to help our youth to develop into skilled masons of the future. Not only do we teach them this trade but we give them soft skills that will help shape their future. The NMIA is very honored to have the opportunities to serve at the National Skills USA Conference.

July 9, 2017 – July 12, 2017 will be our annual National Masonry Instructor Association Conference, which will be held in St. Augustine, Florida. We look forward to seeing all masonry instructors there from all over the United States. Let us come together to enhance our knowledge and wisdom so that we can make a difference in our young men and young ladies lives. Their future is in our hands, yes what we do makes a difference in their lives. From teaching them the skills of laying bricks and blocks to teaching them how important it is to be on time for work, dressing properly for the

job at hand, to being the best they can be as well as having respect for their fellow employees. Yes, their future is in our hand so let's not take it lightly but let us improve our teaching skills and methods so that we may lead our students to a higher plan in life. Let us realize that what we do now helps shape they're future. Remember nothing less than our best is required of us, for the students you train today will be the legacy you leave behind.

Sincerely Yours,  
Jeffery Lee Mackie

## Mission Statement

The National Masonry Instructors Association's mission is to develop collaborative partnership with the education community, business and industry to create awareness of the professionalism of the masonry occupation by promoting quality masonry programs and keeping members informed of innovative trends and changing technology.

## NMIA Goals and Objectives

- Promoting masonry training programs throughout the United States
- Assist in the unification of masonry programs
- Improving curriculums and teaching materials
- Upgrading recruitment and training methods
- Increasing partnership with business and industry
- Promote annual workmanship and seminar for professional development

## Purpose

- To promote effective articulation between professional educators and business and industry.
- To provide comprehensive seminars, workshops and masonry specialists from all over the construction industry to share ideas, techniques and solutions for future success.
- To teach skills to increase performance and productivity.



## Student Spotlight

### Olivia Bruening

2017 Florida Skills Masonry Winner  
Al Herndon, FMAEF

On April 25, 2017 in Lakeland, at the Florida Skills State Conference, Olivia Bruening, a Senior at RiverOak Technical College in Live Oak Florida, won 1st place in the Masonry Contest. Olivia competed with 14 of the best Secondary masonry students in Florida she won 1st Place and will represent Florida at Skills USA In Louisville



on June 22nd.

Olivia has been competing in the FMAEF Masonry Showcase in Starke Florida for the last two years. In February Olivia was part of the RiverOak Technical College Masonry Team that finished 3rd out of 7 schools competing. Olivia scored the highest points for her team and advanced to the Florida Skills State Masonry Contest. Olivia has outstanding masonry skills and she has been recognized by her school and the School Board, as well as the Masonry Industry in Florida, for her hard work in masonry.

### Adriana Pilgrim

2017 South Carolina Skills Masonry Winner  
Easley High School

Adriana Pilgrim is a student from Easley High School in Easley South Carolina. She has attended the Masonry class for 3 years.

In preparation for the State SkillsUSA contest she would build practice projects during and after class, timing herself to improve and be ready for the competition.



Her dedication and hard work motivated the other competitors in her class to prepare and practice harder as well.

After graduation, Adriana plans to attend Greenville Technical School, then transfer to a 4 year college where she will pursue a career in Architecture/Construction.

## 2016 Skills USA Instructor of the Year



Kenny Allen, Masonry Instructor  
Wallace Community College Selma



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- Spec Mix/Quikcrete
- North Carolina Masonry Contractors Association



# World of Concrete 2016



# Why we teach...

A letter from a former student to Mr. Eugene Johnson, Instructor at Lake Marion High School in Santee, SC.

Mr. Johnson, 18 years ago I entered your class of Masonry and you took me up under your wings as an experienced fighter pilot would take any new aviator under his wings in the air. You patiently taught me the skills, fundamentals, and the knowledge of the trade. It took me a while to grasp, but eventually I did. You gave me the permission to use some of those very tools for a summer job at Pettit Construction that year. I learned through that summer that hard work pays off and that if a man would only apply his mind to an idea, that the results would be inevitable. Mr. Johnson, you have been an integral part of my success to this day. There's not a moment that I don't reflect on where I've come from in life and how I made it to the level of success that I'm at to this point. It was truly a blessing to have your hands as a guide in my life. That guidance that you've given has led to success today. Learning to understand the basic principles of a trade has allowed me to understand and grasp what it takes to make something out of one's self. The very same principles of masonry are what I now use in my day to day duty as a Marine Recruiter in Statesboro, GA. You've been a mentor to me and many times I've carefully observed you during those days to understand why you taught and instruct your students in a certain way. You never allowed us to cut corners and I've learned today and am still learning that there's no shortcut to being successful or something great in life. Success is a result of hard work, dedication, commitment, and first and foremost, keeping God first. I'm thankful and will be forever grateful that our paths have crossed in both past and present. The greatest asset that a man or woman will ever possess within him or herself is the mind. I am thoroughly convinced that in order to be a good leader, that one must humbly allow himself to become a good follower. It's been a privilege and honor to be taught, instructed, mentored and guided by the best that life has to offer. May the Lord God continue to bless you and your family in all your future endeavors.



