



NATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF
WASTEWATER TRANSPORTERS, INC.
336 Chestnut Lane Ambler, PA 19002-1001



News

Banner year for the NAWT inspection program

The NAWT inspection program had its beginnings about a decade ago. NAWT Board members were approached by several representatives of real estate associations expressing the need for a national program to train people on the proper techniques to conduct inspections of septic systems at the time of real estate transfer. At the time the Pennsylvania Septage Management Association, one of the charter state organizations of NAWT was conducting an inspection education course for its members. The NAWT Board decided to go ahead with the development of a course that they would sponsor nationwide to fill this need.

They looked to Minnesota for assistance from Dave Gustafson and Jim Anderson to help put the program together. What has been called by some the “Jim and Dave Show” was born (some others have some unprintable names for the duo). Anyway, based on the PSMA program and their Minnesota and National experience a two-day education program was offered for the first time in 1997.

To say the program struggled in the beginning would be a huge understatement. It struggled for recognition and attendance, but through all of the ups and downs, the NAWT Board members promoted and supported the effort because they felt it was one of the “right things” for the organization to support. Sometimes this support included members reaching into their own pockets to fund the continuing effort.

This changed when the NAWT Board authorized applying for a USEPA education grant in 2002 to fund a two-year effort to kick-start the program. Since then the use of these development funds has allowed the program expand in scope and to achieve solid footings.

As a part of program development there was not only development of manuals, materials and tests, but also a train-the-trainer program as a complement to the “Jim and Dave Show.” Currently, there are NAWT trainers running education sessions in California and Texas, with trainers starting efforts in Oregon, Iowa, and Ohio.

NAWT has agreements in place to assist programs in these states plus Delaware/Maryland, Arizona, and New Mexico. The NAWT effort has been directed at assisting efforts in states that have not had a lot of programming in the past rather than trying to duplicate efforts where there have been strong state sponsored programs. In future newsletter articles, we will highlight the efforts of these individual states. Education efforts are not successful without a lot of help from individual pumpers, state agency and state association personnel.

This past year, NAWT inspection programs were offered in 10 states to a total attendance of more than 1000 individuals. Each of these participants who completed and passed the comprehensive written exam is listed on the NAWT website, NAWT.org, with their contact information, so people looking for a NAWT certified inspector in their state can contact them for services.

Evaluations of the program presentations are conducted routinely. This is done to determine whether the program is meeting the needs of the professionals who are taking the course. Invariably, these evaluations come back with an overwhelming vote of confidence that the information provided is current and relevant. There are also usually some constructive criticisms that are used to improve the course. One of the most resounding expressions of support came in an unsolicited letter from Ed Swanson

Inspection → p3

Inside Scoop

- 2 Past President’s Message**
- 3 O and M Training**
- 4 Training & Certification Schedule**

Past President's Message

Tuesday, January 23, 2007

Three years ago I was elected President of the National Association of Wastewater Transporters. Assuming this huge responsibility was a little overwhelming. We were facing hiring a new Executive Director, working with the USEPA on a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU), a growing education program and the usual association issues....WOW!

Our new Executive Director turned out to be A. Thomas Ferrero, Jr., a fellow Pennsylvanian, long-time friend, huge advocate of the industry, and a "getter done" kind of guy. If it were not for Tom my job would have been impossible. So the first hurdle was relatively painless: new Executive Director in place, and off we go.

Working with the folks at the USEPA and the partner organizations has been a huge pleasure. Over the past three years, I feel both the industry and regulatory officials have made enormous strides in cultivating mutual respect for each group's responsibilities, knowledge and personalities as partners in working with decentralized wastewater treatment systems. I have made new friendships that will I value into the future. Through these relationships, our industry has truly begun to "raise the bar," thus fulfilling one of my goals as President. This torch (raising the bar), I pass to my successor.

