

Special 2009 dates of interest:

February 1-3

- 81st Annual Meeting and Exhibition — New York, NY

March 13

- Western Chapter Scholarship Applications due

March 24

- Greater Buffalo Environmental Conference (GBEC)

June 1-3

- NYWEA Spring Meeting — West Point

September 14

- Stockman-Pryce Golf Tournament

October 10-14

- WEFTEC — Orlando, FL

For the most up-to-date listing, check our web site at www.wnywea.org

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Message from the Chair

By Robbie Gaiek



Happy New Year to all! I hope everyone had a great Holiday Season. We are now entering 2009 — another new year with big ideas and initiatives.

Annual elections for your local chapter board were held this fall. The Western Chapter would like to welcome Joe Fiegl as a newly-elected member to our Board. Prior to this election, Joe has been very active on both the local and state levels.

Joe served as a co-chair for the Western Chapter Young Professional Committee, as well as serving as the State Chair for the Young Professionals Committee. Joe is also involved with the program committee for GBEC.

Joe will be replacing John Amend for this upcoming term. John is a dedicated member of

the community. He has been on the Western Chapter Board since 2006 and is also active as well on the State Level. John served as State President of NYWEA in 2006. The Board would like to thank John Amend for his time and service.

The Board is here to help you and the environmental community, but we cannot do it without your input. Please feel free to contact any one of the board members for any assistance ideas or initiatives that you may have. We need the entire Western Chapter membership to be involved and committed to our cause.

The Twenty-Seventh annual Greater Buffalo Environmental Conference (GBEC) is scheduled for March 24 at the Hearthstone Manor in Depew. Our keynote speaker at this year's conference is Sandra Allen, director of the Clean and Safe Water Infrastructure Funding Initiative of the NYSDEC. Ms. Allen will present a talk on Infrastructure and Funding Initiatives.

The GBEC program committee has been enthusiastically working on preparing the conference agenda for this year. You will see that there are many outstanding presentations being offered. See pages 6 and 7 for more

information.

The WNYWEA provides monthly Western Chapter training, tours and social events for topics relative to the water and wastewater field. These programs offer an avenue for training, continuing education and networking. Operator CEUS and Engineer PDHs are generally available for each scheduled meeting event.

WNYWEA also participated in joint dinner meetings, as well as assisted with events sponsored by the Western Chapter Young Professionals Committee.

A large effort is put forth towards putting programs and workshops together to help in the sharing of information to all those who are involved in environmental and water and wastewater fields. We encourage all NYWEA members to attend these events. These are great opportunities for meeting new colleagues and sharing visions and ideas. If anyone has any input as to how WNYWEA can make these events more accessible or enticing to our community, please contact any one of our Board Members with your suggestions.

We are looking forward to seeing everyone at GBEC in March and at our other upcoming events.

Western Chapter Announces 2008 Scholarship Winners

By Robert Lannon

In January of each year, scholarship applications inviting high school seniors to apply are mailed to the guidance counselors of every high school located within the geographic boundaries of the Western Chapter.

Completed applications are due in March. Typically, 25 to 45 applications are submitted.

Students compete for first and second place scholarships of \$1,000 and \$500, respectively.

Awards are based on academic, extracurricular and community activities, references, and personal goals.

As an added benefit, the successful students are automatically enrolled in the New York Water Environment Association as a student member for a period of one year following award of the scholarship.

The \$1,000 winner for 2008 is Emmaline Long from Bergen — Byron-Bergen High School in Bergen, NY.

Emmaline is attending Cornell University and majoring in Agricultural Sciences.

The \$500 winner for 2008 is Angela Klinczar from Orchard Park — Hamburg High School in Hamburg, NY.

Angela is attending Canisius College and majoring in Environmental Science.

I would like to take this opportunity to sincerely thank the members of the scholarship committee who spent a significant amount of time reviewing the applications: Kirk Rowland, Bill Schutt, Frank Nerone, and Angelo Sarkees.

Congratulations once again to Emmaline and Angela!



Leadership, Management Vested in Board

By Richard Crist

Joe Fiegl, Erie County Department of Environment and Planning assistant deputy commissioner, is welcomed to the WNY Board of Directors. Joe replaces outgoing member and former NYWEA President, John Amend, who cited increased work commitments as the reason for stepping aside.

Board members who are returning for another three-year term are Ken Maving and Kirk Rowland from the Town of Tonawanda; Tim Lockhart, Town of Lewiston; and Bryan Smith, Conestoga-Rovers & Associates.

The Western Section of the NY Water Environment Association encompasses all of Erie, Niagara, Wyoming, Genesee, Allegany, Cattaraugus, and Chautauqua counties.

Leadership and management is vested in a Board of Directors, which conducts its affairs and establishes policies subject to the conditions and limitations prescribed in the Association's bylaws.

The membership of the Board of Directors is comprised of 15 members, each serving 3-year terms on a rotating basis. This provides some continuity of leadership and gives members an opportunity to serve on the Board.

Each year, the Chairman appoints a Nominating Committee and this committee makes every attempt to ensure there is at least one active Board member from each county served.