Mr. Larry Butler  
Gunnery Sergeant  
United States Marine Corps

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Center of Applied Technology North students help with new fishing reef in the Chesapeake Bay, making oyster reef balls.





# 2017 MCAA Hall of Fame Inductee

## Milton H. "Milt" Young, II

In May 1961, Milton H. "Milt" Young, II received his diploma from U.S. Jones High School in Demopolis, Alabama. In September of that same year, he enrolled at Tuskegee Institute (now Tuskegee University). While at Tuskegee, "Milt" as he was commonly called, began studying in the Trade and Industrial Education program. His uncle, who had the same name, attended Tuskegee as well, and inspired and encouraged him to go to "skegee". Every male member of the Young Family was a construction worker by tradition (great grandfather; grandfather; father; uncle; and now little "Milt"). Carpentry was the occupation of the other relatives, but Milt decided to make "bricklaying" his occupation. While at Tuskegee, Milt developed his skills known as the, Trowel Trades. In fact, his skills were so well developed that the school's instructor often allowed him to assist in training other students. In May 1966, Milt completed all his requirements for graduation and received the Bachelor of Science Degree in Building Construction with a minor in Masonry Technology.

In September 1966, Milt's first job was working with the company of Shaker, Travis, and Quinn, (Professional Plumbers) in Poughkeepsie, New York. Duties included constructing brick piers, columns and walls of certain elevations to support the length and weight of 8", 10" and 12" pipe being installed at Vassar College (height and grades were critical points). By the spring of 1967, I. B. M. (International Business Machines) started an expansion program at their facility located on South Road outside of Poughkeepsie. Masonry subcontractors were looking for individuals with bricklaying skills and hiring "open shop" was permitted for a short time. Supervisors and foremen watched and observed workers to see how well each would handle tools and the appearance of the work. After a few days, Milt was asked to help with lay-out procedures that included some blueprint reading.

By the fall of that year, new construction was on the rise in up-state New York and the demand for masonry workers in that area encouraged Milt to relocate. Ithaca, New York was the destination and

this area provided an excellent opportunity for work. Cornell University and Ithaca College had large building programs and a large student population. This area also had new shopping centers and residential construction in progress on North Tripphammer Road.

While working in this area, Milt was invited to join the I.U.B.A.C. (International Union of Bricklayers and Allied Craftworkers), local # 96 from Coming, New York. During this time, masonry sub-contractors were coming from every place including Elmira, Courtland, Binghamton, Sycrause, Albany, Rochester, and Coming, New York.

McDonald's fast food restaurants were quickly moving across the entire state of New York. Bass Masonry, a subcontractor from Sycrause, had the contracts for building McDonalds in other cities as well. Milt was invited to travel to each location to make certain the "Golden Arches" made especially for the front entrance could be installed without rebuilding or taking down any work. If the Golden Arches did not fit according to the required dimensions, the subcontractor was in trouble. Milt was responsible for approval of the work and acceptance of delivery of the Golden Arches. Construction across the state of New York, which provided great

experience, was truly rewarding. Working with other craft workers helped to appreciate the time and efforts that were made to achieve a goal and ambition. The work lasted from 1968 - 1975.

In 1975, Milt returned to Alabama because of the unexpected and untimely death of a beloved family member. During this time, the State of Alabama was moving toward Vocational Technical Education. New training facilities were scheduled to open in the fall and people with building skills could apply for positions. The state required a degree in education to fulfill requirements for teaching; however, a person with a non-education degree could take additional course work from an institution designated to satisfy all the state requirements and recommendations.

In August 1975, Milt accepted the position of masonry instructor at Hale County Center of Technology, located in Greensboro, Alabama. While performing duties as the masonry instructor, Milt also complied with requirements and recommendations of Alabama State Department of Education by 1979 - 1980.

