



**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**  
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## **AOLP HOSTS SUCCESSFUL CONFERENCE & EXPO**

**HARRISBURG, PA-** AOLP hosted its Annual Conference & Expo in Atlanta, Georgia, February 14-16, 2013. Prior to conference starting, the Certified Low Voltage Lighting Technician (CLVLT) and Certified Outdoor Lighting Designer (COLD) certification training sessions were held. Participants kept long hours in order to absorb all of the information that was presented in the trainings. Many thanks to our teacher, facilitators and proctors! And congratulations to the four new CLVLTs and to the second graduating class of COLD with four passing the program.

Conference kicked off on Thursday morning with a technical session on U.L. code and AOLP Standards of Installation. Vince Nolletti, Partner/Executive Vice President of Irrigation & Landscape Lighting Operations, and Gerry De La Vega, CLVLT, President/COO of Terradek Lighting, Inc., facilitated the training and also offered time for an active question and answer period. Lunch included the Annual Membership Meeting, where members received an update on association business. Thursday afternoon consisted of a panel discussion about opportunities in landscape lighting. AOLP members Matthew Broyles, CLVLT, COLD, owner of Firefly Lighting, LLC, Paul Welty, CLVLT, COLD, owner of Innovative Nightscapes, LLC and Nick Burks, Vice President of Operations for Pinnacle Lighting Group, facilitated dialogue on how to enter into the commercial market.

Thursday evening started off with the Expo and reception. The Expo provided a time for making connections and networking with manufacturers. This was followed by the annual awards presentation where professional excellence in outdoor lighting design is honored each year. During the awards presentation, eleven merit and honorable mention awards were presented in five different lighting categories, a Best of Show project was named and, for the first time in the history of the award, world-renowned lighting expert Janet Lennox Moyer, COLD, presented her distinguished lighting award to two recipients. The 2013 Industry Achievement Award was presented to Gerry De La Vega, CLVLT, President/COO of Terradek Lighting, Inc., for his leadership and pioneering efforts in the outdoor lighting industry. A special plaque was presented to Brooke Perin, CLVLT, COLD, Wolf Creek Company, Inc., for her dedication to the CLVLT program, and the graduation ceremony for the second class of the COLD program was also held during the awards evening.

Naomi Miller, Designer and Scientist at Pacific Northwest National Laboratory, taught the sessions on Friday. Naomi's vast experience in both technology and application was evident in her presentations, including *Lighting and Vision for Landscape Lighting*, *Lumens Candelas and Footcandles: Understanding and Applying Lighting Metrics*, and *LEDs: Learning the Lingo for Better Lighting Results*. Naomi has shared her expertise with attendees for many years and AOLP expressed gratitude by presenting Naomi with a certificate and honorary membership. Thank you, Naomi, for sharing a wealth of information with attendees!

Friday's luncheon included several roundtable discussions on topics such as marketing, niche fixtures and working with other design professionals. The evening concluded with *An Evening Under the Stars*, sponsored by FX Luminaire. At last year's conference, FX Luminaire provided instruction as to how to hold an *Evening Under the Stars* event. This year, attendees enjoyed hors d'oeuvres and drinks as they experienced the actual event and were able to see the set-up first-hand and ask questions of FX Luminaire staff.

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This year's conference concluded with a well-attended panel discussion regarding Business Practices. Matthew Broyles served as moderator for the panel members. Tanek Hood, of Reynolds Lighting Design, Bernie Granier, Principal at StarShine of Texas, and Jim Boyd, President of Boyd Lighting Designs, discussed topics such as financial records, Quickbooks and other issues of concern for businesses.

Many thanks to the following sponsors and exhibitors who continue to be leaders in supporting AOLP and the outdoor lighting industry as a whole:

- Platinum Sponsor including An Evening Under the Stars: FX Luminaire
- Gold Sponsor: Green Outdoor Lighting & B&B Manufacturing Company
- Gold Sponsor: Kichler Landscape Lighting
- Gold Sponsor: Universal Lighting Systems
- Bronze Sponsor: Wolf Creek Company

Exhibitors:

- Alliance Outdoor Lighting
- Brilliance LED, LLC
- Cast Lighting, LLC
- CopperMoon
- Dauer Manufacturing/Fusa Corp
- FX Luminaire
- Green Outdoor Lighting & B&B Manufacturing Company
- HK Lighting Group
- Illumicare Group Limited
- Jaso Enterprises
- Kichler Lighting
- King Innovation
- Paige Electric Co., L.P.
- Unique Lighting Systems
- Universal Lighting Systems

Here are just a few of the testimonials received by attendees through the conference survey:

*"I attended my first conference to become a CLVLT and start the COLD program. I now can say it was the most significant business decision I have made, and has affected every aspect of what I do in my lighting business. The friends made, information learned and influence gained has pushed me further than I could have thought possible before attending my first conference."*

– Andy Thomas, CLVLT, COLD, Viewpoint Lighting, Sacramento, CA

*"As usual, my attending the AOLP conference was very informative and educating. The speakers and topics are an absolute benefit to me in bettering myself as a designer and my business as a whole. The friends I meet and reconnect with in person are an added bonus to attending! To be among the top lighting designers and a member of such a diverse, talented group is very rewarding!"*

– Edwin Wright, Wrightscapes Outdoor Illuminations, Gulfport, MS

*"After hearing rave reviews from AOLP members, I decided to attend my first conference. Networking with industry professionals from all over was the highlight of the conference. Listening to others past experiences, opinions and business tactics was invaluable. I came out of the conference with a multitude of new ideas to implement this year."*

– Les Lemasters, Classic Irrigation and Lighting, Chesapeake, VA

The 2014 Annual Conference and Expo will be held February in San Diego, California. For more information about AOLP or the conference, visit our website at [www.aolponline.org](http://www.aolponline.org). The Association of Outdoor Lighting Professionals is an international organization representing the interests of lighting professionals. The mission of the organization is to establish standards, educate industry professionals and increase awareness of the outdoor lighting industry.

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Conference photos available.