Currently, Niagara County has 3 board seats; Erie County, 11; Chautauqua County, 1; Cattaraugus, Allegany, Genesee, and Wyoming have none.

Demographically, seven members work as consultants; seven are plant operators or utility administrators; one works with NYS DEC.

To view a list of the current Board, visit our Chapter website at www.wnywea.org and click on the link to the Board of Directors.

If you wish to become more active and perhaps run for the Board, please contact the Chapter Chair, Robbie Gaiek. Her email is robbie@sa.ci.buffalo.ny.us or you may call her at 716-883-1820, Ext. 208.



Western Chapter Board of Directors

This past fall, you participated in the annual election of our Western Chapter Board of Directors. These dedicated professionals work to provide the membership with training opportunities and act as the

liaison to the NYWEA. They welcome comments and suggestions from the membership, so we have included their work affiliation and daytime telephone numbers for your convenience.

Roberta Gaiek, Chair

Buffalo Sewer Authority

(716) 883-1820 x 208

Robbie@sa.ci.buffalo.ny.us

John Camilleri,
Secretary/Treasurer

Tonawanda WWTP

(716) 693-4900

JSC@tonawanda.ny.us

Bryan Smith, State Board Rep.

Conestoga-Rovers & Associates

(716) 856-2142

bsmith@CRAworld.com

Joe Fiegl, Director

ECDEP

(716) 858-8383

fieglj@erie.gov

Jeff Angiel, Director

Town of Amherst

(716) 631-4331 x 27

jangiel@amherst.ny.us

Richard Crist, Director

URS Corporation

(716) 483-3384

dickcrist@juno.com

Robert Lannon Jr., Director

Conestoga-Rovers & Associates

(716) 856-2142

rlannon@CRAworld.com

Timothy Lockhart, Director

Town of Lewiston

(716) 754-8291

lockhart13@msn.com

Kenneth Maving, Director

Tonawanda, WWTP

(716) 693-4900

kmaving@tonawanda.ny.us

Paul McGarvey, Director

Stearns and Wheler, LLC

(716) 691-8503

pjmcgarvey@stearnswheler.com

Frank Nerone, Director

Wendel Duschersherer

(716) 688-0766

frerone@wd-ae.com

J. Kirk Rowland, Director

Town of Tonawanda

(716) 874-0490

krowland@tonawanda.ny.us

Angelo Sarkees, Director

NYSDEC

(716) 851-7070

ajsarkee@gw.dec.state.ny.us

William Schutt, Director

William Schutt Associates

(716) 683-5961

wschutt@wschutt.com

Thomas Whetham, Director

Malcolm Pirnie, Inc.

(716) 667-6670

twhetham@pirnie.com

Nominations are made in the summer and elections are held in the fall. Don't miss your chance to get involved at the Board level.

26th Annual Greater Buffalo Environmental Conference Success

The 26th Annual Greater Buffalo Environmental Conference was a big success! Attendance was up, and we received many positive comments regarding the event.

The program was excellent, with a variety of topics that appealed to all attendees. Keynote speaker Fred Jacobs, Esq., Hodgson Russ, provided an overview of "Doing Business with Government in New York: New Rules of Engagement."

We would like to extend a thank you to our exhibitors for their support of the event. Last year we were pleased to welcome the **following exhibitors:**

Godwin Pumps

Turblex, Inc.

Fluid Kinetics Inc.

TVGA Consultants

Pertech Inc.

Gehring Pumps, Inc.

Everett J. Prescott, Inc.

URS Corporation

Cyncon Equipment Inc.

Stearns & Wheler, LLC

Boerger, LLC

Arcadis, BBL

Wendel Duschcherer

Rain For Rent

Conestoga-Rovers & Associates

Koester Associates, Inc.

Malcolm Pirnie, Inc.

Aftek, Inc.



Owner Saves Money, Time by Self-Installing Trickling Filter Upgrades at Jamestown WWTP

By John Story



Owner Installation of Media Support System



Completed Trickling Filter in Operation

The Jamestown Board of Public Utilities (BPU) recently completed a trickling filter upgrade project at their wastewater treatment plant. The plant, which is rated for a design average flow of 12 mgd, was utilizing two 150-ft. diameter trickling filters and twenty rotating biological contactors (RBCs) to achieve secondary treatments of 25 mg/L for both BOD₅ and TSS.

Based on discussions with the NYSDEC, the BPU was also anticipating a new permit limit for ammonia (as NH₃-N). The likely NH₃-N limit was 4 mg/L during summer months, which required the plant to add nitrification capabilities.

The existing trickling filters utilized traditional rock media to provide surface area for attached growth. The filters were in generally good condition, but after more than 40 years in operation, the distributor arms were in need of refurbishment or replacement. In addition, the recirculation pumps were original equipment and had been in operation since the mid 1960s.

The RBCs, which were installed in the early 1980s, had become extremely maintenance intensive and required frequent repair. A comprehensive evaluation was performed to determine the most cost-effective way of upgrading the secondary treatment system to address aging equipment and to meet the needs of the anticipated permit.

