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October 2004 • Vol. 41 No. 8

News for Members of the Water Environment Federation

## Japanese Students Win Stockholm Junior Water Prize

Tsutomu Kawahira, Daisuke Sunakawa, and Kaori Yamaguti of Japan won the 2004 Stockholm Junior Water Prize for the development and application of an environmentally friendly, organic fertilizer for Miyako Island. The three are students at Okinawa Prefectual Miyako Agriculture and Forestry High School.

Because the Japanese island of Miyakojima lacks surface water, residents rely solely on groundwater for their freshwater needs. Unfortunately, much of the groundwater is contaminated by nitrogen and phosphorus from commercial agricultural fertilizers. Kawahira, Sunakawa, and Yamaguti developed an organic

continued on page 8



From left: HRH Crown Princess Victoria of Sweden, Tsutomu Kawahira, Daisuke Sunakawa, and Kaori Yamaguti. © SIWI

## Joint U.S.-China Program Opens Doors to Environmental Opportunity

In order to capitalize on the tremendous market potential in China, U.S. companies need to become familiar with the country's environmental protection situation (government policies and regulations, investment opportunities, and overall business environment). To help facilitate a better understanding of China's potential and to assist U.S. companies interested in gaining access to this market, Forte Group International (Washington, D.C.) and the U.S. Department of Commerce Shanghai Center will host an Environmental Protection Introduc-

tory Mission to Shanghai, Chongqing, Shenyang, and Anshan, China, on Nov. 6. Representatives from U.S. companies will have opportunities to meet key government officials and potential Chinese business partners, establish business networks, and better understand how to capitalize on government incentives and key market opportunities in China.

According to the organizers, the project's primary goals are to

• lower cultural barriers of entry by offering valuable insight into

China's economic environment and common business practices,

- better understand how to capitalize on the tremendous growth opportunities in China.
- provide crucial networking opportunities by introducing U.S. business representatives to key Chinese government and trade officials and potential Chinese business partners (essential for any company seeking to establish themselves in China), and
- provide an opportunity to explore business development opportunities in China and directly link American products and services to Chinese buyers and distributors.

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## Global Concerns, Local Actions

A round the world, people are recognizing that fresh water is a precious and increasingly scarce commodity. This is as true in my home state of Nevada as it is in the rest of the world.

In the early 1900s, when it seemed like a good idea to strengthen the western U.S. economy and get more people to move there, Sen. Francis Newlands (D-Nev.) wrote the Reclamation Act to expand agriculture by

building water systems to flood irrigate the desert. The government began by damming the Truckee and Carson rivers and building canals in Churchill and Washoe counties. As a result, the city of Fallon grew up with alfalfa, dairy cows, corn, and cantaloupes. The irrigation ditches in sandy soil also created a shallow aquifer, which residents tapped with shallow wells

for drinking and

gardening water. In Reno, which had long been a fertile meadows and good wintering grounds, the ditches expanded the fields and orchards, drying up wetlands in Truckee Meadows and creating new ones in the once arid Spanish Springs Valley.

The U.S. Bureau of Reclamation established itself with this project. Many engineers spent their careers designing dams, ditches, and water and wastewater treatment systems for the area. And the U.S. District Court handed down an appropriation decree for the Truckee River, adjudicating every acre-foot, that is still followed today.

Unfortunately, the Truckee River system caused Winnemucca Lake to dry up and Pyramid Lake to become saltier and smaller faster than it would have if the river had been left alone. Water rights were converted from agricultural to municipal/industrial as orchards, fields, and meadows became

suburbs, and three times more water is withdrawn from the river in summer than in winter to meet residents' demands for green lawns. The Truckee now drops to a trickle between the second water plant intake and the water reclamation plant discharge.

As a result, Nevadan wastewater treatment facilities don't just control pollution but also have become a source of fresh water. During the last 6-year drought, most golf courses dried

> up and a newspaper editorial demanded that "sewer water" be recycled to save them. associated tourist dollars, and the local quality of life. So, reclaimed water now irrigates golf courses, softball fields, and university farms. But because the Lahontan Cutthroat Trout and

> > Cui-ui also have a right to the carefully split between local

water, treatment plant effluent is

reuse and discharges to the river.

