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TAWWA/WEAT

MARCH – APRIL 2013

ISSUE 89

# SOUTH TEXAS CHAPTER

## e-Newsletter

## NUTRIENT STUDY IN THE MARTINEZ CREEK WATERSHED

Sheeba Thomas, Ph.D., PE, CFM, and James Doersam, P.E.; San Antonio River Authority  
Yu-Chun Su, Ph.D., PE, Ka-Leung Lee, and Paul Jensen; Atkins North America

Nutrient levels in surface water and their sources have been extensively in discussion nationwide, especially over the last decade. Excessive nutrient concentrations in water lead to depressed oxygen levels and adversely affect aquatic habitat and recreational use of water bodies. But at the same time a limited supply of nutrients can reduce productivity in resources further downstream. A balanced management approach to nutrients is essential. The United States Environmental Protection Agency (US EPA) has several resources on the criteria for nutrient development for various types of water bodies, including the use of several biological stressors (US EPA, 2010; US EPA, 2000a; US EPA, 2000b). Several states, such as Florida, have established nutrient limits. Texas' efforts on establishing numeric nutrient criteria for surface water can be found in the TCEQ Nutrient Criteria Development Plan (2012) – Draft which includes the numeric limits for reservoirs. The nutrient criteria for rivers and streams have not yet been established. In semi-arid regions like Texas, Wastewater Treatment Plant (WWTP) effluent can be assumed as a continuous source of nutrients in the streams where they are discharged. Peña-Tijerina and Bhattarai (2010 and 2009) have provided extensive insight on the existing status of numerical nutrient limits, different technologies in nutrient removal at various concentrations and impact on the wastewater utilities in Texas.

SARA strives relentlessly on proactive and smart planning to elevate and/or maintain the health of the watersheds. As part of the planning process SARA chose to assess the contribution of nutrient loads from the various sources.

The study area, Martinez Creek Watershed (hereafter referred to as watershed), is located on the east side of Bexar County, Texas. The watershed is about 88 square miles and is primarily rangeland with some residential and commercial development. Primary creeks include Salatrillo, Escondido, Women Hollering creeks which drain to the Martinez Creek. The watershed currently has about 60% undeveloped area which would change with full build-out (future) conditions in the future years. Hence it is very necessary to plan for future development in order to maintain healthy water quality conditions in the receiving streams. SARA operates several WWTPs in the Martinez Creek Watershed. Table 1 shows the average observed as well as permitted flows and permitted water quality requirements of the WWTPs.

*Continued on page 3*

## SAVE THE DATE



### TAWWA/WEAT MAY MEETING

Date: Thursday, May 16, 2013  
Time: 11:30 am  
Place: San Antonio Water System  
Tower II, 1st Floor, Rm C145  
2800 US Highway 281 North  
San Antonio, TX 78212  
Speaker: Sheeba Thomas, Ph.D., PE, CFM  
San Antonio River Authority  
Topic: SARA Martinez Nutrient  
Wastewater Study

### TAWWA/WEAT JUNE MEETING

Date: Thursday, June 20, 2013  
Time: 11:30 am  
Place: San Antonio Water System  
Tower II, 1st Floor, Rm C145  
2800 US Highway 281 North  
San Antonio, TX 78212  
Speaker: Donovan Burton, SAWS  
Topic: Senate Bill 1048 and Legislative  
Update

EDITOR:  
Heather Lindner (heather.lindner@hdrinc.com)

## MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT

Our local San Antonio TAWWA and WEAT organizations are off to a great start in 2013!

We've had some very educational and informative monthly meetings with the February meeting on Zebra Mussels, March meeting on Engineering Ethics, and April meeting updating the membership on the SAWS Desalination and Regional Carrizo Projects. We have several great monthly meeting presentations lined up through the Summer and the rest of this year.

In February, we held our first ever TAWWA/WEAT Sporting Clays Tournament. Thanks to all our sponsors and participants, this event was a huge success and we were able to raise over \$6,800 to help support the Texas Water 2013 Pipe-Tapping Champions with travel expenses to ACE2013, assistance for Nick Sanchez' family, and our local scholarship funds. Due to the huge success of this event, we will look to make the Sporting Clays Tournament an annual event. Also in February, we held our first Basura Bash event and had a great turnout of volunteers.