Modern trickling filter and RBC technology was evaluated. The final recommendations included decommissioning the RBCs, and providing all biological treatment through upgraded trickling filters with PVC crossflow media.

The total media height required to achieve BOD₅ and NH₃ limits was determined to be 16 feet in each trickling filter, an increase of approximately 11 feet from the existing rock media.

In the two tanks, the total required media volume was 565,000 ft³.

The total estimated cost for media alone was more than \$2.25 million. The BPU considered using their own forces to install the upgrades. By using their own forces, they could realize significant savings in labor costs and contractor markups. The BPU worked with Stearns & Wheeler and equipment manufacturers to determine the feasibility of in-house construction.

In the end, the BPU staff was used for: removal and disinfection of the existing rock media, demolition of the existing underdrain support system, refurbishment of the rotary distributors, demolition of existing recirculation pumps and installation of new pumps, and demolition of the RBCs.

**By using their own forces,
the (BPU) could realize significant savings in labor costs
and contractor markups.**

The only work the BPU had performed by others was the steel work for a raised center column on the trickling filters to support the refurbished rotary distributors at the new media elevation, and the installation of a glass-fused-to-steel shell wall extension on top of the existing walls.

Stearns & Wheeler performed the design of the upgrades, and assembled procurement bidding documents. Bids were received for new media, new recirculation pumps (including VFDs and controls), and the new shell walls (including installation). The total bid price was approximately \$2.93 million.

In March of 2008, the plant took the first trickling filter offline and began removing the rock media. There was enough room onsite to disinfect and store the media. Rock and underdrain removal took approximately two weeks. Following rock removal, structural work was performed to extend the center column and influent pipe approximately 12 feet to accommo-

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Young Professionals Wrap-up 2008

By Camie McGraw, John Story and Dan Milewski

To kick the year off, the YPs held a social event at Lancaster Lanes in early March, which was graciously sponsored by the Western Chapter Board. Several members were on-hand for this fun event. Although no YPs will be leaving the wastewater industry and signing up for the pro bowling tour anytime soon, it was still a great chance to kick back and network with our colleagues.

Once again, with support from the Western Chapter Board, the Young Professionals Committee organized a special session during the Greater Buffalo Environmental Conference geared towards topics of interest to YPs. During this event, the session's topic was the design of wastewater plants with the operators in mind and the goal was to identify concerns and design constraints from the perspective of the operator.

The committee invited several professionals representing local plants and the manufacturing industry. The panel included Rick Roll, Dan Bentivogli, Larry Pohl, Frank Nerone, and Mark Koester. Each speaker presented varying perspectives, ideas, and experiences that stimulated several questions and discussion from the audience. The event received very positive feedback and proved to be a great success. We look forward to another successful session at GBEC 2009, where the topic will be Information Technology in the Wastewater Industry.

In an effort to stimulate



Young Professionals co-chairs cook for attendees at the annual summer picnic held at the NOCO Pavilion in Town of Tonawanda.

student involvement, the YPs went on a tour at the Buffalo Sewer Authority in April. The tour was coordinated with Dr. Joseph Atkinson at the University at Buffalo (UB) and students from his senior level Engineering Design class. Michael Letina from the Buffalo Sewer Authority provided a tour of the liquid train side of the plant consisting of grit collection/separation followed sequentially by primary settling, aerobic biological treatment including fine bubble aeration and secondary settling, and seasonal disinfection.

The event provided YPs, and more importantly students, an opportunity to inspect and ask questions regarding wastewater treatment processes and equipment.

Following the BSA tour, it was discussed amongst YP members to organize a tour

of an ongoing construction project at a wastewater facility. In August, the YPs toured the Town of Amherst Wastewater Pollution Facility Tertiary Filtration System Installation Project site. The Town was in the process of replacing four of six existing sand filters with a relatively new filtering technology in cloth media filtration.

The cloth media filters consisted of Aqua Diamonds as manufactured by Aqua Aerobic Systems, Inc. and were retrofitted into the existing sand filter basins with minor changes in influent and effluent flow patterns. The cloth filters are able to treat an average flow of 36 MGD with a peak of 72 MGD with three of the four filters in operation, while maintaining the two existing sand filters in the event two of the cloth filters are down for service.

Preceding the site tour, Bernie Eiswert from Aqua Aerobics provided a general presentation on cloth filter technology and a few specific details regarding the Amherst project. The progress of the construction project at the time of the tour was approximately 2 to 3 weeks prior to the startup of the filters. Afterwards, food and refreshments were provided at the plant by AFTEK.

