Bottled vs. Tap:
A Stroll on the Boardwalk Tells the Tale of the Better Tasting Drink

INSIDE

• Stockholm Junior Water Prize
• Operations Challenge
• Why Safety?

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Greetings from the southwest corner of Virginia! As I look out my office window, through the softly falling rain, towards the gently rolling hills not far off in the distance, and then beyond that to the New River disappearing around a bend, I am reminded of our awesome responsibility to protect and conserve the environment in which we live. To this end, we as water professionals play a pivotal role. Whether our specific careers are that of a design consultant, a utility manager, a facility operator or an equipment vendor, we all share a common goal to safeguard the environment.

Over the past 65 years, the VWEA membership has built a firm foundation that continues to support the goals of our association. Without the tireless efforts of those individuals who have gone before us, as well as the continued efforts of the present membership, we would not be where we are today. Looking to the future, we need to continue to build on that firm foundation to ensure the continued viability of the association.

A quick look at the membership breakdown indicates that the student and young professional population (age 35 and under) in VWEA only comprises eight percent of the total VWEA membership. These individuals represent the future of our association, and it behooves VWEA to put forth a concerted effort to grow and nurture the student and young professional population. There are a number of new volunteers desiring to serve on the VWEA Membership Committee, and I look forward to their recommendation as to how we can focus on increasing our numbers in the student and young professional population; however, each of us can be a part of this effort. If you are in a position to encourage your younger employees to become active members in VWEA, or if your travels bring you in contact with individuals who could be potential members, encourage them to do so. That’s how I became an active member. One individual encouraged me to serve on the Education Committee. Think what the impact could be for the association if each of the 1,300+ VWEA members was successful in bringing in one new member this year!

It’s been an exciting year for the association. WaterJAM 2012 was a huge success, with 1,344 registrants, 152 exhibitors, and a record number of abstract submissions. I am continually amazed at how well WaterJAM comes together each year. Many thanks to the JAM Committee for all of your hard work to make WaterJAM 2012 such a fantastic event! I’m already looking forward to WaterJAM 2013 in Richmond.

Although WaterJAM represents the climax of our activities for the year, there were a multitude of other immensely successful events in 2012 that offered tremendous educational opportunities to the membership. To all of our committees, I offer my heartfelt thanks in appreciation for all you do to make VWEA an outstanding association. Without your volunteer efforts, we could not be the value-added organization we have become.

I look forward to serving as your president in the coming year, and to working with the membership on all of the various initiatives that serve our organization so well. Together, we can make 2013 another banner year for VWEA!
Succession Planning

Another hugely successful WaterJAM is in the books! The exhibit booths are packed away, awards hung on office walls, education certificates filed, and the new VWEA leadership has begun to plan for the coming year. I am constantly amazed by the accomplishments made within an organization driven primarily by volunteers. I have come to learn one of the key factors in the success of JAM, and VWEA as a whole, is thoughtful and effective succession planning.

Change happens and we need to prepare for it. There is no need to reinvent the wheel with each transition within VWEA. By keeping the items below in mind, we can continue to build stability and maintain the future success of our organization.

- Ensure key committee positions have identified future leaders.
- Constantly work to attract new volunteers and make their involvement meaningful.
- Train others to fill positions by encouraging shadowing and mentoring.

Succession planning isn’t complicated. Share your knowledge and constantly look for replacement volunteers. In doing so, not only will you help create a successful future for VWEA, but you will help foster more engaged, less overwhelmed volunteers.

For more information:
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and offices throughout the U.S.
The Utility Management Committee (UMC) hosted a disaster management workshop in Northern Virginia from July 31-August 1, 2012. Disaster management proved to be a very popular topic as the 50 available seats were filled before the registration period ended. The course was presented by Ron Lavender and David Spruiell of the Texas Engineering Extension Service (TEEX) of Texas A&M University and Linda Warren of Launch! Consulting. The course was developed by TEEX with funding provided by the U.S. Department of Homeland Security.

Major workshop topics included identification of threats to water and wastewater systems, reducing vulnerabilities, responding to threats and actual incidents, and recovering from disasters. Among others, workshop discussions included shutting down SCADA systems and operating manually to simulate a SCADA failure, sampling chemical deliveries to confirm the correct chemical and strength, and tapping into County Emergency Operations Center.


Workshop participants were reminded of the following best practices:
- Keep copies of your emergency operations plan in managers’ vehicles.
- Review your vulnerability assessment and emergency response plan each year.
- Have contacts at CDC or other laboratories to assist with analyses you cannot perform but that may be needed during emergencies.
- Store facility drawings off site.
- Use message mapping to deliver consistent public announcement messages.

The workshop was informative and led to various lively discussions. If there is interest, the Utility Management Committee can host another session in Virginia. For information contact committee chair Matt Stolte at mstolte@blacksburg.gov. New members are welcome.

The workshop held the full attention of participants on day one. . .

. . .which continued through the second day of the presentation.
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The Work for Water Committee is charged with improving the visibility and image of careers in the water and wastewater industry to enhance recruitment of tomorrow's workforce. Over the past year, the committee, using its customizable Work for Water display, participated in four school and community career fairs, delivered a Filling the People Pipeline workshop in central Virginia, and organized the Work for Water workshop at WaterJAM 2012.

Bob Canova, who has served two years as chair of the Work for Water Committee, introduced the WorkJAM workshop. He pointed out that applicants for industry positions include high school students, graduates, displaced workers and veterans. He suggested that employers begin leveraging two websites: http://water.epa.gov/infrastructure/sustain/ws_workforce.cfm to locate workforce-relevant information, and https://www.vawc.virginia.gov to post employment opportunities for job candidates. He encouraged utilities to initiate or expand programs that introduce students to our industry, and then turned the workshop over to the next two speakers who detailed water industry workforce programs in Waco, Texas and Portland, Connecticut.

The City of Waco, Texas Water Utility Services Department, through their Partnership for Water Education Program, provides class and field education that allows high school seniors the opportunity to work alongside water utility workers and sit for the entry-level state water license exam. The presenters, Glenda Dunn and Teresa Bryant of Water Utility Services, pointed out that at the very least, the two dozen students who completed the course brought to their families, friends, and neighbors a greater appreciation for public water systems and protection of our water sources. At best, the young people involved in the program

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have gained an interest in careers in the water industry through exposure to the water department training. Similar programs exist in Irving, Texas and Arlington, Texas. Students participating in the program are given the opportunity to compete in the Texas Section AWWA’s Meter Madness, Jr. competition. For more information on Waco Water Utility Services visit www.wacowater.com.

The Partnership for Water presentation was followed up by a presentation on the Water and People Program created by the Connecticut Section of AWWA. The Water and People Program provides classroom and field training to high school juniors and seniors in the town of Portland, CT. The program qualifies the students to sit for the state’s entry-level water license exam and qualifies for credit towards a water management program at a local community college. According to presenter Dave Kuzminski, CT AWWA past chair and a program champion, the program recently completed its fourth successful year. As an outgrowth of the success, CT AWWA developed a one-week summer boot camp funded by the USEPA for the Water and People Program. The boot camp has had two successful seasons thus far, with sessions offered in New Haven, CT and Hartford, CT. The Connecticut programs, as the programs in Texas, are intended to attract qualified individuals to the water industry to offset the anticipated retirement of baby boomers in the coming years.

The final Work for Water Workshop presentation was given by Michele Atkinson of the Virginia Department of Professional and Occupational Regulation (DPOR). She discussed Virginia licensing of waterworks and wastewater treatment operators. She noted that Virginia regulations differ from those of Texas and Connecticut, essentially precluding high school students from sitting for a water or wastewater licensing exam. A discussion of these differences, and the process by which the Virginia regulations may be changed, followed.

The Virginia Work for Water Committee is planning activities and initiatives for the coming year. We invite people from all areas related to the water and wastewater industry to join the committee. We especially encourage human resource members of water and wastewater utilities to join. Please contact committee chair Bob Canova at bob.canova@cox.net or committee vice chair Bob Forgione at bob.forgione@uosa.org.
CALLING ALL OPERATORS
Operations Challenge and Training Conference

June 17-18, 2013
Sheraton Roanoke Hotel and Conference Center
Roanoke, VA

WHO’S READY TO RUUUUUUMBLE?
Time again to be thinking about getting your Operations Challenge teams together.

Dust off your wrenches, saws, and safety harnesses because there is going to be an Operators Challenge competition in Roanoke, VA on June 17 and 18, 2013. The Operations Challenge and Training Conference is the destination for competing Virginia teams and will ultimately provide limited scholarships for winning teams to participate in WEFTEC. All division 1, division 2, and invitational teams are welcome to join us.

And while you are here, how about some VA operator’s educational credits? We will have you covered with two half-day workshops, and one full day of classroom style sessions. Operators competing in the challenge could come away with as many as six continuing education credits!

