



September 2009

Houston

Newsletter

Special Announcement - Logistics

We hope you are enjoying **APLN Houston's** new meeting venue at Sysco Corporation, 1390 Enclave Parkway. Meetings will be the third Thursday, with networking at 6 PM and the program from 6:30-7:30.

Parking is available in front of the buildings (1370 & 1390). To park in the garage off Forkland Dr. press the call button for entry, park and walk around the street to the front of 1390.

Please help us speed check in by registering for the meeting at least 24 hrs in advance.

Door Prizes!

You must pre-register and be present to win. A minimum of 45 people must attend to award the door prize.

Events

9/17/09 – APLNH Chapter Meeting – 6:00pm

Join us for our 1 Year Birthday Bash!

The Dancing Agile Elephant Meets Collaborative Leadership

Twenty-five thousand developers transitioning to Agile? How does that happen?

Join **Pollyanna Pixton**, Principal at Accelinnova and **Sue McKinney**, VP of Development Transformation at IBM as they discuss the enterprise wide adoption of Agile practices at IBM. Learn how to inspire and motivate change in large organizations



steeped in tradition, identify change agents, and discover the tools needed to enable the masses. Navigate senior leadership expectations, and re-thinks the leadership model to determine what new leadership skills must be developed in teams to make a successful adoption of Agile.

Refreshments provided by **Object Information Services**. Please register by Sept 16 at: <http://aplnhouston20090917.eventbrite.com/>

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Mark Your Calendars! Special Dates!

This change is effective for October only.

10/1/09 APLNH Special Event – 5:30- 7:00 pm

Test Driven Development

Join **APLN Houston** and **DISYS** for a Special Event at **Waste Management**, 1021 Main.

Naresh Jain will be discussing Test Driven Development (TDD), one of the most profound eXtreme Programming practices, which has been adopted by nearly all the Agile methods. Over the last decade, developers have discovered just how much more confidently and faster they can go by writing tests first! Naresh is an Independent Consultant, Quality & Community Evangelist at Directi.

For location and registration details please visit at: <http://aplnhouston20091001.eventbrite.com/>

10/22/09 – APLNH Chapter Meeting – 6:00pm

Due to a schedule conflict with Sysco's auditorium, the October meeting of **APLN Houston** is moving to the 4th Thursday.

Petris: An Agile Experience Report

Join Prakash Roopani, Development Manager at Petris Technology. Inc. and his team members as they talk first hand about how they are succeeding with Agile practices.

CSM Requirements change

Starting Oct. 1, 2009 those who wish to obtain CSM certification will be required to attend a minimum two-day course and pass an online certification exam within 90 days of the course.

9/15-9/16/09 (or 11/5-11/6) – ASPE Certified ScrumMaster Workshop – Houston, TX

Learn, understand and execute on the three overarching principles behind Scrum: iterative development, self-management, and visibility. After successfully completing this class, participants will be registered with the Scrum Alliance (sm) as Certified Scrum Masters.

Use discount code **IsrefV1** to get a 15% discount on registration at <http://www.aspe-sdlc.com/courses/4400/index.html>

9/24-9/25/2009 – ASPE Agile Project Management

Learn to lead agile software projects that adapt to change & discovery, improve collaboration, drive innovation and deliver on-time business values. For a 20% discount register at 877-800-5221 using code **VersionOne**. See <http://www.aspe-sdlc.com/courses/4170/>

9/14-9/15/09 - Certified ScrumMaster Training with Sanjiv Augustine - Houston, TX Additional dates 10/14-15 and 12/8-9

Learn the essential concepts and tools of Scrum, differences between agile processes and traditional "waterfall" methodologies, and how to build a roadmap for adopting. Learn how to lead development teams towards agile operations by: managing product backlogs, planning releases and sprints, tracking and reporting progress, and conducting retrospectives.

Use code **APLN** to get a 20% discount at http://www.lithespeed.com/CSM_Detail.htm.