From the

PRESIDENT

Meanwhile, total maximum daily loads (TMDLs) for nitrogen (1.36 mg/ L), phosphorus (3.7 mg/L), and total dissolved solids (328 mg/L) are causing staff at the Truckee Meadows Water Reclamation Facility (Reno) to make some tough decisions. The next strategy for managing nitrogen is either reducing the organic fraction or renegotiating the effluent limit to recognize its actual bio-availability. To meet the total dissolved solids limit, the plant soon will have to either ban water softeners or install reverse osmosis filtration systems.

In order to continue meeting TMDLs while the community grows 3% each year, nonpoint source pollution will have to be controlled. Agricultural runoff, stormwater, geothermal springs, road salt, and overwatering are common local problems. So now all construction projects disturbing more than 0.4 ha (1 ac) must meet

the requirements of the National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) stormwater management program. Reno also is establishing a low-impact development program, because water quality professionals have found that residential areas designed with neighborhood flood detention, open channels, greenbelts,



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and common open space tend to help control flooding, recharge groundwater, and conserve water. Meanwhile, we are slowly restoring rivers and creeks using wetlands, riffles, shade trees, and fences (to keep cattle out).

Such efforts are not unique to Nevada; communities all over the world are working hard to maintain and protect viable sources of fresh water. This is why WEF will stay true to our mission to preserve and enhance the global water environment by teaching people about the importance of water and the information and technologies needed to protect it. By providing water education and collaborating with other organizations to promote clean water, we can continue to help protect public health and the environment in every watershed now and for generations to come.

Lynn Orphan, Senior Engineer, in the Reno, Nev., office of Kennedy/Jenks Consultants (San Francisco, Calif.), is 2004– 2005 president of the Water Environment Federation (Alexandria, Va.).

For more informations

Email: confinfo@wef.org

Phone: 1-900-666-0206.

#### Improved Web Site Searches Federal Science Data

If you're looking for scientific information from federal government agencies — including data on water quality, energy conservation, and climate change — try the newly improved Science.gov 2.0 (www.science.gov) on the Web. Originally unveiled in December 2002, the Web site allows users to find everything from the latest information on new technologies and promising medical advancements to historical research results. The following 12 agencies provide information for the site:

- U.S. Environmental Protection Agency,
- National Science Foundation,
- U.S. Department of Energy,
- U.S. Department of the Interior,
- U.S. Department of Commerce,
- U.S. Department of Defense,
- U.S. Department of Agriculture,
- U.S. Department of Education,
- U.S. Department of Health and Human Services,
- National Aeronautics and Space Administration,
- U.S. Government Printing Office, and
- National Archives and Records Administration.

Version 2.0 can search 47 million pages of government documents in 30 databases and 1700 Web sites and present results in relevancy-ranked order in order to better meet user needs. All information at Science.gov is free, and no registration is required.



Online: http://www.wet.org/conferences/workshop\_semin/

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'The 2001 Literature Preview will be evaluable concurrent with the Soptember/Colobe, Issue of WEB. The 2000 to 2005 Literature Reviews are available online new.

#### **WEF 2004 AWARD WINNERS**

#### **Charles Alvin Emerson Medal**

The Charles Alvin Emerson Medal is presented to an individual whose contributions to the water quality field, and WEF in particular, most deserve

recognition. This year's winner, James H. Clark, is a vice president and senior project manager in the Los Angeles, Calif., office of Black & Veatch (Kansas City, Mo.), a former WEF officer (1999-2003), and a former



James H. Clark

Water Environment Research Foundation (WERF; Alexandria, Va.) Board member (1999-2001). He currently is on the nine-member international Nominating Committee for the Stockholm Water Prize and has been made a life member of the International Water Academy (Oslo, Norway) for his sanitary engineering work.

