President’s Perspective: Excitement, Anticipation and Nerves

Excitement, anticipation and just a little bit of nerves describe how I felt as I accepted the gavel of the IWEA presidency from our past president, Amanda Withers. Having previously served as the Association Treasurer, and then working up through the ranks on the Executive Board, I cannot describe the excitement I felt each time we had a meeting or event that involved the great volunteers of this organization. Knowing the huge scope of activity by the members of the Board and all of the committees gives me a feeling of anticipation on being able to continue to direct and support the vast amount of work that is being done. One can’t approach this position without just a little bit of nervousness, but I will do my best to try to conceal it.

I am impressed that even in these tough economic times, IWEA has continued to grow as an organization run mainly through the efforts of you, our members. Our committees have expanded, both in function and membership, and our financial status continues to improve due to the success of our educational programs. We continue to see excellent attendance at our seminars, workshops and conferences, and the respective community programs that are presented. At last year’s Long Range Planning Committee, the Executive Board developed nine Strategic Goals to work toward continued improvement. Within one year, seven of the nine goals have already been accomplished! I will continue to report on the Strategic Goals program throughout the year. All of these efforts have gone to fulfill our new Mission Statement: “To Enhance and Protect the Illinois Water Environment through Education and Collaboration.”

I want to thank all of the individuals and committees who made this year’s Annual Conference a success. The conference was held at a new venue this year, the Peoria Embassy Suites and Conference Center. Based on the results of our post-conference survey, this location was well received by attendees. At the time of this writing, not all of the bills have been received. However, a preliminary calculation shows that IWEA should clear somewhere between $25,000 and $30,000 to help continue to support our mission. I want to give special acknowledgement to Amanda Withers, your past president, for working on getting this conference at the new venue. Among her other duties, Amanda has become our conference guru, and has been a tremendous asset in this regard. I also want to thank Laurie Riotte, our Secretary, and Deb Ness, Treasurer, for their work on the advanced registration and check-in, getting the materials in order and overall coordination of the hundreds of little administrative issues that arise at an event of this scope. Several committees are also active and played significant roles in putting on this conference. Special thanks go to the Conference Committee, Program Committee, Watershed Committee, Awards Committee, Marketing Committee, Local Arrangements Committee and the Website Committee. All of the people on these committees played vital roles in continuing to provide the quality conference that we have come to expect. I want to give a final “tip of the hat” to Toby Duckett who has been our Exhibitor Coordinator for the past several years. Toby has dealt admirably in arranging the exhibit space and fulfilling the needs of our exhibitors. I want to invite everyone to attend next year’s joint conference with the Illinois Section of AWWA, WATERCON 2011, in Springfield on March 21-24, 2011.

I am pleased to announce the formation of another new committee, the Scholarship and Charitable Giving Committee. This new committee is the result of a project started earlier continued on page 2
to adopt a scholarship program for college students enrolled in a field of study dealing with the water environment. IWEA is becoming more involved in the financial support of our educational mission through such programs as the Stockholm Junior Water Prize, the Illinois Junior Academy of Science, the Endowment at Southern Illinois University and our promotion of the 10-Day Water Environment Curriculum. We also sponsor other water environment organizations such as Water For People, Water Environment Research Foundation and the Haiti Outreach Program at IIT. A more detailed article by the new committee chair, Mary Johnson, is presented in this issue of *The Clarifier*.

During the Business Meeting of the Annual Conference, the membership voted on a new amendment to our Constitution and Bylaws. This amendment created the position of Executive Manager. IWEA now has a new part time paid staff person that will assist in the wide range of administrative duties. This position was also created as a result of the growth in activity that we are seeing in this Association. I am very pleased to announce that Laurie Riotte, our Board Secretary, has accepted this position. Laurie has performed admirably as our Secretary, and it was the feeling of the Board that due to the extensive amount of work being asked of this position, it should become a paid position. So, if you are a committee chair, please feel free to contact Laurie for any assistance that you desire. She will be more than willing to help out.

‘Excitement, Anticipation and Nerves’: Perhaps I should have titled this article ‘Growing Pains.’ However, these kinds of pains are the good kind. I look forward with anticipation to the excitement in the year ahead, and yes, I am still a bit nervous.

**President’s Perspective**

By Dennis Priewe, IWEA President

*continued from page 1*

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**IWEA EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE 2010-2011**

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Illinois Water Environment Association is a Member Association of the Water Environment Federation dedicated to improving Illinois’ surface, sub-surface and atmospheric water. The *ILLINOIS CLARIFIER* is a quarterly publication of IWEA providing pertinent information by, for and about IWEA Members. The opinions contained herein are those of the authors and not necessarily those of the IWEA or the *ILLINOIS CLARIFIER* committee. Copy deadlines are the 15th of January, April, July and October. Direct comments and inquiries to: *Illinois Clarifier*, Heather Wächter, Managing Editor; e-mail: ILClarifier@funo.com; website: http://iweasite.org. Printed on recycled paper. Share with a friend and prospective member, then recycle.
By Lou Kollias, Delegate ‘11

Ted Denning, Delegate 2010, and I attended the WEFMAX meeting in Alexandria, Virginia on April 8 and 9, 2010. There were 69 attendees from across the country and Canada. The Water Environment Federation (WEF) also held a Leaders Summit on April 7th, and there was also a regional Young Professionals Summit at the same time. Alexandria was a very busy place.

The first meeting we attended was the House of Delegates (HOD) meeting Thursday morning. It was chaired by Fran Burlingham, Speaker-Elect of HOD. She gave a HOD Committee update which included the Steering, Nominating, and Budget Committees. Following there were status reports on all the HOD Work Groups: Operator Outreach, Ways and Means, House Representation, WEFMAX, and WEF-MA Relationship. We were also informed that the same meeting schedule as last year’s WEFTEC would be followed in New Orleans, with all the HOD meetings occurring on Saturday, October 2nd.