The YP committee took pride in once again hosting the Annual Chapter Summer Picnic on Wednesday, September 24. This year, the event was moved to the NOCO Pavilion in the Town of Tonawanda, which was generously donated by the Town. Due to the continued support by local engineering firms and the Chapter Board, there was once again no cost

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March 24, 2009 GBEC Morning Agenda



Roberta Gaiek



Patricia Cerro-Reehil

- 8:00–8:45 a.m.** Continental Breakfast & Exhibits and Registration
- 8:45–8:50 a.m.** Conference Morning: Roberta Gaiek, NYWEA Western Chapter Chair
- 8:50–9:00 a.m.** NYWEA Update: Patricia Cerro-Reehil, NYWEA Executive Director
- 9:00–9:10 a.m.** Opening Remarks: Bruce Munn, NYWEA President
- 9:10–9:40 a.m.** Keynote Speaker: Infrastructure — Sandi Allen, Director, Clean & Water Infrastructure Funding Initiative, NYSDEC

Wastewater Operations

Moderator: Tim Lockhart

Management & Engineering

Moderator: Paul McGarvey

Collection Systems & Regulatory Update

Moderator: Jeffrey Angiel



9:40-10:40 a.m.
Safety for an Aging Workforce
Nellie, Brown, Cornell

9:40-10:10 a.m.
Southerly Wet Weather Comprehensive Plan — Wet Weather Treatment Selection Methodology
Jerry Kleyman, Malcolm Pirnie, Inc

9:40-10:10 a.m.
Natural Wetlands Treatment of Sewage Discharges from Phnom Penh, Cambodia
Kim Irvine, Buffalo State College



10:10-10:40 a.m.
I & I Reduction Program — An Example of How to Deal with Private Property Issues
Angela Horton, ECDEP

10:10-10:40 a.m.
Wet Weather Flow Master Plan
Ted Bowering, Toronto Water

10:40-11:00 a.m. — Exhibits and Coffee Break



11:00 a.m.-12:00 p.m.
Advanced Polymer Systems in Wastewater
Richard Fielder, Jager Inc.

11:00-11:30 a.m.
CIP Programs, City of Auburn, NY
Stephen Waldvogel, CRA
11:30 a.m.-12:00 p.m.
Facility Evaluations Associated with Erie County's CIP Program
Kevin Zynda, ECDEP

11:00-11:30 a.m.
Alternative Energy
Kathleen O'Connor, NYSERDA
11:30 a.m.-12:00 p.m.
WWTP Carbon Credits
Sarah Cwikla, Stearns & Wheeler

12:00-1:15 p.m. — LUNCH: NYWEA Award

GBEC Afternoon Agenda

Afternoon Breakout Sessions

Wastewater Projects	Management & Engineering	Pre-treatment
<p>Moderator: Mike Letina</p> <p>1:15-1:45 p.m.</p> <p>BSA Aeration Chamber Cleaning</p> <p>James Keller, Jr., BSA</p>	<p>Moderator: Joe Fiegl</p> <p>1:15-1:45 p.m.</p> <p>Experiences with Automated SRT</p> <p>Paul McGarvey, Stearns & Wheler and Mike Quinn, ECDEP</p>	<p>Moderator: Camie McGraw</p> <p>1:15-1:45 p.m.</p> <p>Peracetic Acid Disinfection</p> <p>Tim Lockhart, Lewiston</p>
<p>1:45-2:15 p.m.</p> <p>Amherst Membrane Filters</p> <p>Jeffrey Angiel, Town of Amherst Dan Milewski, URS</p>	<p>1:45-2:15 p.m.</p> <p>Lessons Learned from Jamestown WWTP Upgrades</p> <p>John Story, Stearns & Wheler</p>	<p>1:45-2:15 p.m.</p> <p>SPEDES Renewal</p> <p>Libby Ford, Nixon Peabody</p>



2:15-2:45 p.m. — Exhibits and Coffee Break

<p>Moderator: Mike Letina</p> <p>2:45-4:15 p.m.</p> <p>Small Town Asset Management Plan — Big Story</p> <p>Philip Smith, NYSDEC</p>	<p>Moderator: Joe Fiegl</p> <p>2:45-3:15 p.m.</p> <p>Monroe County's Innovative Method of Sludge Disposal</p> <p>Rick Benway, Monroe County</p>	<p>Moderator: Camie McGraw</p> <p>2:45-3:15 p.m.</p> <p>Erie County's Proposed Stormwater Utility District</p> <p>Tom Hersey, ECDEP</p>
<p>OR</p> <p>2:45 –4:15 p.m.</p> <p>Young Professionals Round Table Panel</p>	<p>3:15-3:45 p.m.</p> <p>Going Private for the Public Good: Public/Private Partnerships in the Town of Clarence</p> <p>Joe Latona, Clarence</p>	<p>3:15-3:45 p.m.</p> <p>Aquatic Ecosystem Development for WWTP's</p> <p>David Blersch, Univ. of Buffalo</p>
<p>Information Technology In Wastewater</p> <p>Featuring professionals from consulting, regulatory, education, sales, and environmental groups.</p>	<p>3:45-4:15 p.m.</p> <p>Development of the NY Water and Wastewater Response Network (WARN)</p> <p>Marty Aman, Wayne County Water and Sewer Authority</p>	<p>3:45-4:15 p.m.</p> <p>Pharmaceutical Drop Off</p> <p>Tom Sinclair, Monroe County</p>



4:15 p.m. — Conference Reception

WNY Watershed Group explores infrastructure upgrade options

By Paul McGarvey

The gap is growing between what we can afford and what we are being asked to spend on our wastewater infrastructure.