VWEA is very proud to announce the 2nd Annual Operations Challenge and Education event – SAVE THE DATE!

PRELIMINARY SCHEDULE
Monday June 17
• Operators Challenge Event
• Two half-day workshops (3 hr credit)
• Operators Appreciation Dinner & Awards

Tuesday June 18
• Education Event, 6 hr credit for operators
• Manufacturer’s Exhibit Event
CALL FOR PAPERS
Operations Challenge and Training Conference

June 17-18, 2013
Sheraton Roanoke Hotel and Conference Center
Roanoke, VA

Please submit abstracts by February 1, 2013 to the Education Co-Chair:

Gregory Boardman
417 Durham Hall, Dept. of Civil and Envr. Engr., Virginia Tech
Blacksburg, VA 24061
gboard@vt.edu
540-231-1376
Subject line: VWEA Education Event Abstract

The call for papers is now open for the 2nd Annual VWEA Operations Challenge and Education Conference. Topics should be focused on areas which are timely and deal with plant operations and maintenance. The education component of the conference will be comprised of two half-day workshops (three credit hours each), and one full-day session with six to 12, 30-60 min presentations (six total credit hours available). Abstracts are currently being accepted for both the workshops and the presentations. The proposed workshops for Monday, June 17 should be hands-on and specifically focused on operators. The full-day session of presentations will be held in Conference Center meeting rooms on Tuesday, June 18. Abstracts submitted for the workshops and full-day session should provide the names and contact information of the speakers, be no more the 200 words, and concisely describe the topic and expected learning outcomes.
While many in the water industry understand the differences between bottled and tap water, most notably costs, bottled water still garners an extensive share of the bottled drink market. There are a variety of reasons for this, but other than convenience, those of us in the drinking water industry find these reasons incredibly frustrating, especially when people claim bottled water tastes better.

While some hard waters in the Midwest or groundwaters in Florida can have taste issues, here in Virginia, we are blessed with high-quality source waters and, as a result, great tasting drinking water. However, go to any grocery or convenience store and you will see a wide variety of types and sizes of bottled water for sale.

As part of the 2012 Virginia VA WWA and VWEA Joint Annual Meeting (WaterJAM), volunteers for both associations partnered to host the First Annual Water Taste Test/Education Booth one late summer Sunday afternoon on the Virginia Beach Boardwalk. This booth included both a water taste-testing tent and a wastewater education tent, hosted by HRSD.

The water taste-testing tent offered people strolling along the boardwalk an opportunity to taste samples of bottled water (Deer Park) and tap water side-by-side. The tap water was delivered through our very own water bar – which looked mysteriously like a beer tap (courtesy of the Blacksburg-Christiansburg Water Authority). Jonathan Newcomb, Blacksburg-Christiansburg Water Authority, and Mala Burton, City of Hopewell, managed the water bar and ensured that refreshing, cold tap water continued to flow throughout the event. It was an open taste test as we had too many people to conduct blind taste tests effectively. However, this allowed participants to watch us take their personal samples from both the Deer Park containers and the water bar.

Beachgoers, runners, and other tourists and residents stopped by to sample the two waters and render their verdict. Becky Mitchell, City of Virginia Beach, and Amelia Delphos, unpaid child worker, did an excellent job in dispensing the water, educating the participants and keeping track of their preferred water. In addition, Paul Delphos, Black & Veatch, and Jim Ewing, Woolpert, Inc. helped set up the tents and provided both active and moral support throughout the event.

In addition to the taste test itself, a five-gallon bucket was on display next to a 2.5 gallon Deer Park water container. This helped demonstrate the cost difference between bottled water and tap water. The water in the five gallon bucket cost approximately $0.02 while the 2.5 gallon Deer Park containers were purchased for $2.99 at a local grocery store earlier that morning – approximately 275 times more.

| 2012 WaterJAM Tap Versus Bottled Water Cost Comparison |
|---------------------------------|-----------------|------|
| Water                           | Actual Cost     | $/kgal |
| 5 gallons of tap                | $0.022          | $4.40 |
| 2.5 gallons of Deer Park       | $2.99           | $1,200 |

Under the shadow of King Neptune, Becky and Amelia distribute water to beachgoers.
The kids especially liked the Free Stuff!!

Nancy and Sarah explain WW management.


expensive than the tap water. While many of the passersby knew bottled water was more expensive, most had no idea it was THAT much more expensive. The turnout was exceptional. In a two-hour period, we provided more than 900 cups of tap water and bottled water.

Adjacent to the taste testing table was a public information table where we provided 200 VA AWWA refillable water bottles to participants, as well as a variety of public education materials, including stickers, pamphlets and gifts for kids. Alicia Connelly, Fe Estoesta, and Deidre Harmon of the City of Norfolk helped pass out these items and educate the public on the differences between tap and bottled water.

In addition to the drinking water tent, HRSD was on site to show how clean wastewater is after it is treated at one of their treatment facilities. A bowl of effluent from HRSD’s King William Treatment Plant was placed on the table next to water samples from the Atlantic Ocean, Chesapeake Bay, and the Elizabeth River. Visitors were amazed by the clarity of the effluent, especially when compared to the other natural waters adjacent to the effluent. Beyond just the visual comparison, HRSD employees Nancy Munnikhuyzen, Sarah Crawford and Phil Hubbard provided information regarding the wastewater treatment process. They also gave away “Don’t Sink It” can lids to remind the public not to put fats, oil and grease (FOG) down the drain.

Finally, and most importantly, tap water was preferred by 110 of the participants who voted, while only 26 preferred bottled water and 12 who really didn’t have a preference. All and all, it was an incredibly fun and enlightening day for many on the Virginia Beach boardwalk at the first Annual Water-JAM Taste Test/Education Booth. The committee plans to take what they’ve learned at this year’s event to make next year’s event even better! ☺️

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Communication Committee ANNOUNCEMENT

Attention Maryland PEs!

The state of Maryland has added a continuing education requirement for engineers seeking license renewals on/after October 1, 2012. Engineers will need 12 to 24 PDHs to renew a Maryland license after October 1, 2012. The credit requirements are dependent on license expiration date. More information on the new licensing renewal requirements can be found on the Maryland DLLR website: http://www.dllr.state.md.us/license/pe/peeduc.shtml

Central Virginia Regional Activities Committee

BY EVAN BOWLES

The Central Virginia Regional Activities Committee (CVRAC) and Central Virginia Young Professionals held a joint afterhours and WEA membership drive at Legend Brewery on August 23 in Richmond. The attendees enjoyed great weather and many laughs on the brewery’s back deck overlooking the James River and downtown skyline. WEA members were encouraged to bring non-members with them to enjoy everyone’s company. We’re happy to report that the event yielded a few new members! We’re grateful to Geiger Pump & Equipment for sponsoring the venue rental and food for the event. A big thank-you to all who attended, and please look forward to upcoming CVRAC learning and networking events!

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The VWEA-VA AWWA Joint Laboratory Practices Committee (LPC) hosted its 18th Annual Good Laboratory Practices Conference at the Omni Hotel in Charlottesville, Virginia on August 6-7, 2012. The conference was a huge success with attendance of approximately 200 professionals from all over the state, with 50-plus vendors and booth representatives exhibiting the latest in water and wastewater technology and methodology. We were very excited that Grace LeRose, Virginia Water Environment Association (VWEA) president, and Kathy Rabalais, VWEA administrator, were able to join us at the conference.

After the opening remarks and introductions from yours truly, the recipient of the 2012 Lab Analyst Excellence Award winner, Maxine Burket of the City of Norfolk Utility Department, was announced and recognized, along with conference details and a little bit of history about the Lab Practices Committee.

The first day of the conference consisted of one full-day bacteriological workshop and four half-day workshops, two in the morning and two in the afternoon.

The August 6 workshop sessions consisted of the following:

**FULL-DAY WORKSHOP:**
• Microbiology Methods for Drinking Water Laboratories

**HALF-DAY WORKSHOPS:**
• Methodology for Specific Methods & Troubleshooting for Ion Chromatography and Discrete Analyzers
  by Richard Jack, Ph.D. of Dionex-Thermo Scientific and Stuart Smith of Seal Analytical, Inc.
  This workshop provided instruction on basic troubleshooting techniques and methodologies associated with Ion Chromatography and Discrete Analyzer operation. It also provided information on how the instruments work to aid in troubleshooting problems and in preventive maintenance to avoid future issues.

• Instrument Methodology for Specific Methods & Troubleshooting for ICP/ICP-MS & GC/GCMS
  by Lorraine Foglio of PerkinElmer and Bill Atkins of Bruker Daltonics Inc.
  This workshop provided instruction on basic troubleshooting techniques and methodologies associated with ICP/ICP-MS and GC/GCMS and information on understanding how the instruments work in order to aid in preventing, diagnosing, and correcting problems.