We held our first our first YP tour of the year at Sea World with a tour of their water conservation and reuse practices. Coming up in the next few months, we have several events and opportunities for membership to get involved in our organizations. We are increasing our involvement with Basura Bash with our second clean-up date of the year scheduled for May 18th. We will be holding the 11th Annual TAWWA/WEAT Bowling Social on May 31st to benefit the Brad Groves Scholarship Fund. Coming up on July 26th, we are excited to be hosting the 3rd Annual Summer Seminar. Then on August 23rd, you can all come out and "Sweat for a Cause" at the 5th Annual Water for People Golf Tournament. We appreciate everyone continuing to be active through attendance and

participation in meetings and events and we encourage everyone to get involved!

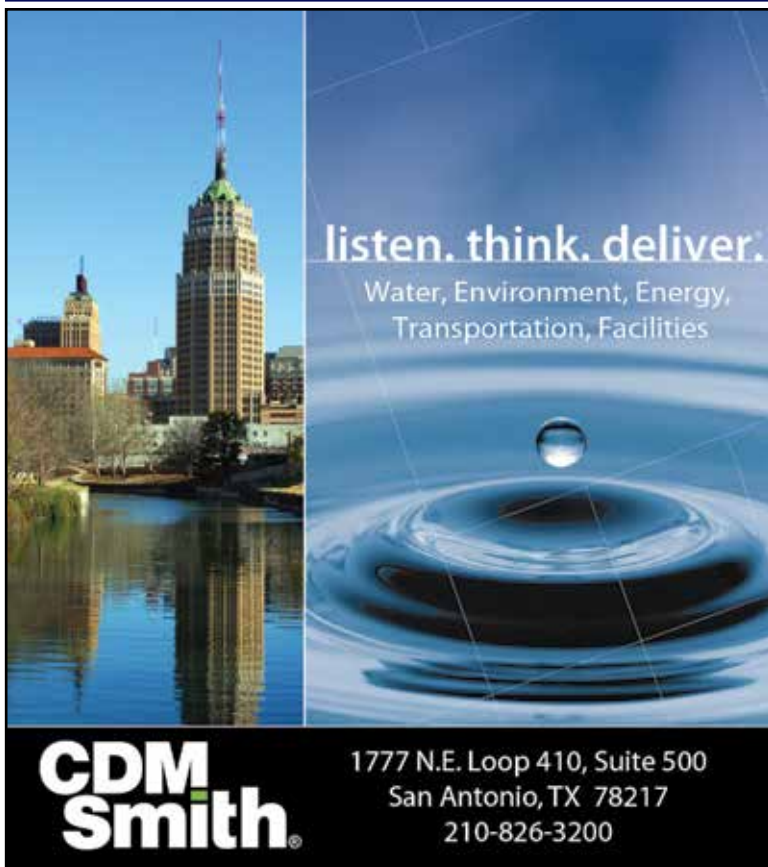
As water/wastewater professionals, we are all in tune to our regional water needs. Although we have received some rain in the region so far this Spring, we are still in a deficit from last year and way behind where we had hoped to be with our current rainfall. With the prolonged dry period and as we head into the Summer months, we are all reminded of our precious water resources and how important water is to our existence. As professionals in the water/wastewater industries, we all contribute day-by-day to the preservation, growth, and sustainability of our water resources. Organizations like WEAT and TAWWA help bring awareness to the importance of water across the state, country, and around the world. We encourage each of you to reach out to your friends, family, and neighbors to help bring awareness to the importance utilizing our resources responsibly.

I am enjoying the opportunity to serve as President of the WEAT San Antonio Section, and I welcome any suggestions that the membership may have. For anyone interested in becoming more involved or to receive additional information on this year's upcoming events and sponsorship opportunities, please contact me or any of the other officers listed at the back of this newsletter. Membership interest and support along with the great guidance and leadership of past and current local Officers are what keep our WEAT San Antonio Section and South Texas AWWA Chapter active and successful!