After lunch, the WEFMAX meeting began with a WEF briefing by Matt Bond, Vice President and Bill Bertera, Executive Director. There will be an electronic public information newsletter coming out soon. There was a discussion on whether WEF should be an advocate and issue policy statements for such issues as wet weather and nutrients. Points were made on both sides, and it will be taken up by the HOD. Bill Bertera reported that advanced exhibit sales for WEFTEC in New Orleans are good. They are waiting to see what attendance will be like. Presently, WEF membership has remained stable with slight growth. There was a short update from our morning HOD meeting and then the MA Great Ideas Exchange began, where the MAs were asked to talk about their most successful programs over the past year. The meeting adjourned and we later boarded buses for a group dinner at the Chart House on the waterfront, where we all got to network with each other.

Friday morning’s meeting started with four breakout sessions. The topics were image enhancement, WEF/MA Committee relationship, collaboration with other organizations, and training. There were some spirited and very informative discussions. After the breakout sessions, we resumed the MA Great Ideas Exchange. Two of the most impressive ideas were New Jersey with an excellent certification and training program, and California with computer based training. I gave a presentation of our success with collaborating with ISAWWA. I explained how we had well attended joint seminars and experienced a significant increase in attendance to our own annual conferences since the first joint seminar.

The afternoon started with a presentation by Matt Bond on preserving and enhancing the global water environment through service. Following that was a video on the success of Water for People. We then finished the MA Great Ideas Exchange and headed home. All in all, it was one of the most informative WEFMAX meetings I have attended.

IWEA Announces New Committee
By Mary Johnson, Scholarship and Charitable Giving Committee Chair

IWEA has a new committee focusing on Scholarship and Charitable Giving. It is a natural extension of our mission to “enhance and protect the Illinois water environment through education and collaboration.”

IWEA currently funds several educational programs. These include:
- An endowed scholarship at the Environmental Resources Training Center at Southern Illinois University
- “Clean Water Awards” for top water related science projects at the Illinois Junior Academy of Science Annual Science Fair
- Financial support for Illinois’ candidate to the Stockholm Junior Water Prize Competition
- Grants for teachers using our 10-day Water Environment Curriculum

In addition to supporting these educational programs, IWEA budgets $2500 annually to create endowed scholarships at other Illinois colleges and universities. IWEA is also developing a $1000 scholarship for students in water related fields (not tied to a specific school).

The Association is also committed to charitable giving to water environment related non-profit organizations. We make annual contributions to Haiti Outreach, Water for People, and Water Environment Research Federation. The Haiti Outreach program is especially noteworthy as

continued on page 5
The most recent IWEA Collection Systems Seminar and Exhibition was even more of a success than in the past, no doubt due to the larger number of exhibitors on hand to demonstrate current and new products! This year we had 31 exhibitors representing 21 firms. One hundred seventeen attendees and exhibitors participated in the Collection Systems Seminar and Exhibition held on November 4, 2009. The annual event was held at the centrally-located Hyatt Hotel in Lisle, Illinois. Participants drove from the four corners of Illinois to gain additional knowledge about collection system solutions.

During the seminar program, Michael Turley received the Golden Manhole Award from IWEA. The Golden Manhole award recognizes professional contributions to the collection system industry. Mr. Turley is the Treatment Plant Supervisor for the Village of New Lenox and has over 24 years of experience in the field. He has taught collection system management at Joliet Junior College using the California State University, Sacramento texts. In 2005, Mr. Turley won the APWA Chicago Chapter’s “Charles Nichols Award” for environmental excellence.

In addition, Scott Earll, formerly of the City of Wheaton, was the recipient of the chrome plated manhole pick. Scott had the winning response to a challenge in the event’s invitation, and in addition he was recognized for his 40 years of service at the City of Wheaton.

The Committee would like to thank our guest speakers, who shared information on the following topics: “Flip Your Lid! Manhole Inspection/Rehabilitation” by Tony Conn and Darin Severson, City of Naperville; “Be Safe! Gear Makes a Difference” by Troy E. Phillips, Reliable High Performance Products; “It’s Better than Wall E: Robotic Sewer Inspection” by Gordon Henrich, Red Zone Robotics; and “What Will You Do When the Lights Go Out” by Edward Dunn, Precision Systems.

Exhibitors included:
- Adaptor, Inc.
- Cretex Specialty Products
- ELAN Technologies
- Emnet, LLC
- Fischer Harris & Associates
- Flow-Technics, Inc.
- Gasvoda & Associates, Inc.
- GETUM, Inc.
- Insituform
- Jim Jolly Sales, Inc.
- JM Process Systems
- LMK Enterprises
- Metropolitan Industries, Inc.
- Pure Technologies
- Resource Utility Supply Co.
- RJN Group, Inc.
- Sheridan Plumbing and Sewer, Inc.
- Red Horse/SpectraShield Liner Systems
- Resource Utility Supply Co.
- SIMA/MPT
- Visu-Sewer

The Collection Facilities Committee will soon be planning the 2010 seminar. We hope to see even more attendees and exhibitors there next November! Anyone interested in joining the Collection Facilities Committee should contact Al Hollenbeck at (630) 682-4700.
**Process control is a plan of action, a set of guidelines to keep the plant running at top efficiency. These guidelines also help the operators during those periods of time when you're not there. When does a plant upset or operational problem occur? Usually when the operator in charge (YOU!) is gone. The information contained in a process control plan is the knowledge needed by the operators to avoid a nasty situation, effluent violation, or a bypass. Basically, the Process Control plan is a collection of information organized into lists of the NPDES discharge parameters, plant information such as minimum and maximum flow rates, tank size and volume, and basic operational information.

An easy way to organize a process control is to set up a plan and report. The report starts with a list of the NPDES effluent limits. In order to achieve the limits, what must we do to comply? List those needs. Sounds complicated? It’s not. The set up is the hardest part. Computerized operational software is the best, easiest place to start. Whether it is your own Excel spreadsheet or some fancy purchased software packet, use it. First, set up a report listing those control calculations you want to see. The first column is usually the date, and next is flow in MGD. Influent constituents such as TSS and BOD5 are next. A couple of ideas for calculations are SVI, Detention Time, MCRT, Goulds Sludge Age, pH, Surface Detention Time, Weir Overflow Rate, and Percent Removals. Consider adding the operational ranges in the column header. The report can be tailored to the specific needs of your facility. This report will give you a month by month quick reference to the performance of the facility.