The American Vocational Association (AVA), held its educational meeting in Cincinnati, Ohio in the fall of 1989. There was a discussion about organizing and establishing a National Brick Masonry Instructor's Association. At this meeting, Milt was selected chairman of the committee to draft an open letter to brick masonry instructors across the country. Mr. Bill W. Weaver, the Industry Advisor from Brick Institute of America (BIA) located in Reston, Va., explained some of the concerns facing the masonry industry and encouraged the committee to move forward as quickly as possible.

The response to the open letter was overwhelming! Over one hundred fifty plus instructors all over the USA requested additional information and expressed support for this association NBMA.

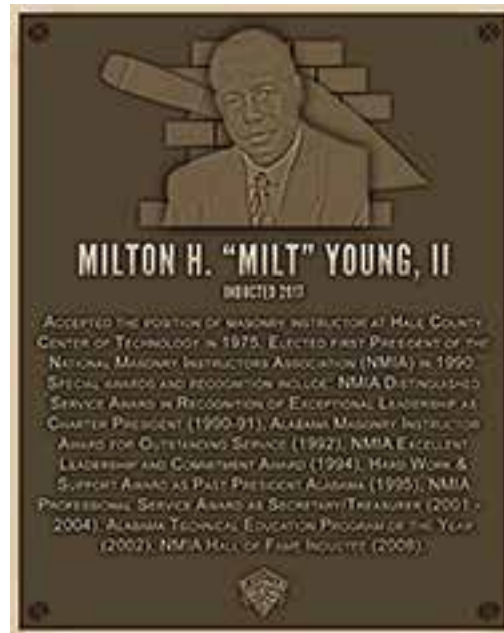
The first National Masonry Instructors Conference and Seminar was held in Myrtle Beach, S.C. during the summer of 1990. Milt was elected the first president of the association along with other officers.

South Carolina already had a State Masonry Instructors Organization along with other states. However, South Carolina pledged their support and assistance in every way. Mr. A.C. Lewis, president for the South Carolina organization and the new NBMA president, developed a relationship and partnership with Milt that have continued until today! The secretary of the South Carolina organization was encouraged to help with written communications, correspondences and printing of information. Soon after the 1990 conference, duties and responsibilities were divided among the elected officers (secretary, treasurer, etc.). This association would serve to represent all masonry instructors from every state as well as those at correction institutions.

Milt has worked with the Alabama Instructors Association and the Alabama Department of Trade and Industrial Education to unite and promote workshops designed to support and strengthen the skills of technology instructor.

Professional development courses and training will benefit technical instructors as well as academic instructors. While serving with both the national instructors and Alabama instructors, Milt has received special awards and recognition which include the following:

- NMIA Distinguished Service Award in Recognition of Exceptional Leadership as Charter President - 1990 - 1991
- Alabama Masonry Instructor award for Outstanding Service in 1992
- NMIA Excellent Leadership and Commitment Award - 1994
- Hard Work & Support Award as Past President Alabama -1995
- NMIA Professional Service Award as Secretary / Treasurer from 2001 - 2004
- Alabama Technical Education Program of the Year Award- 2002
- 2005 - "Retirement at Hale County Vo-Tech Center (No Awards)
- 2008 - NMIA Hall of Fame Inductee award at Sandestin, FL
- 2017 - First masonry instructor inducted to MCAA Hall of Fame



## NMIA Hall of Fame Members

### Instructors

Paul Ford  
Jack Murphy  
Calvin Gatlin  
Bernard Hubbard  
Jessie Grissom  
William Hodge  
Alonzo Lewis  
Milton Young  
Joe McMillian  
Luther Hightower  
James Ham  
George Readon  
Archie Crawford

James Alston  
Buddy Combs  
Richard McKnight  
James Fryer  
Morris Wilson  
Jack Davis  
Max Randolph  
Willie Levette  
Edward Mims  
William Young  
Andrew Fuller  
Robert Campbell

### Industry

Butch Hardy  
Billy Freeman  
Sam McGee  
Brian Light  
Calvin Brodie  
Paul LaVene  
Sam McGee  
Doug Drye  
Bill Behie  
Richard Rick Cummings  
Donny Kirtley  
Pete C  
Al Herndon  
Steve Fechino



# Bon Tool History

Bon Tool Co.'s success is sustained through the focus on three basic priorities: Innovation, Value and Service. With attention to these priorities Bon has distinguished itself as a leading manufacturer of hand tools for the building trades.

Bon Tool Co. was formed on the strength of one specialty masonry product and has grown to be a manufacturer of the widest selection of tools for the building trades.