The growing education program has been the catalyst for all of the above. There are many people and organizations that make our education program successful. First, by aid of an EPA grant and the efforts of Jim Anderson and Dave Gustafson (Woodland Engineering), NAWT has trained nearly 2000 students each year in its on-let inspection training. This program is recognized throughout the country and is actually required by regulation in several states. We have had inquiries about the course from around the world. By aid of another EPA grant and



the assistance of the National On-site Research and Education Foundation and The Pennsylvania Septage Management Association, NAWT offers the National Vacuum Truck Technician Training Course. This training was first rolled out in Nashville at the Pumper and

Cleaner Environmental Expo in 2006. It has been taught in four states, and the demand for this course is growing. Trainees learn how to be safe, protect the environment, communicate with and educate homeowners, perform service correctly, and above all, be professional (raise that bar!!!). As a member of the Consortium of Institutes for Decentralized Wastewater Treatment Systems, NAWT envisions providing the Consortiums operation and maintenance training wherever requested. This year in Nashville, NAWT has been requested to provide education for an entire track on Education Day at the Pumper and Cleaner Environmental Expo.

The usual association issues have been nothing but pure pleasure. The members of the Board of Directors and various committees of this organization are its real backbone. These are supported by you—the foundation of any organization—the members. Every member or prospective member I have met, answered questions for, or just had a conversation with has epitomized my goal of "RAISING THE BAR."

In closing, I would like to offer the following thank-yous and acknowledgements.

Hollis Warren, for handing me the helm of an organization

President → p3

Inspection from p1

of the Arizona Department of Environmental Quality in which he said, "FINALLY, as we wind up 2006, I want to thank you all for ratcheting up the NAWT Inspector training and listing program, thereby allowing ADEQ to implement the new rules

that became effective on July 1. By being able to 'recognize' the NAWT inspector program, it has allowed the State of AZ to efficiently implement the transfer inspection program for providing reliable information dur-

ing the property transfer process about the physical and operational condition of the onsite systems, all without intrusive bureaucracy." Now it doesn't get any better than that does it?

NAWT News is produced quarterly by the National Association of Waste Transporters. NAWT News is produced quarterly by the National Association of Wastewater Transporters, Inc. 336 Chestnut Lane, Ambler, PA 19002-1001. Contact the NAWT office at 1-800-236-6298 or by email at <mailto:info@nawt.org>info@nawt.org. The contents of this newsletter do not necessarily reflect the views and policies of the National Association of Wastewater Transporters, Inc. nor does the mention of trade names or commercial products constitute endorsement or recommendation for use.

Operation and maintenance training takes off

NAWT is a member of the Consortium of Institutes for Decentralized Wastewater Treatment (CIDWT). The CIDWT has been instrumental, with the assistance of funding from the USEPA, in preparing standard educational materials that can be used nationwide. The CIDWT developed both a University and Practitioner curriculum, and then followed this with a comprehensive manual and set of training materials on Operation and Maintenance. They have also conducted train-the-trainer sessions on the development of training courses and the use of the materials. NAWT participated at all stages of development of these materials.

Following the establishment of the inspection education program the NAWT Board established two other education program priorities. These were to develop and conduct an O and M course or courses for pumpers and a course on vacuum truck operation. These courses have been highlighted as priorities because these are the aspects of the decen-

tralized wastewater industry where pumpers play the largest role. It only makes sense that NAWT as an organization would provide training opportunities.

The CIDWT training was set up to be conducted over a period of four days. The NAWT Board thought that a session of this length was not practical for independent pumpers, who are unable to be away from their businesses for that length of time. They also felt it was very important that these sessions incorporate field and hands-on experience opportunities. Therefore, the training was split into two parts, with the first part concentrating on business aspects of O and M and the operation and maintenance required for conventional systems including trenches, beds, mounds and at-grades with some aerobic tank discussion. The second part concentrates more specifically on Aerobic Tanks, and single pass and re-circulating media filters. Both parts are conducted over a two-day period, with a field hands-on ses-

sion and an exam administered at the conclusion. Currently, NAWT is also developing a series of one-day sessions that can be done in sequence to better fit schedules of independent pumpers who want to become certified to perform O and M services.

