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WEF HIGHLIGHTS

MAY 2004
VOL. 41 No. 4

News for Members of the Water Environment Federation

Two Ecologists Share 2004 Stockholm Water Prize

Sven Erik Jørgensen and **William S.J. Mitsch** have won the 2004 Stockholm Water Prize for their pioneering development and global dissemination of ecological models of lakes and wetlands, which are widely applied as effective tools in sustainable water resource management. Jørgensen is an environmental chemistry professor at the Danish University of Pharmaceutical Sciences (Copenhagen). Mitsch is a professor of natural resources and environmental science, and director of the Olentangy River Wetland

Research Park at The Ohio State University (Columbus).

Given the inestimable cultural, ecological, and socio-economic value of lakes and wetlands, preserving them is a necessity. Jørgensen and Mitsch advocate a holistic approach to managing land and water resources equitably and sustainably. In their pioneering research on “the design of sustainable ecosystems that integrate human society with its natural environment for the benefit of both,” they have integrated such environmental

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Sven Erik Jørgensen



William J. Mitsch



Gary Gulezian (right) and Roy Angelow (left) field questions from the audience at the 2004 World Water Day celebration held at the Canadian Embassy in Washington, D.C. on March 22.

Partnership Key to Global Water Protection

Water problems don't necessarily have to divide countries; sometimes they can bring countries closer together. That was the theme of a World Water Day (March 22) luncheon hosted by the Canadian Embassy in Washington, D.C., and co-sponsored by the Federal Water Quality Association (Washington, D.C.). The event, titled “Great Lakes Stewardship — A Model for Global Water Cooperation,” examined the success of the U.S.–Canadian Great Lakes agreement and suggested that this type of partnership should serve as a role model to all nations.

“Water knows no boundaries,” said **Gary Gulezian**, director of the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) Great Lakes National

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Why Does WEF Exist?

According to the U.S. Internal Revenue Service, the Water Environment Federation (WEF®) is a 501(c)(3) organization — a nonprofit “public benefit” organization, which provides a service that otherwise would have to be provided by some other entity or the government. So, organizations like WEF exist to serve society’s needs. What are those needs?

Career advancement and net-

working. We all want to advance our careers, but find limited opportunities to do so in this fast-paced world. Professional organizations like WEF provide such opportunities. WEF enables us to get together with like-minded individuals who share similar interests. And as we become more involved in WEF, we expand our career horizons and opportunities.

As my own career has progressed, for example, I have been fascinated to discover how many colleagues from my “early career days” are now in positions of authority in other consulting firms, client organizations, or regulatory agencies. Such colleagues can help us as we pursue our personal career objectives. Today, we call such help “networking.”

Training. Today, many public and private organizations have fewer internal training opportunities. We have less time to spend on teaching and developing younger staff, and internal training programs have been drastically reduced or eliminated. Organizations like WEF provide cost-effective training.

Publications. Technical publications play a critical role in continuing education and professional development programs, and WEF provides a wide array of such publications, including various *Manuals of Practice*, the *Water Environment Research* journal, *Water Environment & Technology* magazine, and numerous newsletters.

Technology exchanges. Each fall, about 15,000 registrants and more than 800 exhibitors meet at WEFTEC® — WEF’s annual conference — to discuss the latest water quality advancements and newest technologies. WEFTEC is the largest source of up-to-date, water-related technology information available anywhere.

Regulatory and legislative input.

The water quality profession is primarily driven by laws and

regulations, and WEF gives our profession a “voice” in the process by communicating directly with regulators and legislators. WEF and its Member Associations provide the “sound science” perspective on various local, state, and national regulatory and legislative initiatives.

International outreach. As I noted in May, billions of people worldwide lack access to safe, reliable water supplies and/or adequate sanitation, and millions die each year as a result. WEF is evaluating programs to address these deplorable conditions and fulfill its mission of “preserving and enhancing the global water environment.”

Perhaps the question isn’t “why do



From the
PRESIDENT

WEF Wants You!

