



IFAI Announces ShowStoppers and International Achievement Award Winners

The Industrial Fabrics Association International announced the winners of its ShowStoppers Award and International Achievement Award competitions.

IFAI announced the 2012 ShowStoppers awards for the best of the best new products during the IFAI Expo Americas 2012 event at the Boston Convention & Exhibition Center in Boston, Mass. November 6-8.

IFAI received 84 entries from 4 countries that were submitted by 56 companies. Winners exhibited the newest; coolest; the most pragmatic and the most innovative; the most effective and the most efficient; the most economical and the most environmentally sound, according to an IFAI release.

IFAI's International Achievement Awards for design excellence in specialty fabrics applications ceremony took place at the Boston IFAI Expo Americas event. The competition included 30 categories. IFAI received a total of 335 entries from companies in 14 countries.

For a list of winners in the International Achievement Awards categories visit <http://www.ifaipublications.com/iaa/fabricstructures/tensileunder600>.

For more information on IFAI visit the association at www.ifai.com. Some WCPA members attended the Boston event. For more information on the WCPA visit www.wcpaonline.com.

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WCPA Newsletter Surpasses 1 Year Mark!

As of October 2012, the WCPA Newsletter has been in print for one year!

Since I've come on board as your newsletter writer, developer, and WCPA coordinator, I've learned a lot about the specialty fabrics industry.

What WCPA members do in developing specialty fabric products is amazing.

The products you provide are a necessity that most of us who aren't in the industry, take for granted.

Over the last year, I've endeavored to provide content that's relevant to our WCPA members. I hope that the newsletter will continue to provide interesting, helpful, and useful content.

As always, if you have any suggestions, thoughts, comments, or concerns, please feel free to contact me.

Finally, if you would like to write an article, send news about your company, provide some information, or offer an interesting topic for the newsletter, please send an email. Thank you and I look forward to another great year of newsletters!

Carol Park
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I want to take this opportunity to wish all WCPA members and their families the best for this holiday season and for a prosperous 2013.

I don't know if it's just me and my advancing years, but it seems that as soon as I take down my holiday decorations each year, it's time to put them up again for the following year.



One thing I do know is that for many in our industry, these past several years couldn't have gone by fast enough...times were tough and the quicker we got those times behind us the better.

So we look to this next year with high expectations of improvement, and for me it has always been important to remember that I got into business for many reasons, but at the top of the list was that I wanted to be in control of my own destiny for myself and my family's good.



I think that for too many of us, in the general economy and in our industry in particular, we easily forget this motivation and stand too ready and willing to blame our tough times on the acts of others, the economy, or just the "them" in our lives.

Perhaps the best thought in this holiday season is to resolve to not let that inclination creep into our lives, and to regain that spirit of taking control of our destinies in the way that we did when we first started in our businesses.



Let's resolve to be open to the changes in our lives, our businesses and our industry, and take charge to create the opportunities that those changes offer:

diversifying our products, our business plan, our goals and our actions, and let us resolve to move ourselves and our industry forward in providing value-based products and services in ways that are reflective of the noble industry we are a part of.

I wish you all the best this holiday season! I hope the coming New Year brings you happiness, success, and joy.

Thank you for a wonderful year! Happy holidays!

The Season for Giving

By Carol Park

It's that time of the year; turkey eating, eggnog drinking, try not to argue with your family members holiday season!

While we're all digging in and trying not to binge on gravy, stuffing, and Christmas treats, remember, it's almost the end of the year and your last chance to donate to a charity you care about.

Keep in mind that whatever you donate by the end of December is tax deductible for your business.

In fact, any 501(c) 3 or a tax deductible organization classified under IRS standards qualifies.

Also, you don't have to donate cash to receive a tax deduction.

Items such as desks, clothes, lamps, unwanted file cabinets and other office furniture can be donated to your local Red Cross, Salvation Army, or even a thrift store.

Just have your items picked up or drop them off and ask for a receipt.

While getting a tax break is awesome for giving, it's not all about numbers. Another way to give back is by volunteering at a local shelter or church.

Donating your time is another great way to give back to the community.

Weld Spatter can come from exploding gas bubbles inside the weld puddle or expanding gases inside the metal drops that transfer from the end of the electrode.

Careful adjustment of the Voltage, Amperage (often controlled by the wire feed speed) and the shielding gas will reduce spatter.

Spatter tends to adhere to the edges and inside the gas cup which will affect the gas flow.



Cleaning with sharp objects such as a screw driver will scratch the inside of the gas cup.

Spatter will adhere more tightly to the scratches making it harder to clean.



Try cleaning with a softer material such as a wooden dowel or a tool designed specifically for spatter removal, and use a spatter

reduction spray or dip.

The shielding gas also affects the amount of spatter. Changing from 100% CO₂ to a CO₂/Argon mix will also reduce spatter.



It is more expensive, but the reduced post-weld clean up may be worth it.

Galvanized steel can be affected by Microbiologically- Influenced Corrosion.



To read the study go to: http://www.element.com/docs/case-studies/casestudy_microbiologically_influenced_corrosion.pdf?Status=Master.

For questions about this or future columns, Alan Johnson can be reached at alantheinspector@verizon.net or at (562)305-8002.

This article first appeared in a May 2012 Professional Awning Manufacturers Association publication and was reprinted with PAMA's permission.

Happy Holidays!

Happy holidays and season's greetings! The WCPA has plenty of things in store for the coming New Year!

The WCPA newsletter will continue into its second year of production.

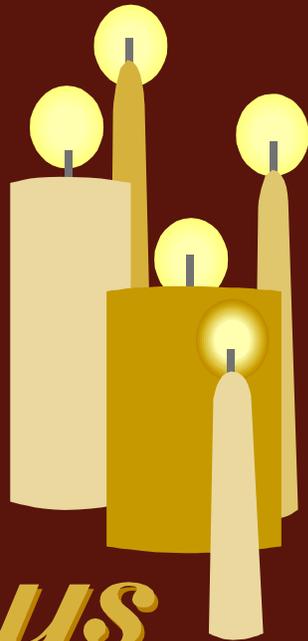
Our Annual Meeting & Expo is set for April in Long Beach, CA and the association is planning on regional meetings, and more.

Visit us at www.wcpaonline.com for more information about WCPA events and activities.

As always, if you have any suggestions, comments, or thoughts about WCPA please feel free to contact your WCPA president or send an email to wcpa2012@hotmail.com.

WCPA

Happy Holidays



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