Just as with the inspection course, NAWT will record and have available on their website (NAWT.org) a record of those pumpers who have passed the certification exams, listed by state with their contact information.

The first series of courses was presented in 2006 in Cincinnati and Cleveland, Ohio. Based on reviews and evaluations from participants, these courses were slightly modified to ensure relevant course content. The next O and M Part 1 course will be presented in Georgetown, Delaware, at Delaware Technical and Community College, where there is also an USEPA funded and supported field training site.

President from p2

that was ready to go, filled with extraordinary people and built solidly from the ground up.

Tom Ferrero for being a friend, the best of Executive Directors and for bailing me out whenever I missed a teleconference. Eileen Ferrero for bailing Tom out daily.

Ralph Machio, for caring so much for this industry and being there when ever I needed a sounding board for problems.

Tim Frank for teaching me the meaning of "down to earth," "professional," "friend," "commitment" and "perseverance."

Jim Anderson and Dave Gustafson for being the best training machine in our industry. Without these two fine men, NAWT's training and education program would not have gotten off the ground.

Bob Kendall and Cole Publishing for believing in and supporting our industry. Whenever it needs someone to help, Bob Kendall and Cole Publishing are there.

Frank King, for reminding me that there is always another way to view a situation and that everyone is accountable.

Mitch Okerstrom, for bringing benefits to our members.

The NAWT Board of Directors for having the faith in me to serve as your President for the past three years.

The members of NAWT just for caring enough to be members.

My wife Sharon, my brother and partner Dennis, and the rest of my family for supporting me and picking up the slack when needed.

And finally to Hollis Warren for being willing again to take the helm of this fine organization.

Just remember to be professional, be informative and "raise that bar"!!!!

Thank you for three wonderful years,
Bruce E. Fox, President
National Association of Wastewater Transporters

Training and certification schedule

Inspector Training & Certification

February 5-6, 2007 – Nashville, TN
Pumper & Cleaner Environmental Expo; Opryland Hotel, Nashville, TN
NAWT Inspector Training Course
Contact: NAWT office at 800-236-6298

May 7-8, 2007 – Texas
TOWA
Location To Be Determined
NAWT Inspector Training Course
Contact: TOWA office at 512-494-1125 or www.txowa.org.

August 28-29, 2007 – Arizona
Location To Be Determined
NAWT Inspector Training Course
Contact : Kitt Farrell-Poe at 928-782-3836
kittfp@ag.arizona.edu.

November 6-7, 2007 – Ft. Worth, TX
TOWA Fall Conference
Location To Be Determined
NAWT Inspector Training Course
Contact: TOWA office at 512-494-1125 or www.txowa.org.

January 2008 – Laughlin, NV
Location To Be Determined
NAWT Inspector Training Course
Contact : Kitt Farrell-Poe at 928-782-3836
kittfp@ag.arizona.edu.

Operation and Maintenance Training, Part I

January 27-28, 2007 – Georgetown, DE
Delaware Technical & Community College; Southern Campus
Georgetown, DE
Contact: Jerry Williams at 302-855-5904.

Vacuum Truck Technician Training

January 24, 2007 – Columbus, OH
Ohio Waste Haulers Association
University Plaza Hotel and Conference Center
Contact: OWHA at 440-636-5111.

February 6, 2007 – Nashville, TN
Pumper & Cleaner Environmental Expo; Opryland Hotel, Nashville, TN
Contact: NAWT office at 800-236-6298.

September 12-13, 2007 – Lancaster, PA
2nd Annual Septage/Grease Trap Waste Treatment Symposium
Conference Details to be Determined
Contact: NAWT office at 800-236-6298.



NAWT News
NAWT, Inc.
336 Chestnut Lane
Ambler, PA 19002-1001