Professionally, Clark has managed many water quality projects in which unusual processes were used to improve treatment cost-effectively. For example, at the Hyperion Wastewater Treatment Plant (Los Angeles), he oversaw the installation of egg-shaped anaerobic digesters and a high-purity oxygen cryogenic air separation system. He currently is managing the design of the air treatment facilities in Los Angeles' wastewater collection system.

#### Harry E. Schlenz Medal

The Harry E. Schlenz Medal is presented to an individual who teaches the public about the water environment via mass communication. This year's winners, *Seattle Post Intelligencer* journalists **Robert McClure** and **Lisa Stiffler**, won for their five-part series of articles





Lisa Stiffler

on "Our Troubled Sound." The series helped people understand what happened to Puget Sound by linking it to the actions or inactions of individuals, businesses, government agencies, and nonprofits.

#### Richard S. Engelbrecht Award

**Joost de Jong**, Ph.D., won the Richard S. Engelbrecht Award, which recognizes sustained and significant contributions to expand and improve WEF activities internationally. de Jong is general director of the Royal Netherlands Meteorological Institute (De Bilt) and a member of the Nederlandse Vereniging Voor Waterbeheer (NVA; Rijswijk, The Netherlands). He has a history of fostering better, substantive relations among WEF, NVA, and the European Water Association (EWA; Hennef, Germany). For example, he helped develop memorandums of understanding (MOUs) between WEF and EWA, and helped prepare a Joint WEF/EWA session for WEFTEC®.03 on "A European Perspective on Automation of the Activated Sludge Process."

## Outstanding Contributions to the Water Environment (for Non-

This award recognizes individuals for outstanding lifetime accomplishments and contributions in improving the water environment. This year's winner, M.

Members)



M. Gordon Wolman

Gordon "Reds" Wolman, is a professor in Department of Geography and Environmental Engineering at Johns Hopkins University (Baltimore, Md.) who has spent his entire career helping improve the water environment. Wolman has a long list of publications; is a member of several societies, including the National Academy of Science (Washington, D.C.); and his honors include a John Wesley Powell Award from the U.S. Geological Survey, a Distinguished Mentor and Geographical Medal from the Council

of American Geographical Society (New York), and a D.L. Linton Award from the British Geomorphologic Research Group (London).

#### Outstanding Achievement in Water Quality Improvement Award

The Outstanding Achievement in Water Quality Improvement Award recognizes programs that best demonstrate significant, lasting, and measurable excellence in water quality improvement or degradation prevention in a region, basin, or waterbody. This year's winner, the New York City Department of Environmental Protection (NYC DEP), won for its Gowanus Canal Flushing Tunnel Reactivation Project. By reactivating the tunnel, NYC DEP revitalized a hypoxic, severely polluted waterway — meeting state water quality standards, greatly reducing odors, and allowing marine life to return.

## Industrial Water Quality Achievement Award

The Industrial Water Quality Achievement Award is presented to a corporation and, if applicable, its engineering firm for the innovative design and operation of an industrial wastewater, pretreatment, or source prevention program that has significant, lasting, and measurable improvements in water quality or degradation prevention.

The Bayer Material Science LLC



Bayer Material Science LLC

#### **WEF 2004 AWARD WINNERS**

(Pittsburgh; formerly Bayer Polymers LLC) Environmental Control Department in Baytown, Texas, won for its above-ground tower biological denitrication reactor, which reduces nitrate discharges to the environment by 96%.

#### **George J. Schroepfer Medal**

The George J. Schroepfer Medal is presented to WEF members who have demonstrated excellence in conceiving and directing the design of a project to achieve substantial cost savings or economic benefit over other alternatives, while achieving environmental objectives. **The Sanitation District of Los Angeles County** won for its full secondary treatment facilities at the Joint Water Pollution Control Plant. The \$380 million upgrade increased facility capacity for about \$1.50/gal. Typical household user rates now are only \$10 per month.