## The Company is Formed

Bon Tool Co. was founded by the Bongiovanni family in 1958 on the strength of their Masonry Guide, an alignment system for masonry work. The company was originally incorporated as Masonry Specialty, and a small manufacturing facility was opened in Lower Burrell, Pennsylvania. In just a few years this patented Masonry Guide with permanently marked modular and brick scales proved to revolutionize brick and block work.

## Product Line Expands

Soon supplementary masonry products were added to inventory and over time the product offering expanded to other building trades. The company was renamed Bon Tool Co. to better represent the tools being manufactured and distributed. Currently, Bon offers a selection of more than 4,000 contractor-grade tools, light equipment and materials for masonry, concrete finishing and decorative concrete, drywall and EIFS, floor covering, material handling and general construction.

## Bon Goes Global

In an effort to expand globally, Bon Shanghai was formed to distribute Bon's line of decorative concrete tools and materials in China. More recently, the BonSource division was established to handle Bon's engineering needs and market outsource engineering services through this wholly owned subsidiary of Bon operating in Chennai, India.

## Bon Today

In 2008 Bon celebrated its 50th anniversary. With a firm commitment to our core values, Bon is well positioned to meet the challenges for the next 50 years. Product innovation, value and service remain our principal focus, but they are only part of our equation for success. In order to ensure that our finest quality tools make it into the hands of discerning tradesmen, Bon relies on its manufacturing, sales and distribution staff as well. Together, the divisions of Bon Tool Co. remain committed to doing it better!



Carl A. Bongiovanni  
1958 - 2017

National Masonry  
Instructors Association  
will miss their long time  
supporter and friend  
Carl Bongiovanni.

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## Lake City High School instructor's device simplifies brick masonry

By Shamira McCray SC Morning News

Lake City High School masonry instructor Calvin Cade has invented a new device to aid in the building of columns and mailboxes, among other structures.

Cade invented the Plumb Device in 2008. It has since been patented and sold to people in several states.

"Basically I acquired a lot of jobs with 20, 30, 40 columns on it, and it just took so much time plumbing a column, so I designed this device, which aids the mason in plumbing a column without a whole lot of work," Cade said. "And actually, it speeds up my process."

Before creating the Plumb Device, Cade said some of his masonry students had to build several mailboxes as part of a project. The students were good at what they did, but some would not properly take time to plumb their projects.

"So I designed the device, and lo and behold, it works for everybody," Cade said. "It works for contractors, myself, students and all. I sold a couple to schools."

Cade's Plumb Device consists of several parts. A four-foot base pole connects to a swing arm that holds two templates -- a top one and a bottom one. Guidelines are installed on the upper template at each corner and hang freely from it. Each corner serves as a plumb point. Four guidelines are used with premeasured lengths of six feet. The lower template is installed on the lower portions of the guidelines. The lower template swings about an inch above a concrete footer. From there, bricks are installed.

"Whatever template the top of the device has, the bottom has," Cade said. "You can make columns 12-by-12, 16-by-16, 20-by-20, octagon, rectangle columns, mailboxes, all with this device. All you do is just change the templates."

Templates can be customized to fit a job's needs. The device can create columns from two to 10 feet tall.

The Plumb Device takes away the measuring and plumbing that is associated with building columns.

"With gravity and a little weight and using a line, every item usually comes up plumbed," Cade said. "Gravity and weight is the theory behind this."

Cade's original Plumb Device is located in his masonry classroom at Lake City High School. He has sold a few of the devices to other masonry teachers in South Carolina.

Lake Marion High School masonry instructor Eugene Johnson said he trains his students on how to use the Plumb Device. It is a neat idea and a quick way for brick masons to build brick and block piers on unlevel ground, Johnson said.

"It's just like day and night," Johnson said. "The (students) loved it after they got the hang of it."

Carvers Bay High School building construction instructor Terry Cox purchased a Plumb Device from Cade a few years ago. He said he uses it at his home and also with his masonry students.

"I thought it was just wonderful," Cox said. "When he first showed it to me, I said this would be so much easier, so much faster. We use it to build a lot of columns and a lot of posts."

Cox learned about the Plumb Device at a brick masonry conference in Myrtle Beach years ago. Cade attended the conference and demonstrated it to other people who attended, Cox said.

"Anybody who does brick mason work and wants to do it the easy way, I'd recommend it," Cox said.

An instructional video on using the Plumb Device can be found at [youtube.com/watch?v=YPF2sJR4pbk](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=YPF2sJR4pbk). To purchase a Plumb Device or for more information, call Cade at 843-601-7359.





# SkillsUSA 2016

# 2016 Conference