Best Regards,

**David Bennett, P.E.**

*President, WEAT - San Antonio Section*



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**TABLE 1 – OBSERVED AND DESIGN FLOWS OF SARA'S WWTPS IN THE MARTINEZ CREEK WATERSHED**

WWTPs	Average Current Flow	Event Host	Location
Upper Martinez	1.6	2.21	10mg/l CBOD5, 15mg/l TSS, and 3mg/l NH3-N
Martinez 2	1.65	3.5	10mg/l TSS, 15mg/l CBOD5, and 3mg/l NH3-N
Salatrillo	3.91	7.33	7mg/l CBOD5, 15mg/l TSS, and 2mg/l NH3-N
Martinez 3 (package plant)	(not currently discharging)	0.15	20mg/l BOD, 20mg/l TSS, and no limit on NH3-N
Graytown	Expected in 2015	2.00	10mg/l CBOD5, 15mg/l TSS, and 3mg/l NH3-N

As a strategy of preparing for potential changes in the water quality regulation, SARA planned to conduct a 2-year comprehensive nutrient study (July 2012-June 2014) of the Martinez Creek Watershed.

The goals of the study are:

- 1) Estimate the nutrient loading into the Martinez Creek from the effluent per current operation of the WWTPs and from stormwater runoff.
- 2) Understand the impact of the nutrient loading from fully developed (land use) watershed scenario with existing and proposed WWTPs operating at permitted rates.
- 3) Prioritize the nutrient load reduction based on economic feasibility and sustainable watershed practices.
- 4) Propose future changes to land use development strategies and/or WWTP processes and operation.

The study is being conducted in the following levels:

Phase 1 (July 2012-June 2013) –Development of numeric models for existing and ultimate conditions and estimate nutrient loads from the sources in the watershed. This phase is fully funded.

Phase 2 (July 2013 – June 2014) – Conduct WWTP nutrient removal assessment and additional analysis for required load reduction based on results from Phase 1.

## SPECIAL THANKS TO OUR MARCH AND APRIL SPEAKERS AND SPONSORS:



Thank you to our speaker Mr. Clifton Bond with the Texas Board of Professional Engineers, and Environmental Improvements, Inc. for sponsoring the March Meeting.



Thank you to our April speakers, Gary Guy, P.E. and Esther Harrah, P.E. (not pictured), both with the San Antonio Water System, and American Flow Control for sponsoring.

## SPEAKER FOR MAY MEETING:

**SHEEBA THOMAS, Ph.D, PE, CFM**  
ENGINEER, SAN ANTONIO RIVER AUTHORITY

Dr. Sheeba Thomas received her Doctoral Degree in Environmental Sciences and Engineering from UTSA. As a watershed engineer of the Watershed Engineering Department in the Technical Services Division as well as the Program Leader for the Watershed Modeling and Mapping Program at SARA, Dr. Thomas is highly acquainted with water resources engineering and hydrology, hydraulic and water quality modeling.

Sponsor:



## SPEAKER FOR JUNE MEETING:

**DONOVAN BURTON**  
CHIEF OF STAFF, SAN ANTONIO WATER SYSTEM

Prior to his current position as Chief of Staff, Mr. Burton served as Intergovernmental & External Relations Manager for the San Antonio Water System (SAWS). His experience with the legislative process, state agency rulemaking, and water policy has helped SAWS manage through historic legislative and executive initiatives. Prior to working at SAWS, Mr. Burton was the legislative assistant to a local state representative. He recently served as statewide legislative committee chairman for the American Water Works Association Texas Section. Mr. Burton received a bachelor's degree in government from The University of Texas at Austin.

Sponsor:



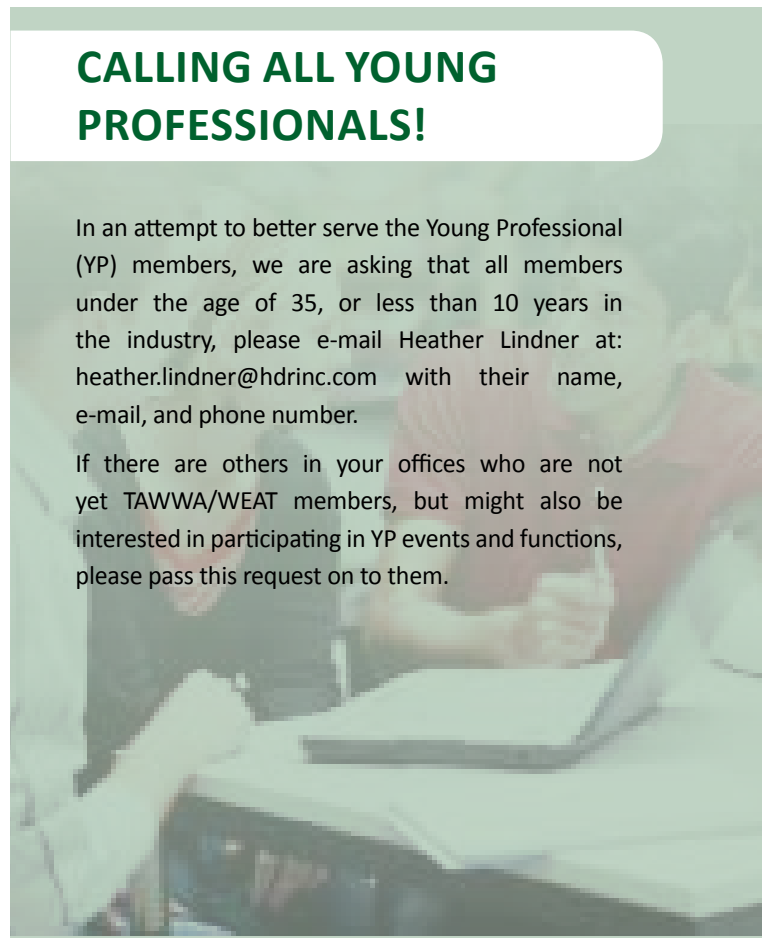
Numerical models are being developed to support nutrient management of the Martinez Creek Watershed. An intensive survey was successfully conducted in October 2012 that provided data to update a steady-state stream QUAL-TX model of Martinez Creek. A parallel effort is the data collection and development of a dynamic watershed and stream HSPF model. The Martinez Creek Watershed is currently about 60% undeveloped. Significant development is projected in the next decade that will result in increased nutrient loads to the streams due to increased wastewater discharges and nonpoint source loadings. These numerical models being developed will provide the tools for deriving management strategies to preserve and/or improve the water quality conditions in the receiving streams.

*Dr. Sheeba Thomas will be presenting on the Martinez nutrient study at the monthly luncheon on May 16th, 2013. The full white paper is available for download at the Texas Water 2013 website.*

## CALLING ALL YOUNG PROFESSIONALS!

In an attempt to better serve the Young Professional (YP) members, we are asking that all members under the age of 35, or less than 10 years in the industry, please e-mail Heather Lindner at: [heather.lindner@hdrinc.com](mailto:heather.lindner@hdrinc.com) with their name, e-mail, and phone number.

If there are others in your offices who are not yet TAWWA/WEAT members, but might also be interested in participating in YP events and functions, please pass this request on to them.



## SUDOKU

	7		8					
	8	2		3	6	7	9	5
							6	
4		1	9	2				
	2	5					7	3
			3		4			
						1	5	7
7		4			1	6		
						9		4

Sudoku Puzzle #N062VL  
Presented by Puzzle Baron

Rated: Easy

Sudoku Puzzle #U811VD  
Presented by Puzzle Baron

Rated: Medium

8	9				3	7		
	6		1					5
		3	7		6			4
3			2					9
			6	9		4	5	3
		9				8		
	1							2
		4	8				9	
7				6		5	1	



Answers on Page 14



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## BASURA BASH

The local chapters of WEAT and TAWWA participated in another successful Spring Basura Bash River Clean-up in Olmos Park on February 23, 2013. Thanks to all who came out early to participate!



(From left to right):

Back row: Josh Marazzini, Steve Renneker, Adam Conner, Javier Cantu, Dimitri Bryant

Middle row: Melissa Bryant, Samuel Vergara, Marisa Vergara, Steven Tavitas

Front row: Georgia Vergara, Dorian Bryant

Not pictured: Jessica Rahini

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# SCHOLARSHIP NEWS

## 2013 TAWWA & WEAT Scholarship Applications



### **TAWWA**

The 2013 TAWWA scholarship applications have been posted. Go to <http://www.tawwa.org/Scholarship.htm> for more information. Applications must be postmarked by Friday, July 12, 2013. This applicant must be either a TAWWA member or immediate family member of a TAWWA member.



