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Member Association News

Chesapeake WEA (CWEA)

CWEA's Collection Systems Committee recently completed their annual Spring Seminar on Wednesday, June 1, 2016 at Dutch's Daughter in Frederick, MD. This year the theme of the event was "Clearly Underground" and focused on the following:

Andy Lukas (Brown and Caldwell) - [Keynote] Milwaukee Metropolitan Sewerage District’s Private Property I/I Reduction Program was a presentation that described the response to thousands of basement backups experienced during a period of strong storms in 2010. The Milwaukee Metropolitan Sewerage District (District) announced and established a regional Private Property I/I (PPII) reduction program. This PPII Program is focused on funding remedies for I/I in order to reduce the amount of flow that must be stored, conveyed and treated by the District thereby reducing the risk of basement backups.

Mike Harmer / Maya Sathyanadhan / Andres Villarraga / Beth Kilbourne (WSSC) - Clearwater: Private & Public Side Leakage Reduction Program presentation was WSSC's "Clearwater" Program that aims to reduce inflow/infiltration (I/I), the excess flow from storm and groundwater entering the sanitary system. WSSC program further allows a flow credit program for development. The presentation focused on the two tracks currently planned; which were a pilot to identify sources of Clearwater from the private side and a new program/process to allow developers to eliminate Clearwater from sources in lieu of required construction of wet weather capacity enhancements.

Brianne Nakamura (WEF) - Private Property Virtual Library (PPVL) presentation discussed how WEF began gathering information about successful private property-related programs from wastewater utilities across the country. The Private Property Virtual Library (PPVL) was thus created and is considered a repository of case studies including those related to I/I source detection and reduction efforts. The PPVL aims to improve private property systems nationwide by providing a forum for utilities to compare technologies and solutions, alleviate complications, share experiences, and exchange ideas.

Dora Parks (Miss Utility One-Call System) - Working with Underground Utilities and Miss Utilities presentation revolved around SAFETY. The presentation went into detail on What is Miss Utility, who should call, the cost (hint, FREE!!!), Why you should call, What's considered excavation, when digging is allowed, and What the color of each mark represents

"Life is like a sewer: what you get out of it depends on what you put into it." – Tom Lehrer

Georgia Association of Water Professionals (GAWP)

The Georgia Association of Water Professionals held its 2016 Spring Conference and Expo in Columbus Georgia from April 26-27. The GAWP Wastewater Collection Systems Committee and its GWEF members organized a technical session focusing on professional development titled "Career Path- Moving Up the Ranks from Operations to Management". The session featured five guest speakers who shared their experiences in the water and wastewater industry and the factors that contributed to their success and how they handled challenges presented to them. The session was led by Jeremy Cummings from Columbus Water Works, Phillip Page from Gwinnett County, Lamar Hamlin and
With over 200 vendors of equipment and services. The NJWEA’s Collection System Committee (CSC) presented two separate technical sessions for this conference.

On Tuesday, May 17, Committee Co-Chairs, William Suchodolski of the Ocean County Utilities Authority and Louis Lambe, of the Passaic Valley Sewerage Commission moderated the Manager’s program which offered 4 Contact Hours (TCH’s) to 89 license holders and was packed with case study, force main and gravity sewer assessment techniques and other useful topics related to managing wastewater collections systems.

On Thursday, May 19th Basil D’Armiento of CDM Smith and Bob Snyder of the Plainfield Area Regional Sewerage Authority moderated the Operators workshop which offered 5 TCH’s to 83 license holders and focused on more case studies, better project planning with operator input, succession planning for your collection system, inspection equipment and techniques as well as the importance of proper bedding and compaction on new pipe installs or repairs.

In addition to the regularly scheduled collection systems conference technical training, the NJWEA also held its annual Spring Fling – 2016 Operations Challenge, concurrent with the Conference. The two day event included eleven teams from various parts of the United States and Canada to hone their skills on the upcoming WEF National event.

Thanks to Tim Fisher, Chairman of the NJWEA Operations Challenge Committee, Michelle Salfi, Spring Fling Coordinator and Collection Systems event coordinator Jeff Sober.

