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Clean Water For Ugandan School

In rural Uganda, school children have much more than homework assignments on their minds. Lack of clean drinking water, disease, and poor sanitation are issues that touch the lives of children and their families each day, sometimes forcing education to take a backseat to more pressing problems. Read more.

From left to right: Global Water Foundation (GWF) engineers begin drilling a borehole within the Kamuli school district. A child at a former water source at a nearby lake. GWF founder Johan Kriek. The Ndowla community of Uganda looks on as GWF engineers set up the borehole system, now delivering clean water to the more than 5000 people. Photos courtesy of GWF.

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The Water Environment Federation (WEF; Alexandria, Va.) and its global partner the International Water Association (IWA; London) are proud to announce the results of World Water Monitoring Day™ 2006.

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In Memoriam

James Donald Resnick, 75, a resident of Davenport (Iowa) died Feb. 9. Resnick was a member of the Water Environment Federation (WEF; Alexandria, Va.) and the Iowa Water Pollution Control Association (Ames). Read more.

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Features

Clean Water for Ugandan School

In rural Uganda, school children have much more than homework assignments on their minds. Lack of clean drinking water, disease, and poor sanitation are issues that touch the lives of children and their families each day, sometimes forcing education to take a backseat to more pressing problems.

The Global Water Foundation (GWF; Naples, Fla.) is looking to change this. Founded in 2005 by the 2006 Wimbledon senior doubles champion, Johan Kriek, the foundation works to raise public awareness, provide technical assistance, and support research to facilitate access to safe drinking water and sanitation in developing countries. Currently, GWF is working with contractors and community members in Uganda to improve the water and sanitation conditions at the Ndolwa Parents School.

Located in the southeastern Ugandan town of Budiope, the 983-student school has 150 students per classroom and is noted by GWF as being one of the poorest performing schools in the region.

A Global Vision
In 2003, Kriek — a native South African — attended the World Economic Forum in Cape Town, South Africa.

“Water was focus of first 2 to 3 days [of the forum],” Kriek said. “It was extremely interesting to me. When I listen to what is happening in the third world, I thought, ‘what can I do as an athlete?’” Kriek felt there was something he could do — with the foundation of his celebrity status — to bring attention to water issues of the developing world.

Together with Minnie Hildebrand, a former water utility executive in South Africa, Kriek decided to start a foundation that would focus on improving the technologies that provide clean water and sanitation. Hildebrand said being a charitable organization with a focus on technology is an important aspect of GWF.

“There’s a whole lot of innovative ideas … to process sustainable water supply, which many of the other charities can’t go for because they may not be the engineering or the technical type, or their founding statements may prohibit them or preclude it,” she explained. “For us it was a very clear thing. The universities and the people who do [research and development], they often have the money to test and develop the product, but they have no money to get it out there.”

Hildebrand said that as GWF grows, she and Kriek hope to introduce innovative products and present them to the community members within developing countries. This is a goal, she said, because not only are the current hand pumps installed in many poor and rural regions “archaic,” but also because there is currently a lack in educating community members on how newer water technologies function and how they can be repaired.

“People in rural areas are poor, not stupid,” Hildebrand said. “Poor doesn’t make anyone necessarily stupid.”

A Community in Need
The Ndolwa Parents School is located more than 4.8 km (3 mi) from the nearest water source — Lake Kyoga — according to Hildebrand. The lake is an unsuitable source of drinking, and according to GWF, many school children suffer from skin conditions and diseases due to its heavy pollution and the general lack of sanitation. The school was chosen as a GWF project, she said, “for no other reason than it was a community that had no water at all.”

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Often times, days that should be spent in the classroom are spent collecting water, she said of the school children.

“They live in squalor; they have no money,” Kriek said, “and if they survive past certain age, it’s a miracle.”

Through a system of boreholes and pumps, GWF is working on getting the school clean water. Boreholes in the region typically yield about 800 L/h (211 gal/h), Hildebrand explained. The one GWF created on the school site yields about 2300 L/h (608 gal/h), and the groundwater — pumped out by Mono Pumps Solar Pumping System (Manchester, U.K.) — goes to a 2600 gallon storage tank. A second tank on the grounds is located in the school garden, providing clean water to grow vegetables, Hildebrand said.

