

EAGA Business Builder

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June 25, 2024

Today's speaker was Scott Lardner—Rocky Mountain Stone

Scott was born in 1961 in Colorado. His parents were originally from New York, but eloped to Colorado Springs. Scott's father wanted to be a pilot, but, at the time, there was not any flight training available in Colorado Springs. The nearest point for that was in Albuquerque, so that is how the family got to this part of the country. The elder Mr. Lardner did get his pilot's license and continued to fly until he was about 85 years old. Scott and wife, Chris have been married since 1988. They have three great children - Daughters Danielle and Caitlin, and son, Sean. Scott and Chris also have three more than great grandchildren; 6 year old Giana, 3 year old Colton and 6 month old Kinsley. While Scott is out playing with rocks and dirt, Chris is working as Director at the Heart Institute. Maybe "playing with rocks and dirt" is not the best way to characterize Scott's day. He is actually involved in retrieving and sculpting high quality stone products and investigating and producing soil enhancement systems. Rocky Mountain Stone is the company that deals with the stone activities. Scott's father started the business in 1963 to be a stone supplier for the area's building industry. In the 50+ years since then, their business activities and products they provide have increased substantially. In 1986, Scott and his team started another company named New Mexico Travertine to work, primarily, with materials from their travertine quarry near Belen. The quarry had been 'working' since the 1950s by a company named Ultra Marble. When that company fell on hard times, the operations were shutdown. The Lardners bought the rights to mine the travertine. They bring the huge stone pieces to their production facilities where it is cut into slabs and polished for use in making counter tops, cladding and other products for residential and commercial building needs. Currently, Scott and his crew are producing materials and installing counter tops and related products for 15 to 20 kitchens per week. In addition to the travertine, Scott's group mines limestone, flagstone, sandstone and SAIA aggregate from quarries near Belen, Milagro, and other places around the country. Some of the materials are sold to dealers, but a lot of it is used by Mr. Lardner's companies for products sold directly to the end-user. Scott had a few pictures of their past jobs and the end results were quite impressive. One example was a 40 foot high stone fireplace for a ranch house. The fireplace was constructed first, then the house was built around it. Another very impressive example was the company's largest job to date. It's the stonework for a huge Catholic church in Ave Maria, Florida (you can Google it to see the church). In addition to his stone work operations, Mr. Lardner is also involved in the farming industry via his efforts to make farming more environmentally friendly while improving the quality and quantity of harvested products. That company is named Biomimetic Soil Solutions. It started about 4 years ago when its primary product was cinder amendment for the soil. Turned out that their product supplier was convicted of fraud and put in jail. The man's operations may have been illegal, but the product was actually beneficial. Scott and his team did a lot of research and came up with an alternate product that was materially and chemically very similar to the original. Along the way, they also discovered that there were other materials and processes that could replace the current chemical fertilizers and farming techniques, while improving on the process and the end results. This morning Scott brought along Sam Ruhala who is an expert in regenerative farming, and a member of the Biomimetic team. He explained some of the current 'problems' that Biomimetic is trying to change, and offered a couple of examples: In the citrus producing areas, there is a bacteria attacking trees. The bacteria blocks fruit from developing properly. The growers are attempting to resolve the issue by injecting the trees with Oxytetracycline to kill the bacteria. That is a costly process and it is stressful for the trees. Research indicates that, with the proper nutrients, biologicals and care, trees really could take care of the problem for themselves. Another example of expensive and inefficient processes concerns the methods of watering and aerating pecan trees. Orchards are watered by flood irrigation. The method requires field leveling so that water can be sent down channels and soak into the soil along the way. Aerating involves digging down nearly 18 ft deep to loosen the soil for the irrigation to work. The better method is subsurface irrigation lines that can deliver water, nutrients, etc. more directly to the roots without the inefficient dirt work described above. Mr. Ruhala is definitely knows all the science and techniques involved in the better way of farming. He explained the soil analysis and plant analysis that they do for each individual farm. He talked about probiotics, prebiotics, enhanced efficiency fertilizers, pathogen screening, nitrogen sequencing, carbon content, clay content, plant sap analysis for sugar and salinity, endophytic organism, and products like Soil Secrets, BioFlora, bENP, JABB and EndoMaxima. There would be a lot of Googling to know what all that means, but a better way would be to just have Mr. Lardner or Mr. Ruhala explain things in 'not-scientist' language—if that is even possible. Scott noted that there are some things that you can do to assist in his success. You can think of Rocky Mountain stone when replacing kitchen or bathroom counter tops; and you can contact Scott [505-345-8518] with the names of farmers or processors (who have access and an interest in farmers) that would be interested in receiving complimentary analytics for their specific operation. Biomimetic Soil Solutions is very data driven and they work directly with the growers to determine current soil makeup, then offer real solutions for improvement. Some EAGA members note that the soil improvement products work really well for the home gardener and lawncare do-it-yourselfers, too.

- ◆ **FINAL NOTICE***** Sign-up sheets for the Summer Bash will be available for the last time at our July 9th breakfast. Please add your name to the list if you are able to attend the event. The Bash will be on Saturday, July 13th at the home of Kit and Toni Turpen - 3 El Nido Amado Rd SW. Everything begins at 5:00pm with hors d'oeuvres, drinks and games. Dinner will be served at 7:00 pm. The theme for the Bash this year is “En Blanc” which means “in white”, so get out your white clothes and join the party. There is no cost for members and their spouse/significant other. Guests maybe invited at a cost of \$30 for an individual or \$50 for a couple.
- ◆ In an effort to make sure that spouses have been advised of the Bash theme that involves wearing white apparel, there is an acknowledgement form requiring actual signatures of both the EAGA member and his spouse. If you turn in one of those forms, properly completed with the spouse signature, you will be entered into a drawing for a great prize. July 9th is the **LAST DAY** to turn in the form. A copy is attached to this email if you want to know what it looks like.
- ◆ You are invited to Atmosphere Commercial Interiors (Michael Kocurek) for a happy hour and worklab tour from 4:30 to 6:30 pm on July 9th. Please see the flyer on page 3 of this bulletin for more details. If you plan to attend, please RSVP to Michael.kocurek@atmosphereci.com.
- ◆ Board members please note that the next Board of Directors meeting will be at 5:30pm on July 11th at Jinja. Contact Mario if you have any questions.
- ◆ We need greeters to manage the badge board at breakfast. Check the available dates below and let Mario know what day you can cover those duties. We also need a speaker for our breakfast on September 16th.


Badge Board Greeters

July 2 nd	No Meeting because of the 4th of July holiday
July 9 th	Michale Kocurek—Atmosphere Commercial Interiors
July 16 th	
July 23 rd	
July 30 th	
Aug 6 th	

Scheduled Speakers

July 2 nd	No Meeting because of the 4th of July holiday
July 9 th	Rich Ringrose—Albuquerque City Lifestyle Magazine
July 16 th	
July 23 rd	Michael Manning—Beehive Homes
July 30 th	PHOCUS Real Estate
Aug 6 th	

EAGA Contact information for Executive Director: Mario Hernandez
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You're invited to join us for happy hour +
a worklab tour on

TUESDAY JULY 9TH
4:30 - 6:30 PM

at
**ATMOSPHERE COMMERCIAL
INTERIORS**
5351 Wilshire Ave NE
Albuquerque, NM 87113

Beer | wine | hors d'oeuvres | task chair raffle

RSVP to Michael Kocurek
michael.kocurek@atmospherci.com

ATMOSPHERE
COMMERCIAL INTERIORS