On June 13th through 15th of this year, additional continuing education training was provided NJWEA members through a 4 TCH session at three locations each throughout the State. The topics of the three sessions included Root Control, Multiple Trenchless Solutions, Improving Motor and Generator Performance and Reliability and Drainage Issues and Solutions. These Mini-Seminars provide a low cost means ($17.00 per day for a member including a lunch) to obtain technical contact training opportunities at convenient locations within New Jersey. More than 200 members obtained training in those three days. Thanks go to the hosting facilities, location coordinators and Jill Plesnarski, Mini-Seminar Committee Chair.

With a successful conference and the Mini-Seminars behind us, the Collection Systems Committee is focusing its attention on putting together a workshop for the NJWEA’s September Technology Transfer that will offer 5 TCH’s on the topic of Fats, Oils, and Grease (FOG). This workshop will focus on source identification, strengthening your ordinance, pretreatment, O&M, and inspection. To learn more about New Jersey’s Collection Committee or to take a look at the presentations from the actual workshops, please visit their website at http://www.njwea.org/committees/technical/collection-systems-committee.
Collection Systems Awards
In each issue we like to recognize professionals and/or utilities in your Member Association (MA) who received a distinguished award in collection systems. Please contact Bri Nakamura at bnakamura@wef.org if you would like to contribute.

Central States WEA (CSWEA)
The Central States WEA (CSWEA) held their Annual Awards Banquet on May 19, 2016 at the Monona Terrace Community and Convention Center in Madison, Wisconsin. At the banquet, the CSWEA awarded the 2016 Collection System Award to three individuals, including one representative from each State Section. The winners were:

- Zachary Matyja (RJN Group),
- John Nelson (Visu-Sewer Clean & Seal)
- Peter Owens (Metropolitan Council)

In addition, the CSWEA inducted six new members into the Golden Manhole Society, including:

- Aaron Berry (Trotter and Associates)
- Dianne Matthews (Western Lake Superior DNR)
- Jack Saltes (Wisconsin DNR)
- Allan Wheeler (Racine Wastewater Utility)
- WEF Delegates Lynn Broaddus and Steve Dye

Georgia Association of Water Professionals (GAWP)
Top Operator Awards were also given to Collection System Operators from six districts at the Spring Conference.

- District 1—Gary Hill
- District 3—Steve Sims
- District 4—Reggie Watson
- District 5—Jarvis Fennelle
- District 7—Brian Rowland
- District 8—Josh Bivins

Missouri WEA (MWEA)
Golden Manhole
- Gary Moore (Metropolitan St. Louis Sewer District)
- Don Cordonnier (City of St. Joseph)
- Stacey Beasly (City of Cape Girardeau)
- Todd Rasche (Duck Creek Sanitary District)

2015 Collection System Award
- Stan Polivick (City of Cape Girardeau)

New Jersey WEA (NJWEA)
Golden Manhole
- Michael Hope
- Nicole Joy
- Frank Pestana
- Honorary Member—WEF Treasurer Ralph Exton

2016 Golden Manhole Inductees
Photo: NJ WEA

2016 Golden Manhole Inductees
Photo: NJ WEA

Oklahoma WEA (OWEA)
The Arthur Sidney Bedell Award was established to acknowledge extraordinary personal service to a member association. The award is named for Arthur Sidney Bedell, the second president of the federation who exemplified its purpose by his long devotion and service to the New York Sewage and Industrial Wastes Association, now the New York Environment Association. He was Chief of the Bureau of Sewage and Waste Disposal of the New York State Department of Health.

This year’s Arthur Sidney Bedell Award was presented to Mr. Bryan K. Ballard. The award consisting of a plaque inscribed with Mr. Ballard’s name and a Bedell Award lapel pin was presented by Lynn Broaddus, Water Environment Federation representative at the 2016 Oklahoma Water Environment Association annual conference.

Qualification for the award is based on extraordinary organization leadership, administrative service, membership activity & stimulation of technical functions.