“It’s a little like mining diamonds,” she said of the boreholes. “At some point the diamonds are going to be mined out. So boreholes do have an end. In this particular case we’re lucky,” Hildebrand added, as laboratory testing revealed water from the boreholes to be clean and free of metal pollutants. If it was deemed unclean from drinking, “what we would then do is probably put a very inexpensive solar pasteurization unit on the roof of the school, costs about $3 [U.S.] a year to run — and it gets replaced in 21 years and is about $42 to install.”

Fundraising for Water

With the assistance of his friends — some of whom are well-known tennis professionals, including John McEnroe and Jim Courier — Kriek set out to raise money for GWF projects through various sporting and fundraising events.

Recently, Kriek, who resides in Naples, Fla., said he thought “maybe I can do something with the Cape Argus race — the biggest [bike] race in the world” to raise awareness of water problems and raise money for the foundation’s projects. The 105-km (65-mi) Pick ‘n Play Cycle Tour in Cape Town was just one idea Kriek had as a fundraising source. GWF also planned the 6.4-km (4-mi) Walk for Water in Sanibel Island, Fla. The walk replicates the average distance an African woman must walk to reach a water source, according to GWF, and typically when she arrives at the source, she learns the water is unsuitable for drinking.

Kriek said the reception the Ndolwa school project has been receiving among the local community members has been very positive. “It means everything to them,” he said. “Healthy people mean a more productive community. Kids can go to school instead of fetching water.”

“This is a foundation rooted in two very solid things,” said Hildebrand. “One is water and sanitation provision to the poorest of the poor. And the other is never forgetting that there are technologies that one can apply where one can more or less guarantee the probability of sustainability.”

As for future plans, Kriek said the school in Uganda is merely a start for GWF. “We hope to do thousands more,” Kriek said of the school project.

For more information, go to www.globalwaterfoundation.org.

— Meghan H. Oliver

WEF Launches New Peer-Reviewed Journal *Water Practice*

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The Water Environment Federation (WEF; Alexandria, Va.) is proud to announce the creation of a new peer-reviewed online journal, *Water Practice*™. As the complement to *Water Environment Research*, *Water Practice* will publish articles on areas of importance to the water practitioner, including monitoring, facility operations and maintenance, management, and policy. The aim of this new journal is to provide a forum for applied research and to help water quality programs evolve in a rapidly developing world. Water Practice will be an invaluable resource for any water professional or researcher interested in the application of new strategies and technologies.

Each issue will focus on a specific topic of interest to the water quality community and most will coincide with recent WEF specialty conferences. This thematic format will provide comprehensive coverage of many of the principal subjects in water management and research. For these conference-based issues, presentation at the specialty conference will be required for submission to the journal. Upcoming issues will focus on topics such as residuals and biosolids, odor control, disinfection, nutrient removal, collection systems, and compounds of potential concern. Occasionally, special issues will be recruited via a “Call for Abstracts.”

Significantly, *Water Practice* will debut as one of the only venues for independent peer review of applied water studies. *Water Practice* articles will be peer-reviewed by experts in the field and evaluated by a special issue editor. All submissions will be evaluated as they stand, irrespective of any presentation made at WEF conferences. Published articles will be indexed and reachable by scholarly literature searches. Furthermore, select articles will be featured on the journal homepage for each new issue. There are no authorship fees.

Water Practice will publish on a monthly to bimonthly basis, and the first several issues will be publicly available at no cost. An online-only publication will be employed for the most timely and efficient dissemination of information worldwide. For more information about this new journal, please visit the *Water Practice* Web site, or contact the *Water Practice* office at waterpractice@wef.org.

— Michael Mullins

WEF and NACWA Announce 2007 National Clean Water Policy Forum

The Water Environment Federation (WEF; Alexandria, Va.) and the National Association of Clean Water Agencies (NACWA; Washington, D.C.) are joining forces to present the third National Clean Water Policy Forum, May 6–9 at the Renaissance Washington in Washington, D.C.

This meeting is a unique opportunity for WEF members to get information on current and emerging legislative, legal, and regulatory issues and to network with individuals shaping national policy and regulatory programs. As the new leadership of the 110th Congress develops its environmental priorities and the 35th anniversary of the Clean Water Act approaches, there has never been a better time for WEF and NACWA members to come together in the heart of the action — Washington, D.C.