### **WEAT**

Scholarships will be awarded to local students with interested in Water related studies. Email Josh Marazzini at CP&Y ([jmarazzini@cpyi.com](mailto:jmarazzini@cpyi.com)) if you are interested in receiving an application or go to <http://www.weat.org/sanantonio/main/scholarships.php> for more information. The deadline for submission will be Friday, September 6, 2013.

## OLMOS BASIN ALLIANCE

The Olmos Basin Alliance (OBA) is a newly formed advisory committee to address the problem of man-made trash in Olmos Basin Park and the surrounding areas. The OBA includes representatives from the San Antonio River Authority, City of San Antonio, Bexar County, among many others. If you're interested in finding out more about the OBA or receiving the OBA's Good Neighbors to Nature newsletter, please contact Karen Bishop at 210-302-3642, or [kbishop@sara-tx.org](mailto:kbishop@sara-tx.org). More information can also be found on the OBA's Facebook page at [www.Facebook.com/OlmosBasinAlliance](http://www.Facebook.com/OlmosBasinAlliance).



### Keith Mayfield

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[kmayfield@wwatertec.com](mailto:kmayfield@wwatertec.com)

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## YOUNG PROFESSIONALS TOUR OF SEAWORLD SAN ANTONIO

The San Antonio Young Professionals got together on a cool windy morning on April 19, 2013 to tour the water treatment system of SeaWorld of San Antonio. Arthur Hart, Water Quality Manager, showed 26 YPs the extensive water system it takes to provide for the many needs of the park including marine life, visitors, landscaping, and cooling equipment. He also showed off recent conservation efforts to collect and utilize air conditioning condensate to maintain the landscaping in the park. The YPs asked many questions and enjoyed learning about the water system of unique theme park.



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**The South Texas  
Chapter of AWWA  
is Seeking a  
Few Good Officers**

The South Texas Chapter of AWWA is accepting nominations for Chapter Vice President and Secretary.

**\*Ballots will be picked up at the June meeting!\***

Submit nominations:

1. At the May meeting, or
2. Via email to Greg Swoboda (President) at [Greg.Swoboda@hdrinc.com](mailto:Greg.Swoboda@hdrinc.com)

The Vice President will:

- Preside at conferences and meetings in the absence of the President.
- Act as President in his/her stead as required.
- Perform other duties as required.

The Secretary will:

- Prepare agendas for officer's meetings; attend meetings, and record / distribute the proceedings of meetings.
- Attend all Chapter meetings and assist in making the necessary preparations for the meetings.
- Perform other duties as required.

\*Official ballots will be distributed at the June meeting where all those that are attending who work in the water/wastewater industry are eligible to vote.



**The San Antonio Section  
of WEAT  
is Seeking a  
Few Good Officers**

The San Antonio Section of WEAT is accepting nominations for Chapter Vice President and Treasurer.

**\*Ballots will be picked up at the June meeting!\***

Submit nomination:

1. At the May meeting, or
2. Via email to David Bennett (President) at [dtb@freese.com](mailto:dtb@freese.com).

The Vice President will:

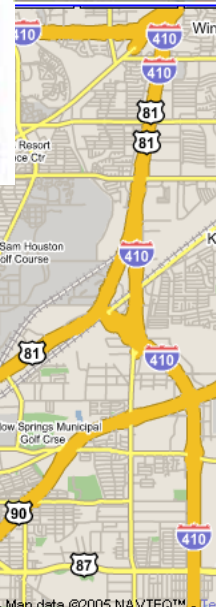
- Assist the President in the performance of his/her duties
- Act as President in his/her absence.
- Chair the Program Committee
- Perform other duties as required.

The Treasurer will:

- Be the Financial Officer of the Chapter

\*Official ballots will be distributed at the June meeting where all those that are attending who work in the water/wastewater industry are eligible to vote.