The next step is to figure out what to do if something goes amiss. Start with the simple tasks. If the weirs are overgrown with algae, list how to take the clarifier off line and broom out the weirs. Another example could be if you notice an odd color or odor, list the procedure to collect a grab sample of the offending flow for the lab to analyze. If the MLSS exceeds the target level, increase wasting but make sure you have the room in the waste tank or digester.

There is a multitude of reference materials you can refer to. Do you have a copy of the original O&M book for the plant? If so, most of your work with the process control plan is completed for you. Simply refer to whatever section of the O&M book applies to your particular situation. If the remedy still eludes you, the Sacramento books or a quick call to ERTC may help. With this process control report, you will be able to detect those annoying little upsets and maybe avoid an uncomfortable call to the Regional Office. If you need more information, check out the website http://www.iweasite.org for help.

Examples Standard Operating Procedure:

**CLARIFIER**
Clarifier(s) on line

**OBSERVATION**
High Sludge Blanket

**ACTION**
1. Check RAS flow rate, increase if possible.
2. Waste sludge if room permits.
3. Make microscopic exam of sludge, add polymer if filaments present.
4. Check Return telescopic valve for flow.
5. Check Influent flow rate for increased flow.
6. Check for mechanical operation.

**CAUSE**
1. Low flow rate.
2. No sludge wasting.
3. Bacterial action prevents sludge from settling.
4. Plugged RAS telescoping valve.
5. Increase in flow rate causing higher solids loading.
6. Turn on drive mechanism.

**OBSERVATION**
Bulking Sludge

**ACTION**
1. Check RAS flow rate, increase if possible.
2. Check D.O. level in Activated Sludge channel #3.
3. Check sludge under microscope for unfavorable organisms.
4. Check clarifier detention time.
5. Check for mechanical operation.

**CAUSE**
1. Low flow rate.
2. Increase D.O. level in Activated Sludge.
3. Filamentous bacteria.
4. Increase sludge return rate.
5. Turn on drive mechanism.

**NEW COMMITTEE cont. from page 3**

several IIT student chapter members have traveled to Haiti to aid in developing water distribution systems.

Because of the significant amount of time and funds associated with IWEA's scholarships and charitable giving, President Dennis Priewe asked that the Association develop a committee to supervise and promote these activities. This new committee will promote education related awards, recommend annual charitable giving, and develop and evaluate scholarship applications. IWEA members interested in joining the Scholarship and Charitable Giving Committee can contact Mary Johnson, mjohnson@rrwrdr.dst.ill.us.
Over 40 people attended this year’s Watershed Management Symposium on March 3, 2010 in East Peoria. Attendees heard from several presenters representing different aspects of Illinois watershed management.

Chris Urban, USEPA Region 5, presented information on watershed management at the national level. Chris covered a variety of watershed management topics including the new federal stormwater rulemaking underway, construction and development runoff guidelines, nutrient criteria development, and USEPA’s System for Urban Stormwater Treatment and Analysis Integration tool (SUSTAIN), which is a decision support framework for placement of Best Management Practices (BMP) within urban watersheds.

Scott Tomkins with IEP A’s Bureau of Water provided information on watershed management at the state level. Scott presented a brief history of watershed management in Illinois as well as current efforts within the Section 319 and TMDL programs. He also provided an overview of activity related to state nutrient water quality standards and mentioned plans to develop a pilot green infrastructure grants program.

Information on the watershed capacity building program being led by the Prairie Rivers Network was presented, including a summary of recent workshops that focused on providing training and increasing the ability for watershed organizations to improve water quality conditions.

Debbie Fluegel with Trees Forever presented an overview of the Illinois Buffer Partnership aimed at establishing buffers of trees, shrubs and grasses along streams and in wetlands in Illinois. Debbie provided an overview of partnership achievements including the implementation of over 3,700 acres of stream buffers in Illinois over the past ten years, and results from recent landowner surveys showing that 95% of established buffers are performing as expected.

Melissa Eaton with the Peoria area Tri-County Regional Planning Commission presented watershed management issues and efforts unique to the Peoria area. Melissa explained how local governments, citizens, and interest groups are working together on policy and programs aimed at improving local issues such as ravine stabilization.

The symposium closed with an open forum, highly interactive discussion between several Illinois watershed groups. Attendees highlighted watershed management challenges, shared informational resources, and discussed implementation issues with their peers. Those participating learned that water quality concerns and constraints can be very different in different parts of the state, and gained insights into the approach other groups are taking toward their goals.

Next year’s symposium will be in Springfield and may be scheduled for a full day of activities including morning presentations and an afternoon field trip to visit local water quality improvement implementation projects.

IEPA Issues Draft Integrated Water Quality Report

On March 29, 2010, IEPA released the draft 2010 Illinois Integrated Water Quality Report and Section 303d List. The report contains the most up-to-date water quality assessment information statewide and has a second volume for 2010 covering groundwater conditions. Noteworthy information within the report includes new listings of impaired waters, a near term (two year) schedule for TMDL development, and impaired segments and causes removed from the 2008 listing. The report and its appendices may be viewed at www.epa.state.il.us/water/tmdl/303d-list.html.

IWEA Watershed Management Committee Website

The committee continues to develop its webpage dedicated to highlighting watershed group efforts and contact information, www.iweasite.org/Committees/WtrshdMang.html. If you know of a watershed group that should be recognized on the webpage, please forward the group’s contact information via email to banjavics@cdm.com, or call Scott Banjavic at (312) 346-5000. Please contact Dan Bounds for any other watershed related information at (312) 346-5000 or boundsdg@cdm.com.
How many times have you been stuck behind a driver who is traveling below the posted speed limit, usually in the left lane, only for him to speed up and slow back down, or stop at an intersection for no apparent reason? When you’re finally able to pass him, legally of course, you notice that he’s talking on a cell phone.