Do you know a WEF member who is an “unsung hero” and whose efforts have made a difference in the field? Please send your nomination and three reasons you think the member should be profiled to **Staci-Jill Sands** at ssands@wef.org.

professional organizations like WEF exist?” but rather “could we survive and prosper without such organizations?” Can we afford not to actively participate in professional organizations like WEF?

Larry Jaworski
2003–2004 WEF President

WEF HIGHLIGHTS

News for Members of the Water Environment Federation

Editor

Staci-Jill Sands

Contributors

Lori Burkhammer • Stephanie Llewellyn
Eileen O'Neill • Allison Torres

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Infrastructure, Workforce Replacement Key Topics at Management Conference



Utility managers needing to replace aging infrastructure and an aging workforce found useful advice and approaches at the 2004 Joint Management Conference sponsored by the Water Environment Federation (WEF; Alexandria, Va.), the American Water Works Association (AWWA; Denver), and the Arizona Water and Pollution Control Association (Prescott, Ariz.). The conference, held March 14–17 in Chandler, Ariz., drew nearly 500 participants.

“The sessions on succession, strategic, and financial planning were timely and excellent; the speakers developed the issues brilliantly,” said **Edgar Jones**, financial manager of the Fairfax County Wastewater Management Program (Fairfax, Va.).

Sandy Oblonsky, assistant operating officer of the Santa Clara Valley Water District Water Utility Operations Division (San Jose, Calif.), agreed. “The top issues that were raised at several discussions were the same we are facing,” she said, noting that many attendees were concerned about infrastructure reliability and the economy.

Utilities are being pressured to do more with less — and in some cases, more with almost nothing. One recurring theme at the conference was the challenge of funding needed improvements. “Asset management and funding for it was pointed out to be a bigger issue than most people realized,” Jones said. “If federal and state funds will not be available for infrastructure improvements, then communities will need to begin today to increase water and sewer rates to fund necessary improvements in years to come. And raising rates is not what utility managers want to recommend to their elected officials.”

“It is pretty clear that we are dealing with a radically shifting management focus in the water and wastewater utility field,” said **Roger Dolan**, a former WEF president and founder of Dolan Environmental Services (Martinez, Calif.), a management consulting firm. “We are in the third wave since the CWA [Clean Water Act] and SDWA [Safe Drinking Water Act] were passed. The first wave was capital expansion; the second was the optimization of systems and processes. The current wave focuses on customer service and cost. Since about 1990 we have seen the high-performance utilities apply quality management principles, reduce staff, and apply IT technology to improve competitiveness, and now, implement asset management techniques to enable the long-term delivery of quality utility service at the lowest reasonable cost.”

Meanwhile, the need for knowledge management due to retirements “is sneaking up on all of us and will be a real challenge in the next 4 to 5 years as the front wave of baby boomers retire,” said **Mike Sweeney**, a principal consultant in the Louisville, Ky., office of EMA Inc. (St. Paul, Minn.) and a member of the conference committee. “The number of people [at the conference] that have retired, are soon retiring, or are talking about retiring was surprising,” he said, and “if utilities aren’t prepared, it will be challenging just to keep up with ever-growing, increasing service demands.”

However, Dolan said, “it was very encouraging to see the number of younger, upwardly mobile managers in attendance. I think that

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WEF 2004 Specialty Conference Series

Watershed 2004

July 11-14, 2004
Hyal, Tennessee Dearborn
Dearborn, Michigan, USA

1141 - Registration with the Manager Water Treatment Case Study

for more information

	Online:	www.wef.org/conference
	Taxol Demand:	1-800-441-2930 or +1-703-261-2700 and select select document #3700
	Email:	conf@wef.org
	Fax:	1-800-685-0258

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October 2-5, 2004
Ernest N. Morde Convention Center
New Orleans, Louisiana

WEF, WERF Reach Out to Local Elementary School

During Career Day on March 26, fifth-grade students at Jefferson Houston Elementary School (Alexandria, Va) heard about the water quality profession from **Lori Burkhammer**, WEF public affairs manager, and **Maria Menacho**, WEF membership and association services manager. The students were surprised to learn that their drinking water came from the Potomac River and that water quality professionals work to protect the river from point and nonpoint pollution sources.