Since 1987, Clean Water Act funding by the federal government has gone from \$2.4 billion to \$687 million, or a 70% decrease (NYSDEC website article “A Gathering Storm — New York Wastewater Infrastructure in Crisis”).

A 2005 ASCE report card on America’s Infrastructure gave wastewater a D-. Western New York is not immune to the need to make serious investments in its wastewater infrastructure, but where will the funding come from?

With ever-increasing regulatory requirements to address wet weather issues, but without state or federal funding to implement new controls, three Western New York communities gathered together to discuss what can be done about the situation.

The Buffalo Sewer Authority, Erie County and the Town of Tonawanda, along with numerous other communities across the nation, have been directed to implement expensive programs to address wet weather flows to improve water quality in the receiving waters.

The reality is that without outside funding, many of the communities cannot afford all the projects necessary to comply with federal CSO policy and SSO mandates in the timeframes being proposed.

A 2005 ASCE report card on America’s Infrastructure gave wastewater a D-.

The three communities acknowledged this impending crisis and formed an exploratory group to discuss ideas to address wet weather issues and subsequent water quality on a watershed basis. The desired end result is to obtain and maintain acceptable water quality so that all residents can enjoy the wonderful natural resources that are the waters of Western New York.

However, with limited financial resources in our community and program costs identified in the hundreds of million dollars, there are legitimate concerns that these programs cannot be paid for in the timeframes proposed unless the federal government provides funding.

If all of the projects cannot be completed by all the communities in a relatively short timeframe (10 to 20 years), should we look at what projects will have the greatest impact on water quality and proceed with those projects regardless of what communities they are located in?



The problem is irrespective of jurisdiction and boundaries, so why should the solution be based on those boundaries? Should not the solution be based on the watershed, and not political boundaries?

The idea being discussed by the three communities is that perhaps the best use of our limited funds in Western New York is to perform projects that on a watershed basis have the greatest return to the community for the dollars spent.

The information of a coalition may help to identify those projects in Western New York that have the greatest impact on water quality, by funding studies that identify the main causes of water quality impairments and identifying the most economical solutions to those impairments, regardless of location.

Potentially, members of the coalition would pool resources to perform watershed-based studies and would work with NYSDEC to gain acceptance of a regional plan that utilizes our limited financial resources to provide for the best improvements to water quality for the dollars spent.

The watershed group has met on several occasions to discuss the problems faced by each community, how a watershed based approach offers significant opportunities to maximize the environmental benefit of the projects that can be afforded by Western New York, and how a coalition could be structured and formed under New York State law.

The group hopes to draft an agreement and circulate it amongst communities interested in participating in the formation of a coalition.

Please contact Michael Quinn, P.E. (Erie County DEP), David Comerford (Buffalo Sewer Authority) or John Camilleri (Town of Tonawanda Water Resources Department) if you represent a community looking for a solution to your infrastructure challenges and you think a coalition might offer a solution.

Jamestown WWTP upgrades (continued from page 4)

date the new media depth.

Rebar was installed by others, but the BPU performed formwork and poured the column concrete. With guidance from the manufacturer, the BPU then began the installation of the media support system, which consisted of PVC columns and extruded fiberglass grating.

While the media support system was being installed, the shell wall extensions were simultaneously being installed by others. Media blocks were then installed on top of the support system.

Laborers used chainsaws to cut the media blocks to fit the circumference of the tank.

According to the media manufacturer, BPU personnel were able to install the media blocks at a much faster rate than what is typical for a general contractor. An average of more than three tractor trailer loads of media were installed per day. Each tank required approximately 90 tractor trailer loads of media.

The rotary distributor, which was refurbished (sandblasted and repainted)

at a BPU shop, was installed on top of the raised center column and influent pipe. Recirculation pumps were then installed and tested. The first trickling filter was online by September of 2008.

The total time for constructing the first filter, from demolition to operation, was approximately six months. The process was repeated for the second tank, which was complete and operational in early December.

The total time for both tanks was approximately nine months, and construc-

tion was completed approximately two months faster than what was originally estimated.

It is estimated that the BPU saved more than \$2 million. By maintaining an aggressive schedule, they performed construction much quicker than the original construction schedule typically experienced with private contractors.

The upgrades are an example of a project that was extremely successful due to a non-traditional construction process employed by the Owner.

YP'S (continued from page 5)

to any attendees and their spouses, and the committee was able to enhance the usual menu of hot dogs and hamburgers with steaks off the grill. The evening was not complete without a few games of Kan Jam from which some attendees would not leave until the game was done and found themselves playing by car headlights. This event continues to be a joy to organize and attend, and we hope to continue this tradition in 2009.

The most recent YP event was a tour of the wastewater facilities at Luvata Buffalo, Inc. (formerly Outo Kumpu American Brass). Approximately 15 YPs, including several students from UB, were on-hand to visit this unique industrial pretreatment plant. Kent Webb from Luvata graciously provided an overview of the plant equipment, the unique processes required to treat the waste stream from the brass manufacturing facilities, and then guided a tour of the treatment plant.