WEA of Texas (WEAT)
The Sidney L. Allison Award is presented to the individual or organization that has made significant contributions to the engineering, science, and/or operation and maintenance of wastewater collection and pumping stations with the mission to transport wastewater to a treatment plant.

This year’s Sidney L. Allison award was presented to Mr. P.S. Arora. Mr. Arora is the Water Utilities Assistant Director for the city of Denton, Texas.

P.S. is an active member of WEF, and has participated in numerous WPCF, WEAT, WEF, and EPA sponsored conferences and webinars as an attendee as well as a presenter. P.S was instrumental in the city of Denton receiving the Sidney Allison Award for the city of Denton wastewater collection system asset management program, and WEAT plant of the year for Category 3 Municipal Plants over 15 MGD for the Pecan Creek Water Reclamation Plant.

New Jersey WEA (NJWEA)
Golden Manhole
- Michael Hope
- Nicole Joy
- Frank Pestana
- Honorary Member—WEF Treasurer Ralph Exton

Photo: NJ WEA

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Let us highlight what your MA is doing in the realm of collection systems. Share any successes, milestones, events, initiatives, innovations, fun ideas, etc. with all in our collection systems community by emailing a short summary to Bri Nakamura at bnakamura@wef.org
WEA of Texas (WEAT)

By: Leigh Cerda, P.E., WEAT Secretary and Collections Committee Chair

The 2016 Texas Water Conference was held at the Fort Worth Convention Center April 19 - 22, 2016. The WEAT Collections Committee met during the conference on Wednesday April 20th. Topics of discussion during the meeting included the adoption of the TCEQ SSO Rule, WEAT Officer Appointments, WEF CSC updates by WEAT CC members Jerome Ilits and Mattie Engels, and planning the next Collection Systems Webinar in 2016 and the next Specialty Conference in 2017. The successes achieved by the Committee within the past year, including webinars, conferences and committee growth, were discussed as well as active volunteerism by all Committee members.

At Texas Water 2016, for the first time the Collection Systems technical program was a full day (morning and afternoon) session. Speakers/topics were selected by the 23 member strong WEAT Collections Committee including: Sanitary Sewer Consent Decree Management by Temple Williamson with the City of Corpus Christi, Texas; Pipe Bursting, by Michael Hagen with Parsons Engineering; Inspection of a Hydraulically Complex Large Diameter Wastewater Pipeline, by Jerome Ilits with the San Antonio Water System; Sewer System Assessment Data

WEAT Collections Committee

The Fatberg Problem: Grease Traps May Do More Harm Than Good

Wastewater grease traps, normally seen as sewer system protection, may actually cause more harm than good.

A research team from the University of Hawaii recently found that microorganisms in wastewater grease traps may negatively affect deposits of fat, oil, and grease (FOG) in sewers. They recently published their findings in Environmental Science: Water Research & Technology.

"Together, our data indicate that microbial activities in grease interceptors can significantly impact the quantity and profile of long chain fatty acids, which should be taken into consideration in the design and operation in order to reduce the formation of fat, oil, and grease deposits in sewers," the study said.

"Often known as fatbergs, the hardened FOG deposits are made up mostly by calcium salts of long chain fatty acids, rather than simply fats and cooking oils entering wastewater pipelines. They cause severe problems for those maintaining the sewers and, in worst-case scenarios, can lead to sewer overflows and sewer system degradation,” according to a release from the University of Hawaii.

To read more about the fatberg problem and if grease traps damage sewers, click here.

Sewer Geysers Afflicting Baltimore (MD) Homes

All across Baltimore, homeowners are waking up to sewage spewing from their toilets. Sometimes it’s an old pipe that bursts, but mostly raw sewage spills in Baltimore come after heavy rains that overwhelm century old infrastructure, finding its way into not only city streams, but also homes.

Though the city isn't directly responsible for every household sewage backup, there is an overarching explanation for the decade's uptick in soiled basements that implicates the city. It's the result of Baltimore's stalled efforts to stop sewage from flowing into its Inner Harbor and the Chesapeake Bay.