Then, **Jeff Moeller**, WERF research program director, explained how a watershed worked, using an interactive model. Students were able to sprinkle on various "pollutants" and spritz the watershed with "rain." They noticed how the water picked up the pollutants and carried them into waterways, and learned how the Potomac River and other waterbodies can be polluted unless we take steps to prevent it.



Jeff Moeller of WERF explains how watersheds work to students at Jefferson Houston Elementary School in Alexandria, Va.

The Corporate Faces of WEF: AAA Pipe Cleaning Corp.

A WEF member since 2001, AAA Pipe Cleaning Corp. (Cleveland, Ohio) is a three-generation, family-run business that inspects, cleans, and rehabilitates collection systems. The company is known for its highly skilled staff, state-of-the-art fleet and equipment, and ongoing training that conforms to OSHA requirements.

For more information, call (800) 542-0072 or access the company's Web site at www.aaapipecleaning.com. WEF recognizes the efforts of AAA Pipe Cleaning Corp. and the rest of its corporate members and thanks you for your continued support of WEF's efforts to preserve and enhance the global water environment.

Calling All Treatment Works!

Operations Forum, a special section of *WE&T* magazine, is looking for a few good treatment facilities. The *Forum's* Profile section provides an up-close look at water and wastewater treatment plants, collection systems, and outstanding operations and maintenance personnel. The Forum currently is seeking new entries, so here's your chance to brag about the features, approaches, and people that make your facility exceptional.

For more information or to request a questionnaire, contact **Greg Fuhs**, *Operations Forum* editor, at (703) 684-2482 or gfuhs@wef.org.

International Fellowship Opportunity Available

The Fulbright Indo-American Environmental Leadership Program, designed for mid- to senior-level environmental professionals at public, private, or nongovernmental organizations, is seeking applications for its fellowship in India.

This fellowship combines an 8- to 12-week practical study in India with opportunities for networking with Indian organizations. The program's focus is broad and may include any of the following disciplines:

- environmental information management, including environmental impact assessment, benchmarking, audits, disclosure, and monitoring, Web site and database management;
- environmental policy, regulations, and law, including the design of environmental legislation and regulation, compliance and enforcement, environmental economics, environmental policymaking and stakeholder involvement, the role of local government, and ecosystem governance;
- environmental education, including curriculum development, instructional media, environmental awareness, and journalism; and
- environmental science and technology, including engineering, technology assessment, modeling, testing and instrumentation and toxicology.

Those chosen as Fulbright Fellows will receive roundtrip airfare from the United States to India, a monthly stipend of approximately \$2700 (paid in Indian currency upon arrival), health insurance, and an extra baggage allowance.

The fellowship application deadline is Aug. 2. For more information, please access www.iie.org/iaelp or contact **Megan Kennedy**, program officer, at mkennedy@iie.org or (202) 326-7716.

New Integrated Management System Guide Available

Today, utility management challenges range from aging infrastructure, new regulatory requirements, and competitive performance concerns to higher public expectations and changing workforce demographics. Several tools are available to help utility managers address these challenges, but they themselves have become another management challenge. Recognizing that such tools have not been understood fully or used sustainably, the Water Environment Federation (WEF;

strated by numerous U.S. and non-U.S. utilities. Noted benefits ranged from reduced costs and environmental performance improvements to better teamwork and customer recognition.

The group issued a Phase I report detailing their findings that also serves as a guide to the most common utility management improvement programs. It has been well received by managers, noted **Eileen O'Neill**, managing director of WEF's technical and educational services.

"There are a multitude of management practices, systems, and programs offered to the modern utility manager," noted **John Cook**, assistant general manager of the Charleston (S.C.) Public Works Department and a member of the Phase II design team. "To avoid costly and frustrating duplication, it is critical that these be integrated to leverage work already accomplished and optimize efforts in the implementation of desirable management systems. The guide describes how utilities are presently doing just that."

Copies of *Continual Improvement in Utility Management: A Framework for Integration* and of the Phase I report, *Moving Toward Comprehensive Utility Management Systems*, can be downloaded for free at www.wef.org/utilitymanagement/.

"The array of programs available to today's utility manager can be overwhelming. This project has provided a critical evaluation of these tools and how they can be used as part of a sustainable systems based on the plan-do-check-act model."