The event was very well received by all who attended, especially the UB students who had limited exposure to treatment plants. The YP committee was thankful for the chance to interact with the student chapter and potential future members. Following the tour, the YPs and students headed to Coles for a social gathering. As these many great events have shown, the Western Chapter Young Professionals are still going strong and as enthusiastic as ever. In fact, the committee is pleased to announce that Crystal Knaak will join us as the new co-



Crystal Knaak

chair in 2009.

We look forward to another busy and exciting year and encourage anyone interested in the committee or our events to contact us: John Story: jdStory@stearnswheler.com; Dan Milewski: Dan_Milewski@URSCorp.com; Camie McGraw: cmcgraw@craworld.com; or Crystal Knaak: cknaak@craworld.com.

Call for Article Submissions

The Western Chapter of NYWEA invites members to submit articles for consideration. Articles will be published in future Western Chapter newsletters. This is a great way to get both you and your company published. More than 200 Western New York consultants, vendors and clients will read your work. We will consider subjects including:

- Unique or innovative projects
- Announcements of upcoming meetings, activities and training opportunities
- Updates on chapter committee activities
- Articles on "hot topics" or issues of interest to our members

Submit your articles to Molly Miller-Nagy, editor, at mnagy@CRAworld.com. All articles are subject to approval by the Western Chapter Board of Directors.



Preventing pharmaceutical waste in our water supply

By Timothy Lockhart

Concern has been building for several years regarding trace levels of pharmaceuticals found in water supplies and in wastewater treatment plant discharge.

Professionals in the water and wastewater industries are raising awareness about the growing amount of medications that when improperly disposed of act as endocrine disruptors, as well as the effects of numerous other additional medications, that enter the watershed.

Many of the problems associated with these trace pharmaceutical chemicals remain unknown, and their full effects on humans and other living organisms may take several generations to understand.

The problem is widespread, whether it is a single incident of one person flushing their unused medication down the toilet or extended

care or other health care related facilities having employees, for an entire shift, flushing unwanted or out-of-date medications. It is in these facilities where the collection of unwanted medications may have a large impact through regulated programs.

Although there is still much to learn about the long-term effects of pharmaceutical waste in our water supply, there is enough data to suggest that steps must be taken to limit and ultimately prevent them from being disposed of improperly.

On October 25, 2008, an unprecedented event took place in Western New York at Mt. St. Mary's Hospital in Lewiston — a collection of unwanted medications and pharmaceuticals. While the actual collection event lasted only four hours, nearly four years of planning went into making the event possible.

During the past four years, collection and disposal of unwanted medications has been a topic at the pretreatment co-coordinators state wide meetings. In addition, representatives of the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) and the Department of Environmental Conservation (DEC) have attended these meetings to try and help increase awareness, as well as move the collection effort along.

The main problem with an unwanted medication collection or give back program was the legality of the issue. The mechanism for prescription medications is to be dispensed, not taken back. Hospitals, pharmacies or other organizations could not accept medications for disposal, plus they lacked the disposal mechanism to keep the collected material out of the water cycle.

This remained true until

a state legislative action allowed for the collection of unwanted medicine and prescriptions.

The practice of flushing unwanted medications down the drain is not the only method of disposal that poses possible long-term negative effects to our water supplies. Additional approaches such as mixing them with coffee grounds and putting them out with the trash also to prove to be dangerous alternatives. The latter still does not remove these chemicals from the water cycle as they still have the potential to be in landfill leachate, which in most cases still eventually enters the watershed via wastewater when transported from the landfill site for treatment.

In the spring of 2008, Monroe County secured a grant from EPA to hold an unwanted medicine collection. This effort was spear-

headed by Harry Reiter and Tom Sinclair of Monroe County, who then shared their knowledge and experience with communities, municipalities, health care organizations, law enforcement, and any other interested body.

Reiter and Sinclair organized several meetings in Batavia NY, and the attendees represented most areas

of Region 8 and Region 9. The intent was to try and help organize a state-wide mega-collection event and assist in the steps needed to hold a collection event.

Niagara County event sets precedent

of Region 8 and Region 9. The intent was to try and help organize a state-wide mega-collection event and assist in the steps needed to hold a collection event.

Due to logistics and the permitting process involved, it proved to be too great a task to try and hold a mega-collection event on a single day, so the meetings evolved into learning sessions for those communities that were interested in holding their own collections.

The collection held at Mt. St. Mary's was a collaboration of the Niagara County Refuse District, Sheriff's Department, and Health Department, the Town of Lewiston Environmental Commission, Police Department, Haz-Mat Department, and Water Pollution Control Center, and Mt. St. Mary's Hospital, along with the WNY Society of Health System Pharmacists and the City of North Tonawanda Department of Public Works.

The Niagara County

Refuse District, under the direction of Rick Pope, became interested in the collection because of the potential of household hazardous waste being brought to the event. Pope believed it made sense to partner with Niagara County and offer his organization's additional resources.