10/14-10/15/09 – Advanced Lean-Agile Project Management for Scrum Masters – Bellevue, WA

<http://www.netobjectives.com/course-schedule/lean-agile-pm-scrum-masters-oct-2009-bellevue>

10/5-10/9, 2009 Starwest Software Testing Conference – Anaheim, CA

For details, see www.sqe.com/starwest.

Advanced Superperformance Workshops: "Super Projects Boot Camp" with Dave Guerra – Houston 9/21/09 – Introduction to Superperformance 9/22/09 – Understanding Super Projects 9/23/09 – Leveraging Agile Principles 9/24/09 – Management Habits of Superperformance 9/25/09 – Leadership Habits of Superperformance

Learn to transform Projects into Super Projects through a more agile and dynamic paradigm which considers leadership and personal relationships as important as schedules, milestones, and budgets. Super Projects are defined by their outcomes - and their cultures. **APLNH** members receive a \$100 discount on each segment with the code **SUPERAPLN**. For details on this weeklong boot camp from Corpus Optima and Alphaware Training Centers see <http://corpusoptima.com/seminars/super-projects-boot-camp/>

10/7/2009 - The Superperforming CEO: Liberating the Promise Within



The Superperforming CEO bears an astonishing resemblance to the pattern of the Agile Project Leader: This is a pattern of Servant Leader - of David, not Goliath. <http://corpusoptima.com/seminars/the-superperforming-ceo>

8/31/09-5/11/10 Project Management Training 9/3-12/18/09 Business Analyst Training

University of Houston-Clear Lake and PMCentersUSA offer six week fall sessions. <http://www.pmcentersusa.com/RegisterNow/tabid/134/Default.aspx>

11/5-11/6/09 – Winnow Certified Scrum Master Workshop – Houston, TX

Peter Borsella's CSM class is suitable for those practicing or looking to practice the art of the Scrum Master, but is highly valuable for anyone involved in Scrum (Managers, Team Members, Product Managers, etc.). While no experience is necessary, attendees should have some familiarity with Scrum.

Use discount code **APLN\$D** to get a \$150 discount from Winnow Management.

11/9-11/10/09 - Agile & High-Speed Software Testing – Houston, TX

For a Winnow Management course list see <http://www.winnowmanagement.com/classes.php>

Collaborative Leadership: A Secret to Agile Success

Watch our September speaker **Pollyanna Pixton's** keynote address to the **2008 Agile Development Practices Conference**.

<http://www.stickyminds.com/Media/Video/Detail.aspx?WebPage=128>

When members of a development project are asked to become a self-directed agile team, some claim that leadership and leaders are obsolete. Or, is a different type of leadership exactly what agile teams need to truly flourish? **Pollyanna Pixton's** collaborative principles will empower you and everyone on your team to become better leaders and deliver the business value that stakeholders deserve.

Agile Leadership Summit

11/9-11/13/09 – Co-located at Agile Development Practices Conference – Orlando, FL

Join veterans from small and large companies who have led agile teams and organizations with new, innovative leadership styles.

Practical Development, Agile Testing, Kanban, Transition to Agile, User Stories, Agile PM. See www.sqe.com/agiledevpractice



9/18/09 – early Bird discount

<http://www.sqe.com/agiledevpractices/Pricing.aspx>

SQE Training offers eSoftware Tester Certification and on site Agile development and testing courses. See www.sqetraining.com

Articles-of-the-Month

Iterations Newsletter: Delivering All Things Agile

<http://www.stickyminds.com/Media/eNewsLetters/Iterations/>

PMIH Newsletter - August 2009

Advanced Citizenship by Robbie MacIver

www.pmihouston.org/download.php?sid=1141

9/26/09 – Houston TechFest 2009 – 8am – 6pm

The 2009 TechFest will be held at University of Houston, University Center. TechFest's are about the community. They are a place for developers AND IT Professionals to come and learn from their peers. Topics are based on community interest. Look for the **APLNH** members assisting with the Agile track.

