

2nd Master Craftsmen program to honor 10 skilled tradesmen

GAINESVILLE - Master Craftsmen... Builders of America is part of the Featherbone Community Master Series Program in partnership with Lanier Technical College.



This year's honorees include Tracy Tesmer of WDUN'S "Home Improvement Show" which airs Saturdays at 8:00.

The 2013 Master Craftsmen Awards will be presented to 10 skilled tradesmen from North Georgia on Thursday, October 17 at Featherbone Community (Lanier Tech MDC Rotunda). The event is open to the public free of charge with a light breakfast 8:30-9:00. The program begins at 9:00.

In addition to recognizing individuals with outstanding skills in their trade, the event will include a forum moderated by Ken Coleman, talk radio host and author, with discussion to showcase the construction industry and promote to young people and the community the importance of construction jobs in the economy.

The Master Craftsmen program was designed to work in conjunction with Governor Deal's "Go Build Georgia" campaign. "Go Build Georgia" seeks to educate young people on the "value of learning a trade, dispel their misconceptions about the skilled trade industry and inspire them to consider building a career as a skilled tradesman."

2013 Master Craftsmen Award Recipients:

Roy Johnson – Sitework

Roy Johnson began his career 40 years ago working in the plant at Fieldale Farms. While at Fieldale, he approached Joe Hatfield and asked if he could maintain the grounds at the company. Hatfield agreed, and Roy continued to work in the plant while maintaining the grounds. Eventually, he left the work at the plant and started a landscape business. To this day, Roy still maintains the grounds at Fieldale Farms. Roy's reputation is longstanding in the Gainesville-Hall County community. He is trustworthy and always gives totally to each project. His work is always on time, and he performs each task to completion while exceeding customer expectations. Roy Johnson exemplifies a master craftsman, as he is always personally committed to doing the very best at all he sets out to do. Roy is self-taught and has continued to progress with current trends. Roy's son now works alongside him in the business. The team works together with the customer, listening to their ideas and those ideas – along with Roy's knowledge and past experience – helps to create a master piece for each project.

Phillip Gillespie – Concrete

As a child, Phillip Gillespie worked with his father every summer to make spending money. Unknowingly, he was attending early training sessions for a career in construction. In 2007, Phillip started Cornerstone Foundations & Concrete, Inc., specializing in structural concrete construction in residential, commercial and industrial markets. The company was founded on the principle of providing quality work at a fair price while treating customers and employees with respect, honesty and integrity. With a strong faith-based background, Cornerstone has thrived even in the slowing economy. The company has placed over 30,000 cubic yards of concrete since 2007 for many local businesses including a 135,000 square foot parking lot for Jackson EMC, and numerous commercial structures with Tipton Construction, North Georgia University, Subway, Dunkin Donuts, Mar-Jac Poultry, and Delta Air Lines. James Tipton stated, "Phillip has the ability to not only manage his business, but also work in the

field with his employees to produce some of the best concrete work I have been involved with. He possesses an attitude whereby he genuinely wants to please his customers. He has demonstrated nothing but the highest moral character to me not only in business, but also in how he treats others that work for him." Active in the community, Cornerstone is a "Partner in Education" with Lula Elementary and dedicated to the education of our future workforce in Hall County.

Jason Brosche – Mason/Stone/Tile

Jason Brosche started as a stone mason apprentice 16 years ago. Now, as owner of Art of Stone, he is a perfectionist that stands behind his work and does an amazing job – much like a work of art. Art of Stone Landscaping is one of North Georgia's premier outdoor hardscape, landscape design and installation companies. He has undertaken complex projects and works with an awareness of time, as he communicates with clients. "Our property inspection company has referred numerous clients to Jason, and all clients have been very impressed with his work product and professionalism," said Janet Martin. "He consistently delivers on time." Jason has completed fire pits for Chase Hardware, stone work, patios, water features, pathways, retaining walls, outdoor retreats, and lush landscapes including tiered rock pathways with distinctive quality, creating safety as well as esthetic values... "turning challenges into success," said customer Pamela Bellamy. Jay Hood says he "sticks to his price and works hard to deliver on time." Jason is known to work within his clients' budget utilizing materials that fit with pricing. He takes pride in his work and strives to satisfy the customer, usually surpassing all expectations.

Eric Manning – Plumber

Eric Manning began his career with Brock Plumbing Contractors as a plumber's helper in high school and has been in the industry since leaving the Marines in 2007. He is scheduled to take his Master Plumbing Exam in December 2013. Eric has plumbed a wide range of facilities throughout the years including multiple restaurants, a farm plantation and the newly renovated bathhouse at TWO in historic Suches, Georgia. He regularly attends continuing education classes and is always studying new methods to help improve his skills. As he did while in the Marines, he continues to do in his craft... going out of the way and call of duty to serve a customer. Eric always puts the customer first and sometimes works 50+ hours a week to do so. He strives to find a new or better approach to a problem, and therefore is always creating a high quality service for customers.

William H. "Bucky" Walters, Jr. – HVAC

Bucky Walters graduated from Lanier Tech College in 1972 and began his career at H & R Mechanical upon his graduation. He learned the service side of the HVAC business while working for a contractor in the Atlanta area and eventually opened his own business in Gainesville in 1988 – Perfect Temp Systems, Inc. (PTS). The business is currently located in its new home in Oakwood. Bucky personally designs the systems for each new home or business. Great quality is of utmost importance to him, as the installation continues to tell the story long after PTS has gone on to another customer. He works hard to ensure the work performed by his company is of the highest quality. Bucky prides himself on educating the customer – not just making the sale. PTS is a full service HVAC business offering services in both the residential and commercial market for new construction, replacement systems for existing homes and businesses, and a service department to handle those times when the unit needs repair - as well as general maintenance, in Hall and surrounding counties.