Let’s face it...it seems impossible to get along without cell phones; we NEED to stay connected! According to the CTIA, the Wireless Association, there are more than 275 million cell phone subscribers, and according to a 2008 Nationwide Insurance poll, 81% of cell phone users admitted to talking on a cell phone while driving.

While cell phones can help workers with productivity, they can also be a tremendous liability. OSHA says that distracted driving is a factor in 23% to 30% of all traffic accidents, and researchers cite that cell phone use while driving is among the biggest distractions, even with the use of hands-free devices. In fact, researchers from the University of Utah say that a person driving and talking on a cell phone is as impaired as a person with a 0.08% blood alcohol level.

Drivers Impaired at All Levels of Performance

Reporting their findings in the ‘Journal of Experimental Psychology: Applied,’ researchers say that the driving performance of people talking on cell phones suffers on three levels:

• Control – examples include drifting out of their lanes or drifting to the side of the road.
• Traffic Maneuvering Skills – examples include approaching other vehicles too closely, ignoring approaching vehicles while turning at intersections, changes in speed, and delayed reaction times.
• Strategic Performance – examples include failures to properly execute navigation tasks (for instance, missing an exit) or trip-related planning tasks.

Passengers may actually improve safety, says study co-author David Strayer, because they "add a second set of eyes, help the driver navigate, and remind them where to go." Previous studies found that hands-free phones were just as distracting as hand-helds because the conversation is the biggest distraction. Experts report that drivers make more than 200 decisions during every mile traveled. So it’s critical to stress to employees, says OSHA, that when driving, "safe driving is the primary responsibility."

Legal Issues

Many cases involving employer liability for accidents caused by employees using cell phones have been settled for millions of dollars. One family of an accident victim sued for wrongful death, and the court found the employer liable for $20 million; the employer eventually settled the case for $16 million. An Arkansas jury found a lumber company liable after one of its employees struck another car, gravely injuring the passenger. The case ended up being settled for $16 million.

What It Means

Cases are based on the principle that if an employer supplies a cell phone to an employee, the employer can be held liable for damages if the employee injures someone in a road accident while using the phone. Two main reasons that you should be concerned about employees and cell phone liability: an employee could be injured or killed in an accident in part because of cell phone usage while driving; and if the employee is engaged in company business while on the phone and involved in an accident, then the employer may be liable and face significant financial repercussions.

Because these accidents are occurring with increasing frequency, and because distracted driving studies show that people using cell phones are four times more likely to have accidents than other drivers, Illinois now has laws governing cell phone use while driving. The new Illinois text messaging law went into effect on January 1, 2010. According to the new law, "A person may not operate a motor vehicle on a roadway while using an electronic communication device to compose, send, or read an electronic message." Fines for the new offense begin at $75. To read the law, visit Public Act 096-0130 at www.ilga.gov/legislation/publicacts/fulltext.asp?Name=096-0130. Another law that took effect is Senate Bill 72 titled "Vehicular Phone Use in School Zones." According to the law, "A person, regardless of age, may not use a wireless telephone at any time while operating a motor vehicle on a roadway in a school speed zone." To read it, visit Public Act 096-0131 at www.ilga.gov/legislation/publicacts/fulltext.asp?Name=096-0131.

You simply can’t afford to ignore this problem if any of your employees drive on the job and might use cell phones while driving. You need a cell phone policy, and you need to make sure your employees know it and understand why they need to follow the rules. You need a clear, unambiguous policy that discourages cell phone use while driving.

One of the main difficulties you face with cell phone policies is enforcement. When employees are on the road, there’s usually no one there to monitor their actions. The only real way to get employees to follow rules is to develop a sensible policy, clearly explain the safety and liability reasons behind it, and give employees guidance about when and where they can safely use their phones. For example, rather than banning cell phones outright, you might require employees to pull over and stop before making or receiving calls. You can also require voicemail on cell phones used by drivers so they can resist answering the phone while driving. Remember, too, that studies show even hands-free phones can be dangerous while driving. It’s not just that employees take their eyes of the road when dialing or answering a cell phone; they may take their minds off their driving while engaged in a phone conversation.
Annual Conference Stats

350 people attended IWEA’s Annual Conference, March 1st through 3rd, 2010 at the Embassy Suites in East Peoria. The conference featured 57 technical presentations and included 68 exhibitors. A state-wide Watershed Symposium followed the conference. The Annual Banquet was held on board the Spirit of Peoria Paddleboat and featured WEF Past President Rebecca West as the keynote speaker.

IWEA would like to acknowledge our Special Event Sponsors for their support.

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Photos by Ted Denning, Delegate ‘10
The Illinois Water Environment Association is pleased to announce the 2010 WEF and IWEA Award recipients.

The WEF Arthur Sidney Bedell Award went to Illinois EPA Regional Manager Jay Patel, acknowledging extraordinary personal service to the Member Association. Mr. Patel oversees nine counties in and around Chicago and monitors more than 1,000 facilities permitted by the Bureau of Water. His office responds to emergency incidents, citizen issues and monitors ongoing construction projects involving millions of dollars in State and Federal loans.

WEF Burke Safety Award, which recognizes an active and effective safety program in municipal and industrial wastewater facilities, was awarded to the Sanitary District of Decatur. This award was accepted by Decatur’s Safety and Training Coordinator, Greg Pyles and Safety Committee Representative, Jamey Oliver. The Sanitary District of Decatur is committed to a safety program in training and equipment for their employees as well as the community. Safety is always a main concern in the wastewater field. The Sanitary District of Decatur continues its commitment in this area.

WEF William D. Hatfield Award went to Plano, IL Director of Water Reclamation, Darrin B. Boyer. This award is presented to operators of wastewater treatment for outstanding performance and professionalism. Mr. Boyer’s experience in the wastewater industry spans three decades; he has worked for the City of Plano for over 17 years and oversees the daily operation and maintenance of the City’s four sanitary pump stations.