• Laboratory Methodologies for BOD, TSS, Total & Ortho Phosphate, and Total & Free Chlorine
  by Kim Stubbs of the City of Richmond, Greg Hudson and Tamara Hostetter of EnviroCompliance Laboratories, and Chris Griffin of HACH
  This workshop focused on wet chemistry analysis and methodologies, techniques and calibration requirements, along with performance evaluation, maintenance, and troubleshooting.

During the course of the first day, we had our second annual taste-testing event, with over 60 participants tasting blind samples of various water system supplies. Participants...
were asked to describe six factors – appearance, odor, flavor, hardness/softness, mouth feel, and aftertaste. Newport News Waterworks took first place as the highest rated sample, with Fairfax Water coming in a close second. It is interesting to note that both these water plant facilities use ozone in the treatment process. (Lab fact: ozone is known to be effective in producing clearer water with reduced tastes and odors.)

After the workshops there was a Mexican Fiesta reception in the vendor exhibit area, which included a ticket bar. Attendees were able to enjoy wonderful food, relax with a refreshing beverage, and talk with the exhibitors about their products.

The second day of the event had 113 attendees and consisted of a morning session with two presentations and an afternoon technical program consisting of 12 presentations. We were delighted to have Grace LePose, VWEA president, graciously provide the opening welcome.

The first morning presentation was given by Joe Slayton of EPA on Laboratory Quality Systems. He is currently the senior scientist for the USEPA Region III Regional Laboratory in Fort Meade, Maryland (Office of Analytical Services and Quality Assurance, OASQA). He has been with the EPA for over 38 years as a biologist, microbiologist, physical scientist, inorganic chemist, organic chemist, quality assurance officer, technical director and senior scientist. Joe has performed many thousands of analyses for the NPDES (National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System), SDWA, RCRA (Resource Conservation Recovery Act), and Superfund programs and has also served as a laboratory inspector for these same programs since 1979. He has inspected many hundreds of permittee, commercial, state and federal laboratories and participated in the review of Region III State accreditation and certification programs.

Joe has also served on many national agency workgroups in such areas as: Superfund SOW, RCRA Organic Methods, NELAC/NELAP Quality Systems Committee and Board of Directors, SDWA Lab Certification Manual, Detection Limit Policy, 304H Committee for NPDES and the PBMS Committee. He has written numerous technical articles and guidance documents and has testified as an expert witness in a number of civil and criminal cases.

The second morning presentation was given by Walter Higginson of EPA on the Road to Zero Net Energy. Walter Higgins is an Environmental Scientist with EPA Region 3 and the Lead of the EPA Region 3 Energy Team (focusing on energy efficiency outreach to WWTW staff and management). Prior to EPA, Walter worked for an environmental engineering firm and an excavating company performing various duties such as public outreach on water quality, onsite sewage system evaluation, designs and installation. He also served for almost 10 years as a soil scientist for the PA County Health Department. He currently acts as a project officer overseeing DE’s federal capitalization grant which funds the Delaware Water Pollution Revolving Loan Program. He also oversees the Special Appropriation Act Project which matches grants to local communities for wastewater, stormwater, and drinking water improvement projects.

The Tuesday afternoon technical programs were held concurrently in groups of three and covered the following topics:

- Quality Control Checks & Performance Studies by Joe Slayton of EPA
- PT Standards: Understanding, Helpful Information and Manufacturing by Larry Beauchamp of Phenova
- Proficiency Testing Data Management by Tanya Rahn of ERA
- Advances in Lab Workflow Automation and Data Defensibility by Jerry Lominac of PerkinElmer
- When a Method is New to You: Incorporating Methods for Hexavalent Chromium and Perchlorate in Fairfax Water’s Repertoire by Susan Miller of Fairfax Water
- Automation: the analysis of Total Ammonia by Ion Selective Electrode by Jeanine Miller-Nelson of Fairfax Water
- Use of Defined Substrate Technology for Testing Water Samples: What is a MPN vs. CFU by Gil Dichter of IDEXX Labs
- Toxicity CSI by Beth Thompson and Laura Shealy of Shealy Consulting, LLC
- From Pilot to Full-Scale Implementation: Methanol Addition to Denitrification Filters by Lauren Zuravsky of Grecley and Hansen
- The Basics of Environmental Sample Collection by Lauren Grimmer of HRSD
- Nutrient Measurement Using Ion Selective Electrodes by Kelly Sweazee of Thermo Scientific
- Online Solid Phase Extraction for Wastewater Analysis by Richard Jack and Joey Redovich of Thermo Fisher Scientific.

The GLP Conference is always an excellent opportunity to meet and network with fellow professionals from all over the country, have some fun, and fulfill any educational/training requirements by earning CPEs (for wastewater and water operators) and CECs. There is always something for everyone to take back with them to share with their colleagues. However, none of this would have been possible without the support of our sponsors and the hard work and dedication of our committee members. A very special thank-you goes out to the following people for all their time and effort in helping put this conference together: Sherry Williams (registration), Robin Parnell and Kim Stubbs (programs), Alicia Connelly and Wendy Harding (workshops), Chris Griffin (exhibits), Stuart Wilson (local arrangements), and Greg Hudson (LPC vice chair).
The Lab Practice Committee also had a very successful WVEA-VA AWWA WaterJAM workshop on September 10 at the Virginia Beach Convention Center, themed What’s New on the Horizon: Emerging Issues That Will Affect Your Quality System. The workshop consisted of the following 1.5-hour presentations for water, wastewater, and environmental laboratory professionals:

- **An Update on Drinking Water Regulations** by Dan Horne with the Virginia Department of Health
- **Nitrosamines – Cost Analysis in the Game of Regulatory Roulette** by Aaron Duke of Hazen and Sawyer
- **When a Method is New to you: Incorporating Methods for Hexavalent Chromium and Perchlorate into a Laboratory’s Repertoire** by Susan Miller of Fairfax Water
- **Toxicity CSI** by Beth Thompson of Shealy Consulting LLC.

In closing, I would also like to say a personal thank-you to all the folks who supported me during my term as LPC chair. It has been a wonderful two years, but, alas, it is time to pass the gauntlet. Greg Hudson of EnviroCompliance Laboratories will be stepping up as chair and Robin Parnell of HRSD will be incoming vice chair.

We are already working on plans for the next conference, and we hope that if you could not attend this time, you will be able to join us next year.
WaterJAM 2013

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Fifty-seven WEA and VA AWWA members participated in the WaterJAM 2012 Clay Shoot held at Old Forge Sporting Clays in Providence Forge on September 10. This is the finest sporting clays facility in Virginia and we were once again treated to a beautiful day and 100 challenging targets.

Tom Delbridge was the shoot champion with an outstanding score of 87 with Kevin Ritchie placing second with a score of 82. Dave Lowry, last year’s winner, and Greg Everhart tied for third and fourth, both breaking 80 of 100 targets.

Pam Kincheloe was far and away our top lady shooter with a terrific score of 73.

In a repeat from 2011, team honors were grabbed by Heyward Incorporated (John Seaman, Tom Delbridge, Larry Epps, and Pam Kincheloe). The Kreye Blankenship, Inc. team (Bill Kreye, Greg Everhart, and Clarke Wallcraft) claimed second-place honors in a not-so-closely contested team race. We may need to develop a handicap system for next year in order to keep the team race from getting out of hand.

Everyone enjoyed a fine lunch of sandwiches and chili followed by the awards ceremony. As always, each shooter went home with a door prize for participating. Special thanks to Roger Cronin and George Guhse of Greeley and Hansen for bringing 15 shooters to the event.

We are already making plans for next year at WaterJAM 2013 and hope you can join us for another great day of shooting.
The Public and Government Communications Committee hosted representatives from the Virginia Department of Conservation and Recreation (DCR) and the Virginia Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ) during the Government Affairs Session at WaterJAM 2012. DCR representatives included James E. Davis-Martin, Chesapeake Bay WIP II Project Manager, and Virginia S. Snead, Regulatory Programs Manager. DEQ representatives included Frederick K. Cunningham, Director of the Office of VPDES Permits, Russell W. Baxter, Chesapeake Bay Coordinator, and Arthur J. Butt, TMDL Coordinator. The representatives provided updates on current and upcoming regulations and policies.

The first presentation by James E. Davis-Martin included a summary of the Chesapeake Bay program’s history, from the 1980 Bay Commission agreements to the current Bay TMDL and the Phase I and II WIP requirements. Mr. Davis-Martin provided a summary of Virginia’s progress in reducing nitrogen and phosphorus loads. He noted that Virginia’s current load allocations under the TMDL were slightly lower than the Tributary Strategies developed by Virginia in 2005.

Per Mr. Davis-Martin, the Phase I WIP was submitted to and accepted by EPA in the winter of 2010. It included a broad expansion of the existing nutrient credit exchange plan, an additional study of the current chlorophyll standard in the James River basin, and proposed enhancements to the Virginia Stormwater Management Program. He stated that the focus of the Phase II WIP is on local data and management of nutrients (including BMPs), land use and land cover. He went on to state that the Phase II WIP includes additional details on the expanded use of nutrient credits.