# TAWWA / WEAT SOUTH TEXAS SECTION MAY MONTHLY MEETING



## When:

**Thursday, May 16<sup>th</sup>, 2013  
11:30 A.M.**

## Where:

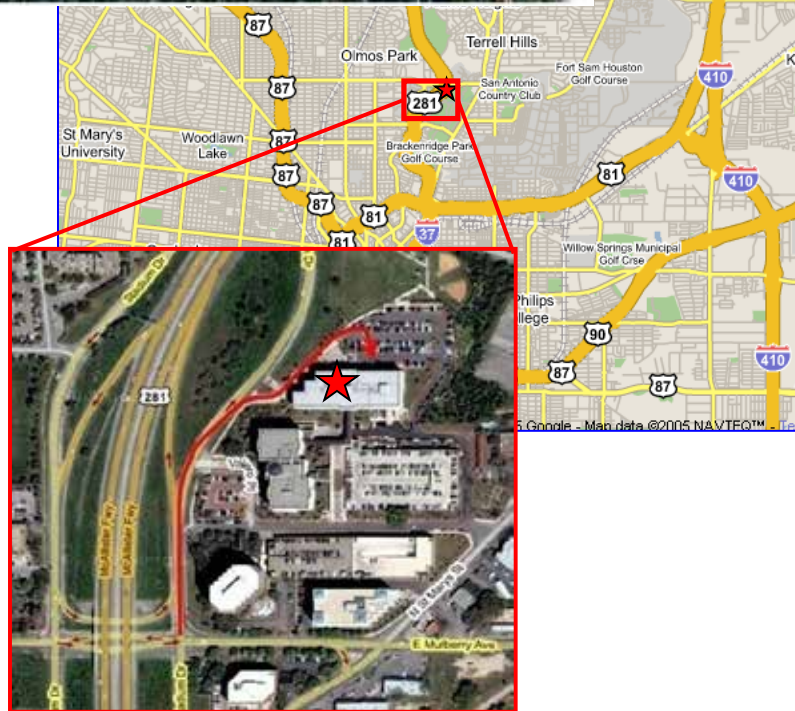
San Antonio Water System  
Tower II – 1<sup>st</sup> Floor  
Room C145  
2800 US Hwy. 281 North  
San Antonio, Texas

## Speaker:

Sheeba Thomas, Ph.D., PE,  
CFM

San Antonio River Authority

**Topic: “SARA  
Martinez Wastewater  
Nutrient Study”**



**\*\* Meeting approved for one (1) hour of Wastewater Operator Credit \*\***

**THIS MONTH'S MEETING IS SPONSORED IN PART BY  
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**Please RSVP by noon, Tuesday, May 14<sup>th</sup>, 2013 to:**  
Heather Lindner, Secretary, San Antonio Chapter, WEAT  
Email: [heather.lindner@hdrinc.com](mailto:heather.lindner@hdrinc.com) Phone: 210-841-2826  
The price for lunch is **\$12.00** with RSVP, **\$15.00** without RSVP

# TAWWA / WEAT SOUTH TEXAS SECTION JUNE MONTHLY MEETING



## When:

**Thursday, June 20, 2013  
11:30 A.M. – 1:00 P.M.**

## Where:

San Antonio Water System  
Tower II – 1<sup>st</sup> Floor  
Room C145  
2800 US Hwy. 281 North  
San Antonio, Texas

## Speaker:

Donovan Burton.  
SAWS

## Topic:

**“Legislative Update”**



**\*\*Meeting approved for one (1) hour Operator's Credit!\*\***

**THIS MONTH'S MEETING IS SPONSORED IN PART BY  
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**Please RSVP by noon, Wednesday, June 19, 2013 to:**  
Lauren Hawa, Secretary, South Texas Chapter, AWWA  
Email: [Lauren.Hawa@freese.com](mailto:Lauren.Hawa@freese.com) Phone: 210-298-3849  
The price for lunch is **\$12.00** with RSVP, **\$15.00** without RSVP



SOUTH TEXAS AWWA/WEAT



# summer seminar 2013

Emerging Issues in the Water/Wastewater Industry



Friday, July 26  
8 AM - 4 PM

San Antonio Water System

Tower II, 1st Floor  
Rooms CR-145 & CR-154  
2800 US Hwy 281 North  
San Antonio, TX 78212

If you would like to be a sponsor for this event, please contact David Bennett at [dtb@freese.com](mailto:dtb@freese.com) for more details.