Daniel Caldwell - Electrician

Working in a high school apprentice program, Daniel Caldwell began working full time in the electrical trade upon graduation in 2002. Since 2004, he has served as Vice President of Caldwell Electrical Contractors, Inc. and has helped grow the business 300% by developing new customers and tending to existing customers. The Mansfield Oil Two Story addition project was a design/build in conjunction with Carroll Daniel Construction and was awarded 1st Place in Design/Build and 1st Place in Best Sustainable Building Practices by the U.S. Green Building Council and is also the first LEED Certified project in Hall County. Daniel has proven to be a master of his trade by adaption and unmatched leadership. Daniel passed the states electrical contractor exam in 2008 and was ordained as a Deacon Minister at Lakewood Baptist in 2010. He also serves on the City of Gainesville Building Board of Appeals. With over 150 projects, Daniel has a near perfect repeat client ratio. Joseph Caldwell, President/CEO of Caldwell Electrical Contractors, Inc. stated, "Daniel was looking "out of the box" from day one. He wanted to know the better way, the more efficient way, and is always planning ahead. In 2009, our company focused primarily in the industrial electrical field, and with the softening economy, Daniel knew we had to adapt quickly or sink like many others. He quickly ramped up our commercial division from 10% of our business to 50%. This gave us a much wider network of clients, which sustained us and allowed for continued growth – building the division into an award winning part of our company."

Tracy Tesmer – Residential Builder

Tracy Tesmer started his first career, a painting business, when he was just 16 years old. He worked his way through college as a painter and as a carpenter for residential customers, including some of his professors. Tracy graduated with a civil engineering degree and became a corporate developer building and serving as a project manager for McDonald's Restaurants for over 10 years. Tracy founded his Design, Build, Remodel and Repair business 14 years ago and has applied his skills in project management and scheduling with building skills to serve clients in North Georgia. He is recognized for his expertise and freely shares his knowledge through a weekly radio show with WDUN. Tracy's kitchen and bathroom additions and remodels are stunning and reflect his skill and eye for designing and constructing projects big and small.

James "Milton" Chumbler – Machinist/Toolmaker

After graduating from North Hall High School, Milton Chumbler completed the Machine Tool program at Lanier Technical College and has been working in the industry for the past 42 years. Some former employers include Lockheed Martin for 13 years and Delta Air Lines for six years until founding Yellow Creek Machine Tool in 1995. Milton and Yellow Creek's reputation for producing quality work in a timely manner is well known among his clients. Milton has designed and built various machines for the valve, medical, tooling and building industries. He was instrumental in designing a valve cutter that can shorten line shutdown times from three or four weeks to two-days, saving power companies both time and money. Milton is a perfectionist and continues to work long hours. He continues to learn new and changing technology by taking courses at Lanier Tech. John Jensen, President, Jensen Manufacturing Industries stated, "When starting our company in 2005, we needed excellent vendors that could provide consistent, precision manufacturing for the varieties of industries that we serve. Milton Chumbler not only provides this service, but has also come up with better methods and ideas to get things done more efficiently. I can honestly say that Yellow Creek Machine Tool has been a key part in keeping our customers satisfied with consistency in parts' tolerance and timely delivery."

Harold D. Skelton – Finish Tradesman/Specialty Construction

Harold Skelton began stone, tile and specialty swimming pool work some 37 years ago as a sideline business on weekends and after work. After taking on a heavy load of customers, Harold developed a full-time business – All Seasons Pools & Spas. He always followed through with what was promised to customers, never cutting corners. His product was always superior and, in 37 years of business, never once advertised, as customer satisfaction, product quality and integrity spread by word of mouth. As one of the leading swimming pool builders in Gainesville-Hall County, All Seasons specializes in residential gunite and liner pools. The company built the 2006 Street of Dreams Home in Marina Bay, the City of Oakwood's pool, and was recognized by Aqua Magazine as one of the top 100 pool builders in the country. Harold has been hands-on with every phase of construction, adding to the quality of workmanship in every pool he has created. He has helped customers design the pool to fit their needs and space. By keeping up with the latest trends and pool design, he has been a valuable asset to the community and is an accurately described Master Craftsman.

Tim Wiley – Welder/Fabricator

Tim Wiley began his career at Stork in 1990. Tim has traveled to several countries to learn new projects and is always eager to learn new techniques and skills. He has taken a leadership roll with coworkers and assists in training new employees. Tim is known for his positive attitude and quality of work. He often provides input on creating standards for new parts at Stork. Craig Evans, Manager of Manufacturing at Marel Stork Poultry Processing states "Tim is our first choice in transfer of product to the USA from other plants. He has gone to the Netherlands to learn to weld the Mbs oven. He has gone to Iceland to learn to weld the streamline conveyer system. He can weld anything – not just sheet metal parts but also frame, rod and machined parts. Tim is the first choice to approach when there is a problem. He has a positive attitude and is a pleasure to work with."

To make reservations, contact Lydia Caudill at Lanier Technical College, 770-535-9220. Email: lcaudill@laniertech.edu

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