The James River Chlorophyll-a study and the updates to the MS4/Stormwater Programs were also introduced in Mr. Davis-Martin’s presentation. These programs were covered in more detail by other speakers, as discussed below.

The next speaker, Virginia S. Snead, discussed the current status of the stormwater program in Virginia. Before Ms. Snead could begin her presentation, there were questions from the audience regarding EPA’s announced intention to withhold grant funds as the result of a perception by EPA that Virginia was not adequately implementing urban stormwater controls that are required under the Bay TMDL. Ms. Snead
explained that Virginia was making progress in implementing stormwater controls through the MS4 permitting program and had responded to EPA in hopes of clearing up the misunderstandings.

During her presentation, Ms. Snead discussed the current scope of the MS4 program, which is significant, and also talked about legislation that is being considered. Currently, Phase 1 MS4 permits are administratively continued. Some of these Phase 1 permits that were continued are within the Chesapeake Bay’s drainage basin and will include Bay TMDL requirements when reissued. Ms. Snead explained that regulations that are currently being developed to address the Phase 2 MS4 permit program and the Bay TMDL expectations, including requirements addressing site design, impervious cover and the reduction of runoff quantity.

She noted that an MS4 permit had been developed for Arlington County and is currently under review by EPA and the public. If approved by the board in March 2013, it will become effective in July 2013. The Arlington County MS4 permit will serve as a template for other Bay area MS4 permits.

Following Ms. Snead, Frederick K. Cunningham, DEQ Director of the Office of VPDES Permits, provided an update of current activities within the VPDES program. Per Mr. Cunningham, there is a lot going on. Mr. Cunningham let the audience know that government was alive and well and continuing to create acronyms and abbreviations, such as: GVPDES/WTNDPDNTCBW

Which obviously stands for: General VPDES Watershed Permit for Total Nitrogen and Total Phosphorus Discharges and Nutrient Trading in the Chesapeake Bay Watershed in Virginia (9 VAC 25-820-10) or the Nutrient Trading Regulation. The Nutrient Trading Regulation and watershed general permit are being modified to address a number of changes to state law. Notable changes include:

- Allowing smaller “non-significant” facilities to generate and sell credits.
- The elimination of a redundant annual reporting requirement.
- Allowing new or expanded facilities to offset nutrient loads with compliance credits.
- Recognition of DCR’s planned development of regulations to certify nonpoint source offsets.

Mr. Cunningham reviewed the progress made by wastewater facilities in 2011, the first full year of trading. All of the major river basins currently meet their waste load allocations. Thirty-four facilities took advantage of trading to meet their compliance obligations.

Trading represented less than 5% of TP allocations and less than 2% of TN allocations. Shortfalls on the Eastern Shore were easily covered with credits from the Potomac.

The James River met the 2011 WLAs and Phase 1 DO WLA scheduled for 2017. If the current Phase II DO and Chlorophyll-a reductions remain in effect for 2022 and 2023, further reductions will be needed on the James.

Mr. Cunningham also provided an update regarding the other general permits that are in the process of being updated and reissued, and discussed the latest information related to the eDMR program.

Next, Russell W. Baxter, DEQ Chesapeake Bay Coordinator, provided an overview of the existing nutrient trading program as well as an update on the proposed expansion of the trading program in Virginia.

Per Mr. Baxter, a stakeholders group was formed in 2011 to study expansion of the trading program. In response to the study, the Secretary of Natural Resources submitted a report containing a recommended trading framework to the Governor and General Assembly. Legislation SB 77/ HB176, modeled after the Secretary’s recommendations, was introduced and passed both houses unanimously before being signed by the governor.

The legislation grants clear regulatory authority to the Department of Conservation and Recreation (DCR) for certifying nonpoint source credits from traditional and non-traditional BMP practices.

Mr. Cunningham also reviewed the progress of intended regulatory action (NAPP) for point source to nonpoint source trades. Any adjustments to the ratio will be made in a subsequent rulemaking.

Arthur J. Butt was the final presenter in the session. His presentation focused on the James River Chlorophyll-a study. The James River is Virginia’s largest river; however, it does not have a significant impact on the Bay water quality because it is at located at the southern end of the Bay. Despite this, it is important that criteria be established to address the eutrophic conditions in the tidal James. Indications of eutrophic conditions include annual algal blooms, high and increasing levels of undesirable algae, and an unbalanced algal community composition.

Dr. Butt explained the relationship between the Chlorophyll-a study and the Bay TMDL. The study includes both additional monitoring and modeling work. The work will be conducted by group including academia; VIMS, VCU, UNC, ODU, wastewater agencies; HRSD and modeling consultants; TetraTech and HRD/HydroQual.

The study is expected to take three to four years and should be finalized in time for the 2017 re-evaluation of the TMDL. A notice of intended regulatory action (NOIRA) has already been issued to initiate the regulatory process in the event that adjustments to the current Chlorophyll-a criteria are necessary.

In closing, the government affairs session was again a well-attended and informative session. If the committee has learned anything over the years, it is that the government may move slowly but it rarely stands still. There were several initiatives discussed at this year’s session and the committee plans to keep you informed of new developments as these efforts progress. We look forward to seeing you again next year at WaterJAM 2013.
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The Water Reach Committee was busy this past summer with coordinating our annual trip to Tangier Island and planning for the silent auction at WaterJAM. Both events went very well.

The silent auction was held in the Virginia Beach Convention Center on September 11 and we had almost 50 items for bid. These items included some wonderful art work, photography, handmade jewelry, Virginia wine, Redskins and Virginia Tech tickets, Tangier Island sportswear, and many donated tickets to Virginia attractions. The event raised over $1,200 to support the mission of Water Reach, which is to assist Virginia low-income communities with improving their water and sanitation systems. Thank you again to all who donated auction items, assisted with the planning or helped run the auction on the day of the event.

On Saturday, July 21, we had our annual trip to Tangier Island. We had several first-timers to the island, some of whom have now become active committee members. Thanks to Ken Fanfoni who led our WWTP and incinerator upgrade tour. We also observed the water system improvements. All of these projects were made possible by our committee involvement.

Pictured on the top row are Pat Conroy (member, Augusta County Service Authority), Noelle Slater and daughter (Arcadis, new member), daughter of Bo, Jonas Alered and family (City of Suffolk, new member), and Ken Fanfoni (Augusta County Service Authority).

Bottom row: Pat’s daughter and husband, Bo Beasley (guest, ACSA), Jeff Kapinos (Old Dominion Utility Services), Doug Phillips (Southeast RCAP), and Laura Kirkwood and husband (HRSD, new member).

CH2M HILL provides integrated solutions that address drinking water, wastewater, and water resource challenges. From the application of technology that keeps utilities on the leading edge, to the design and construction of complex projects, CH2M HILL is a trusted partner.
Young Professionals Events at WATERJAM 2012

The VWEA and VA AWWA Young Professionals Committees organized a number of great events for this year’s WaterJAM, including: a community service/outreach event, the Cornhole Challenge, the Fresh Ideas Poster Contest, a YP workshop, YP technical sessions, and a YP reception. These events were well attended and contributed to making this year’s JAM a success.

WaterJAM YP Community Service Project 2012 – YPs Making a Difference

By Laura Kirkwood and Christel Dyer

On the Sunday before WaterJAM, YPs congregated along the Lynnhaven River to help Lynnhaven River Now achieve their goal to keep the river and watershed healthy for generations to come. The group planted coastal grasses, collected beach litter, enjoyed the beautiful fall day, and benefited from a great networking opportunity. If you are interested in planning this event for WaterJAM 2013, contact Christel Dyer at cdyer@hrsd.com or call 757-244-1671.

Young Professionals and Student Reception at WaterJAM

By Phill Yi

Young professionals and students had a great chance to unwind and relax after a full day of technical sessions and workshops at the YP/Student Reception. The event was held prior to Wednesday night’s Main Banquet. Many YPs, students, and distinguished professionals attended and mingled in the beautiful VIP lounge on the third floor of the Virginia Beach Convention Center. The room was stocked with great appetizers and drinks, and overlooked the Oceanfront area with floor-to-ceiling windows. Several YPs and students offered suggestions for next year’s JAM, and left the event having made new connections.

Young Professional Workshop

By Meredith Raetz

This year the joint VWEA and VA AWWA Student and Young Professionals Committee organized another great workshop at WaterJAM. The workshop, entitled, Working Together to Serve the Public & Our Planet: Clients + Regulators + Researchers + Consultants, occurred on Tuesday, September 11, from 1:30-5:00 p.m. The workshop was aimed at not just YPs, but also distinguished professionals. Several speakers focused on how the different parts of our industry work together. Charles Bott of HRSD introduced new and emerging nutrient removal technologies that focus on minimizing resource utilization and maximize recovery. Tanner Council of the Chesapeake Bay Foundation provided a different perspective of TMDL regulations by highlighting the history and impact the TMDL regulations have had on the Bay. Mike John of Southampton County reminded us that while technical knowledge is very important, relationships with clients and colleagues can be equally important. Ashley Moore of Timmons Group wrapped up the session with information and benefits of using LinkedIn to develop one’s professional presence. We closed with a thoughtful discussion about the importance and methods of developing and maintaining meaningful relationships with clients and new hires.

