

Columbus OWS Summit Update

At the recent Onsite Wastewater Systems Summit (OWS Summit), at the NEHA 75th AEC, two of our own, Tom Ferrero and Kit Rosefield, provided educational sessions. The OWS Summit was designed to bring together regulators and industry representatives to collaborate, network, and exchange information focusing attention on current wastewater issues and sustainable wastewater solutions.

Ferrero presented on a hot topic around the nation right now, "Septage Treatment – What Do We Do With the Stuff?" Land application of septage permitting is under more scrutiny by the community and many municipal wastewater treatment plants are starting to turn away the

septic haulers, while mandated management of OWTS is increasing the volume of septage looking for disposal. Ferrero presented a new slant on septage disposal, which ran the gamut from dewatering to reduce the volume of the material to other potential beneficial uses. Beneficial uses included land application for nutrient value, as a part of composting to create a soil amendment product; using digestion for fuel and energy and turning grease into a biofuel. There are many beneficial uses of the waste to reduce disposal in landfills and create another income stream for the treatment facility.

Rosefield presented, "Beyond the Minimum - What Qualifies an O & M Service Provider?" on moving beyond

▶ *OWS Summit, continued on page 2*



Courtney Peterson

It is a privilege to introduce myself as the new executive administrator of the National Association of Wastewater Transporters. My new role with NAWT will allow me to continue

Introduction Letter

the momentum past director Tom Ferrero provided for many years.

We will continue to maintain and promote a professional and public image for NAWT through education to members and the public. We will strive to build upon the existing association and provide a nationwide network for exchanging ideas and opportunities to improve the industry, the environment, and public perception of our important work.

I will work with Jim Anderson to provide the industry with quality education and training that is readily accessible. We will explore online training and other opportunities that enhance and expand the availability of NAWT

courses, workshops and seminars.

My experience in government will help enhance bureaucratic relationships and advocate policies and legislation that are effective and sensible. I will convey the importance

▶ *Introduction, continued on page 2*

Inside Scoop

COWA Does "Outreach"Pg. 2

NAWT Scholarship ProgramPg. 3

Trivia TimePg. 3

Training & Certification SchedulePg. 4

COWA Does "Outreach"

The California Onsite Wastewater Association has received funding from the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency to deliver two pilot runs of the new COWA outreach program. This program is being developed in collaboration with NAWT, the Rural Communities Assistance Corporation and the Ground Water Protection Council, all affiliates of the USEPA MOU Partnership. This informative one-day program reflects the strategies of the Guidelines for Management of Decentralized Wastewater Treatment and covers a range of stakeholder interests. Topics on Principles of Plan Checking, Technology Approval and Writing a Successful Grant have been developed to address the needs of local, state and American Indian tribal authorities, while topics on OWTS Inspection, Importance of Contracts and Small Community Planning are intended to give Realtors, builder developers, lenders, wastewater operators and industry practitioners a better understanding of our industry's challenges and opportunities. The program is rounded out with two public education sessions where we discuss Septic Systems; Source of Pollution or Groundwater Recharge Solution and Take Care of What You Have, the Importance of Proper Care and Maintenance.



COWA believes in the partnership approach and looks forward to working with other state groups interested in pursuing the same goals. The first pilot run of the Outreach Program will be held in Jackson, Calif., Oct. 6, and again in Malibu, Calif., in November. Watch the COWA website for more information about COWA education and training programs. You can also join our email list to receive automatic announcements and online registration access to all COWA's events. COWA is proud to be NAWT's training affiliate for California, delivering the Vacuum Truck Operator training, OWTS Inspector, two-part O & M Service Provider program and the Installation of OWTS.

For more information, contact Kit Rosefield at cowa@cowa.org

► *OWS Summit, continued from page 1*

minimum standards to best management practices. The emphasis was on how the onsite industry is missing the boat in terms of funding by not stepping up to the plate and accepting the challenges of OWTS management needs in regards to practitioner training and certification. We have to ask ourselves, when the onsite sector receives only 1 cent for every \$5 that goes to the Big Pipe guys, what do they have that we don't? The answer is a good lobbying arm and a well-organized management infrastructure.