The 2007 National Clean Water Policy Forum builds on the success of the 2005 and 2006 Policy Forums. Key members of the clean water community, Congress, and the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency have been invited to discuss their priority clean water issues. The policy forum program will cover topics ranging from wet weather management to climate change and water quality protection measures in the Farm Bill. The important topics and high-level speakers on the program exemplify the commitment of both NACWA and WEF to provide the clean water community with the highest quality educational offerings.

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In addition to the educational benefits, the forum will provide attendees an opportunity to network with representatives from Capitol Hill and the Executive Branch agencies, as well as other water quality professionals. The program includes two evening receptions, three topic-focused issue forums, a utility executives summit, and a regulatory roundtable breakfast. A detailed agenda, registration, and hotel information are available at http://www.wef.org/GovernmentAffairs/GAEvents/ or www.nacwa.org/meetings/07may/.

— Sharon Thomas

Using Water Is Life, and Infrastructure Makes It Happen™ to Educate Elected Officials

In 2001, the Texas State Legislature created the Water Infrastructure Fund to finance $1.7 billion in state water plan projects needed by 2020. The $1.7 billion would go to supplement conventional financing mechanisms and fully fund the 2007 State Water Plan.

To date, this initiative remains unfunded. The Water Environment Association of Texas (WEAT) wants to make sure these funds are appropriated, but knows that effectively communicating about water and wastewater infrastructure to elected officials can be a huge challenge.

To this end, WEAT leadership decided to host the“Water Is Life, and Infrastructure Makes It Happen™ Legislative Briefing” for members and staff of key state Senate and House Committees, state agencies, and the Office of the Governor. The February briefing was jointly organized with the Texas Association of Clean Water Agencies (TACWA). The purpose for the briefing was twofold:

- to introduce legislative staff to WEAT, TACWA, and the Water Environment Federation; and to emphasize the group's role as an educational resource, and
- to show that the water and wastewater industries of Texas are doing their part to promote awareness of the need for infrastructure planning and funding.

WEAT also wanted legislators to understand that infrastructure funding is a national issue, with communities across the country in sore need of upgrades and repairs. Utilizing a customized PowerPoint presentation from the Water Is Life, and Infrastructure Makes It Happen™ Web site was the perfect way to talk about the issue in Texas and across the nationl

Approximately 25 staff members and elected officials attended the briefing on Feb.8, which WEAT Executive Director Carol Batterton considered a success. “The most important outcome [of the briefing] was that [legislative staff] got to know us better as an organization,” said Batterton. She also stressed the importance of working collaboratively with TACWA. “We really benefited and enjoyed working with TACWA people. They have members in different places in utilities than our members.”

Briefing organizers seated legislative and state agency participants at round tables with at least one WEAT or TACWA representative at each table. This provided the additional benefit of fostering personal relationships between staff and WEAT. The simple agenda consisted of brief introductions to both WEAT and TACWA, followed by a PowerPoint presentation by Robert McMillon, past president of WEF.

For talking points, sample presentations, fact sheets, and more, visit www.WaterIsLife.net.

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— Stephanie Kavanaugh

Nutrient Removal 2007: Conference Looks at Present, Future of Nutrient Removal

The Water Environment Federation (WEF; Alexandria, Va.) presented "Nutrient Removal 2007: The State of the Art" in March — the first WEF conference of its kind. The 3-day conference, held in Baltimore, was attended by more than 500 people and covered the latest issues regarding the removal of nutrients from wastewater and nutrients' effects on the ecosystem. The conference, which included a full exhibition, provided comprehensive coverage of numerous topics and encouraged attendee participation.

Matt Ries, managing director of technical and educational services for WEF, noted that the buzz among conference-goers seemed to focus on a burgeoning topic within the wastewater industry: sustainability.

"All these processes of nutrient removal include a lot of energy input or chemical addition. A lot of people were talking about sustainable nutrient removal processes," Ries said.

The conference was co-sponsored by the International Water Association Nutrient Removal and Recovery Group, the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, and the Chesapeake Water Environment Association.

Opening General Session
The Opening General Session kicked off the conference March 4, and included presentations and a discussion by five panelists representing four U.S. states and the United Kingdom. Benjamin H. Grumbles, U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) Assistant of Water, gave the keynote presentation.

Grumbles reminded the audience that "what we do on land is written on the water," and stressed the importance of getting all stakeholders of the nutrient issue — industrial dischargers, environmentalists, regulators, and wastewater utilities — to come together. This, he said, fits in with the idea of a "watershed-based approach." He added that "we all need to do a better job explaining to policy-makers that it's not the nitrogen and phosphorus that are bad — it's the excessiveness."