The workshop was well attended and provided all the attendees with a renewed sense of how we all can work together to better serve the public and our planet. The YP Workshop Planning Committee thanks the speakers, attendees, and volunteers. We hope all YPs will consider participating in future activities to continue our growth.
WaterJAM Cornhole Challenge
By Ryan Radspinner

The Cornhole Challenge, located in the exhibit hall, was organized by the Young Professionals Committee for the first time ever. The event was a success, featuring a one-on-one or team format for conference attendees during the day on Tuesday and Wednesday. Close to 100 participants challenged one another on various teams. After each game played, participants were awarded raffle tickets. Each raffle ticket offered a chance to win the cornhole boards donated by VA AWWA/WWEA. At the end of the day on Wednesday, the lucky raffle winners were picked, and Lenny White and Scott Radcliffe took home the boards. Look out next year for another challenge in the exhibit hall. Special thanks to our volunteers and to VA AWWA/WWEA for helping make this year’s first-ever Cornhole Challenge a great success!

![Image of 2012 WaterJAM participants playing cornhole.]

Young Professionals Beach Volleyball and Cornhole
By Phill Yi

Many professionals attending JAM started off Monday evening with an enjoyable game of beach volleyball and cornhole. Participants played a few non-competitive games of cornhole and beach volleyball while enjoying many laughs and good times.

YP Technical Session
By Martin Malone

The YP technical session held on Wednesday morning was a great success. This year we had the privilege of having speakers from various backgrounds to include consulting, academia, and a municipality. John Millspaugh (Malcolm Pirnie/ARCADIS) gave a great presentation on The Forgotten Chapter – Incorporating Aerial Crossings into Your Asset Management Plan. Benjamin Custalow (Greeley and Hansen) finished the first half of the morning presentations by providing insight into Finding the Balance – Developing Sanitary Sewer Rehabilitation Projects that Address Regulatory Issues and Deliver the Most Bang for the Buck.

After the morning break, presentations continued with Kimberly Peterson (HRSD) presenting on The Tale of Two Storms: Analyzing System Improvements Through Wet Weather Events; Mark Miller (Virginia Tech) discussing Particulate and Soluble COD Removal in a High Rate Activated Sludge Pilot Study; and Phill Yi (Hazen and Sawyer) concluding with a presentation on Oxygen Transfer and Uptake of an IFAS Process: Comparison of Coarse Bubble Aeration to Coarse Bubble Aeration with Supplemental Mechanical Mixing. Each presentation was well attended with fantastic Q&A sessions where presenters and the audience engaged in insightful discussions. A special thanks to the YP volunteers, speakers, and to all those in attendance. We look forward to another great technical session next year!
Student Water Challenge
The Ninth Annual Student Water Challenge was organized on Wednesday, September 12, at WaterJAM 2012. This year we had three teams compete to solve a problem about the development of two alternatives for a town that is having a problem with taste and odor in their finished water, due to seasonal changes in their raw water supply lake. The teams were given the problem in the morning on the day of the competition and had approximately six hours to put together their response and present it to a panel of judges. Thank you so much to the judges who volunteered their time at JAM to support the students. They are:
• Jim Pyne with HRSD
• Bill Randall with O’Brien and Gere
• Ryan Bucceri with Loudoun Water
• Ignatius Mutoli with Retaw Engineering
• Steve Clark with Prince William County Service Authority

It was a very close competition with only three points separating teams one and two. In the end, Team Virginia Tech (VT) No. 1 received the first place award, which included a cash award of $1,200, plaque, and a traveling trophy. Old Dominion University (ODU) received the second place award, which included a cash award of $500 and a plaque. Congratulations to both the teams.

Team VT No. 1: Abhinav Gupta, Rajan Jha, Stephanie Countess, Jacqueline DePriest and Shekar Sharma.

Team ODU: John Whitelaw, Brittany Gesner, Holly Anne Hilliard and Arslan Ehsan.

Team VT No. 2: Mark Mazzochette, Justin St. Clair, Siddhartha Roy, Ishan Jain and Bardia Heidari.

Special thanks go to Jim Pimblett and the AWWA Drinking Water Research Quality Committee for putting together this year’s problem, and to Jessica Hou, Stephanie Spalding, Priyanka Mohandoss, Michael Elam, and Cathy Larue for their help in organizing this competition.

VA AWWA Graduate Student Scholarship
Tammy Parece of Virginia Tech has been selected as the 2012 first place awardee and will receive a check for $1,000. Andrea Nifong of Old Dominion University has been selected as the second place awardee and will receive a check for $500. Abhinav Gupta of Virginia Tech has been selected as the third place awardee and will receive a check for $250.

They were all presented their scholarship checks during the Awards Banquet at VWEA/VA AWWA WaterJAM.

The Student Activities Committee sincerely thanks the judges on the review panel for their time:
• Rob Martz, Hampton Roads Sanitation District
• Priyanka Mohandoss, CDM Smith
• Algen Canonizado, City of Virginia Beach, Department of Public Utilities
• Rich Hubel, Water Counsel
• Adrienne Shaner, Gannett Fleming
• Bill Randall, O’Brien and Gere
• Michael Elam, York County

VA AWWA Ray A. Jackson Undergraduate Scholarship
Justin Arroyo has been selected as the 2012 first place awardee and will receive a check for $1,000. He was presented a scholarship check of $1,000 at the Awards Banquet during VWEA/VA AWWA WaterJAM.

The Student Activities Committee did not receive any other applications, so the scholarship has been re-advertised in order to get the second and third place winners. Please go to the VA AWWA and the VWEA web pages for more information.

The Student Activities Committee sincerely thanks the judges on the review panel for their time:
• Rob Martz, Hampton Roads Sanitation District
• Priyanka Mohandoss, CDM Smith
• Algen Canonizado, City of Virginia Beach, Department of Public Utilities
• Rich Hubel, Water Counsel
• Adrienne Shaner, Gannett Fleming
• Bill Randall, O’Brien and Gere
• Michael Elam, York County

VWEA Sonny Roden Scholarship
Ms. Tammy Parece of Virginia Tech has been selected as the 2012 first place awardee and will receive a check for $1,500. Mr. Abhinav Gupta of Virginia Tech was the second place awardee receiving $750, and Ms. Andrea Nifong of Old Dominion University will receive $250 for third place.

They were all presented their scholarship checks during the Awards Banquet at VWEA/VA AWWA WaterJAM.

The Student Activities Committee sincerely thanks the judges on the review panel for their time:
• Rob Martz, Hampton Roads Sanitation District
• Priyanka Mohandoss, CDM Smith
• Algen Canonizado, City of Virginia Beach, Department of Public Utilities
• Rich Hubel, Water Counsel
Gerry Langfitt has been selected as the 2012 first place awardee and will receive a check for $1,000. He was presented a scholarship check of $1,000 during the Awards Banquet at WEA/VA AWWA WaterJAM.

Zack Slate (Town of Hillsville) and Michael Davis (Montgomery County Public Service Authority) were sent to the VWEA/VAawwa WaterJam with the remaining funds ($750) combined with Craig Kelman and Associates’ $500.

The Student Activities Committee sincerely thanks the judges on the review panel for their time:
• Rob Martz, Hampton Roads Sanitation District
• Priyanka Mohandoss, CDM Smith
• Algen Canonizado, City of Virginia Beach, Department of Public Utilities

Best Paper Awards
Each year the Student Activities Committee judges all of the water and wastewater themed papers presented by students at WaterJAM. Best paper awards are then given to the two best wastewater papers and the two best water papers. A special thanks to Priyanka Mohandoss, Farah Foster, Gary Hart, Mark Jones, Abha Sharma, Alex Tellez, and David Ihde for sitting in and scoring the papers.

WASTEWATER
There were several good wastewater entries this year and we were proud to award the top two with the Best Wastewater Paper Award:
For her presentation, “Advanced Chemical Characterization of Dissolved Organic Nitrogen through Wastewater Treatment Facilities,” Rachel E. Sipler from Virginia Institute of Marine Science received the VWEA Best Student Paper Award (Wastewater) – first place, which includes a cash prize of $500.

For his presentation, “A Pilot Study to Evaluate the Feasibility of Mainstream Deammonification,” Pusker Regmi from Old Dominion University received the VWEA Best Student Paper Award (Wastewater) – second place, which includes a cash prize of $250.