Maturing Your Organization's Agile Adoption by Bryan Campbell and Robbie Mac Iver

You're progressing down an agile adoption path and working software is created every day. Now what? Understand how long it takes to develop Agile practices across an organization and how to lead the process of skills adoption by exploring the Seven Stages of Expertise model developed by Meilir Page-Jones.

Going From Good to Great in the IT Project World by Dave Guerra

To go from good to great in the IT project world is to go from IT project management to optimization. The powerful evidence of "Super Projects," those projects whose outcomes far outperform their stakeholder expectations, demonstrate that there is something additional and nontechnical occurring in this category.

What's This Thing Called Agility? by Robbie Mac Iver

Agile practices are becoming well established to address issues of increasing uncertainty and rapid change that put increased pressure on technology organizations to deliver. Explore how agility can be applied to deliver improved business results in ever evolving business environments, and the expectations placed on both agile teams and agile leadership.

Building the Business Case for IT Projects by Barbara Brown

Help organizations identify their most critical processes and most challenging gaps. Plan sprints with short-term ROI in mind. Ensure high priority design and readiness issues are resolved early. Separate organizational from technical issues and direct efforts appropriately.

For program information and registration: <http://houstontechfest.com/dotnetnuke/Home/tabid/37/Default.aspx>

Thanks to Our Sponsors

Please join APLNH in thanking the following sponsors for their generous support.



Thanks to **Triad Resources** for providing the August meal. Visit www.triadresources.com.

Object Information Services is supplying the Sept. meal. Visit: <http://objectinformation.com>.

DISYS is bringing Naresh Jain to Houston for the October Special Event. (www.DISYS.com)
Waste Management is providing the meeting venue and refreshments (www.wm.com).

APLNH appreciates **Sysco's** continuing support in hosting our meetings.

Thanks to **TEKsystems** for donating the August door prize. Congratulations to **David McQueen** on winning the iPhone. (www.teksystems.com).

Winning books from the **O'Reilly User Group Program** were **Meera Raghavendra** and **Drew Shefman**. To become a sponsor, contact a member of the leadership team.

Make Your Voice Heard – Check out Jobs!

Join and participate in our LinkedIn Group today!
Check out discussions and JOBS Listings



Search the groups directory for APLN Houston.

APLN Houston Leadership Team

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APLN Member Services

Continuing Certification Requirements

PMPs may file for 1 PDU under Continuing Certification Requirements' "Category 4: Other Providers."

Check out the APLN Houston website!

We'd appreciate your comments and feedback.
www.APLNHouston.org

User Group Discount Programs!

O'Reilly User Group Program! **APLNH** members may now receive a **35% discount** on O'Reilly, No Starch, PC Publishing, Pragmatic Bookshelf, Rocky Nook, SitePoint, or YoungJin products purchased directly from O'Reilly. To use this discount, place your order at <http://www.oreilly.com/store/> or call 800-998-9938. Use discount code **DSUG**.

Pearson Education User Group Program! Receive **up to 35% off** from informIT.com and their partner imprint sites (ciscopress.com and ibmpressbooks.com)!

Contact us if you have others to recommend.

For more information on Member services visit: <http://aplnhouston.org/member-services>.

Volunteer Opportunities

We are looking for a few good volunteers!

- ❖ Newsletter Contributors
 - Articles on real-world agile experiences
 - Book reviews
 - Blog references
- ❖ Event coordinators
 - Program coordination
 - Speaker recruitment
 - Event announcements
 - Check in meeting attendees
 - Traffic control at Sysco.
- ❖ Webmaster
 - Content management

To share your talents and help **APLNH** grow contact a member of the leadership team.

APLN Houston Newsletter Editor

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Send announcements, book reviews or articles for the APLNH newsletter to Newsletter@APLNHouston.org