#### **Gordon Maskew Fair Medal**

William K. Oldham, Ph.D., won the Gordon Maskew Fair Medal, which

honors a WEF member for worthy accomplishments in training and developing future engineers. Oldham, a pioneer in biological nutrient removal and water reuse in western Canada and a professor in the Environmental



William K. Oldham

Engineering Department at the University of British Columbia (Vancouver, Canada), almost single handedly built the university's graduate studies program in environmental engineering. Nearly 200 students have completed graduate degrees under his supervision.

#### **Public Education Awards**

The Public Education Awards recognize significant accomplishments in developing and implementing public education programs that promote awareness and understanding of water environment issues.

Individual

**Curt A. Christeson**, a vice president at Hubbell, Roth & Clark Inc. (Bloomfield Hills, Mich.), won in the Individual category. A member of the Michigan Water Environment Association



Curt A. Christeson

(WEA) for more than 20 years, Christeson helped initiate teacher workshops, waterrelated exhibits at the Michigan Science Teachers Conference, packets promoting Water Quality

Awareness Week, and Water Festivals during Michigan WEA's annual conference. He also helped get Michigan involved in the Stockholm Junior Water Prize and introduced elementary and middle school students to the environmental field.

#### Member Association

The Georgia Water & Pollution Control **Association** (GW&PCA) won in the Member Association category for three public education programs. GW&PCA's full-day, intensive teacher's workshop is designed to help teachers understand the most important water issues facing Georgia today. Its operator program is designed to get pubic recognition of certified operators' efforts to protect water via highly visible uniform patches, pins, hats, and shirts. Its Small Water System Discussion Group includes a Web site, chat room, and related sessions at GW&PCA's spring and fall conferences.

#### Other

The Columbus (Ga.) Water Works won in the Other category for its extensive public education program. Some of its major educational activities include S.T.A.T.E. University, Help the Hooch Watershed Festival, Earth Day, Project Preserve, National Drinking Water Week, Partners in Education, Middle Chattahoochee Watershed Project—Community Involvement, and Environmental Science Scholarships.



S.K. Chaparro



D.R. Noguera

## Harrison Prescott Eddy Medal S.K. Chaparro and D.R. Noguera

The Harrison Prescott Eddy Medal is awarded for research that makes a vital contribution to the existing knowledge of the fundamental principles or processes of wastewater treatment, as comprehensively described and published in a WEF periodical. Chaparro and Noguera won for their article, "Controlling Biosolids Phosphorus Content in Enhanced Biological Phosphorus Removal Reactors," which was published in the May/June 2003 issue of Water Environment Research. The article describes a method and conditions for reducing the phosphorus content of biosolids from enhanced biological phosphorus removal systems.

## George Bradley Gascoigne Medal

The George Bradley Gascoigne Medal is awarded to the author(s) of an article that presents the solution of an important and complicated operating problem in a full-scale, appropriately staffed, operating wastewater treatment plant. Pete Goins, Dave Parker, Chris deBarbadillo, and Cindy Wallis-Lage won for their article, "Build a Better Nutrient Trap," which was published in the July 2003 issue of *Water Environment & Technology*. This article



Pete Goins



Cindy Wallis-Lage continued on page 6

#### 2004 Award Winners

continued from page 5

discusses Charlotte-Mecklenburg (N.C.) Utilities' efforts to optimize phosphorus removal at the 22,700-m<sup>3</sup>/d (6-mgd) McDowell Creek Wastewater Treatment Plant.

#### **Willem Rudolfs Medal**

The Willem Rudolfs Medal is awarded for noteworthy accomplishments in any aspect of industrial waste control that are published in a WEF periodical. **Philip E. Forzley** won for his article,



Philip E. Forzley

"Implementing Wastewater Recycling at a Metalworking and Electroplating Facility," which was published in the Spring 2003 issue of *Industrial Wastewater*. The article describes the facility's environmentally

and fiscally responsible efforts to implement a water conservation and reclamation system, which used granular activated carbon, nanofiltration, and re-verse osmosis to treat residual organics and total dissolved solids.