Grumbles said nutrient excess is the third largest cause of impairment in watersheds. The hypoxic "dead zone" in the Gulf of Mexico is an example of nutrient-related impairment. "The problem is well-documented. Now we need to focus on the science and technology of various groups," Grumbles said.

Robert Summers of the Maryland Department of the Environment discussed achievements made under the 1983 Chesapeake Bay Agreement. To abide by the agreement's call for a reduction in bay pollution, Maryland implemented the biological nutrient removal (BNR) program which called for wastewater treatment plants with design capacities of 1893 m^3/d (500,000 gal/d) or more to upgrade to achieve total nitrogen concentrations of, at most, 8 mg/L (8 ppm) in effluent. Summers said the majority of the 66 targeted wastewater treatment plants have been upgraded with the BNR technology, and that nitrogen load from point sources has been reduced from the 1985 level by 7.7 million kg/yr (16.9 million lb/yr, or 52%), and phosphorus has been reduced from 1985 level by 770,000 kg/yr (1.7 million lb/yr, or or 63%).

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Summers pointed out that while Maryland has made progress in point source reduction and is beginning to make progress in reducing agricultural pollution, “in order to achieve reduction, we must reduce the sources [of nutrient discharge] all over, including stormwater.”

Frank Rogalla of Black and Veatch’s (Overland Park, Kan.) United Kingdom operations, outlined the European Union’s Urban Wastewater Treatment Directive (UWWTD) for nutrient removal. He began by stating that although Europe uses half of the water the United States uses, “we discharge the same amount of nitrogen and phosphorus per head.”

Europe’s plan, which has been updated, included the reuse of treated effluents and sludge arising from treatment whenever appropriate; minimizing the adverse effects of disposal routes on the environment; and phasing out the dumping of sludge to surface waters from ships or discharge from pipelines by December 1998.

The directive has since undergone several amendments to adjust to the growth in concerns over the environment and sustainability. Such amendments, Rogalla said, include stopping and reversing water degradation; combined emission limits and water quality standards; phasing out particularly hazardous substances; and more involvement from stakeholders and citizens.

“Within 15 years, all water of the E.U. should meet good status,” Rogalla.

Other Opening General Session speakers included Lee Dunbar of the Connecticut Department of Environmental Protection, Allen Brockenborough of the Virginia Department of Environmental Quality, and Richard Koch of the Washington Department of Ecology.

A Unique Conference

Nutrient Removal 2007 set itself apart from other equally successful WEF conferences in a number of ways. For starters, the conference attendance was unique. Renee Kayal, manager of technical programs for WEF, noted the diversity of conference participants.

“Students were there, many women,” Kayal said. “It was a very different crowd, and geographically diverse.” In fact, conference speakers represented 17 countries, ranging from Belarus to Singapore. The variety among attendees and presenters made for lively discussions throughout the conference.

Ries noted that some big names in the nutrient removal sector were at the conference, including James Barnard of Black & Veatch, who Ries said is known as “the father of BNR.” Barnard moderated a session on biological phosphorus removal.

“It was the right place at the right time,” Ries said of the conference, noting its location in Maryland — the heart of the troubled Chesapeake Bay watershed. With the Chesapeake Bay Agreement setting a 2010 deadline to get the bay clean by reducing nutrients discharged into the bay, the setting could not have been more pertinent. Those within the Chesapeake watershed are all “in planning, design, or construction … [and] some are in the process of upgrading their plants to ENR, enhanced nutrient removal,” Ries added.

Click here to download speaker presentations and learn more.

— Meghan H. Oliver

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Promoting Sustainable Behavior at WEFTEC®.07

A key aspect in promoting sustainability in the water sector is through consumer behavior. Sustainability requires individuals and businesses to reduce waste, increase water and energy efficiency, and prevent pollution. Yet some studies have shown that disseminating information just through brochures and press releases is ineffective in reaching the public. One approach that has been developed over the last decade, and has emerged as an effective alternative for promoting sustainable behavior, is community-based social marketing.

In order to promote this communications approach and other education practices, the Water Environment Federation (WEF; Alexandria, Va.) will sponsor a Water Educator's Summit at WEFTEC®.07 in San Diego, Oct. 13–15. The event will be designed for municipal public information and education professionals and offered at specially reduced registration fees.

