

**ACerS STRUCTURAL CLAY PRODUCTS  
DIVISION and SOUTHWEST SECTION MEETING**  
in conjunction with  
**The National Brick Research Center Meeting**

***Thanks to our 2017 sponsors!***

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**May 9-12, 2017**  
**Radisson Fort Worth North**  
**Fort Worth, Texas**

**2017**  
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PRODUCTS DIVISION AND  
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# May 9-12, 2017 | Radisson Fort Worth North | Fort Worth, Texas

## Schedule of Events

### Tuesday, May 9

Registration open 3 – 6 p.m.  
 Hospitality Suite 5 – 10 p.m.

### Wednesday, May 10

Registration open 7 – 7:50 a.m.  
 Plant Tours: Acme Brick (Denton) & Meridian Brick (Mineral Wells) All Day  
 Lunch Sponsored by Acme Brick 11:30 a.m. – 12:30 p.m.  
 Suppliers Mixer Reception 6 – 7:30 p.m.  
 Hospitality Suite 8 – 10:30 p.m.

### Thursday, May 11

Companions Breakfast 7:30 – 9 a.m.  
 Technical Session 1 8 a.m. – Noon  
 Lunch for all attendees Noon – 1:30 p.m.  
 Includes SWACerS Business Meeting  
 Technical Session 2 1:30-6 p.m.  
 Reception 6:30 – 7 p.m.  
 Banquet 7 – 9 p.m.  
 (reception from 6:30-7:00 pm)  
 Hospitality Suite 9 – 10:30 p.m.

### Friday, May 12

NBRC member meeting 7:30 – 10:30 a.m.  
 (NBRC Members Only)

## Plant Tour Information (bus departs 8 a.m.) Wednesday, May 10

### ACME BRICK COMPANY | DENTON PLANT | DENTON, TEXAS

Acme Brick Company has been manufacturing brick in Denton for more than a century. The Denton Pressed Brick Company was Acme's first major acquisition, in 1910. Beginning with the conversion to stiff-mud operations, the plant has undergone decades of investment and improvement. Today the Denton plant is Acme's largest, with an annual production capacity of over 130 million brick equivalents. Its 234 associates manufacture brick in 70 standard colors on two production lines that feed three kilns. To support commercial applications, the plant offers a wide selection of special shapes.

In 2007, on their fifth attempt, Denton Plant associates produced the world's largest brick as certified by the Guinness Book of World Records. "Baby Clay" is 116 inches long, 39 inches tall, and roughly 3,000 brick equivalents. It "resides" on a custom trailer and is transported for special events from time to time.

Also on the grounds of the Denton Plant are Acme Brick Company's Technical Center, a pacesetter research laboratory facility that has operated nearly six decades without a single incident resulting in lost time; and Innovative Building Products, an Acme division that fabricates aluminum grids for glass block, structural glass floors, and the Fast Track Stone System. (visit brick.com)

### MERIDIAN BRICK | MINERAL WELLS WEST PLANT | MINERAL WELLS, TEXAS

The Mineral Wells West Plant has been making brick at this location since the late 1800s. The plant produced the brick to rebuild the sea wall in Galveston, Texas after the hurricane of 1900. This plant also produced the brick that paved the highway from Mineral Wells to Fort Worth.

- All of the material is mined on site and as of the beginning of 2017, the plant has an 84-year supply of material left.
- The site is located on 263 acres; 229 of those acres are part of our mine.
- The plant is located 45 miles west of Fort Worth.
- The current plant was built in 1979 and can produce 110 million king size residential bricks a year. The plant also produces Versa Thin Brick. It has 49 employees including the staff.
- In late 2016, Forterra Brick merged with Boral Brick to make them the largest brick manufacturing company in North America.

## ACerS Structural Clay Products Division Leadership

Chair:  
**John Hewitt**, Interstate Brick Company  
 Chair-elect:  
**John Dowdle**, Prince Minerals, LLC  
 Vice Chair:  
**Luke Odenthal**, Acme Brick Co.  
 Secretary:  
**Mike Walker**, National Brick Research Center

## Southwest Section Leadership

Chair:  
**Harland Dixson**, Acme Brick Company  
 Chair-elect:  
**Japa Castro**, Columbus Brick Co.  
 Vice Chair:  
**David Ziegler**, Prince Corporation  
 Secretary:  
**Fred McMann**, Fives North American Combustion  
 Treasurer:  
**Glenn Holladay**, Materials & Ceramic Chemicals

## Technical Session Presentations – Meacham Room

TITLE	SPEAKER
<b>MORNING 8 A.M.– 12 P.M.</b>	
<i>Rheometer Measurements on Brickmaking Clays and Shales</i>	<b>Mike Walker</b> , National Brick Research Council at Clemson University
<i>Tornado Recover</i>	<b>Harland Dixson</b> , Acme Brick Co.
<i>Meridian East Plant History</i>	<b>Bob Studer</b> , Meridian Brick Co.
<i>Maximizing Recoveries with Large Blocks</i>	<b>Richard Scott</b> , British American Refractories Inc.
<i>Employee Empowerment</i>	<b>Chris Alexander</b> , Meridian Brick Co.
<i>Fabrication Expertise of the Highest Degree</i>	<b>Tim Buckley</b> , Danser
<i>Perla West Gate</i>	<b>Harland Dixson</b> , Acme Brick Co.
<b>AFTERNOON 1:30 – 6 P.M.</b>	
<i>Hardcaking Updates</i>	<b>Robert Maner</b> , JC Steele Co.
<i>Measuring the Crystalline Silica Content of Raw Materials</i>	<b>John Sanders</b> , National Brick Research Council at Clemson University
<i>Denton Plant Tour Review</i>	<b>Jim Ogg</b> , Acme Brick Co.
<i>Denton Research Lab</i>	<b>Mat Trammel</b> , Acme Brick Co.
<i>Back in Black; Key Elements in Color and Sheen for Product Development</i>	<b>Garrett DeGonia</b> , Prince Minerals LLC
<i>Lesson 3 on Kiln and Kiln Maintenance</i>	<b>Joern Boeke</b> , Refratechnik Ceramics GmbH
<i>Triangle Brick Clay County Plant Virtual Tour</i>	<b>Clark Kindrick</b> , Triangle Brick