WEF Laboratory Analyst Excellence Award, which recognizes an individual for outstanding performance, professionalism and contributions to the water quality analyst profession, was presented to Rebecca Rose, Chemist for the Industrial Waste Laboratory at the Water Reclamation District of Greater Chicago. Ms. Rose has worked for the District for 22 years, beginning her career as a Lab Assistant and most recently as a Shift Supervising Chemist. She has worked in many lab areas related to Soils, Fisheries and in the Quality Control and Industrial Waste Sections of the Analytical Laboratory Division.

IWEA Kenneth C. Merideth Award went to Ralph Pfister, Executive Director of the Yorkville-Bristol Sanitary District. This award recognizes an individual for outstanding contributions to wastewater treatment plant operations professionalism. Pfister was also recognized with WEF Lifetime Membership Award which acknowledges individuals who have been a member of the Water Environment Federation (WEF) for at least 35 years and have reached the age of 65. Pfister has been employed by the City of Yorkville, IL for more than 40 years. He holds a Class I Wastewater Treatment Certificate of Competency and a Class A Public Water Supply Certificate in Competency along with receiving the Illinois Department of Public Health Certificate of Competency - Non Transient Water Supplies.

IWEA Paul Clinebell Award was awarded to Ted Denning, Senior Environmental Engineer and Team Leader in the Industrial Waste Enforcement / Pretreatment Section, a part of the Department of Monitoring and Research of...
Ted Denning

MWRDGC, Mr. Denning worked as a Consulting Engineer with several firms. He was also the Illinois EPA’s Chicago Area Regional Office (Division of Water Pollution Control) Manager.

Allison Ramsey, a 10th grade student at Southeastern Senior High School in Augusta, IL, attended the banquet with her parents where she was recognized for her accomplishment by the IWEA with The Senior Division Grand Prize Clean Water Award for her project entitled, “Bioremediation: The Effectiveness of Pseudomonas Putida when Varying Levels of Carbon.” Ramsey also won the Illinois Stockholm Junior Prize and represented Illinois at the National Stockholm Junior Water Prize competition held in Anchorage, Alaska in June, 2009.

Dr. Arthur R. Schmidt, P.E., D.AWRE received the Technical Presentation Award, which acknowledges outstanding presentations at the IWEA Annual Conference. Dr. Schmidt’s presentation, entitled, “Modeling of the Tunnel and Reservoir Plan (TARP) System in Northern Illinois,” won based on evaluations submitted by conference attendees. Dr. Schmidt currently teaches undergraduate and graduate courses at University of Illinois Urbana-Champaign, covering fundamental scientific and design aspects of urban hydrology and hydraulics, water resources engineering, and water resources field methods. In his professional career, Schmidt has served as the project chief for the USGS’s National Water-Quality Assessment Program (NAWQA) study of the upper Illinois River basin and as the Flow Measurement Expert for the US Supreme Court-mandated committee to review the accounting for Illinois’ diversion of Lake Michigan water. He has received numerous honors and awards for his practice-related, research and teaching accomplishments.

The award presentations took place Monday evening, March 1st, during the 31st Annual Banquet aboard the Spirit of Peoria Riverboat. Congratulations to all the award recipients!

*Awards were presented by Rebecca Rose and Amanda Withers.*

**Cell Phone Usage cont. from page 7**

One way to increase buy-in to your cell phone policy is to involve employees in the policy development. Often, when workers have input into a policy, they feel that they have a greater stake in it, and consequently, they’re more likely to follow it.

**Safe Phone Use**

Your cell phone policy should cover the following safe phone use issues:

- Either the use of a headset while driving, or pulling over to use a cell phone
- If you’re going to allow limited cell phone use, make sure that the phone is kept where it’s easy to see and reach
- Plan any calls you’ll need to make before you begin driving and enter numbers into speed-dial
- When dialing manually without the speed-dial, dial only when the vehicle is stopped

- Avoid placing calls while moving, and if possible, make calls when stopped at a stop sign, red light, or when you are otherwise stationary
- If possible, ask a passenger to make the call for you or at least dial the number for you
- Never take notes or look up phone numbers while driving
- Suspend a conversation during hazardous circumstances
- While talking, keep your head up and your eyes on the road and frequently check all mirrors
- Let voicemail pick up your calls when it’s inconvenient or unsafe to answer

**Portions of this article have been reprinted with permission from Business & Legal Resources, safety Daily Advisor.**
The Lab Committee had a very successful session at the Annual Conference this year in Peoria. There was a good turnout for the first talk of the day despite the early start time of 8:30 AM. Tambra Thomas from Suburban Laboratories, Inc. was our first speaker. Her talk was on “Ethics and Data Integrity Requirements for Small Laboratories.” This was her first experience doing a presentation and she did a great job. Tambra’s presentation was followed by Auralene Toni Glyph from MWRDGC, presenting “Protozoa as Indicators of Activated Sludge Treatment System Conditions.” Toni captivated the audience by being both informative and entertaining. The next presentation was given by Mary Johnson, a member of the Laboratory Committee. Mary related her recent experience of preparing for and receiving lab certification in her lab in Rockford with a talk entitled “A Small Laboratory’s Experience with NELAC Certification.” Dr. Geeta Rijal from MWRDGC spoke next with a presentation titled “Can the New Water Quality Criteria Be Applied in POTW Permit Compliance Monitoring?” The final speaker for the Laboratory session was Paul Ritter from Pontiac TWP High School, presenting “The P2D2 Program (Prescription Pill and Drug Disposal Program Network) Passing the Torch.” Paul brought along some of the students that work on this project with him and had each of them present a portion of the program. This was a great opportunity for the students to experience speaking to a professional group, and they all did a fantastic job.

I would like to extend sincere thanks to all of the speakers and remind everyone that it is not too soon to start thinking about next year’s conference – so get your ideas ready! Informative talks given by guest speakers make the conference the success it is.

I would like to close by extending a heartfelt thanks to Sharon Hawkins for her hard work and dedication as she steps down as Laboratory Committee Chair. She has done an awesome job! I have taken the position and will strive to be as successful as my predecessors. Anas Rabah of MWRDGC has agreed to take my position as vice-chair. We are always looking to expand our committee and welcome new members; if you are interested in joining our group, please contact me at Rebecca.Rose@mwr.org.