Mt. St. Mary's Hospital presented itself as an ideal location for the first collec-

tion site in WNY because of the early efforts of Keith Fox and Jim Allen of the Lewiston Environmental Commission, Lewiston Police Chief Chris Salada and the Director of Pharmacy and President of the WNY Society of Health System Pharmacists (WNYSHHP), Chris Jadoch.

While the issues at the state level on how to hold a collection were being worked out, this local group had been meeting prior to the Batavia meetings. Already, the local group had many of the elements of a collection already explored and many of the necessary details worked out.

Logistically, the site plan and traffic flow for the actual collection worked well, especially due to the heavy rain and wind that occurred during the collection. The drop off point was located near a covered traffic loop on the hospital grounds.

Persons dropping off the unwanted material did not have to leave their car – a plastic tray was passed into

the car, the material placed into the tray, and the tray was then given to one of six volunteer pharmacists from WNYSHHP and six volunteer pharmacy students from the University of Buffalo to identify, sort and place the medication into the appropriate storage container for disposal. The entire collection was conducted under the supervision of the Town of Lewiston Police Department

to one day take back unwanted medications for proper disposal.

Awareness is growing, as the EPA is now requesting information on these types of collection events, in an effort to try and estimate the size of the problem that the environment may be facing.

The White House Office of Management and Budget has also proposed a rule change to relax rules that

and the Niagara County Sheriff's Department. Final totals for the collection are as follows:

- 117 drop-offs, with 7,715 dosage units of controlled substances
- 2,112 ml of controlled liquid substance
- 12 pounds of hazardous waste
- 265 pounds of non-hazardous/non controlled substances

All material was then disposed of by incineration at Covanta in Niagara Falls NY, an Energy from Waste power facility.

While a collection like this only removes a small fraction of the total medications, pharmaceuticals and personal care products from the water shed, the main goal was to raise public awareness to the problem. The ultimate goal is that drug stores or in-store pharmacies will be able

now categorize many pharmaceuticals as hazardous waste, which greatly complicates collection and disposal. The relaxing of this rule or reclassifying the material would speed the "Drug Take Back" efforts.

Drug Take Back also has a three-fold benefit in that law enforcement views it as a way to remove potential drug abuse from the street and the crime associated with prescription drugs, health care professions support it for the reduced potential of drug-related health care issues, and thirdly, its benefit to the environment.

The first two have an immediate impact; however, the environmental impact may take several generations before we know its outcome, good or bad.

The Mt. St. Mary's Hospital collection event was just one local step, but one that serves as an example for communities state- and nation-wide to follow.



28th Annual Stockman-Pryce Scholarship Golf Tournament

By William Schutt



Planning and executing a golf tournament is a labor of love for the Stockman-Pryce Scholarship Golf Tournament committee consisting of Bill Schutt, Kirk Rowland, Tom Ketchum, Paul McGarvey, Tom Whetham, Bryan Smith, Bob Lannon, and Lisa Pryce.

The tournament, which remarkably has carried on for 28 years, is a favorite annual event of NYWEA — Western Chapter members. Holding this event for 28 years is truly a testament of how this golf tournament has woven itself in to the fabric of the Western New York engineering and construction community.

For every one of those 28 years, the goal of the golf tournament has been to raise money for scholarships to be awarded to the children of those employed in the WNY engineering and construction industry.

Proceeds from our 2008 event allowed \$1,000 scholarships to be awarded to:

David Armstrong

Jessica Lardo

David Keller

Jillian Ennis

In addition, a donation was made to the NYWEA Jane Ork Scholarship fund and Future Cities Competition.

September 8, was a beautiful day, and 100 would-be golfers descended on River Oaks Golf Club, Grand Island, NY. River Oaks, which has hosted several state and national tournaments and was designed by the re-

nowned golf architect, Desmond Muirhead, was equal to the task.

The Par 4, 434-yard hole # 2 has been rated the toughest hole in Western New York, but it and the rest of the course were apparently no match for the 62 carded by the foursome of DelSignore, Jarmuz, Marsh, and McMahan. This might be three years in a row for these guys.

The low group was followed closely by a 63 from the foursome of Whetham, Koester, Henry, and Whitney. We believe this is the second year in row as runner up for these guys.

Additional contest winners included:

Closest to pin # 5 – Dave Burke

Closest to pin # 6 – Angela Mallare

Longest drive # 4 – Dory Marsh

Longest drive # 12 – Kristie Kardus

Skins won included:

Birdie # 1 – Lardo, Carr, Batt & Smith

Birdie # 10 – Darigan, Schaefer, Wolf & guest

Eagle # 11 – CRA

Special thanks go out to Lisa Smith and Molly Miller-Nagy who took pictures and sold 50/50 tickets.

After golf and sharing their stories over cocktails, everyone was treated to a wonderful steak dinner, followed by a door prize giveaway.



