



## Q&A WITH SAMUEL SCATURRO

BY JODI TEMYER, JPCL

**T**his month's SSPC Protective Coatings Specialist is Samuel Scaturro, Director of Operations & Safety at

Alpine Painting & Sandblasting Contractors. Scaturro has been a part of the company since he was a teenager, later earning a BS from Rutgers.

In addition to being PCS-certified, Scaturro is a certified SSPC Quality Control Supervisor and Concrete Coatings Inspector and a NACE Level III Certified Coatings Inspector. He has an extensive background in safety training from OSHA and other organizations.

**JPCL:** You started working at Alpine Painting while still in high school. Did your part time job at the company influence your decision to earn a BS from Rutgers' College of Engineering/Department of Civil and Environmental Engineering?

**Samuel Scaturro:** Alpine Painting & Sandblasting Contractors is family owned and operated. My father (Ben Scaturro) and uncle (Steve Scaturro) started the company in 1975,

and now I work here with my two brothers (David & Ben Jr.), cousin (Andrew), and uncle (Chet Zalusky), all in different positions within the company. We are without a doubt a family business surrounded by a group of fantastic employees that have kept it successful over the last 37 years.

I actually started working for Alpine when I was 15 years old, part time in the summer organizing paint in our shop. Over the years, I have performed just about every job task in the company, both in the field and in the office, which has provided me with an appreciation and understanding of everyone's role within our company. I currently oversee the operations, safety, and quality management.

I decided on engineering because I excelled in math and science. I knew from a young age that I would spend my life in the painting and sandblasting business, and civil engineering seemed to be interesting and well suited to our industry.

**JPCL:** The list of training and certifications that you have achieved is pretty extensive. Are you working on any training/certification now?

What type of certifications do you hope to add to the list over the next several years?

**SS:** I feel that education is incredibly important for personal development. I try to attend two to three education courses a year, in addition to the annual SSPC Conference. Recently, I've been spending time with safety courses, working towards a Certified Safety Professional (CSP) credential. Several years ago, I spent much of my time with coatings training and development.

I will always continue with my own personal development; however, in the upcoming years I will likely focus on using my training to develop the employees within my company and work with them to become more knowledgeable in the work they perform every day.

**JPCL:** As the Director of Operations & Safety at your company, what does your typical work day/week consist of?

**SS:** I spend most of my time in sales, performing estimates for our larger and more complex projects. I oversee our project management department and our field workers, and I check in regularly to make sure things are going well. I have recently spent significant time focusing on revising and upgrading our safety and quality management programs to make sure we are operating as one of the leading firms in this industry.

**JPCL:** How did you become interested in the safety side of the protective coatings industry?

**SS:** I was given the position of Director of Safety about six years ago, and I feel that it is the most important title I've held within our company. I take the charge of making sure our

employees return home safely to their families each night very seriously. We have made significant strides over the last six years to develop a strong safety training program and culture. My goal is to continue to improve that program and work towards our goal of becoming an OSHA Voluntary Protection Programs (VPP) company.

**JPCL:** What are some of the ups and some of the downs of working with family?

**SS:** I'm happy to say that in our business it has been mostly ups! Each of our family members is very dedicated to the company and is very good at their job. At times there are disagreements, but in the end we seem to come to the right decision. Overall, I'm very happy to be surrounded by my family.

**JPCL:** Several projects that you've been a part of have been honored with a SSPC Structures Award. How does it feel to have your work recognized by the industry?

**SS:** It's always an honor to get recognized by your peers! We have been fortunate to work on some very interesting projects that have received notoriety. We are proud of all our awards, but the SSPC Structure Awards are the most competitive that we submit for each year.

**JPCL:** What are some memorable highlights of these award-winning projects for you?

**SS:** It's hard to beat painting the "World's Largest Elephant," but each project has its own set of difficulties and highlights. I think I'm most pleased when a project goes as planned from the time we assemble our jobsite paperwork in the office to the day we complete the

project. If the owner is happy, our workers go home safely, and Alpine made some money, then that to me is a perfect job.

*[Editor's Note: Read about Scaturro and his company's award-winning work on Lucy the Elephant in the May 2010 JPCL, which can be easily accessed through the JPCL archives on [paintsquare.com](http://paintsquare.com).]*

**JPCL:** How has becoming SSPC PCS-certified benefited you?

**SS:** I'm not so sure that the PCS certification itself benefitted me and my company as much as all the training that led up to being able to become PCS certified has. Being a PCS has helped with securing some contracts, but I think networking with other PCS certified individuals and becoming more involved with SSPC has led to even more benefits.

**JPCL:** Do you use social media to interact with other industry professionals or keep up with industry news?

**SS:** I'm not focused personally with social media, but as a company Alpine is very involved with Facebook, Twitter, LinkedIn, and other social media resources. In the last 12 months, the qualified leads coming in to our company via the web have more than doubled through our online presence.

As for interaction with industry professionals, I spend much of my time networking in person through various trade organizations. I keep up with industry news via PaintSquare. They have done a phenomenal job with the daily email reports. I'm glad to have them as the online voice of our industry.

**JPCL**