WATER
Although WaterJAM 2012 yielded several wastewater papers to judge, there were no entries in the water portion of the competition. We would love to have water entries to judge next year, so please encourage the students you know to enter.

In closing, thank you all for your participation, and we hope to see you again at next year’s WaterJAM 2013 in Richmond. We hope that next year we get even more applicants, students, and universities involved in the challenges.
There are several changes within the Young Professionals and Student Activities Committees. First, thank you to Aditya Ramamurthy (YP) and Farah Foster (Student Activities), for their leadership as chairs over the past two years. The engagement of our young members is evident in the many YP activities and student events that have been held throughout the year. Great job!

Second, we are happy to congratulate Sonali Ambre and Loveenia Gulati as the new YP and Student Activities chairs, respectively. And, Phill Yi (NoVA YP) & Priyanka Mohandoss (Student Activities) are taking on vice-chair positions for their respective committees.

Finally, Lauren Zuravnsky is the new WEA board rep for Student/YP Committees. She has been very involved with the WEFTEC Student Design Competition and is always helping out around JAM.

Our committees and their futures are in good hands with these talented and dedicated members! Here’s to another strong year from our YPs and students!
The Sustainable Utilities Committee was well represented at WaterJAM 2012. Several committee members participated as speakers and moderators during the Sustainability Session. During the session, participants learned more about the rollout of the new Sustainable Infrastructure Rating System (ISI’s ENVIISON), as well as other interesting sustainability topics including sustainable easement restoration, wetlands treatment, and private developer cooperation with public utilities.

The committee picked up a few new members and held a committee meeting at the conclusion of the Sustainability Session. The committee announced their appreciation to Jeff DuVal for his dedication as chair of the committee this past year. It was announced that Jeff would be stepping down and will be replaced by the current vice chair, Will Schafer, and that a new vice chair would be nominated shortly.

The committee discussed a very active schedule of events for this coming year, including the continuation of our successful webinar series with future topics to include funding strategies for sustainable projects, workforce sustainability, and succession planning. We also discussed plans for an ISI Envision Workshop and participation in the upcoming VCU Energy and Sustainability Conference at the Greater Richmond Convention Center in January 2013. Initial plans for WaterJAM 2013 include a field trip and workshop.

The committee is always recruiting new members, and is currently looking for ideas on how to reach out to more utilities for participation. For more information, contact Will Schafer, 703-691-6464 (schaferwf@cdmsmith.com) or Denise Nelson, 804-204-2407 (dnelson@greeley-hansen.com).
The Young Professionals Committee is now a joint WVEA and AWWA committee. We are a group of enthusiastic professionals who get together with a common goal of serving the members of WVEA and AWWA and contributing to our community through our activities. We believe in enhancing the knowledge of youth and other professionals through our activities. We also provide young professionals a platform to improve their leadership skills.

We encourage all team leaders to promote young professionals in their organization to join the YP committee in their area and benefit from all that we have to offer. The YP Committee consists of a chair, appointed by the president, and four (4) vice chairs – one chair for Northern Virginia, one for Central Virginia (Richmond area), one for Eastern Virginia (Hampton Roads area), and one for Western Virginia.

The year 2012 has been another good year for the committee as we hosted a lot of activities and exposed our members to a variety of events. We would like to congratulate the committee members of 2012 for an excellent year. We had several activities in which the YPs participated. These included:

- Participation as judges for the 2012 Stockholm Junior Water Prize competition held throughout Virginia.
- Hosting a Sewer Science Program booth at the second USA Science and Engineering Festival 2012.
- Organizing a team and participating in the Alice Ferguson Foundation’s 24th Annual Potomac River Watershed Cleanup.
- Organizing a site visit of a micro-tunnel pipe installation project in Norfolk.
- Hosting an evening of baseball at Harbor Park for the members of WVEA, AWWA, ASCE, ECHR, and VSPE.
- Hosted joint YP and NVRAC Afterhour social networking event.

2012 and Upcoming Events

By Sonali Ambre
2011-2012 Young Professionals Committee:

Aditya Ramamurthy (Chair),
Malcolm Pirnie/Arcadis
Marty Malone (Board Liaison), CDM Smith

CENTRAL VA REGION
Neepa Shah (Vice Chair),
Greeley and Hansen
Angelina Twumasi-Boakye,
Greeley and Hansen
Christopher Petree, Timmons
Jongmin Kim, Infilcodegremont
Dwayne Schwartz,
Water Works Coordinator
Trip Stakem, City of Charlottesville

EASTERN VA REGION
Ryan Radspinner (Vice Chair),
Hampton Roads Sanitation District
Stephanie Kunze, RK&K
Aditya Ramamurthy MALCOM PARCADIS
Martin Malone, CDM Smith

2012-2013 Young Professionals Committee:

Sonali Ambre (Chair), CDM Smith
Lauren Zuravnsky (Board Liaison),
Greeley and Hansen

CENTRAL VA REGION
Vacant Position (Vice Chair)

EASTERN VA REGION
Ryan Radspinner (Vice Chair), Hampton Roads Sanitation District

NORTHERN VA REGION
Phill Yi (Vice Chair), Hazen and Sawyer PC

WESTERN VA REGION
Vacant Position (Vice Chair)

Alan Davis, Hazen and Sawyer PC
Laura Kirkwood,
Hampton Roads Sanitation District
Katy Baragar, Kimley-Horn & Associates
Doug Groff, Kimley-Horn & Associates
Dan Porter, Brown and Caldwell

Christel Dyer,
Hampton Roads Sanitation District

NORTHERN VA REGION
Sonali Ambre (Vice Chair), CDM Smith
David Riedel, Malcolm Pirnie/Arcadis
Pavani Silaparasetty, CH2M Hill
Phil Yi, Hazen and Sawyer PC
Subodh Dalvi, AECOM
Laura Khouvilay, Malcolm Pirnie/Arcadis

WESTERN VA REGION
Vacant Position (Vice Chair)
Aaron Tice, Wiley and Wilson

2011-2012 Young Professionals Committee:

Aditya Ramamurthy (Chair),
Malcolm Pirnie/Arcadis
Marty Malone (Board Liaison), CDM Smith

CENTRAL VA REGION
Neepa Shah (Vice Chair),
Greeley and Hansen
Angelina Twumasi-Boakye,
Greeley and Hansen
Christopher Petree, Timmons
Jongmin Kim, Infilcodegremont
Dwayne Schwartz,
Water Works Coordinator
Trip Stakem, City of Charlottesville

EASTERN VA REGION
Ryan Radspinner (Vice Chair),
Hampton Roads Sanitation District
Stephanie Kunze, RK&K
Aditya Ramamurthy MALCOM PARCADIS
Martin Malone, CDM Smith

2012-2013 Young Professionals Committee:

Sonali Ambre (Chair), CDM Smith
Lauren Zuravnsky (Board Liaison),
Greeley and Hansen

CENTRAL VA REGION
Vacant Position (Vice Chair)

EASTERN VA REGION
Ryan Radspinner (Vice Chair), Hampton Roads Sanitation District

NORTHERN VA REGION
Phill Yi (Vice Chair), Hazen and Sawyer PC

WESTERN VA REGION
Vacant Position (Vice Chair)
The Eastern Region Young Professionals held two construction exhibits this summer highlighting large-scale wastewater utility work being performed by HRSD. Exhibits included the South Trunk Force Main Project in Norfolk, VA and Jefferson Avenue Gravity Rehabilitation project in Newport News, VA.

South Trunk Force Main Project

Doug Groff, PE of Kimley-Horn led tours of the 42” and 48” South Trunk Force Main construction currently underway in highly urbanized neighborhoods of Norfolk, VA. The challenges of working in these older, residential areas include turn of the 20th century gas and water lines, large trees, and even abandoned canals. Different methods of trenchless technology are being used to minimize the public impact at busy intersections and attendees were able to see these impressive tools in action while touring the project site.

Jefferson Avenue Gravity Rehabilitation Project

Scott Funk, PE of URS led a tour along the Jefferson Avenue Gravity Rehabilitation project in Newport News, VA. This project primarily involves cured-in-place lining technology to rehab aging gravity sewers as large as 42” in diameter. The complex process of providing uninterrupted sewer service while at the same time maintaining access to businesses and residences was evident throughout the exhibit. Attendees were able to see active slip-lining equipment and view the extensive bypass operation which ran 12 blocks down one of the busiest roads in the city.

Additionally, under the leadership of Stephanie Kunze, RKK, the YPs hosted an evening of baseball at Harbor Park for members of WEEA, AWWA, ASCE, ECHR, and VSPE. Marty Malone, CDM-Smith, organized a tour of the APM Port Facility and Craney Island in Portsmouth to conclude a very active and successful year.
Stockholm Junior Water Prize 2012

VWEA is responsible for organizing the Stockholm Junior Water Prize (SJWP) competition in Virginia. SJWP is one of the world’s most prestigious science competitions for high school students. Any high school student (grade 9-12), with a water-related science project, is eligible to participate in SJWP. The competition consists of four levels: regional, state, national, and international. Awards are given at each of these levels to recognize the students’ achievements in water-related research.