Ed McCormick, manager of support services, East Bay Municipal Utility District

Alexandria, Va.), Association of Metropolitan Sewerage Agencies (AMSA; Washington, D.C.), and U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) for the past 2 years have been evaluating these tools and developing an integrated approach to sustainable utility improvement.

"The array of programs available to today's utility manager can be overwhelming," noted **Ed McCormick**, manager of support services at the East Bay Municipal Utility District (Oakland, Calif.). "This project has provided a critical evaluation of these tools and how they can be used as part of a sustainable systems based on the plan-do-check-act model."

(McCormick is also chair of WEF's Utility Management Committee and a member of the Phase II design team.)

During Phase I of the project, a workgroup of experienced utility managers and consultants examined several utility management initiatives and related case studies. The workgroup determined that integrating such initiatives under an overall continual improvement framework offers clear advantages, as demon-

In Phase II, a design team developed a practical guide to help utility managers understand

- how to integrate specific management initiatives, such as asset management, environmental management systems (EMS), capacity management operations and maintenance (cMOM), and performance measurement (benchmarking);
- how an overall management system can address both immediate management concerns and sustainable, long-term business success;
- how to link existing management initiatives effectively; and
- what short- and long-term benefits an integrated approach has provided for utilities of various sizes.

The design team of six utility managers (see sidebar, right) led the project, with the help of nearly 50 professionals (mostly utility managers or senior staff). A series of focus groups helped fine-tune the practical guide, provided more insight on the needs related to management goals and approaches, and validated the integrated management systems approach.

Design Team

John B. Cook

Assistant General Manager
City of Charleston Commissioners
of Public Works
Charleston, S.C.

Ed McCormick

Manager of Support
Services Division
East Bay Municipal Utilities District
Oakland, Calif.

Ray T. Orvin Jr.

Executive Director
Western Carolina Regional
Sewer Authority
Greenville, S.C.

Peter Ruffier

Director, Wastewater Division
City of Eugene Public Works
Department
Eugene, Ore.

Diane Taniguchi-Dennis

Public Works Director
City of Albany Public Works
Department
Albany, Ore.

Chris Toth

Deputy Director, Wastewater
Collection Division
City of San Diego Metropolitan
Wastewater Department
San Diego, Calif.

Santa Ana Watershed Wins Award

The Orange County Water District (OCWD; Fountain Valley, Calif.) and the Santa Ana Watershed Association (SAWA; Riverside, Calif.) won the 2002 National Wetlands Conservation Award from the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service for their partnership to protect and enhance the Santa Ana Watershed, which provides water to millions of Southern Californians. The annual award honors individuals and groups or corporations for significant contributions to restoring, enhancing, and protecting U.S. wetlands.

"The prestige of this recognition exemplifies the District's commitment to water quality while preserving and improving our local environment," said **Denis Bilodeau**, OCWD board president.

The Santa Ana Watershed is the largest coastal river system in Southern California and provides water to millions of Southern California citizens. It includes portions of San Bernardino, Riverside, Los Angeles, and Orange counties. OCWD and SAWA have worked for many years to successfully protect and enhance wetlands that are valuable to plants, fish, and animals, including the federally endangered songbird, the *least Bell's vireo*, while conserving water supplies in the Santa Ana River, according to officials.

For more information about OCWD's Santa Ana Watershed program, access www.ocwd.com on the Web.

Management Conference

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any utility CEO who is not sending key staff members to this event is in no position to wring his or her hands about succession planning. Tomorrow's leaders are being trained today by the forward-thinking utilities."

Overall, the management conference "continues to satisfy two purposes very well: to join water and wastewater utility managers and professionals together to report and discuss progress toward addressing similar problems, and to look toward the future and anticipate ways to address its new challenges," Sweeney said. Jones agreed, noting that another useful part of the conference is re-establishing acquaintances and making new ones.

For information on the 2005 WEF-AWWA Joint Management Conference, which is scheduled for Feb 27–March 2 in Atlanta, Ga., access <http://www.wef.org/conferences/>.



