

Get to KNOW...

Carol Johnson

CPD, LEED AP, CFI, FASPE
ASPE President



JOB TITLE: Project Manager

COMPANY: Edmonds Engineering

HOMETOWN: Saragossa, AL

ASPE CHAPTER: Alabama

IMMEDIATE FAMILY: Kathey Bridges (sister)

PETS: Beatrice and Henri (cats), Oscar (13-year-old Pomeranian)

"ASPE means to me a wonderful life, friends, and a great career. An opportunity to learn my craft and now pass along all that ASPE has given to me gives me a meaning. ASPE has provided me a great many friends who I will keep after my career—friends to cherish. ASPE has allowed me to perfect my education and craft. ASPE has allowed me a great privilege to work to make ASPE better for us all. The truth is I have an opportunity that amazes me. My goal as President is to align us on a path to knowledge for our members, code influence, and recognition of our profession."

WHAT BOOK DO YOU RECOMMEND EVERYONE SHOULD READ? The Complete Poems of Emily Dickinson. I recommend reading it with wine on a beach or on a rainy day in the country. It is reflective, nuanced, and essentially a masterful use of the written word. It appeals to purists in thought, curious in nature, and generally a directness of truth with wit and boldness, all things I appreciate.

WHAT IS YOUR GREATEST ACCOMPLISHMENT OUTSIDE OF YOUR CAREER? Outside of my career my greatest accomplishment is to let the people I love know they are loved. I learned early in life you do not get to keep many things throughout your life. You take nothing with you at the end, but as you go through life you do keep your memories of the people you love. I have had the great privilege to love and take care of my family, which by far is and will ever be my greatest accomplishment.

WHAT ARE YOUR HOBBIES OUTSIDE OF WORK? Hobbies outside of work do not get enough attention. I like to build things. I have a wood-working shop at home where I can build or repair almost anything. I seem to like chairs and pens. I collect, when I travel, art glass marbles. I found they are tiny little artworks that can easily be stored in my luggage and can capture the imagination. How something so tiny could be so intricate makes me marvel at the talent of people.

WHAT IS YOUR FAVORITE TYPE OF MUSIC, BAND, AND SONG? Favorite music is the hardest to answer because I am a serious music buff. I love everything from rock to country to jazz. My favorite jazz singer is Ingrid Lucia from New Orleans, an eclectic jazz singer who started as a street performer. My classic overall favorite musician would likely be Tina Turner. She has had a career that has stood the test of time over many hurdles.

WHICH HISTORICAL FIGURE WOULD YOU MOST WANT TO MEET AND WHY? Albert Einstein would be my first choice to meet. He was a brilliant, complex man who developed scientific theory and physics that basically created modern physics. His accomplishments when combined with his life and the political environment of the time are astonishing. To achieve all that he did in adversity indicates an immense human spirit and a deep conviction in his beliefs.

WHAT IS YOUR FAVORITE CHILDHOOD MEMORY? As you grow older this answer might change. I think the favorite childhood memory is sitting on the back of the couch, brushing my grandmother's hair. Prior to my family passing away, I would say it was getting the Christmas tree in the station wagon. The Country Squire station wagon was the vehicle of many memories. The tree hung off both ends of the car, and my brother in all of his glory was the rope on top. All of us in the car giggling, 20 feet of Christmas tree, a BB gun, and my brother was the rope—we lived good memories.

DO YOU HAVE A FAVORITE VACATION SPOT? Pensacola, Florida is my favorite vacation spot. I always go back for the beach, the people, and the food. I always stay on the beach, which is absolutely majestic. It is known for its pristine condition as part of the Emerald Coast. The water is beautiful blue and emerald with powder-white sand. I keep going back because it reminds me of the majesty of nature and our earth.

IF YOU COULD LIVE ANYWHERE, WHERE WOULD IT BE? Jasper, Alabama. We have music and food festivals and people who know too much about your entire life (all of which are good things). It hold my friends, my neighbors, and a few people I haven't met yet. Garbage cans get put on the curb by the neighbor, and if I get to the grass first I mow mine and the neighbors'. When bad weather comes through we check on each other and I grill food if the power goes out. I choose to live here because it is the village that gets me through life.