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**BRIEFING ON 2010 INDUSTRIAL PRETREATMENT ANNUAL DINNER - "PRETREATMENT 101"**

*By Kam Law, Industrial Pretreatment Committee Chair*

On February 18, 2010, the Clubhouse in Oakbrook Terrace was packed with approximately 80 industrial pretreatment enthusiasts supporting the Joint IWEA Industrial Pretreatment Annual Dinner Meeting with the Industrial Water, Waste & Sewage Group (IWWSG). Debra Ness of Fox Metro Water Reclamation District (Fox Metro) gave a presentation on the Publicly Owned Treatment Works (POTW) Pretreatment Program.

The topic was ‘Pretreatment 101.’ Deb began the presentation with a brief history on how the pretreatment program was first started. She then discussed basic yet comprehensive information on how a pretreatment program is implemented, what it includes, who is subject to the program, and more importantly, how to handle non-compliance issues. A summary of the presentation follows; details of the General Pretreatment Regulations can be found in 40 CFR Part 403.

Program Objectives: The Clean Water Act (CWA), established in 1972, is intended to protect all water bodies of the United States. Programs and regulations were established to prevent and prohibit toxic material discharges into water bodies. As such, the pretreatment regulations (40 CFR Part 403) were developed to implement the CWA. The National Pretreatment Program is a component of the National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) Permitting Program governed by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (USEPA). In other words, the requirement for a POTW to implement and develop a pretreatment program is a condition for an NPDES permit.

The main objectives of a pretreatment program are: to prevent corrosion and/or explosions of the collection systems or at the wastewater treatment plants; to prevent exposures of workers and/or plant operators to toxic substances and hazardous fumes; to limit more expensive biosolids disposal options; to prevent interferences with wastewater treatment processes; and to prevent pass through of toxic pollutants into surface waters.

Program Delegation - POTWs and Industrial Users: As mentioned above, the National Pretreatment Program is a component of the NPDES Permitting Program governed by the USEPA. Within the pretreatment program, POTWs are authorized by the USEPA to directly implement and enforce federal and local laws to Industrial Users (IUs). Instead of reporting to the State, POTWs’ pretreatment programs report directly to the USEPA (or EPA Region 5 for Illinois).

continued on page 12
The Illinois Water Environment Association

In the late 1970’s, our little group of five had individually already decided to become even more involved with the water environment groups. About the same time, the State of Illinois had begun to restrict out-of-state travel for seminars and conferences. In addition, a majority of the water quality professionals in Illinois were not receiving the support they needed from the Regional MA since many of the challenges in Illinois were unique to our state.

In 1980, WEF officially recognized the Illinois Water Environment Association as the primary Member Association for our state. IWEA was better able to focus on the plant operational resources than were other civic groups. In fact, when the ISWPCO dissolved, the operator training activities, the Silvanus Jackson Scholarship program, and the Kenneth C. Meredith Award program were all transferred to IWEA. Furthermore, the IAWPCO

"Pretreatment 101" continued from page 11

Enforcement of the program will begin with identification of the IUs, followed by permitting, monitor/sampling, compliance, and inspection. As a minimum, SIUs should be inspected once a year to ensure proper sampling location and methodology. Unannounced inspection is particularly important and highly recommended.

Program Compliance: Should non-compliance issues be identified, the following corrective actions may be imposed on the IUs: increase sampling; informal notice of violation (verbal notice); written notice of violation; administrative fines; compliance orders; consent orders; show cause hearings; cease and desist orders; and criminal prosecutions.

For the POTWs, program compliance for an approved pretreatment program includes submittal of an annual report to the USEPA. The report should consist of the following information: enforcement actions; penalties collected; updated list of permitted IUs; samples collected/samples violations; inspections; and SIU’s published for significant non-compliance.

The presentation concluded with a Q&A session. I would like to thank Deb Ness, Jim Czarnik, Ted Denning, and all of the IWWSG committee members for a successful evening.
and IWEA agreed to co-sponsor training seminars for wastewater plant operators.

Now the fun truly began for us five pollution control rangers! We concentrated on multiple activities within the IWEA to create, enhance, and in general, to participate within the following areas of personal choice in order to serve our members:

• Mr. Ziembba was the driving force behind (and its Chairperson for the first five years) the creation of the IWEA Public Education & Student Affairs Committee.
• Mr. Cargill took over as Chairperson for the IWEA Public Education & Student Affairs Committee for the next seven years after Mr. Ziembba.
• Mr. Corley was the original IWEA Newsletter Chairperson (and continued in that capacity for 24 years). It is through Chuck's efforts that the Clarifier became one of the most widely respected newsletters of any Member Association.
• Mr. Denning undertook the Chairperson position of the IWEA Safety Committee from 1983 to 1986.
• Mr. Kollias and Mr. Cargill made significant contributions to the Industrial Waste & Pretreatment Committee, re-establishing this work group that provides such an important seminar each year in Illinois.
• Mr. Denning assumed the Lead of the Membership Committee (1995-2007) to re-establish this important growth component of our organization.
• Mr. Cargill is one of the primary authors and benefactors of the IWEA Ten Day Water Environment Curriculum (TDWEC) targeted for Grades 5-10. This environmental curriculum, now in its Fourth Edition, has been integrated into more than 140 schools in Illinois.
• Mr. Kollias and Mr. Denning have been instrumental in the IWEA Government Affairs seminar for the past 25 years.
• Mr. Cargill (and Scott Trotter, P.E., BCEE) spearheaded the efforts to create WEF Student Chapters at UIUIC, IIT and Northwestern for IWEA and CSWEA.

“I was very impressed in my early years in IWEA by the dedication of all those involved in the formation and growth of IWEA. Observing Greg Cargill, Chuck Corley, Ted Denning, Larry Ziembba, Toby Duckett, Greg Brunst, and Fred Dale put their hearts and souls into making IWEA a success prompted me to get involved.” - L. Kollias

Author’s Note: Ted Denning was once again the role model for the other four former comrades at the IEPA; he was the first to go through the IWEA Executive Chairs, becoming President in 1987-1988. If Ted, with his busy work and social calendar, could do it, then the rest of us knew we could also go through the IWEA officer “chairs”.