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Stockholm Water Prize *continued from page 1*

fields as ecological engineering, classical ecology, agro-ecology, and restoration ecology to design low-impact systems for treating waste, producing food and energy, and restoring habitat.

Together, they have contributed substantially to conserving and improving water resources in many regions of the world. Their theoretical and applied work on lake and wetland ecosystems; management of lake and wetland water quality; and lake, river, and wetland conservation, restoration, and use has been acknowledged and implemented in both developing and developed countries.

Jørgensen has created ecosystem

models of entire lake and wetlands systems and the physical, biological, and chemical interactions occurring in them. For example, he developed modeling software that helps users better understand eutrophication processes in lakes and wetlands, including origins, effects, and preventive and remedial measures.

Mitsch was the inspiration behind the Olentangy River Wetland Research Park, a world-class research and education facility that is spearheading the restoration of the Mississippi-Ohio-Missouri Basin. He also leads debates, studies, and resolutions dealing with coastal wetland losses in Louisiana to help reduce coastal pollution in

the northern Gulf of Mexico (the Mississippi's ultimate depository).

Mitsch and Jørgensen have shown that constructed wetlands can be engineered for use as buffering and purification systems. Such systems can be ideal for an inexpensive, final stage of wastewater treatment.

Established in 1990 by the Stockholm Water Foundation (Sweden), the Stockholm Water Prize is presented annually in honor of outstanding achievements in water science, management, action, or awareness building. His Majesty **King Carl XVI Gustaf** of Sweden will present the prize (and a \$150,000 cash award) in Stockholm City Hall on Aug. 19. The Water Environment Federation (Alexandria, Va.) is one of the prize's founders.

Global Water Protection

continued from page 1

Program Office, at the luncheon. "That's why we need an international approach."

The Great Lakes contain one-fifth of the fresh surface water in the world and 85% of the fresh water in North America, Gulezian noted. That water supports a lot of individuals, he said, and polluting those waters puts everyone in North America at risk.

"It takes a long time to pollute a lake," Gulezian said, "but those pollutants will be there for centuries." Lake Superior has a pollutant retention time of 200 years, he noted, and pollutants can remain in Lake Michigan for 100 years, Lake Huron for 20, Lake Ontario for 6, and Lake Erie for 2.5. A scary prospect, he said, considering that the Great Lakes basin is home to 85 million people, the U.S. steel and auto industries, and 50% of Canadian manufacturing.

"Thirty years ago," Gulezian said, "the lakes were on the verge of collapse. Oil slicks, algal blooms, and fishkills were everywhere. Even the Cuyahoga River in Cleveland caught on fire." That began to change in the early 1970s when the United States and Canada established environmental agencies and signed the Great Lakes Water Quality Agreement to clean up and rehabilitate the lakes.

Now, EPA's Great Lakes National Program Office and Canada's Great Lakes Environment Office unite their respective national, regional, and local partners in an integrated, ecosystem approach to restore, protect, and maintain the Great Lakes' chemical, biological, and physical integrity. The two agencies also work cooperatively to protect the Great Lakes' environmental resources.

As a result, water quality in the Great Lakes has improved significantly, Gulezian said. DDT and PCBs have been reduced by 80% or more in Lake Erie alone, he noted, and improvements have led to more economic development in the area.

Nevertheless, Gulezian said, much remains to be done. "The challenges ahead include reducing more PCBs to lift fish consumption advisories, opening beaches, eliminating *Cryptosporidium* problems in drinking water, and problems with invasive species," he said.

Canadian boundary waters also have seen improvements over the years, said **Roy Angelow**, acting director of Environment Canada's Great Lakes Environment Office. By implementing

"The Great Lakes contain one-fifth of the fresh surface water in the world and 85% of the fresh water in North America. That water supports a lot of individuals and polluting those waters puts everyone in North America at risk."

*Gary Gulezian, director,
U.S. EPA Great Lakes Program Office*

lakewide management plans, cooperative monitoring, and cooperating with the United States through the Great Lakes Water Quality Agreement, the plan has become the "North Star" for all to follow, he said.

