

BCMC 2014 Recap

By Stan Sias, Simpson Strong-Tie National Manager, Plated Truss Industry

The 2014 Building Component Manufacturers Conference was held at the beautiful Charlotte Convention Center in North Carolina. This year's event was fantastic!

The BCMC experience starts with the BCMC Build. The Build is our industry's effort to give back to the area hosting BCMC and leave a lasting legacy in our wake. For the first three years, we worked with Habitat for Humanity. In the last two years we have partnered with [Operation Finally Home](#) and [NAHB's Building Systems Council](#).

These Builds couldn't be more special for the participants or the suppliers. This year's Build recipient, Tony Feaster, is a retired Staff Sergeant who served in the U.S. Army for almost fifteen years. His active duty included tours in both Iraq (2006-2007) and Afghanistan (2011), where he served as a Calvary Scout/Section Sergeant. The Build relies on the generosity and collaboration of component manufacturers, suppliers, framers and builders to fully frame and sheath a home for a deserving family in only three to four days. Thank you to everyone who donated time, building materials and financial resources to make this home possible for Tony and his family! What a great way to kick off BCMC Week.

BCMC itself was billed as the biggest and best show in at least the last five years, and it did not disappoint with almost 40% more exhibit space than last year. With more than 585 component manufacturer (CM) people representing more than 230 CM companies from North America and the world, the stage was set for a very promising experience.

The conference kicked off with timely and detailed education sessions. On Wednesday, the show floor opened and it was truly, 'Game On!' The Simpson Strong-Tie demo suite above the show floor was booked solid for two and a half days. Attendee after attendee reported that they liked what they saw and wanted to be kept abreast of progress and planned launch dates.

Traffic through the Simpson Strong-Tie booth was steady throughout the show. It was great to see many new faces along with greeting old friends. Wednesday night's opening ceremony gave me the opportunity to introduce BCMC Build recipient, Sgt. Feaster, who thanked the SBCA/BCMC Build for our efforts. Many attendees made their way forward to thank Tony for his service to our country and congratulate him and his family on their new home.

Thursday brought the annual BCMC economic forecast and the final education sessions before the show floor opened again. The fact that the economy is on the rise in all areas of the U.S. was evident, as the floor was packed with action. Thursday night gave Simpson Strong-Tie the opportunity to say thank you to our many customers and associates in attendance during our customer appreciation event at Whisky River.

Friday morning started with a BCMC wrap-up at the SBCA board meeting followed by a meeting of the National Framers Council, the latest Council to be enacted under the SBCA banner. Framers turned out in force and it was standing room only. I took this as yet another sign that we have truly turned the corner and it is indeed time to heed this year's theme: Stand Strong and Gear Up for Growth!