## REGISTER NOW

Early Fee: \$65  
Late Fee (starts Jul 19): \$85

To register, visit [weat.org](http://weat.org) and click on "Online Webinar and Conference Registration!"

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# BASURA BASH

TAWWA/WEAT SAN ANTONIO CHAPTER



Saturday, May 18, 2013

8:30 a.m. - Noon

Location: Olmos Basin Park

Breakfast Provided!

To sign up, email David Bennett at [dtb@freese.com](mailto:dtb@freese.com)

# Save the date

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# TAWWA/WEAT South Texas Chapter now on Facebook!

The South Texas Chapter of TAWWA and San Antonio Section of WEAT are now on Facebook!

Please go to the link below and "Like" South Texas Water Professionals to be connected and stay informed about upcoming events and activities.



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[www.facebook.com/SouthTexasWaterProfessionals](http://www.facebook.com/SouthTexasWaterProfessionals)

## 11TH ANNUAL SOUTH TEXAS TAWWA/ WEAT BOWLING SOCIAL

BENEFITTING  
THE BRAD GROVES SCHOLARSHIP FUND

Come join us for an evening of bowling with your friends and family. Door prizes will be given along with popcorn and pizza!

PLACE: AMF Country Lanes  
13307 San Pedro (281 & Bitters)  
210-496-3811

TIME: 7:00 - 9:00 p.m.

DATE: Friday, May 31, 2013

COST\*: \$12.00 per Adult  
\$8.00 per Child (12 & under)

\*Cost includes soda, food, shoes and all games played between 7:00 p.m. and 9:00 p.m.

Please RSVP no later than Wednesday, May 29 to  
Lauren Hawa (Lauren.Hawa@freese.com)

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## 2013 ALAMO REGIONAL SCIENCE AND ENGINEERING FAIR

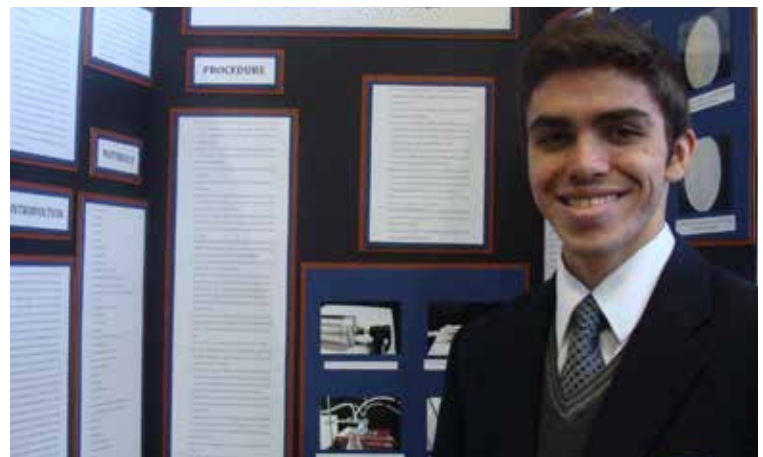
On March 4, 2013, members of the local sections of TAWWA and WEAT participated in judging water related projects at the Alamo Regional Science Fair, held at St. Mary's University.

### Judges for the 2013 Alamo Regional Science Fair



From left to right: Dennis Laskowski, Rob Jones, Lauren Hawa, Heather Lindner, Cale Underberg, Jana Cezeaux (not pictured)

### 1st Place Senior Division: George Gillette



Project title: Automatically Functioning Self-Cleaning Water Fountain Utilizing Combinations of Hydrogen Peroxide and Vinegar

