Onsite Installer Certified Professional training expands to a new level

NAWT continues to work with the MOU Partners to improve the industry and to provide education and training courses that fit the daily practitioners’ needs. A recent conference call has resulted in an agreement to conduct Installer training sessions over the next two years promoting the use of the National Environmental Health Association (NEHA) credential for installers, and working with the Consortium of Institutes for Decentralized Wastewater Treatment (CIDWT) to develop a set of more comprehensive training materials. This agreement will have significant benefits in the future for standardizing installation practices across the country.

In 2006 NAWT entered into a partnership with Cole Publishing to present a one-day course specifically for installers. This happened because of the expressed need on the part of installers to have a course or set of courses specifically directed toward installation questions and issues. Topics covered are:

- Planning and site evaluation
- Installing sewage tanks
- Installing below-ground systems
- Installing above-ground systems
- Installing pumps and pump stations
- Installing media filters

The course includes an exam at the end of the course to evaluate participant knowledge of installation practices. To date, this course has been presented to more than 300 installers. The concept is that it complements the NEHA Credential exam by providing training that can be used to prepare for taking either level of the NEHA credential. Course evaluations conducted at all training locations have been very positive in their reviews. The fact that the course ties directly back to the widely read and acclaimed Installer Magazine further enhances and promotes the credibility of this course. States that are looking for an “easy” way to begin an installer program can start right here. The joint effort with CIDWT will do nothing but improve the materials and presentations.

Over the next two-year period, it is expected that NAWT will work with CIDWT in the development of their installer materials and curriculum. In the meantime, the partnership with Cole allows NAWT to conduct installer education sessions while additional materials are developed.

NAWT regularly sponsors training courses at locations around the country. To inquire about bringing a training course to your area, contact Tom Ferrero, NAWT Executive Director, 336 Chestnut Lane, Ambler, PA 19002-1001, 800-236-6298 or tferrero@ferrero.bz.

Join the professionals on September 12 and 13 for the septage/grease trap symposium! See page 3 for sign-up form.

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New award honors Delaware’s onsite professionals

by JuneRose “JR” Futcher

The annual Operator of the Year Awards ceremony was held in May 2007 at Delaware Technical and Community College in Georgetown, Delaware. Since 1997, these awards have acknowledged the services and contributions of people in the water and wastewater industry.

According to Jerry Williams, Department Chair of the Environmental Training Center (ETC) at Delaware Tech, the ETC instituted the awards after noticing that these professional operators were experiencing only negative attention. “The operators are there to provide clean water and to protect the environment,” Williams said. It just made sense to recognize them and raise their visibility to the public.

The Onsite Professional Award has recently been added as a complement to the Operator of the Year and the Environmental Lifetime Achievement Awards. In the onsite field, both men and women are now earning equal praise for their tremendous dedication and expertise. Four men and women were nominated for the onsite award, with a combined total of 109 years experience, an impressive achievement.

The award winners, selected by a joint committee comprised of Delaware Tech’s ETC, Delaware’s Department of Natural Resources and Environmental Control, and Delaware’s Onsite Wastewater Recycling Association, were Hillary Moore, Carol Evans, Byron Jefferson, and Dallas Ray.

Dallas Ray works side-by-side with his son, James Ray, as the owner/operator of Dallas & Sons in Delaware, which he founded in 1982. After serving in the US military in Wichita Falls, Texas, Ray built his first onsite system for his own home in 1952. Ray said he was very proud to be nominated, and even more surprised to win the onsite award.

The onsite award is an official state of Delaware award bearing the state seal on the winner’s plaque. In addition, all award recipients received a check for $500.00 and their names are placed permanently at Delaware Tech’s Environmental Training Center in the main reception area.

California Onsite Wastewater Association offers onsite training

The California Onsite Wastewater Association, founded in 1994, began its education and training efforts early in its existence by negotiating the setup of an onsite wastewater training center at Chico State College. Well known onsite wastewater authority Tibor Banathy had the oversight of this effort. The classes at the center were well attended, but budget restraints caused the college to close the center over a year ago.

The COWA Board, fully understanding the importance of ongoing training in all elements of onsite wastewater treatment systems, charged the Education and Training Committee with establishing the necessary courses. Developments at the time helped guide the Board and committee. The loss of the training center and the introduction of Onsite Wastewater Treatment System Regulations legislation (AB885) in 2000 has been a drawn-out process, with implementation scheduled for 2008.