It will take over a decade and billions of dollars to fix the problem. A proposed deal between the city, the Maryland Department of the Environment and the federal government would modify a previous plan.

To read more about the Baltimore sewer geysers, click here.

Call for WE&RF Unsolicited Research Pre-Proposals

The Unsolicited Research Program supports WE&RF in its mission by funding research projects that can be the catalyst for transforming our understanding of our water resources and our ability to protect and preserve them in a sustainable and cost effective manner and to minimize impact on health and the environment. WE&RF is seeking pre-proposals that will significantly advance knowledge and understanding and that could fundamentally transform how WE&RF Subscribers perform their work. Proposers are invited to submit on topics consistent with WE&RF’s mission, that is, to advance science and technology addressing water quality issues as they impact water resources, the atmosphere, the land, and quality of life.

Pre-proposals are due on July 20, 2016. Click here for more information on submitting pre-proposals.
Utility of the Future Recognition Program Launched

The Water Environment Federation (WEF) in conjunction with the National Association of Clean Water Agencies (NACWA), the Water Environment Research Foundation (WERF) and WateReuse—with support from the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA)—proudly announce a new Utility of the Future (UOTF) Today Recognition Program. The program will celebrate the progress and exceptional performance of our nation’s wastewater utilities while supporting the widespread adoption of the innovative UOTF business model.

The UOTF concept was first introduced in 2013 to guide utilities of all sizes toward smarter, more efficient operations and a progression to full resource recovery with enhanced productivity, sustainability, and resiliency. Since then many utilities have successfully implemented new and creative programs to address local wastewater technical and community challenges.

The UOTF Today Recognition Program will build on this success by celebrating these advancements and experiences; encouraging the adoption of UOTF principles (water reuse, watershed stewardship, beneficial biosolids reuse, community partnering & engagement, energy efficiency, energy generation & recovery, and nutrient & materials recovery) as the “Organizational Culture of the Future;” and enabling participants across a broad range of capacities and capabilities to collaborate, learn, and continue to evolve as a unified sector.

To learn more about the Utility of the Future Recognition Program, click here.

New Jersey Student Wins this year’s US Stockholm Jr. Water Prize!

Nishita Sinha from Chatham, N.J. has won the 2016 U.S. Stockholm Junior Water Prize (SJWP) — the most prestigious youth competition for water-related research. Sinha and 53 other students, representing a total of 47 states and Puerto Rico, competed in the national finals this past weekend at the University of North Carolina at Charlotte.

Worldwide, 2.4 billion people are exposed to public health and environmental threats because they lack access to reliable and affordable sanitation options. One promising alternative is a simple two-pit composting toilet that uses a natural anaerobic process to treat solid waste. Despite its efficacy, concerns remain about fecal coliform bacteria in the liquid waste and the impacts on local drinking water sources. Sinha’s two-phase project, “Experimental Studies in Developing Safe Sanitation Solutions,” tested potential low-cost additives to improve this process and evaluated the associated design constraints.

Sinha received $10,000USD and an all-expense paid trip to Stockholm, Sweden where she will represent the United States at the international competition during World Water Week, Aug. 28-Sept. 2. The international winner will receive $15,000USD presented during a royal ceremony by the prize’s Patron HRH Crown Princess Victoria of Sweden.

Other competition winners included the two U.S. runners up, Paige Brown (Maine) and Megan Lange (Ala.) who each received $1,100; and Sarayu Das (S.C.) who received the Bjorn von Euler Innovation in Water Scholarship Award.

In the United States, the Water Environment Federation and its Member Associations organize the regional, state, and national SJWP competitions with support from Xylem Inc., who also sponsors the international competition and the $1,000 Bjorn von Euler Innovation in Water Scholarship Award.

WERF and WateReuse Merger

In May, the Water Environment Research Foundation (WERF) and the WaterReuse Research Foundation announced the merger of their organizations. The new not-for-profit, called the Water Environment & Reuse Foundation (WE&RF), brings together a rich portfolio of research in water, wastewater, and stormwater, valued at more than $200 million. The merger strengthens the industry movement toward One Water, which realizes the true value of all water, wastewater, and stormwater.

