

2012 Carl E. Akeley Award

The seventh annual Carl E. Akeley Award was presented to R. Curtis White Jr. of Coastal Gunite Construction Co. for his paper, “Pineda Causeway Bridge Rehabilitation.” This paper, published in the Winter 2012 issue of *Shotcrete* magazine, provided an informative review of how performance aspects of the specifications allowed shotcrete to replace the originally specified form-and-pump repair of this challenging infrastructure rehabilitation. The award was presented by Mark A. Campo, ASA Executive Director.

ASA established the Carl E. Akeley Award to honor his founding of what today is referred to as the shotcrete process. This award is presented to the author(s) of the best technical article appearing in *Shotcrete* magazine in the past 12 months, as determined by the Akeley Award Committee of ASA.

Carl E. Akeley invented the cement gun in 1907 and introduced a commercial version of it at the Cement Show in New York in December 1910. For this reason, Akeley is considered the inventor of the shotcrete process.¹

Born in Clarendon, NY, on May 19, 1864, Akeley was a noted naturalist, taxidermist, inventor, photographer, and author. He made many significant contributions to the American Museum of Natural History and many other museums around the United States. He initially invented the cement gun to repair the façade of

the Field Columbian Museum and later used it to improve the quality of his taxidermy exhibits at the museum. Akeley made five expeditions to Africa, during which time he procured many animals for museum exhibits. President Theodore Roosevelt accompanied him on one of those expeditions and encouraged him in his development of the cement gun. During his fifth expedition to Africa, he contracted a virus and died on November 17, 1926.

References

1. Teichert, P., “Carl Akeley—A Tribute to the Founder of Shotcrete,” *Shotcrete*, V. 4, No. 3, Summer 2002, pp. 10-12.

Past Akeley Award Recipients

- 2006 – Jean François Dufour, “State-of-the-Art Specification for Shotcrete Rehabilitation Projects”
- 2007 – Knut F. Garshol, “Watertight Permanent Shotcrete Linings in Tunneling and Underground Construction”
- 2008 – E. Stefan Bernard, “Embrittlement of Fiber-Reinforced Shotcrete”
- 2009 – Dufour, Lacroix, Morin, and Reny, “The Effects of Liquid Corrosion Inhibitor in Air-Entrained Dry-Mix Shotcrete”
- 2010 – Lihe (John) Zhang, “Is Shotcrete Sustainable?”
- 2011 – Charles S. Hanskat, “Shotcrete Testing—Who, Why, When, and How”



Carl E. Akeley



R. Curtis White Jr.