VWEA volunteers judge for SJWP at regional high school science fairs all over the commonwealth and give out SJWP regional award certificates to the best water-related projects. VWEA also encourages the winning students to continue their research and interest in water-related issues by giving monetary awards.

In March 2012, VWEA volunteers judged at seven high school science fairs all over the commonwealth (see table below).

VWEA awarded a total of $1,550 to the winning students (including $100 to a SJWP award that was judged by Blue Ridge Highlands Regional Science Fair judges).

All students with water-related science projects are encouraged to participate in the state competition by submitting their papers online (www.sjwp.org). The state winner receives an SJWP state medal, a one-year complimentary Water Environment Federation (WEF) student membership, a framed certificate for their school, and gets to compete in the national competition.

In late April 2012, VWEA volunteers Nina Andgren, Temple Ballard, Ken Demmons, Christine Radke, Sudhakar Viswanathan, and Christopher Moline reviewed 16 papers for the state completion. The judges selected Andrea Green and Catherine Mitchell (see photo below) and their project Assessing Oil Spill Cleanup: The Ecological Ramifications of Chemical Treatments to represent Virginia at the national competition to be held in Boston in June. Travel expenses to Boston for one student and their teacher were paid by VWEA.

A new activity in 2012 was having VWEA volunteers offer personal feedback to the students who had submitted unsuccess-ful papers to the state competition. Two students asked for and received personal feedback, which they greatly appreciated. Please contact Nina Andgren (nina.andgren@uosa.org) if you are interested in volunteering for SJWP in 2013.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
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<th>NAME OF FAIR</th>
<th>JUDGES</th>
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<tr>
<td>3-Mar</td>
<td>Northern Virginia Science and Engineering Fair</td>
<td>Nina Andgren</td>
<td>1st: Andrea Green &amp; Catherine Mitchell</td>
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<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Sonali Ambre</td>
<td>2nd: Helena Nicholakos &amp; Claire Slevin</td>
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<td>2nd: Ashley Meredith</td>
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<td>3-Mar</td>
<td>Blue Ridge Highlands Regional Science Fair</td>
<td>Judged by science fair</td>
<td>1st: John Zachary White</td>
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<tr>
<td>10-Mar</td>
<td>Tidewater Science Fair</td>
<td>Kathy Marshal Denis Atwood</td>
<td>1st: Graham Young</td>
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<td></td>
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<td>Farah Foster</td>
<td>2nd: Katherine Strike</td>
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<td></td>
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<td>3rd: Abigail Chen</td>
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<td>12-Mar</td>
<td>Virginia Piedmont Regional Science Fair</td>
<td>Sharma, Abha Alex Tellez</td>
<td>1st: Matt Smith &amp; Jacob Perry</td>
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<td>2nd: Jonathan Schwaner</td>
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<td>3rd: Alex Perez-Reyes</td>
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<td>Samant Garg</td>
<td>1st: Sierra Carlson</td>
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<td>2nd: Lana Vaillancourt</td>
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<td>2nd: Riley Sanborn</td>
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<td>17-Mar</td>
<td>Fairfax County Area Regional Science and Engineer Fair</td>
<td>Phil H. Yi, Yi Pavanisilaparasety Bob Forgione</td>
<td>1st: Camila Moscoso</td>
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<td>2nd: Mohammad Rahimi &amp; Murwarid Rahimi</td>
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<td></td>
<td></td>
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<td>3rd: Kathryn Murray</td>
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<td>17-Mar</td>
<td>Western Virginia Regional Science Fair</td>
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<td></td>
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<td>1st: Matthew King</td>
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<tr>
<td>24-Mar</td>
<td>Metro Richmond Science Fair</td>
<td>Steven Herzog Anne Payne Bullock</td>
<td>2nd: Clay Kulesza</td>
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<td></td>
<td></td>
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<td>2nd: Kayla Oakley</td>
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Andrea Green and Catherine Mitchell are being judged by Nina Andgren.

Please contact Nina Andgren (nina.andgren@uosa.org) if you are interested in volunteering for SJWP in 2013.
The Stormwater Committee has had a successful first year within VWEA. In April 2012, we hosted a full-day seminar on the changing regulatory environment for stormwater with presentations addressing national and state level issues. We are currently hosting a series of lunch and learn workshops in the four regions of the Commonwealth. The first workshop was held in Richmond on August 21. Two additional workshops were hosted in Roanoke and the Tidewater region during October. Our final 2012 workshop will be in Northern Virginia in November. Please see the VWEA webpage for details. The committee is currently planning our next full-day seminar to be held in Richmond in April of 2013. Please contact Lisa Jeffrey, committee chair, at ljjeffrey@brwncald.com or 757-518-2423 if you are interested in assisting with seminar planning or in joining the committee.
VA AWWA/VWEA Joint Water Reuse Committee UPDATE

By Leita S. Bennett

Over the past year, the Joint Reuse Committee reached out to various organizations and conducted strategic planning to get the word out on reuse. The Virginia Manufacturers Association, the Virginia Beach Economic Council, and the US Green Building Council are just a few of the organizations we are pursuing for education through presentations and one-on-one meetings.

The committee is also aligning with the national WaterReuse organization in order to move into the commercial and industrial sectors and further reclaimed water reuse in the mid-Atlantic area. The committee is planning an April 2013 One-Day Reuse Seminar to cover important topics such as reuse economics, stormwater reuse, operating and maintaining a reuse program, and using reuse to meet TMDL standards. Mark your calendars and join us for some great discussions and learning opportunities.

After three years as committee chair, Leita Bennett is turning over the reins to Kris Edelman of Arcadis/Malcolm Pirnie as the new chair of the Reuse Committee. Kris will be assisted by Kevin Parker of HRSD as co-chair. They will be looking for help and making connections to further reuse in the Virginia area. Get involved, you’ll love it.
On September 11, 2012, The Town of Purcellville received the 2011 Facility Safety Award from the Virginia Water Environment Association (WWEA) during a lunchtime reception at its annual meeting in Virginia Beach, Virginia. Purcellville Superintendent Scott House received the award on behalf of the town.

“This award is so important to us, as a reflection of our focus on safety at the plant. The award is to be shared among all nine employees who operate the plant for us each and every day,” said Town Manager Robert Lohr.

According to the WWEA award application, the purpose of the annual award is to encourage wastewater treatment facilities to “participate in promoting an active and effective safety program and to stimulate the collection and reporting of safety data.”

“Purcellville earned this award for their dedication towards safety awareness and their outstanding safety program,” said Wayne Sirna, past chairperson of the WWEA Accident Prevention and Safety Committee. The water reclamation facility has not had an accident since October 2009.

The Basham Simms Water Reclamation Facility is a 1.5 million gallons per day (mgd) advanced wastewater treatment plant designed to meet enhanced nutrient removal treatment goals set by the effluent permit requirements for discharge into North Fork Goose Creek, a tributary of the Potomac River en route to the Chesapeake Bay. The treatment process includes coarse screening, grit removal, primary clarification, fine screening, enhanced nutrient removal in a membrane biological reactor (MBR), and UV disinfection.

The water reclamation facility is staffed by nine employees: six operators, one lab technician, one maintenance mechanic and one superintendent.
In order to meet the demands of a growing county, Loudoun Water built the Broad Run Water Reclamation Facility (BRWF) in Ashburn, Virginia in 2008. The facility sets the industry standard for treatment by incorporating coarse screening, grit removal, primary clarification, biological treatment, membrane bioreactors, granular activated carbon, and UV disinfection to meet stringent water quality goals. The impressive technology at the facility is paired with an industry leading staff whose workplace attitudes, robust programs, and proven results earned the prestigious Water Environment Federation (WEF) George Burke Facility Safety Award in 2011.

Loudoun Water demonstrated excellence at a facility inspection by members of the VWEMA Safety & Security Committee in June and was presented the Burke Award at WaterJAM in September. Lenny McDonald and Bob Canham worked together to establish Broad Run’s award winning safety program. SOPs were created through a staff-wide collaborative effort which included final review and endorsement by utility managers. This process helped Loudoun Water develop and institutionalize their safety culture, programming, and processes.

**Congratulations to the award-winning team at Loudoun Water!**

**Operations:**
Kevin Anderson, Victor Colon-Cotto, David Gray, Josh Heath, Kyle Herndon, Jason Li, James Marrone, Mehmet Odkan, Butch Owens, Mike Rumke, Nestor Siquenza, Frank Stokes, Eugene Wharton and Jason Ziemann.

**Maintenance:**
Ray Braithwaite, Kevin Cummings, David Dale, Ray Kirkpatrick, Curt Moore, Sal Nerio, Kevin Peed, Roy Staubs and Gy Wimer.