### 1st Place Junior Division: Tamara Furman



Project title: Phytoremediation of Fertilizer Polluted Water

## LOCAL TAWWA / WEAT CONTACTS

### TAWWA, South Texas Chapter Officers

Office	Name	Day Phone	Fax No.	E-mail
President	Greg Swoboda, P.E.	210-841-2800	210-841-2828	<a href="mailto:greg.swoboda@hdrinc.com">greg.swoboda@hdrinc.com</a>
Past President	Melissa Bryant, P.E.	210-302-3611	210-302-3692	<a href="mailto:mbryant@sara-tx.org">mbryant@sara-tx.org</a>
Vice President	Steve Renneker, P.E.	210-321-5327		<a href="mailto:steven.renneker@kbr.com">steven.renneker@kbr.com</a>
Secretary	Lauren Hawa, P.E.	210-298-3849	210-298-3801	<a href="mailto:lauren.hawa@freese.com">lauren.hawa@freese.com</a>
Treasurer	Vicente Garza, P.E.	210-233-3596	210-841-2828	<a href="mailto:vgarza@saws.org">vgarza@saws.org</a>
Trustee	Andrea Beymer, P.E.	210-233-3490	210-233-5490	<a href="mailto:abeymer@saws.org">abeymer@saws.org</a>
Deputy Trustee	Marisa Vergara, P.E.	210-494-8004	210-494-8286	<a href="mailto:mvergara@cpyi.com">mvergara@cpyi.com</a>
Communications Chair	Alissa Lockett, P.E.	210-233-3401	210-233-4494	<a href="mailto:alockett@saws.org">alockett@saws.org</a>
Finance Chair	Andrew Hunt, P.E.	210-321-4353	210-854-9518	<a href="mailto:ahunt@rkci.com">ahunt@rkci.com</a>
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## LOGIC PUZZLE

		First Names				Conveyances				Planets			
		Haylee	Heaven	Orlando	Seth	10-speed bike	mountain bike	segway	skateboard	Mars	Neptune	Uranus	Venus
Flight Times	6:00am												
	8:00am												
	9:30am												
	1:00pm												
Planets	Mars												
	Neptune												
	Uranus												
	Venus												
Conveyances	10-speed bike												
	mountain bike												
	segway												
	skateboard												



## CLUES

- The person whose flight departs at 8:00am didn't observe Neptune through their telescope.
- The astronomer who pointed their telescope at Neptune will depart earlier than Seth.
- Either the astronomer who pointed their telescope at Mars or the astronomer who pointed their telescope at Neptune is Heaven.
- Of the astronomer who pointed their telescope at Neptune and Haylee, one will depart at 6:00am and the other uses a skateboard to get to work.
- The person whose flight departs at 9:30am is Seth.
- The commuter who rides a segway will depart earlier than the commuter who rides a mountain bike.
- The person whose flight departs at 1:00pm didn't observe Uranus or Mars through their telescope.
- Heaven didn't observe Neptune through their telescope and doesn't ride a mountain bike.
- The astronomer who pointed their telescope at Venus is not Seth.
- The person whose flight departs at 6:00am uses a segway to get to work.

Flight Times	First Names	Conveyances	Planets
6:00am			
8:00am			
9:30am			
1:00pm			

## UPCOMING MEETINGS AND EVENTS

Date	Topic/Presenter	Event Host	Location
May 16, 2013	Monthly Meeting: SARA Martinez Wastewater Nutrient Study	TAWWA/WEAT	San Antonio, TX
May 18, 2013	Basura Bash	TAWWA/WEAT	Olmos Park San Antonio, TX
May 31, 2013	11th Annual Bowling Social	TAWWA/WEAT	AMF Country Lanes 13307 San Pedro San Antonio, TX
June 9-13, 2013	ACE 2013 Annual Conference & Exposition	AWWA	Denver, CO
July 12, 2013	Water Reuse in Texas Seminar	WEAT	Austin Convention Center Austin, TX
July 26, 2013	Summer Seminar	SAWS	San Antonio Water System San Antonio, TX
July 31 - August 1, 2013	Biosolids & Odor Corrosion Conference	WEAT	Embassy Suites San Marcos, TX
August 23, 2013	Water for People 5th Annual Golf Tournament	Water for People	Canyon Springs Golf Course San Antonio, TX
August 26-27, 2013	CMOM Conference	WEAT	Austin Convention Center Austin, TX
October 5-9, 2013	WEFTEC 2013	WEF	Chicago, IL

6:00am	Orlando	Segway	Neptune
8:00am	Heaven	10-speed bike	Mars
9:30am	Seth	Mountain bike	Uranus
1:00pm	Haylee	Skateboard	Venus



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7	5	4	2	9	1	6	3	8
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