Two days of workshops and an introductory and advanced session will be presented by Doug McKenzie-Mohr, author of the book Fostering Sustainable Behavior. McKenzie-Mohr is an environmental psychologist whose research focuses on behavior change and the design and delivery of community programs. Much of his work specifically has focused on water conservation and quality programs. He recently returned from an Australian tour of municipal water agencies, sponsored by the Australian Water Association, where his approach has proven to be an effective model of success.

Following the workshops, a panel will present emerging issues related to climate change for the water sector. Participants will discuss the implications for water educators and strategies for meeting the challenges effectively.

For more information, contact Lorraine Loken at lloken@wef.org or call 703-684-2487.

— Lorraine Loken

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WEFTEC.07 Registration Is Open

WEFTEC®.07 is the place to do business, see the latest technology, and enhance your professional knowledge. Choose from 119 technical sessions, 29 workshops, 8 facility tours, and visit more than 950 exhibiting companies. Don't miss this opportunity to register early to receive the discounted rates and book housing. Register today at www.weftec.org.

WEF Releases First-Ever Annual Report

The Water Environment Federation (WEF; Alexandria, Va.) has released of its first-ever annual report. Although the Federation has produced a year-in-review in various formats over the years, this marks the first time that WEF has produced an official annual report for its members, partnering organizations and the general public.

In addition to providing an overview of 2006 activities, the 28-page document also includes the Federation's top accomplishments, WEF award recipients, retiring committee members and update on the Federation's fiscal standing.

"The past fiscal year was a period of excellent performance and achievements for the Federation," said WEF Executive Director Bill Bertera. "While we are proud to share our accomplishments over the past year, we also know that there is still much to be done to achieve our goal of fostering sustainable management of our global water resources."

To help keep WEF members and other interested parties better informed of WEF's activities, the Federation plans to release an annual report at the beginning of each year. The 2006 annual report is available for download in the WEF online news center.

WEF and Methanol Institute Launch Safety Program

In March, the U.S. Chemical Safety Board (CSB) released their final report of an investigation into the fatal methanol tank explosion at the Bethune Point wastewater treatment plant in Daytona Beach, Fla.

On Jan. 11, 2006, three workers at Bethune Point were removing a hurricane-damaged steel roof that covered two chemical storage tanks; one empty and the other containing 3,000 gallons of methanol. Two workers were up in a manlift basket using an acetylene torch to cut the roof into sections, when sparks from the torch ignited methanol vapors coming from the tank, leading to an explosion that killed two workers and critically injured a third. The CSB investigation began 2 days later.

The report lists a number of recommendations to help prevent similar accidents from occurring in the future, including a call for the Water Environment Federation (WEF; Alexandria, Va.) and the Methanol Institute (MI; Arlington, Va.) to work together to promote methanol safety at wastewater treatment facilities.

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Many wastewater plants add methanol to accelerate the biodegradation of excess nitrogen, and reduce nitrogen-loading of sensitive aquifers from plant effluent, according to a WEF news release. Excess nitrogen flowing from wastewater facilities contributes to an over-growth of algae which can lead to hypoxia, which in turn can stress aquatic organisms forming to “dead zones” in affected rivers, lakes, and seas.

“Wastewater treatment plant operators use hazardous chemicals like chlorine every day, but many are unfamiliar with methanol,” said MI President and Chief Executive Officer John Lynn. “Working cooperatively, our two organizations will impart basic facts about the physical properties of methanol, and how to properly store and handle this flammable and hazardous chemical. Tragic accidents like the one in Bethune Point are preventable, and knowledge is the key.”

In early March, WEF and MI launched an aggressive safety awareness campaign in response to the CSB recommendations. On March 5, a Methanol Institute official addressed 300 wastewater professionals attending a WEF specialty conference on nutrient removal to discuss the CSB findings, and issued a call to action for industry leaders. The two organizations are also planning a webcast, placement of articles in operator magazines, a presentation in WEF’s Safety and Occupational Health Committee’s (SOHC’s) half session at WEFTEC®.07 in San Diego this October, and working with SOHC on technical reference guidance materials.

“The hazards of methanol weren’t even on the radar screen until a few years ago but with the fatalities in Florida, we want to do everything we can to prevent something even close to the accident in Bethune Point from happening again,” said Al Calliers, chair of WEF’s SOHC.