COWA committed to upgrading and expanding its education and training offerings in 2004. COWA members have committed to the three-phase Instructor certification process with NAWT. COWA now has three certified NAWT Inspection instructors, four certified O&M instructors, and three qualified Soils Science instructors. COWA has trained over 450 practitioners on the West Coast in the past three years, including certified NAWT Inspectors and O&M Service Providers.

As the upcoming regulations are implemented and enforcement becomes a reality, we will see more and more demand for the Qualified Service Providers mentioned in those rules. The law names the Qualified Service Providers but gives no indication of what levels of training, education and capabilities define this person. COWA is working hard to make the NAWT/COWA certified Inspector and Operations and Maintenance Service provider the basis for defining this requirement.

We expect to be adding additional training courses such as design and installation to the menu of courses available here in California. Our thanks to all who have gone before who make this effort easier because we do not have to reinvent the wheel.

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 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.
NAWT 2nd Annual Septage/Grease Trap Waste Treatment Symposium

It is time to finalize your plans for the NAWT 2nd Annual Septage/Grease Trap Waste Treatment Symposium. The Symposium will be held on September 12th and 13th, 2007 in Harrisburg, PA at the Holiday Inn-Harrisburg East, 4751 Lindle Road (call 717-939-7841 for lodging reservations mention NAWT for our discounted rate).

This two-day event will give you all you need to know about the decision-making process for taking charge of treating your own wastes. Highlighted at this year’s Symposium will be case histories of how others have worked through the decision-making process of “should I or shouldn’t I treat my own wastes?” Presentations will be given by individuals who have been leaders with real experience in the treatment process and vendors presenting the pros and cons of the various pieces of equipment. There will be ample time to interface with those in attendance. A field trip is planned to a Lancaster, PA, area treatment facility where septage and grease trap waste are processed and the resultant water is discharged to the municipal sewer collection system. You will also be able to see various pieces of equipment working with septage, grease trap waste, and sewage sludge. Check our website at www.nawt.org for more information. This will be a real ‘hands-on’ opportunity for those with disposal issues who want to take control of their disposal destiny!

Registration for NAWT 2nd Annual Septage/Grease Trap Waste Treatment Symposium
Harrisburg, PA September 12-13, 2007

Name: ________________________________________ Company: ___________________________________________
Address: _________________________________________________________________________________________
City, State, Zip: ________________________________________ E-Mail __________________________________
Phone: ___________________________________________ Fax:____________________________ Cell:________________

_____ Registration Fee: $225.00 – Members $325.00 – Non-Members

_____ Check enclosed  _____ Visa  _____ MasterCard  - - - - - - -
Exp. Date:_______ Name on Card: ________________________
Signature: __________________________

Fax or Send your form with payment to the NAWT office by September 1, 2007.

NAWT
336 Chestnut Lane, Ambler, PA 19002-1001
Registrations with payment information may be faxed to 267-200-0279
Questions? Call NAWT at 1-800-236-6298
Training and certification schedule

Inspector Training & Certification
August 23–24, 2007—Sacramento, CA
NAWT/COWA Inspector Training
Hawthorn Suites, Sacramento, CA
Contact: Cliff Trammel at 707-579-4882 or cliffrt@msn.com

August 28–29, 2007 – Arizona
NAWT Inspector Training Course
Embassy Suites Phoenix Airport Hotel
Contact: Kitt Farrell-Poe at 928-782-3836
kittfp@ag.arizona.edu

October 4–5, 2007—Riverside, CA
COWA, Location To Be Determined
Contact:  COWA 707-579-4882

November 6–7, 2007—Ft. Worth, TX
TOWA Fall Conference
Location To Be Determined
NAWT Inspector Training Course
Contact:  TOWA 512-494-1125
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
September 20–21, 2007—California
Operation & Maintenance Part I
Hawthorn Suites, Sacramento, CA
Contact: Cliff Trammel at 707-579-4882
cliffrt@msn.com

October 4–5, 2007—Arizona
Operation & Maintenance Part I
Location To Be Determined
Contact: Kitt Farrell-Poe at 928-782-3836
kittfp@ag.arizona.edu

November 8–9, 2007—Mill Valley, CA
Operation & Maintenance Part II

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

Vacuum Truck Technician Training
September 11, 2007—Harrisburg, PA
Holiday Inn
Contact: NAWT office at 800-236-6298

To Be Determined—Pittsburgh, PA Area
Contact: NAWT office at 800-236-6298.