Since it was established in 1989, the Water Environment Research Foundation has been internationally recognized as a leader in research related to wastewater and stormwater. Established in 1993, the WateReuse Research Foundation has led the world in producing applied research in water reuse. The new Water Environment & Reuse Foundation will continue to focus on research in resource recovery and reuse, which provides the science for next generation technology and innovation to meet the growing demand for clean water.

The new organization is supported by more than 200 utilities, businesses, industrial and commercial enterprises, educational institutions, and government agencies. The water agencies combined, represent more than 50 million residential and small business water consumers across the country.

Water Environment & Reuse Foundation is a 501(c)3 charitable corporation seeking to identify, support, and disseminate research that enhances the quality and reliability of water for natural systems and communities with an integrated approach to resource recovery and reuse, while facilitating interaction among practitioners, educators, researchers, decision makers, and the public.

To learn more about WE&RF, visit their website at: http://www.werf.org/
Ops Challenge Super Team goes to IFAT
Team KSB-USA was awarded the gold medal today in Munich, Germany as the overall winner of the third Open German Championship in Wastewater Technology. The all-star Operations Challenge team competed this week against 36 teams from six countries as part of IFAT 2016—the world’s leading trade fair for water, sewage, waste and raw materials management—which runs from May 30-June 3.

Organized by the Water Environment Federation (WEF) and sponsored by KSB, Inc., the U.S. team included Coach Dave Vogel (CH2M, Lanesborough, Mass.) and members Dale Burrow (TRA CReWSerS, Dallas, Tex., winner of 5 Division 1 Operations Challenge Championships); Donnie Cagle (Terminal Velocity, Wake Forest, N.C., winner of 10 Division 1 Operations Challenge Championships); and Steve Motley (Terminal Velocity, Virginia Beach, Va., winner of 5 Division 1 Operations Challenge Championships).

During the intense two-day competition, the teams were judged in five core competencies of wastewater operations. Team KSB-USA accumulated the most combined points from each individual discipline to take first place, followed by two German teams—second place winner Nuremberg – Die Drei Wreckla and third place winner Stadt Stuttgart Pumps.

Ready for a rematch?
If you missed the action in Germany, you have another chance to see these hard-working operators show off their skills at Operations Challenge 2016 this fall in New Orleans. The competition will be held as part of WEFTEC 2016, WEF’s 89th annual technical exhibition and conference. For more information, visit www.weftec.org.

That’s a Wrap in Atlanta! Another Successful Collection Systems 2016!
This year’s Collection Systems Conference in Atlanta, Georgia was another hit!
Chaired by our fearless leaders Mr. Jim Hewitt and Mr. Jimmy Stewart, the conference kicked off on Sunday May 1, with two crowded and successful workshops (don’t worry if you missed them, both workshops will be offered at WEFTEC).

After a successful day of workshops, the local planning group and Georgia Association of Water Professionals (GAWP) took us to the turf, throwing a great social event at the College Football Hall of Fame. While we may have lost some attendees to the neighboring Beyonce concert, others enjoyed a night of representing their college teams and even trying their hand (or foot) at some football drills and field goals! Needless to say, we should all stick to our day jobs.

After recovering from our turf burn, the conference was in full swing on Monday (Water Professional Appreciation Day in Georgia), with our opening general session. Opened by the dynamic Jim and Jimmy duo, our speakers GAWP Executive Director Pam Burnett, WEF President Paul Bowen, and Atlanta Commissioner Jo Ann Macrina took us around the world from Coca-Cola’s numerous global facilities (including in Atlanta) to Atlanta’s underground galaxy. Paul highlighted Coca-Cola’s new water stewardship program, including their new slogan for water “Reduce, Recycle, Replenish”. While Jo Ann took us on an inter-galactic adventure through Atlanta’s underground galaxy with a Guardians of the Galaxy themed presentation.