To access the report, go to www.chemsafety.gov. The CSB is an independent federal agency charged with investigating industrial chemical accidents.

New Jersey WEA Conference Kicks Off April 30

The New Jersey Water Environment Association (NJWEA; Fair Lawn, N.J.) presents its 92nd Annual Conference and Exhibition April 30–May 4 at the Tropicana Casino and Resort in Atlantic City, N.J. The conference features 28 technical, regulatory, and management sessions approved for Training Contact Hours (TCH) and several sessions approved for NY PE Professional Development Hours. The exhibition includes more than 200 displays and exhibits.

Topics covered at the NJWEA conference include a range of topics such as underground storage tanks, driver safety, infrastructure protection, collection systems, clean energy, student issues, and more.

The Water Environment Federation (WEF; Alexandria, Va.), is presenting a 2-day workshop at the conference on April 31 and May 1. WEF’s “Local Limits and Specialized Pretreatment Training” will give a detailed description of the methods available to calculate local limits for publicly owned treatment works. Specialized subjects include handling of pretreatment laboratory data for compliance issues, pretreatment issues with mercury discharges, pretreatment training and certification, and more.

The objective of WEF’s 2-day training course is to enhance the basic Industrial Pretreatment Program presented at last year’s conference by including specialized advanced topics.

Presenters for the WEF workshop include John R. Parnell, president of Pretreatment Solutions Inc. (Safety Harbor, Fla.), and Martie Goome, laboratory and industrial waste section supervisor for Greensboro, N.C.

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For more information on the WEF workshop and the NJWEA conference, go to www.njwea.org or click here to download a conference guide. The registration deadline is April 21.

World Water Monitoring Day 2006 A Success

The Water Environment Federation (WEF; Alexandria, Va.) and its global partner the International Water Association (IWA; London) are proud to announce the results of World Water Monitoring Day™ (WWMD) 2006.

Members of Girl Scout Troop 3826 of Huber Heights, Ohio, collect samples as part of World Water Monitoring Day. Photo by Beth Ann Hill.

Adopted by WEF in July 2006, World Water Monitoring Day™ is a global education and outreach event designed to promote personal stewardship and individual involvement in the protection of our world water resources. Every year, citizens from around the globe perform basic monitoring tests on their local water bodies and report the results at www.WorldWaterMonitoringDay.com.

The primary goal of WWMD is to educate and engage citizens in the protection of water resources around the world. Many communities around the world are unaware of the condition of their water quality and the impact of their behaviors on the quality of their water resources. Conducting simple monitoring tests teaches participants about some of the most common indicators of water health and encourages further participation in more formal citizen monitoring efforts.

WEF and IWA coordinated WWMD 2006 during the weeks leading up to and after Oct. 18, 2006. This year, a total of 3993 sites were monitored, representing the participation of 39 countries and 28,150 participant visits.

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A girl scout holds up a crawfish she found during sample collection for World Water Monitoring Day. Photo by Beth Ann Hill.

The United States accounted for almost 55% of those with 2142 sites in 49 states plus the District of Columbia. After the U.S., Canada (991 sites), Taiwan (587 sites) and Australia (149 sites) led global WWMD efforts in number of sites.

Countries where registered participation occurred in 2006 include: Argentina, Armenia, Australia, Bulgaria, Burkina Faso, Canada, China, Costa Rica, Ethiopia, Germany, Indonesia, Israel, Italy, Kazakhstan, Kenya, Malaysia, Mexico, Nepal, Netherlands, New Zealand, Nigeria, Norway, Peru, Philippines, Poland, Puerto Rico, Romania, Russian Federation, Rwanda, Singapore, South Africa, Sri Lanka, Taiwan, Turkmenistan, Ukraine, United Kingdom, United States, Uzbekistan, Venezuela.

Within the U.S. Kansas (487 sites), Virginia (269 sites) and California (192 sites) led in participation by number of sites.

The "Year in Review" and all WWMD 2006 data will be available on the WWMD Web site this month.

WEF and IWA wish to thank CDM, CH2M HILL, the National Association of Clean Water Agencies (NACWA), Smithfield Foods, the Southern Company Charitable Foundation and the U.S. Geological Survey (USGS) for their generous contributions. WEF and IWA are also grateful to the numerous partner organizations who worked to coordinate involvement in WWMD events across the globe. Special thanks to the LaMotte Company for producing and distributing a total of 7886 kits in 2006.