#### **Collection Systems Award**

**Paul Blakeslee** won the Collection Systems Award, which is presented to an individual for contributions to the advancement of the state of art of wastewater collection. Blakeslee, an active member of the Michigan Water

Environment Association since 1969, has an M.S. in sanitary engineering from Michigan State University (East Lansing) and works at the Michigan Department of Environmental Quality



Paul Blakeslee

(MDEQ). He helped develop and implement the state's National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) permit and Industrial Pretreatment programs, ensured that MDEQ field staff reviews of sanitary systems were consistent, and developed

MDEQ's policies and technological design criteria for sanitary sewer and combined sewer overflows.

#### Philip F. Morgan Medal

The Bayport Industrial Wastewater Treatment Facility (Baytown, Texas) won the Philip F. Morgan Medal, which recognizes valuable in-plant study and solution of an operations problem. During high summer temperatures, the aeration basins at the Bayport facility tended to lose capacity and process efficiency. Using a cooling tower to control the temperature of return activated sludge, the project team developed a system to optimize the temperature of the activated sludge process that solved the problem.

#### **Outstanding Young Water Environment Professional**

**Sarah Hubbell** won the Outstanding Young Water Environment Professional Award, which recognizes the contributions of young professionals to the water environment

field. Hubbell founded the Pennsylvania Water Environment Association's Young Professionals Committee and is a leader in WEF's Students and Young Professionals Committee.

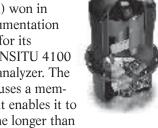


Sarah Hubbell

#### **Innovative Technology Awards**

The Innovative Technology Awards are presented annually to WEF associate members that have introduced innovative products or services related to the construction, operation, or maintenance of water pollution control facilities.

Instrumentation
Danfoss (Nordborg,
Denmark) won in
the Instrumentation
category for its
EVITA® INSITU 4100
nutrient analyzer. The
analyzer uses a membrane that enables it to
stay online longer than



other brands, and its probe sits in the flow stream, making it useful for applications with frequent level fluctuations.

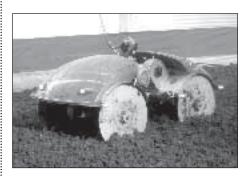
#### Process equipment

Schreiber LLC (Trussville, Ala.) won in the Process Equipment category for its Fuzzy Filter. This compressible media filter can handle flows up to 30 gal/min/ft², which is about four to five times more than granular or cloth media filters. It allows operators to change compression and flow rates, depending on the quality of clarifier effluent.



Schreiber.Schreiber LLC "Fuzzy Filter"

Solids Handling/Disposal
Parkson Corp. (Fort Lauderdale, Fla.)
won in the Solids Handling/Disposal
category for its THERMO-SYSTEM<sup>TM</sup>
solar sludge dryer. The dryer uses
1.5 kWh/d to produce material
containing up to 90% solids.



Parkson Corp. THERMO-SYSTEM

## Member Association Safety Awards

The Safety Awards recognize the success of safety programs in local wastewater treatment works. The purpose of the awards is to encourage effective safety programs and the collection of injury statistics.

400 to 1000 members Missouri Water Environment Association More than 1000 members Water Environment Association of Texas

#### Member Association Achievement Award Kentucky-Tennessee Water Environment Association

This award recognizes a Member Association (MA) for outstanding achievement in one of the following areas: membership retention, financial strength, new memberships, scholarship programs, student achievement and support, technology transfer, and/or awards programs. The Kentucky-Tennessee Water Environment Association won the 2004 award in the Technology Transfer area for its development of a voluntary pretreatment certification program.

The certification program was established both to train pretreatment coordinators and create a means of professional recognition. It also raises awareness among company and utility managers about the importance of their pretreatment programs. Three certification levels are offered; each consists of 4 instruction days and 1 test day. To date, more than 100 people have completed Level 1 certification, and about half of attendees join the MA when they complete the course.

#### Outstanding Member Association Award

This award is presented to a Member Association (MA) with achievements in multiple areas: financial strength, membership retention, new membership, scholarship program, student achievement and support, technology transfer, and awards program and participation. This year's winner is the **Georgia Water & Pollution Control Association** (GW&PCA).

