One of my greatest pleasures of serving as the Florida Section AWWA chair is presenting awards to outstanding utilities and utility employees across the state who are out there doing their jobs 24 hours a day, seven days a week. Like firefighters and police officers, water utility professionals are there every day, protecting public health and safety, delivering high-quality water for our customers.

Unlike firefighters and police, who sometimes make headlines for doing their jobs well, no news is good news in the drinking water business. When you don’t hear anything, it means we are doing our job right. That’s why we feel strongly about recognizing the “unsung heroes” who have made a career of serving the public in the water profession.

The Florida Water Resources Conference provides us with another great opportunity to honor and recognize utilities that exhibit work practices that go above and beyond the call of duty. It has been my privilege to shine the spotlight on the folks who work tirelessly to deliver a safe, sufficient supply of water every day.

Top Ops Competition

Palm Coast’s Public Works/Utility Division simply keeps on winning! The ‘Water Buoys’ claimed their seventh straight Top Ops State Championship this year. Palm Coast is the only team ever to win seven consecutive Top Ops awards.

Questions in this fast-paced, game show-type competition cover a broad range of operational topics, including basic science, hydrology, water distribution, public health and sanitation, plant maintenance, safety, and process control. The annual contest recognizes and promotes excellence in all aspects of water operations, giving operators the opportunity to showcase their knowledge and talents.

The Water Buoys team will compete for top national honors in June during ACE11 in Washington, D.C. Since 2005, the Water Buoys have placed third or higher in this phase of the national competition. Congratulations on this awe-some accomplishment, and good luck in D.C.!

Outstanding Distribution System Awards

This year the FSAWWA had the privilege of recognizing utilities for their outstanding work treating and distributing tap water day in, day out, safely and efficiently to customers throughout the state. Earlier this year, Outstanding Distribution System Awards were presented to the elected Boards of the following eight deserving systems (listed alphabetically):

- Charlotte County Utilities
- Collier County
- City of Jupiter
- City of Leesburg
- City of Marco Island
- Orange County Utilities
- Ozello Water Association
- Palm Bay

Early Call Issued for Field Operators Challenge

2 Team Events, 2 Individual Events

Four events showcasing the skills of field operators in Florida’s water industry will be held during the FSAWWA Fall Conference scheduled for December.

Known collectively as the Field Operators’ Challenge, the events are open to public and commercial field operators working in the state. Utilities are invited to enter teams in the Ductile Iron Tap and the PVC-based Fun Tap events, and individual field operators are invited to enter the Backhoe Rodeo and the Meter Madness events.

Contact Mike George at 352-200-9631 for details on each event and registration information. George is also willing to travel to FSAWWA regions to help coordinate and judge regional backhoe rodeos.

Engineers & Directors: Try This on for Size (Coats & Ties Optional)

In December, engineers and utilities directors in Florida’s water treatment industry will have the opportunity to participate in competition similar to the annual Backhoe Rodeo by entering the inaugural “Engineers and Directors Backhoe Challenge.” Mike George will coordinate the event and may be reached by phone at 352-200-9631 for details and entry requirements.
Best Tasting Drinking Water State Champ: Cooper City

Cooper City Utilities won the statewide Best Tasting Drinking Water Contest on May 3 at the Florida Water Resources Conference. Taste test judges chose Cooper City from 10 regional winners to earn the title as Florida’s best. Cooper City will now compete in the national competition to be held next month at ACE11 in Washington, D.C.

“A lot of hard work goes into ensuring only the best water comes out of Cooper City faucets,” said Michael Bailey, P.E., Cooper City Utilities director. “But it’s a job we love to do. Receiving recognition like this is great, but providing the best water will always be our primary mission.”

Cooper City won the Region VI regional competition against 15 other municipalities in Broward and Palm Beach counties. The secret behind the award-winning taste is state-of-the-art technology coupled with the dedication to quality of treatment plant operators and field technicians.

Cooper City uses a nano-filtration treatment process. Water flows through a series of filter-like membranes to remove hardness, minerals, color, and other natural organic matter typically found in groundwater. The water is then disinfected and fluoridated to produce the best drinking water in the state.

Judges for the statewide contest were Marlay Price, past president of the AWWA; Betty Jordan, Water Environment Federation trustee; and Tom Sorrells, chief meteorologist for WKMG-Channel 6 in Orlando.

Outstanding Water Treatment Plant

The Outstanding Water Treatment Plant Award is presented to the top water treatment plant in the state in each plant classification: A, B, and C. Entries are judged by the FSAWWA Awards Committee based on various categories such as regulatory compliance, process control, safety, and emergency preparedness. All of the plants submitted wonderful brochures highlighting their plants. The pride they take in their facilities is obvious.