World Water Monitoring Day will now be celebrated on Sept.18 and will extend until Oct. 18, 2007! From July 18 on, you can sign up for World Water Monitoring Day™ 2007 and purchase testing kits at the WWMD Web site.

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— Stephanie Kavanaugh

NPDES, Asset Management Workshops Coming Up

The Water Environment Federation (WEF; Alexandria, Va.) presents NPDES Permit Program Overview Course for Permittees — Including New and Emerging Issues, April 25–26 in Atlanta.

The National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) permitting program is authorized under the Clean Water Act (CWA) to control the discharge of pollutants from industrial and municipal point sources to waters of the United States. The more significant sources of pollutant discharge are typically issued individual NPDES permits (i.e., a facility-specific permit containing unique conditions). Currently, the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency provides training on the basic requirements and methods for issuing NPDES Permits to permit writers. This course will provide similar training for the permit holder and focus on a process to foster increased involvement in permit development and implementation. The objective of this course is to increase understanding by both the permit holder and permit writer as a means to help reduce permit issuance time and lead to increased permit compliance.

For more information, click here.

WEF also is presenting Asset Management for Water and Wastewater Utilities: Manageable, Incremental Steps to Life-Cycle Asset Management, June 5-6 in Baltimore. This event is held in cooperation with the Chesapeake Water Environment Association (Washington, D.C.).

Asset management is a challenge that all water and wastewater utilities face today. How does a utility implement cost-effective asset management practices? Where does a utility manager even start? The task can seem daunting. However there are manageable steps that utilities can take to assess risks and manage assets to minimize life-cycle costs while maintaining desired levels of service.

The purpose of the training course is to present conceptual information on best practices punctuated by utility case study experiences to inform participants about how to design and implement their own practical, site-specific approaches to asset management. This workshop is applicable to utilities of all sizes and budgets and will be a "hands-on" experience in which participants will review specific information on how assets are inventoried and assessed, risks evaluated, projects prioritized, and other key topics.

For additional information on this workshop, click here.

Residuals and Biosolids Management Conference: Innovation and Sustainability

The Water Environment Federation's (WEF; Alexandria, Va.) Residuals and Biosolids Committee, in cooperation with the Rocky Mountain Water Environment Association and the American Water Works Association (Denver), is sponsoring a specialty conference on residuals and biosolids management April 15-18. This is the 21st annual WEF specialty conference on this subject, and will be held this year at the Colorado Convention Center in Denver.

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While advance registration is now closed, those interested may register onsite at the Hyatt Regency Denver at the Colorado Convention Center. For more information, click here.

In Memoriam: James Donald Resnick

James Donald Resnick, 75, a resident of Davenport (Iowa) died Feb. 9. Resnick was a member of the Water Environment Federation (WEF; Alexandria, Va.) and the Iowa Water Pollution Control Association (Ames).

Resnick was born May 29, 1931, in Davenport, the son of Carl and Afra Victoria (Geiger) Resnick. He attended Davenport High School, graduated from St. Ambrose University (Davenport, Iowa), and received his master's degree in chemistry from Iowa State University (Ames). He married Joan Marie McNamara on June 30, 1956, with whom he celebrated his 50th wedding anniversary last summer.

Resnick served with the U.S. Public Health Services during the Korean War, and was also a professor at St. Ambrose University for 17 years.

When he learned that the city of Davenport needed to enlarge its primary treatment plant and required an industrial study be done to prove this need, Resnick called city hall and offered his services, according to a memoir Resnick wrote on his career. In 1974, Resnick left St. Ambrose University to join the City of Davenport as assistant wastewater engineer. Within 3 years, Resnick was promoted to director of the city's wastewater plant — the position from which he retired from after more than 23 years of service to the city.

Collection Systems 2007: Pioneering Trails to Collection Systems Excellence

Held in cooperation with the Pacific Northwest Clean Water Association (Caldwell, Idaho), Collection Systems 2007 will be held May 13–16 at the Oregon Convention Center in Portland.

The conference will focus on optimizing the planning, design, construction, and operations of sustainable collection systems along with an additional focus on issues specific to the Pacific Northwest. System operations and specific project related experiences and case studies will be used to illustrate a range of collection systems issues.

For more information on registration and the conference, click here.

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