After a great start, the conference kicked into high gear with everyone shuffling into the exhibit hall for a successful mobile session, highlighting collection system technologies, or to one of the 53 technical sessions, or 2 local tours.

To close the conference, participants and Collection Systems Committee members, came together for an interactive (and thirsty) CSC meeting. To start off the meeting CSC Chair Rudy Fernandez and CSC Chair Elect Luis Leon, led a highly enthusiastic 70 committee members (including 20 first time attendees), through introductions and some subcommittee highlights from the Program Subcommittee (Susan Mosio), the O&M Subcommittee (Dave Hofer), and the newly improved Private Property Virtual Library (Bri Nakamura). To finish off the meeting on a high note, Dave Hofer led us in a spirited town hall debate on “How much data is too much?” Split into pro and anti-data teams, the debate was lead off by our candidates: Mrs. Susan “Kaisch” Mosio and Mr. Eric “the Donald” Harold (for data collection) and Mr. Steve “the Bernie” Sheets and Mr. Jim “Rodem” Shelton (too much data). It was a great way to drop the mic and end the conference.

A big thank you to Jim and Jimmy, the CSC Specialty Conference Subcommittee, the GAWP local planning group, and WEF staff for putting on another successful conference! And see you all in 2017 in Omaha, Nebraska!
Texas Water Raises $19,000 for Water for People!

Organizers of the Water For People silent auction/raffle at Texas Water 2016 are ecstatic to report that $19,000 was raised, all of which will go to Water For People!! Not only did organizers, volunteers, donors and bidders raise a ton of money, but we touched hundreds of people's lives. Way to go!! Special thanks to organizers John Logan (Freese & Nichols), Jacob Niemeier (Stantech), Thomas Curl (DFW Airport), and Matt Berg (CH2M)! It was a real team effort. One auction item that really helped us make this a record year was the donation by Hach of a $6,000 handheld flow meter, so special thanks to Hach!

If you are interested in donating/volunteering at Texas Water 2017, or would like to become involved in Water For People in some other way, please contact Adam Conner at adam.conner@saws.org.

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If you are interested in donating/volunteering at Texas Water 2017, or would like to become involved in Water For People in some other way, please contact Adam Conner at adam.conner@saws.org.

Make a difference at WEFTEC

The Students & Young Professionals Committee (SYPC) invites you to give back to New Orleans this September. Since 2008, the SYPC has organized a community service project in the WEFTEC host city as a way to improve the local water environment and leave a positive and lasting effect on the community. This year's project, to be held on the grounds of City Hall in New Orleans, will include the construction of bioretention cells and bioswales. These green infrastructure measures will help capture and filter stormwater runoff to alleviate flooding and improve water quality. The project will also help educate the community about water, the environment, and green infrastructure.

How Can You Help?
Donate: Funding for the service project is provided through sponsorships and by donations - both monetary and material donations are welcomed. To support the 2016 Community Service project, complete the donation form posted on weftec.org or contact WEF Staff Caroline Pakenham.

How can You Volunteer?
Add the "WEF Community Service Project" to your WEFTEC registration. Volunteers spend 4-6 hours doing hands-on service work. Lunch and drinks are provided. Thank you for your generous support to this event.

Call for Workshop Proposals for Collection Systems 2017 and WEFTEC 2017

The WEF Collection Systems Committee (CSC) is soliciting proposals for the pre-conference workshops at both the 2017 WEF Collection Systems Specialty Conference (May 21-24, 2016) in Omaha, NE and WEFTEC2017 (September 30-October 4, 2017) in Chicago, IL. Pre-proposals for both Collection Systems and WEFTEC 2016 is July 29, 2016. For any questions, contact Ethan Edwards at Ethan.Edwards@pec1.com.

Save the Date—WEFTEC 2016
Registration and Housing is Open! Best Date Deadline July 15!

September 24-28, 2016—New Orleans Morial Convention Center, New Orleans, Louisiana

Always highly attended, WEFTEC offers a variety of collection systems-focused programming, including technical sessions and workshops on the management, rehabilitation, and financing of these complex systems. The WEFTEC Conference Announcement is now available!