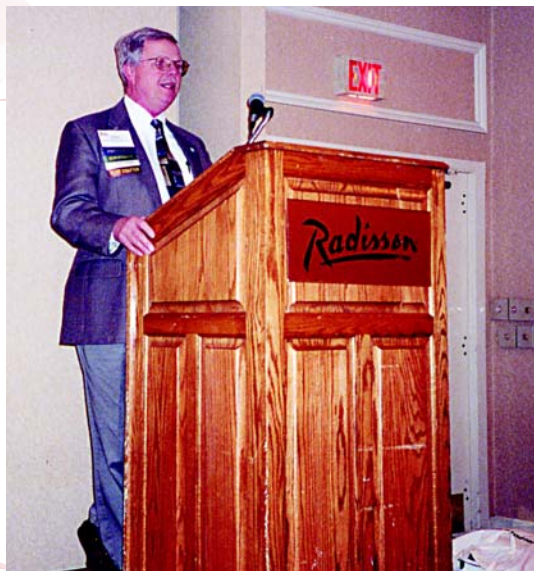


# Charleston Welcomed the ICRI Spring 2002 Convention with True Southern Hospitality



By Kelly M. Page



*ICRI President Robert Thaxton urging attendees to participate in committees at Thursday's General Session*

For the first time in many years, ICRI held its Spring Convention as a stand-alone event. Typically, our conventions have preceded ACI's conventions, but we have decided to try to break from this at least once a year. Our first trial run, the ICRI Spring 2002 Convention, which was held March 7-8 in Charleston, South Carolina, proved to be a rousing success! Attendance was slightly over 200, plus we had over 30 spouses registered; these are very strong numbers for us. We also had a very strong turnout and support from the host chapter—the ICRI Carolinas Chapter.

The theme for the convention was “Historical Restoration and Renovation,” which is always an interesting subject with plenty of opportunity for great project case studies. Fourteen speakers gave talks on this subject during the technical sessions. According to the evaluations that we ran at each session, all of the speakers drew high praise for the quality and content of their presentations.

During the General Session on Thursday, Executive Director Kelly Page introduced ICRI's staff to the convention attendees. She also mentioned how proud the staff is to have the *Bulletin* back on schedule, and how much the staff needs the membership to help keep it on schedule by contributing articles and other materials. This was followed by a warm welcome from the Carolinas Chapter President Gary Cox, who welcomed us all to Charleston and introduced his officers and Board of Directors. Finally, the highlight of the General Session was a call to action by ICRI President Robert Thaxton, encouraging all attendees to join and participate in ICRI committees.

The weather in Charleston was a warm and welcome change for those of us coming from northern climates, and it cooperated fully throughout our convention, which enabled us to have our Welcoming Reception outdoors. Though it was a bit chilly, space heaters and good company kept everyone warm and, as evidenced by the photos, made for a very enjoyable evening!

One of the highlights of this convention was the Lowcountry Boil on Friday evening, which was



*ICRI Carolinas Chapter (our hosts for the convention) President Gary Cox introduces chapter officers and directors at Thursday's General Session*

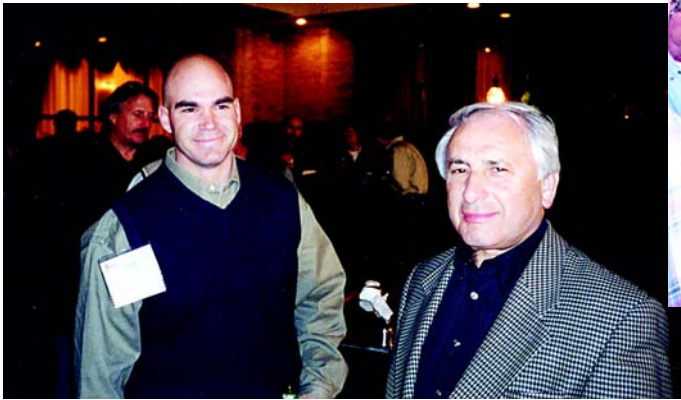


Convention attendees enjoying the weather at the opening reception



ICRI President and Carolina native Robert Thaxton showing Past Presidents Joe Solomon, Jim McDonald, and Jack Morrow, and Board member Scott Greenhaus how to properly eat an oyster

ICRI members Todd Spindler and Boris Dragunsky enjoying the opening reception



Carolinas Chapter Lowcountry Boil at the Colonel Robert L. McCormick Beach House at the Citadel



Donna Halstead, Jeff Carlson, Rob Pusheck, Al Slater, and Bert Kriekemans having fun at the Lowcountry Boil



hosted by the Carolinas Chapter. Around 135 people attended this event at the Colonel Robert L. McCormick Beach House, owned by the Citadel. The location in the Isle of Palms was beautiful, and a few of our members took advantage of the oceanfront setting by doing some wading! Attendees were treated to a Lowcountry buffet of steamed clams and blue crabs, roasted oysters, fried fish, barbecued pork, and other local specialties. After dinner, a live band had people dancing the night

away to their lively tunes. Special thanks goes to the members of the Carolinas Chapter for all of their hard work in organizing this event. As you can see from the photos, everyone attending had a great time!

ICRI conventions are full of interesting activities and many lively networking opportunities. We hope to see you all at the Fall 2002 Convention, which will be held in Phoenix, Arizona, October 24-25, 2002, where the theme will be "Concrete Repair in Extreme Environments."