“From the start at IEPA, there also was a unique social group that the five of us supported. Beginning in 1972 and continuing for the next 37 years, Greg, Lou, and Ted were part of the Greaser Party People dedicated to preserving the music of the 50's, 60's, and 70's. This connection manifested itself as part of the ‘entertainment’ at several IWEA Annual Conference banquets in the 1990’s; we had a tremendous amount of fun with WEF Presidents Billy Turner (“Leader of the Pack”), Michael Pollen (“North to Alaska”), and Phil Gerwert (whose wife Pat was the hit in “Unchained Melody”). In 2000, the same concept became part of a tribute to the then WEF President Al Goodman, aka, “Mr. Sandman”, and the Star Trek / WEF parody presented to the national officers by the Executive Board.” - G. Cargill

“I do not usually join an organization or committee that I do not want to have an association with; rather, when I join something, I intend to get involved. The IWEA provided an opportunity for that involvement and participation with people and an organization that has a direct relationship to my interests and career choice. Despite the various and divergent personalities and the sometime opposing sides of the issues (i.e., regulator and the regulated), IWEA has always provided a neutral ground for respectful discourse and personal relationships. There has been a nearly ideal setting in IWEA for these groups, for those in the commercial and industrial arena to mingle and associate without a concern for working background or position. The list of IWEA presidents attest to this career and gender diversity. As an organization, I would be proud to represent the IWEA and my membership in it to any group or organization inside or outside the industry.” - C. Corley

“Upon the formation of the IWEA, we noted several activities for which not all MAs were undertaking to accomplish the mission of the WEF. Consequently, we formed the Public Education & Student Affairs and Watershed Committees. The work ethic developed during our IEPA days ensured the success of these committees: that being “people are rarely successful at things they don’t have fun doing!” As a result, Big Al’s in Peoria, plus Ditka’s and the Billy Goat Restaurant in Chicago were added as diversions to enhance the camaraderie of the IWEA experience!” - L. Ziembba
The third quarter for IWEA is a very busy one. The third quarter is when IWEA holds a large portion of its educational programs. The Government Affairs Seminar was held in January. As usual, IWEA partnered with the Central States Water Environment Association. The Industrial Pretreatment Committee partnered with the Industrial Water, Waste and Sewage Group again to host its annual dinner meeting in February, and the Annual Conference in Peoria was held at the Embassy Suites in March for the first time. A detailed report on the Annual Conference income and expenses will be provided to the Executive Board at its next meeting.

The Annual Report to the Illinois Secretary of State under the General Not for Profit Corporation Act was filed during the third quarter of the fiscal year. This report was filed in March and provided notice of the election of new officers.

An audit of the financial records of the association was done by an independent third party. The results from the audit again showed the records to be in good shape.

*Third Quarter Financial Report*
*By Debra Ness, Treasurer*

Statement at the end of the third quarter is:

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<td>12 Month Reserve CD</td>
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Total $114,402.02

*IWEA to Host the 2010 SJWP*
*By Chuck Corley, SJWP Committee Chair*

In 2008, Water Environment Federation (WEF) selected IWEA to host the Stockholm Junior Water Prize (SJWP) competition in Chicago June 23 - 25, 2011. The Stockholm Junior Water Prize is an international youth award for high school water science research projects. Its purpose is to increase students’ interest in water-related issues and research and to sensitize them, as future leaders, to global water challenges. It is anticipated that 45 or more state winners, accompanied by their advisors and families, will join us in Chicago where we are planning three days of learning and fun activities.

The organizing and local arrangements for the event are going to need the commitment and participation of a large number of IWEA members. The Executive Board of IWEA has established the SJWP Local Arrangements Committee and appointed Chuck Corley the Chairman. The committee has met several times so far and has established many subcommittees for the numerous assigned tasks needed to put on this event. The following are just a few of the numerous arrangements needed: local transportation for the SJWP competitors, airport transportation, icebreaker activity on-site for the students and teachers, fundraising and corporate sponsors to offset the IWEA expenses, recruitment of volunteers for on-site activities and to “meet and greet” competitors at airports, organize and arrange a student design/build activity related to water pollution control, publicity, and a myriad of others.

Rozanne Ferguson and Mary Johnson have worked together to add the SJWP Committee page on our website, www.iweasite.org. SJWP also has its own website, www.sjwp.org, from which you can discover everything about past and future competitions.

If you wish to be a financial sponsor of the IWEA hosted activities, please contact Lou Kollias at Louis.Kollias@mwrduc.dst.il.us for more information and sponsorship levels. An Exclusive Sponsorship is available for a limited time before IWEA makes a general solicitation.

The Illinois Water Environment Association’s SJWP Local Arrangements Committee currently consists of Ted Denning, Rozanne Ferguson, Mary Carroll, Lou Kollias, Norm Rose, Mark Halm, Krishna Pagilla, Lou Storino, Greg Cargill, Fred Wu, Deb Ness, Bernie Sawyer, and Matt Painter. There is room on the committee for any IWEA member seeking the unique experience of helping the future scientists and pollution control leaders at an early stage in their lives. We are months away from the SJWP Competition in Chicago, but, as the committee can attest, the work has begun in earnest and your help is needed now as well as later as the event draws closer.