"When it was made," Angelow said, "this agreement ensured Canada and the U.S. were striving for the best outcome and traveling in the same direction. That type of binational vision of framework is so important. To meet challenges, we must be guided by a shared vision of cooperation and coordination. The Canadian-U.S. partnership is two sides — with one shared ecosystem."

**Register now for the Watershed 2004 conference!
Visit www.wef.org for more information.**

WERF Researchers Wanted

The Water Environment Research Foundation (WERF; Alexandria, Va.) plans to issue four requests for proposals (RFPs) in May, totaling nearly \$1.7 million in new research. The new research will address pathogen indicators, sewer blockages, asset management, and decentralized systems:

- **Developing Better Indicators of Pathogen Risk in Waste Matrices** (RFP No. 03-HHE-2). This project will involve comparing the accuracy, advantages, and disadvantages of existing and proposed indicator organisms in wastewater, stormwater, and biosolids. Alternative organisms may monitor water and biosolids quality more effectively, better indicate public health effects, and lead to more appropriate standards.
- **Fats, Roots, Oils, and Grease (FROG) in Centralized and Decentralized Systems** (RFP No. 03-CTS-16T). This project will involve determining the best design criteria for grease interceptors based on fat, oil, and grease characteristics. Researchers will investigate the effectiveness of interceptors and evaluate the effects of different waste through these systems, as well as evaluating different root structures and their effects on sewer systems.
- **Develop Protocols for Assessing the Condition and Performance of Water and Wastewater Assets** (RFP No. 03-CTS-20C). This project will involve developing condition and performance assessment protocols for water and wastewater collection, treatment, and distribution facilities. This will help utilities collect comparable data sets, benchmark their systems, and meet GASB 34 requirements.
- **Influent Constituent Characteristics of the Modern Wastestream from Single Sources** (RFP No. 04-DEC-1). This project will involve reviewing published research on onsite system influent characterizations and studying identified "knowledge gaps" to improve onsite systems design and troubleshooting.

At press time, all proposals were due to WERF in July. For more information on these projects or other WERF research, access www.werf.org on the Web.

Research Proposals Wanted

The WateReuse Foundation (Alexandria, Va.), a nonprofit research and education organization, and the Water Environment Research Foundation (WERF; Alexandria, Va.) are looking for researchers for a new project: Development of Indicators and Surrogates for Chemical Contaminant Removal during Wastewater Treatment and Reclamation (WRF-03-014).

"The results of this project will be used to ensure that the appropriate level of treatment is maintained during wastewater and water reuse treatment in order to protect public health and the environment," said **Wade Miller**, the foundation's executive director.

The foundation issued the related request for proposals (RFP) on June 8. All proposals must include in-kind contributions as 25% of total project costs. Proposals will be evaluated by an appointed project advisory committee, and awards will be based on responsiveness to the RFP, scientific and technical merit, and researcher qualifications.

Copies of the RFP, as well as proposal guidelines, can be downloaded from the WateReuse Foundation's Web site: www.WateReuse.org/Pages/rfpmain.htm. At press time, proposals were due by June 30. For more information, contact **Jeff Mosher** at (703) 684-2481 or jeffmosher@WateReuse.org.

Upcoming

WERF EVENTS

For more information, call (800) 666-0206 (from the U.S. and Canada) or (703) 684-2452 (elsewhere in the world), fax (703) 684-2492, or e-mail confinfo@wef.org. For instant information via Fax-on-Demand (FOD), call (800) 444-2933 or (703) 684-2401 and reference the FOD number listed below. To receive a list of all documents by fax, enter 1100.

CONFERENCES 2004

Mark your calendar! The following is a list of conferences to be held in 2004. Register early so as to not miss the opportunity to attend.

June 16-18, 2004

Water and Climate Change:
57th Annual Water
Resources Conference
Canadian Water Resources
Association
Montreal, Canada
(519) 622-4764

July 11-14, 2004

WEF Watershed Conference 2004
Dearborn, Mich.
(800) 666-0206

Aug. 8-11, 2004

WEF Collections Systems
Conference 2004
(800) 666-0206

Aug. 22-25, 2004

WEF/A&WMA 10th
Annual Industrial Wastes
and Technical Conference
(800) 666-0206

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editor **Staci-Jill Sands**
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