Class A: City of North Miami Beach Norwood-Oeffler WTP

The Norwood-Oeffler Water Treatment Plant combines traditional lime softening with state-of-the-art membrane treatment technology. The source of supply is water the Florida

(Continued on page 34

CALL FOR PAPERS

ABSTRACTS MUST BE SUBMITTED BY: Thursday, June 9, 2011.

Abstract Submittal

Abstracts will be accepted in WORD 2003 ONLY via email to:
Frederick Bloetscher, Ph.D., P.E.,
Technical Program Chair at
h2o_man@bellsouth.net
Please attach a cover page to the abstract which includes the following information:
a) Suggested Session Category
b) Paper Title
c) Names of Authors
d) Name of Presenter(s)
e) Main contact including name, title, affiliation, address, phone, fax, email.
Accepted abstracts will be notified in mid-August. All authors are expected to submit a final paper by September 20th.
Questions? Call 239-250-2423

Potential Session Categories
01 Public Information Program
02 Membrane Treatment Solutions
03 The Energy/Water Nexus: conflicts & opportunities
04 Evaluating Infrastructure Condition
05 Succession Planning for Utilities and Engineers
06 Reuse Projects That Supplement Water Supplies
07 Public Health Impacts of Infrastructure Condition
08 Surviving or Thriving in Economic Recession
09 Water Conservation Symposium
10 Improving Plant Operations
11 Getting the Bang for Your Buck in Construction

Best Paper Competition

Each year awards are presented to the best papers during the Conference Business Luncheon.

Thank you for your interest in the FSAWWA.
Aquifer, which is brackish, with low-pressure reverse osmosis, and the Biscayne Aquifer using a nanofiltration system. Phosphate is added for corrosion control, followed by fluoride for promotion of dental health. The final treatment step is disinfection using chlorine for primary disinfection then ammonia to form chloramines for secondary disinfection.

Class B: City of North Myakkahatchee Creek WTP
The Myakkahatchee Creek WTP features two parallel source water supplies: surface water from the Myakkahatchee Creek/Cocoplum Waterway Canal and groundwater wells with supplemental water purchased from the Peace River Manasota Regional Water Supply Authority. The treatment process is conventional surface water and color removal consisting of taste and odor control, coagulation, flocculation, sedimentation, and filtration, followed by pH stabilization.

Class C: City of Leesburg Royal Highlands WTP
The Royal Highlands Water Treatment Plant is a groundwater treatment facility featuring three wells as the source of supply and sodium hypochlorite as the primary disinfectant.

Most Improved Water Treatment Plant, Class A: City of Pompano Beach WTP
The city of Pompano Beach showcased its “Road to Excellence” Program and this year successfully completed a conversion from gaseous chlorine to sodium hypochlorite, creating a safer working environment for all plant employees.

Most Improved Water Treatment Plant, Class B: Lake Park Pumping Station, Hillsborough County Water Department
Lake Park Pumping Station, last year’s Outstanding Water Treatment Plant in Class B, deserves recognition again this year as the Most Improved Water Treatment Plant in Class B. In these times of budgetary cutbacks and limited resources, the plant employees embarked on a landscaping beautification effort at the facility and funded the effort with their own money. What a testament to their dedication and pride in this outstanding facility!

AWWA Safety Awards
Three utilities were presented AWWA Safety Awards for their overall safe work practices as evidenced by having the lowest lost-time hours due to on the job injuries. This year’s winners were Destin Water Users Inc, Ocala Utility Services, and the Fort Pierce Utilities Authority.

Outstanding Operator of the Year: J.L. Strickland
J.L. Strickland, plant superintendent for the Peace River Manasota Regional Water Supply Authority, received the honor of being designated the Outstanding Water Treatment Plant Operator for 2010. A water treatment professional for 33 years, J.L. has served continuously at the Peace River Facility for the past 25 years. During that period:

- He has seen water demands increase 10 fold.
- The facility has treated a quarter of a trillion gallons of water during his tenure.
- He has worked through four plant expansions.
- He has worked these facilities through four droughts, two floods, and Hurricane Charley.
- He has worked with or trained over three dozen water plant operators.
- The facility has won numerous state, local, and national awards.

Utilities owe their success to the many dedicated, experienced staff members, like Mr. Strickland, who spend their careers overcoming obstacles and challenges unselfishly without seeking the public limelight and recognition. We are proud to acknowledge and reward J.L. as one of the best at what he does in his profession.

On behalf of the FSAWWA and utility customers across the state, congratulations to all the outstanding utilities and their employees for receiving these awards.