**Laboratory:**
Catherine Cogswell, Jennifer Cornette, Zoya Mesh and Shannon Webb.

**Management and Administration:**
Tom Broderick, Tom Bonacquisti, Bob Canham, Lenny McDonald, Cindi Else, Sherrie Leonard, Kelley Luckett and Pam Thornberry.

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Some people may wonder why safety professionals tend to focus on the little details. Why do they make people spend longer getting ready to do a certain job or task than it may take to actually get it done? Why do they want to conduct so much training? Well, here is the answer – they do not want to see people get hurt! It’s that simple.

Below is a partial list of the fatal incident reports for a single month last year. As you can see, these types of incidents do happen. For every incident listed there may be a hundred similar incidents which result in less serious injuries or are near miss incidents.

- Victim was working from an eight-foot stepladder doing caulking on a ceiling/wall area and fell to the ground.
- Victim fell from a three-step ladder.
- Victim was moving a ladder and touched the overhead power line with the ladder. He was electrocuted.
- Victim was working on an eight-foot step ladder doing caulking on a ceiling/wall area and fell to the ground.
- Victim was pouring gasoline into a carburetor, it backfired and covered the victim with burning gasoline.
- Victim was installing a new cable TV. While crawling under the house, came in contact with a bare wire, and was electrocuted.
- Victim was blowing leaves and debris. The leaf blower he was using contacted an air conditioning unit. Victim was electrocuted.
- Victim was on a ladder changing a light bulb, and fell six feet.
- Victim was striking on the head by a metal trench plate.
- Victim was surveying the ramp shoulder and was struck by an automobile.
- Victim was standing on the side of the road and was struck by a car.
- Victim was operating a lawn mower and the mower tipped over, rolling onto the victim.

For every one of these incidents there will be a few questions that supervisors and safety professionals have to answer:

- Did you do what you could to try and prevent this?
- Did you do what you were required to do to prevent this?
- Did you train your employees on the task they perform?
- Did you teach your employees that it is OK to take the time to do the job right?

None of the incidents listed appear to have involved any complex or complicated tasks. They seem like little everyday tasks that people do. Some of them are things that utility employees are involved with every day.

There are some complex safety issues we need to deal with, such as confined space entry, excavation safety, and hazardous chemical safety. However, we often forget about the little everyday things we may do like working from a step ladder, working with an electrical appliance or piece of equipment, changing a light bulb, or simply working close to or in a roadway. The way we do these tasks has the potential to impact our safety or our lives as much as any of the complex tasks.

We all need to remember that, YES, these type incidents do happen and, YES, they can happen to people like you and me.

No safety topic is so minor that it can be overlooked. We may never know what little piece of information someone may read, see, or hear that reminds them to be cautious while performing a task that may save a life or prevent an injury.
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Utility Management Committee

By Matt Stolte, Chair and Crystal McNeeley, Special Topics

The mission of the Utility Management Committee (UMC), a joint committee comprised both of VWEA and VA AWWA members, is to facilitate the exchange of information on pertinent and timely issues that affect the utility management industry across the commonwealth. The UMC will strive to meet this mission in the upcoming year through professional networks and outreach sessions across the state on topic areas that are pertinent to the industry. Bruce Husslebee from HRSD (the outgoing committee chair) has positioned the committee with numerous outreach programs and networking initiatives that he has fostered over the past two years of his leadership. During Husslebee’s tenure, interest in the committee has continued to grow and the committee currently has close to 50 members from all regions of the commonwealth.

Members of the committee appreciate the commitment that he has demonstrated with the UMC and know that he will continue to represent the region as he moves on toward national leadership opportunities as second vice chair of the National WEF Utility Management Conference Committee.

Spotlight on focus groups
During WaterJAM 2012 in Virginia Beach, the UMC held its annual meeting and appointed new leadership positions for the upcoming 2013-2014 term. Matt Stolte, Blacksburg town engineer, was appointed chair of the committee, and Ryan Nagel, Red Oak Consulting, VA Beach, was appointed vice chair. Due to the size of the committee and the number of diverse topics of interest to the committee, eight focus groups were created to handle topics pertinent to utility management issues. One active committee member was designated as the focus group leader for each group and charged with managing that focus group’s issues in the upcoming term. The list of focus groups and the corresponding focus group leaders is as follows:

1. Asset Management – Aditya Ramamurthy, Red Oak Consulting
2. Financial Management – Bart Keeps, Raffelis Financial Consultants
3. Alternative Product Delivery – Bruce Husslebee, HRSD
4. Small Flows – Bruce Ringrose, Loudon Water
5. Effective Utility Management – Kishia Powell, RK&K
6. Workforce Issues – Kathi Mestayer, KMA Consulting
7. Management Practices – Bob Forgione, UOSA
8. Special Topics – Crystal McNeely, GHD.

Spotlight on upcoming events
The committee is excited about creating opportunities to engage the VWEA and VA AWWA members in the upcoming year. Events under development include: a financial management webinar, a pressure pipe condition assessment workshop, a management seminar for disaster planning, and outreach programs on sustainable workforce issues. Information on specific events will be provided as it becomes available.

Goal 2012
The primary goal of the UMC is to get the word out to utilities across the commonwealth about the latest ideas on the improvement of utility management. The UMC is looking forward to another active year and we would appreciate your interest and support. Please contact Matt Stolte (mstolte@blacksburg.gov) or Ryan Nagel (ryan.nagel@arcadis-us.com) to become part of the upcoming excitement.
3RD ANNUAL

Workplace Giving Fundraiser
March Campaign Report

In March of this year we held our 3rd Annual Workplace Giving campaign to benefit Water For People and its mission to help people in developing countries improve their quality of life. It is a pleasure to announce that we collected $2,875.46 this year. We thank all contributors to this year’s campaign. Special thanks are due to our on-site coordinators and the offices they represent:

Jamie Bondurant: HDR Engineering
Stephanie Klaus: Draper Aden Associates
Michael Dreiling: Whitman, Requardt and Associates
Anne Urenda: Draper Aden Associates
Diane Short: Newport News Waterworks
Kendra Hardy: VDH-ODW
Andy Landrum: Whitman, Requardt and Associates
Jerry Peaks: Bowman Consulting Group
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The Northern Virginia Regional Activities Committee (NVRAC)

UPDATE

BY DAVE EVERS
NVRAC Chair | devers@geigerinc.com

The Northern Virginia Regional Activities Committee (NVRAC) has been working hard to provide a full slate of events that offer both educational and networking opportunities for wastewater professionals in and around Northern Virginia. During the first half of this year, we hosted three lunchtime seminars, two afterhours networking events, and the ever-popular golf outing. All of the events have been well attended. After a summer break, we are wrapping up this year with a lunchtime plant tour at AlexRenew, and a lunchtime seminar on asset management, not to mention two more afterhours networking events. Please check the VWEA website’s Upcoming Events section for what’s coming up. Also, let us know if you would like to be added to our email list for future event announcements.

I would like to thank all the NVRAC Committee members for making this a successful and productive year. Current members include: Natalie Richards (vice chair), Nina Andgren, Adrienne Fancher, Bob Forgione, Marialena Hatziegeorgiou, Matt Van Horne, Bob Kralinger, Eric Larocque, Thom Lipinski, John McGettigan, Katterinne Overcash, Glenn Pearson, James Peaco, and Robert Team. Let me know if you would like to join us in the planning and arrangements for upcoming events.

Eastern Virginia Regional Activities Committee (EVRAC)

UPDATE

BY MARK SWILLEY

The Eastern Virginia Regional Activities Committee (EVRAC) continues to host quarterly luncheons. An August luncheon was held on the topic of disaster recovery and the record of recovery associated with the World Trade Center. During this talk, Mr. Tim Berkhimer of Suffolk gave attendees a personal, sobering account of the recovery process. Recently, an October luncheon was held on the topic of the Virginia Beach, Laskin Road area improvements. Future luncheons are in the planning stages. There are a number of topics under consideration by the committee, and we welcome your suggestions.

EVRAC after hours events continue to draw good crowds with events at such places as Chick’s Oyster Bar in Virginia Beach, Jack Quinn’s Irish Pub in Norfolk, and the Red Star Tavern in Newport News. Continued thanks go out to the event sponsors, Michael Baker, Jr., REMSA, and AECOM, to name a few.

EVRAC continues to work cooperatively with other committees and organizations such as the young professionals, membership, ASCE, and others on joint activities such as the recent Norfolk Tides baseball outing. Keep your eyes open for more notices on upcoming events.

EVRAC is always open to suggestions on luncheon topics, joint activities, or most anything else the Regional Activities Committee can or should be doing for you, the VWEA membership. Please do not hesitate to post an idea on the VWEA web page, or contact one of your EVRAC committee members.

Also, please be sure to update your contact information periodically.

A happy and safe fall to all!

For more information on EVRAC events, please contact Mark Swilley.
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