

## **Winds of Change** *(continued from page 1)*

These standards are the foundations on which our products and projects are built in North America. In part, ASTM's mission statement includes the goal that their standards "contribute to the reliability of materials, products, systems and services."

Each ASTM committee is made up of volunteers who develop, present, discuss and vote on ballots to accept or reject changes to, or creation of standards in a general material classification. The make up of each committee's membership will probably determine how progressive (or sedentary) the committee will be in any particular area under their committee scope. In my experience, ASTM does not create or change standards as a result of receiving general or vague complaints from our industry; however, they do effect change when supplied with constructive and technically sound ideas and information.

The committee which governs standards for natural roofing slate, ASTM C18 Dimension Stone Committee (as the name implies) is made up of interested parties to the natural stone industry. Members come from the sales, marketing, manufacturing, technical or engineering side of a particular category of stone, such as granite, marble, limestone and slate, or they are architects, consultants, engineers and senior testing laboratory staff who deal with a broad range of stone types and applications. As a committee, these people are responsible for the standards of all materials under the committee's jurisdiction, and for our purposes, specifically responsible for ASTM C406 Standard Specification for Roofing Slate.

ASTM C406, among other requirements, consists of three separate tests that are used to determine the physical properties of natural slate and subsequently applies an expected service life for that specific material. These tests are C121 Water Absorption of Slate, C217 Weather Resistance of Slate and C120 Flexure Testing of Slate. Based on the results of these three tests, roofing slate is graded as S-1 (over 75 years), S-2 (40 to 75 years) or S-3 (20 to 40 years). ASTM C406 also references C119 Standard Terminology Relating to Dimension Stone, and C120 refers to C99 Standard Test Method for Modulus of Rupture of Dimension Stone.

An ASTM standard must be reviewed, and re-approved, at a minimum interval of five years; however, it can be reviewed at any time, at the committee's discretion. The two numbers following the standard's designation i.e. C120-00 indicates the year the standard was adopted or last revised. A number in parentheses indicates the year of last re-approval. It is important to ensure that you note the most recent editions of ASTM documents when referring to standards for your projects. ASTM publishes the approved C406 standards in November of each year in their Annual Book of ASTM Standards. This book contains all standards, as approved by ASTM, up to six months prior to the publication date. Standards that are approved between the annual editions are available separately and should be

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## **UPDATES**

### **NSA Web Site**

NSA's web site has been fully redeveloped with the help of Board member, Joe Jenkins. The web address is [www.slateassociation.org](http://www.slateassociation.org). Check it out and get connected to your colleagues. You can also voice your concerns, ask questions, and participate in the development of the organization via the Forum section of the web site.

### **Help Wanted on NSA Committees**

The three most active standing committees of NSA are Standards, Contractor Certification, and Publications. Standards is working with ASTM to clarify, update, and refine C406 and develop a more uniform nomenclature of slate products. Contractor Certification's goal is to develop and implement a method for registering roofing contractor members of NSA as a means to identify contractors dedicated to excellence in slate roofing practices. Publications is responsible for NSA's web site, this newsletter, and the development and dissemination of technical literature. If you are interested in serving on any of these committees, please let us know. We can be reached by telephone toll free at (866) 256-2111, fax (802) 287-5720, or mail P.O. Box 172, Poultney, Vermont 05764.

### **Millen First Immediate Past President**

Matt Millen became the first Immediate Past President of NSA as Doug Cochran took the helm at the Annual Membership Meeting in February. Matt served as President since the reorganization of NSA in May 2002. We owe Matt a great deal of thanks for his dedication, wisdom, and hard work in guiding the Association during its formative years. Matt remains a Board member, a member of the Executive Committee, and has taken on the role of Co-Chair of the Publications Committee with Jeffrey Levine. 