You will recognize the names above of the IWEA members already involved. These are among the current and past IWEA leaders. This event is an opportunity for new participants and future IWEA leaders to be immersed in a WEF event of great significance and to help IWEA present a great city, well organized event and vital organization to participants and their teachers from all corners of the US and Puerto Rico. For details and to volunteer for this special IWEA-WEF opportunity, contact any of the members mentioned above or Chuck Corley at Charles.corley@illinois.gov.
Welcome New Members
By Frederick Wu, Membership Committee Chair

January 2010
Kent Newton, Sanitary District of Decatur
Yiping Zhou, MWRDGC

February 2010
Jeff Kindermann, Village of Itasca
Max Middendorf, MECO Engineering Co.
Robert D McCu, Thomas Pump Co. Inc.
Ryan Christopher
Sonia O’Del, Fox Metro Water Recl. Dist.
Steven Thompson

March 2010
Adam Decker
Al Keller
Albert Cox, MWRDGC
Amy Schweig, CMT
Amy Dragovich, State of Illinois
Angie Wiechman, Veolia Water
Art Strother, KRM Wastewater
Auralene Glyph, MWRDGC
Bart Darfler, n-Pipe Technology
Binphai Patel, MWRDGC
Brandi Young, Greater Peoria Sanitary District
Brenda Fierro, CDM
Brian Hines, MWRDGC
Carlee McKenzie, Prairie Analytical
Charles O’Connor, MWRDGC
Charles (Trip) Barton, Maurer Stutz Inc.
Cheryl Kunz, Aqua Aerobic
Chris Daly, MWH
Chris Zell, Geosyntec Consultants
Christina Castle, MWRDGC

Christina Grites, CMT
Dan Higgins, PE, GE
David R. Burroughs, Engineering Enterprises, Inc.
David Tucker, CDM
Dean Chambers, City of Belvidere
Derek Wold, Baxter & Woodman Consultant
Don Miller, Sanitary District of Decatur
Drew Dudas
Drew Loder, Bradley University
Elizabeth Fujikowa, CDM
Erik Goldman
Gabriela Jasovic, MWRDGC
Gary Shimp, Black & Veatch
Geeta Rajal, MWRDGC
Glenn Gottardo, MWRDGC
Glenn Schulz
Greg Drosessler, Clark Dietz
Gregg Humphrey
Gregory Ashbury
Guanglong Tian, MWRDGC
Gunilla Goulding, Malcom Pirnie
Harold Saline, Galesburg Sanitary District
Harry Simon, OpenCEL
Herb Anderson
Holly Sauter, MWRDGC
James Strong
Jamey Oliver, Sanitary District of Decatur
Jeffrey Chandler, Jr., CMT
Jerry Rivers
Jim Fitzpatrick, Black & Veatch
Jim Keim
Jim Stahl, MWH
Joe Dinkel, AECOM
Joe Koronowski, State of Illinois
John Hughes
John Morgan, AECOM
John Murray, MWRDGC
John Norton, MWH
John Szwezo, Baxter & Woodman Consultant
Jon Pohl, MWH
Joseph Schuessler, MWRDGC
Joy Hall, City of Bloomington
Jyh-Wei (Al) Sun, CDM
Karen Clementi, Walter E. Deucher Associates Inc.
Karen Katamay, State of Illinois
Karlo Giokas, RJN Group
Keith Henley
Kelly Koehne
Kendra Sveum, ABJ Donohue
Kerry Gifford, Sangamon Valley Public Water District
Kevin White, RJN Group
Killian Tobin, MWH Software
Lee VanDixhorn
Louis Montestruque
Luis Simas
Lyle Henson
Margaret Panatera, Huff and Huff
Mark Willibbee, Geosyntec Consultants
Marzena Bratko, Postl Yare & Associates Inc.
Matthew E McElroy, Sanitary District of Decatur
Melissa Eaton

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Cont. on back page
Call for Nominations
By Pat Schatz, Awards Chair

It is not too soon to nominate an IWEA member for the upcoming year’s awards. The awards available are the WEF Hatfield, WEF Bedell, WEF Laboratory Excellence, IWEA Merideth, and IWEA Clinebell. Award specifics can be found at the award tab on IWEA website at www.IWEAsite.org.

New Members cont. from page 15
Michael Mulcahy
Michael Dicentio, IDCS LLC
Michael Irons, Sanitary District of Decatur
Michael Novotney, Baxter & Woodman Consultant
Mike Blackburn, Hach
Movva Reddy, MPR Engineering
Naila Mahdi, IIT
Nate Davis, CMT
Olawale Oladjei, MWRDGC
Patrick Jensen, MWRDGC
Philippe Moreau, Walter E. Deuschler Associates Inc.
Preethi R. Chinchoud, Bradley University
Preston VanDeusen, CDM
Ranadeep Das, CMT
Randy Stein, City of Bloomington
Raphael Frost, MWRDGC
Rebeccas Rose, MWRDGC
Ron Maiorana, Parkson
Rozanne Ferguson, CMT
Selina Worth, AECOM
Sharon Hawkins, Rochelle Municipal Utilities
Sherri Westphal, Thermal Process
Steve Berggruen, GLV
Steven Arahood, Maurer Stutz Inc.
Steven O’Neil, City of Saint Charles
Strong James, AM Water
Susen Gali, CDM
Terry Jenkins, City of Addison
Thomas Genack
Thomas Meyer, Greater Peoria Sanitary District
Thomas Sichz, PE, Aqua Aerobic
Tingting Wang, IIT
Tom Muth, Fox Metro Water Reclamation District
Trent Stober PE, Geosyntec Consultants
Vic Smith, Greeley Hansen
Vince Paparozzi
William Deckelmann, American Water Works Service Company
Xiang Li, IIT

Deadline Next Issue Illinois Clarifier: July 15, 2010

Students and Young Professionals Participate at Conference in East Peoria
By Lou Storino, Student Chapters Chair

The IWEA 31st Annual Conference and Exhibition was well attended by Students and Young Professionals. Tuesday was earmarked Students and Young Professionals Day, as many events were planned for their participation.

The day began with breakfast. Ms. Manju Sharma, Assistant Director of Maintenance and Operations with the Metropolitan Water Reclamation District of Greater Chicago, candidly spoke with the group on her career path. Valuable information was shared with all those who attended.


Following the presentations, the Students and Young Professionals were split into groups and taken on a tour of the Exhibit Hall. Special thanks to the following exhibitors who made presentations to the groups: Metropolitan Industries, LAI Ltd., Flow Technics, Ronk Electrical Industries and Peterson and Matz.