GW&PCA awards more than \$25,000 in scholarships annually from an endowed fund. It also offers youth programs, an annual Clean Water Week focus in the schools, Science Fair judging (with an eye for Stockholm Junior Water Prize contestants), and an active young members group (for those less than 35 years old). All these programs help with membership growth, as does the MA's student

chapters. To retain existing members, it periodically surveys them and adapts, as needed, to make certain their needs are met.

GW&PCA also holds several annual conferences, workshops, two Utility Forums a year, and district meetings. It puts out a monthly publication and provides expertise to the Georgia General Assembly on bills relating to wastewater issues.

#### Robert A. Canham Scholarship

This year's winner of the Robert A. Canham scholarship, **Richard Kelly**,

is a graduate student in the Civil and Environmental Engineering Department at the Virginia Polytechnic Institute and State University (Blacksburg). Kelly is researching cause-and-effect



Richard Kelly

relationships between various industrial chemicals and activated sludge upsets, and has co-authored four papers based on that research.

#### **WEF Webcast Alert!**

What: Membrane Concepts for

Water Reuse Applications

Date: Thursday, Oct. 28

2:30 p.m. EST (1.5 hours targeting West Coast)

Speakers: Glen Daigger, CH2M HILL

Elena Bailey, Enviroquip
Dennis Livingston,
Enviroquip
Robert Bucher,

King County (Wash.)

#### **Key Points:**

- Hear expert discussion on current regulatory environment.
- Examine key applications, including MBR, RO, and CAS+MF/UF.
- Learn operations challenges and successes.
- Explore available tools & forums.
- Submit inquiries to expert panel for discussion.

For more information, contact **Renee Mantei**, conference programs manager, at (703) 684-2400 ext. 2473.



Severn Trent Services (Fort Washington, Pa.) recently received the Queen's Award for Enterprise for its development of the Eclox Water Test Kit. HRH the Duke of York (right) presented the award at a ceremony held at the company's Didcot, England, office July 19th. Accepting the award is Mike Ashley, managing director. The water test kit was originally developed for the British Ministry of Defense and is now being used by water utilities as a safeguard against terrorism.

#### Stockholm Junior Water Prize continued from page 1

fertilizer that, when combined with proper management techniques, reduces nitrate contamination and recycles phosphorus accumulated in soils.

The students received their prize, a \$5000 scholarship and a crystal sculpture, from **HRH Crown Princess Victoria** at a formal ceremony held during World Water Week in Stockholm, Sweden. An Honorable Mention was also given to **Ron Neuman** of Israel for his development of an innovative microbial sensor (based on engineered bacteria) to monitor toxic chemicals in water.

The Stockholm Junior Water Prize is presented annually to a high-school-age student whose water-related research project has environmental, scientific, social, or technological importance and who has already won at the national level. Participants travel to Stockholm from as far as Israel, Australia, and Vietnam. The international competition is administered by the Stockholm International Water Institute (SIWI; Sweden) and sponsored by the Water Environment Federation (Alexandria, Va.). For more information on the contest, contact **Frida Lanshammar**, manager, at frida.lanshammer@siwi.org.



Visit www.wef.org for the latest in water quality news.

#### **U.S.-China Program**

continued from page 1

Forte will reserve business class hotel rooms for trip participants in every city to be visited during the trip. Participants may book any flight they choose into Shanghai and/or leaving Beijing, but the rates negotiated by Forte generally are lower than those available to individuals. Company trip expenses are tax deductible, and spouses are welcome for an additional fee. Total cost per person is \$2000 for company representatives and \$2500 for spouses, which includes all travel from Washington, D.C., to Shanghai; airport transfers; rail and local transportation; 4-star hotel accommodations; interpretation; local official and company meeting arrangements; and the cost of most meals.

For more information, contact **John Li**, senior consultant at Forte Group International Inc., at (202) 628-8226, ext. 16, or john@forteintl.com.