Golf Tournament Sponsors

This tournament would not have endured for as long as it has without the generous support of the following sponsors:

NYWEA – Western Chapter

CRA Infrastructure & Engineering

Koester Associates

Wm. Schutt & Associates

AFTEK

DiDonato Associates

The Buffalo Bills

Stearns & Wheler

LiRo Group

Neptune Technology Group

Malcolm Pirnie

BASF Building Systems

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Anderson Equipment

Milherst Construction

SJB Services

Greenman-Pederson

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Lock City Supply

Please reward these generous organizations with your business.

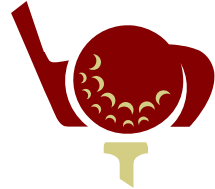
I have saved the big news for last – next year's Stockman-Pryce Scholarship Golf Tournament, the 29th annual, will be moving to East Aurora County Club and be held on Monday September 14, 2009.

Mark your calendars NOW, and I'll see you there.

29th Annual Stockman-Pryce Scholarship Golf Tournament

Monday, September 14, 2009

East Aurora Country Club
 300 Girdle Road
 East Aurora, NY 14052



\$135.00

Golf, Lunch
 Cocktails, and Dinner

\$55.00

Cocktails and Dinner Only

Program

11:30 a.m. - 12:30 p.m.

Registration & Open Driving Range

11:45 a.m. - 12:45 p.m.

Buffet lunch on the patio

1:00 p.m.

Four Person Scramble Format Shotgun Start

18 Holes With Cart at WNY's most scenic private course

6:00 p.m.

Cocktails

6:30 p.m.

Sit-Down Steak Dinner

Contests, Raffles, Prizes, and Awards



27th Annual Greater Buffalo Environmental Conference

Registration Form

Name/Title _____

Organization _____

Address _____

City/State/Zip _____

Phone _____ Fax Number _____

I plan to attend :

_____ Entire Day

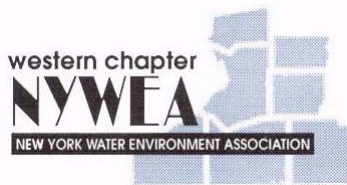
_____ Cocktail Reception

Total Fee Enclosed \$ _____

Mail to:

Mr. John Camilleri
 c/o Town of Tonawanda
 Wastewater Treatment Facilities
 779 Two Mile Creek Road
 Tonawanda, NY 14150

Fee Schedule	Pre-Registration (Before March 4 , 2009)		At the Door	
	Member	Non-Member	Member	Non-Member
Entire Day at Conference Breaks, Lunches, & Cocktail Reception	\$ 65.00	\$ 75.00	\$ 75.00	\$ 85.00
Note: If planning to attend the reception only, the entire day fee applies.				
PWOD Member - \$45.00				
No charge for Student Members (Includes breaks & lunch)				
Young Professionals are Free (if attending Young Professionals Afternoon Session)				



Western Chapter New York Water Environment Association

January 2009

Molly Miller-Nagy, editing, graphic design & layout
Conestoga-Rovers & Associates
285 Delaware Avenue, Suite 500
Buffalo, NY 14202
Telephone: 716-856-2142
E-mail: mnagy@CRAworld.com

Check out our web site:

www.wnywea.org

2009 Western Chapter NYWEA Meeting Schedule

The Western Chapter program committee is working to develop a more active meeting schedule than in years past. We would like to develop a schedule of dates, topics and locations for the entire year early in 2009 so everyone can reserve the dates on their calendars.

We feel strongly that the meetings are great opportunities to network with other professionals in our field, learn about ongoing projects and new technologies, and earn some continuing education credits. And hopefully have a good meal in the process.

Please contact Paul McGarvey via e-mail at pjmgarvey@stearnswheler.com if you have any suggestions, topics, or if you are interested in working on the committee to develop the chapter's programs.

Jan 8: TBD

Feb. 1-3: NYWEA Annual Meeting, New York City

March 24: Greater Buffalo Environmental Conference (GBEC), Hearthstone Manor

April 9: Collection System Equipment, Tonawanda Water and Sewer

May 14: Engineer/Management Session

June 2-4: NYWEA Spring Meeting, West Point

July 9: Operator Session

August: Social Event, TBD

September 10: Engineer/Management Session

October 10-14: WEFTEC, Orlando

November 12: Operator Session

The [New York Water Environment Association, Inc. \(NYWEA\)](http://www.wnywea.org), was founded in 1929 by professionals in the field of water quality as a non-profit, educational organization focused on protecting and enhancing our water resources.

Members include civil, design, and environmental engineers; biologists, chemists, local and state government officials, treatment plant managers and operators, laboratory technicians, students, professors, lawyers, environmental scientists, equipment manufacturers, and equipment distributors.

NYWEA is a Member Association of the international Water

Environment Federation, which is comprised of 64 member associations (19 of which are international), six recognized operator associations, and affiliation with three additional corresponding international organizations.

NYWEA consists of seven local chapters representing the various geographic regions across the State: the Capital, Central, Genesee, Long Island, Lower Hudson, Metropolitan, and Western. The Western Chapter covers Erie, Chautauqua, Cattaraugus, Niagara, Allegany, Wyoming, and Genesee counties.