The onsite industry has all the tools to follow suit with a well-developed O & M service provider training and certification program, but continually resists both mandatory and voluntary programs. The old school stands in our way. There was an interest shown in Rosefield presentation, as he was approached by two state association representative asking if he would deliver this agenda at their annual conferences.

► *Introduction, continued from page 1*

of membership and create growth by exploring new association benefits and expressing how each and every individual, company, agency and association can provides strength and unity through NAWT.

Please make use of my email (info@nawt.org) or the toll-free number, (800) 236-6298, as an open line of communication to let us know what we're doing right or what we could be doing better. This will ensure NAWT is a productive network in our industry. I am truly grateful to all those who have reached out to extend a warm welcome and a helping hand; I'm honored to be a part of such a supportive and professional group of people.

I hope to have the opportunity to meet you all in person very soon!

Sincerely,

Courtney Peterson
Executive Administrator, NAWT
(800) 236-NAWT (6298)
www.nawt.org

NAWT Scholarship Program

Remember to encourage those who will be full-time college students in the fall to apply for the William Hapchuk Memorial Scholarship! NAWT awards a \$1,000 scholarship every year to the winner of the NAWT essay contest. Applicants must submit a 1,000-word essay by January 1, 2012. Participation is open to students majoring in environmental science, life science, or a related curriculum, and students may reapply annually.

Our industry is in the business of helping people. Either we are helping them maintain their onsite wastewater treatment system or we are getting them out of trouble when the system fails and they have a backup in the house or puddle in the yard. We are usually welcomed with open arms like a long lost friend when we arrive in their driveway. Some of our relationships last for decades through generations of our family businesses.

So what happens when the news you give the client makes them happy to see you leave? Sometimes the report we give them isn't what they want to hear! If it is bad news it is going to cost them money and that would make any of us unhappy.

The 2012 Hapchuk Scholarship question is, "How would you handle giving a client the news

that they need a new septic system?"

Applications must be completed and sent in by the applicant. Application materials should be sent to the William Hapchuk Scholarship Fund Scholarship Committee. The application can be downloaded at www.nawt.org.

If you or your company would like to help a young person interested in wastewater treatment get a college education, consider including a contribution to the Scholarship with your payment of dues, or **contact NAWT for more information at info@nawt.org or call 1-800-236-6298.**



Which home fixture/appliance uses the most water?

- A) Laundry machine B) Toilet
C) Dishwater D) Shower head

Answer: B) The toilet uses the most water, representing 30 percent of home water use.

COWA/NAWT Education Forum and Technology Exhibition

October 6th & 7th, 2011 • Jackson Rancheria Casino & Resort • Jackson, California

Please join us for COWA's 2011 Education Forum and Technology Exhibition. It is our goal to bring together our industry professionals for education, training and the latest information in onsite technology. We are offering four different sessions aimed various industry interests. All sessions include entrance to the Exhibition and Reception on the evening of October 6th to gather with colleagues for socializing, appetizers, and no-host bar.

Dates: October 6 & 7, 2011

Place: Jackson Rancheria Casino and Resort

- **Regulators Outreach Forum**
October 6
- **Wastewater Treatment Technology Exhibition**
October 6 – 7
- **Septage and Grease Waste Treatment Workshop**
October 6 – 7
- **Vacuum Truck Operation Training**
October 6 – 7

FOR MORE INFORMATION AND TO REGISTER VISIT:

www.cowa.org

TRAINING AND CERTIFICATION SCHEDULE

Information and registration found at www.nawt.org/training

Inspector Training & Certification

July 15, 2011 – Fort Worth, Texas
NAWT/TAREI Re-Certification
(Re-Certification Only)

July 21–22, 2011 – Sonora, Calif.

Tuolumne County Contact: Kit Rosefield at
(530)513-6658 or kit@septicguy.com to register
for training or go to www.COWA.org

October 11-12, 2011 – Maricopa County, AZ

Maricopa County Contact: Kit Rosefield at
(530)513-6658 or kit@septicguy.com

Operations & Maintenance I

Sept. 22-23 – Citrus Heights, Calif.
COWA/NAWT, County of Sacramento Contact:
Kit Rosefield at (530)513-6658 or
kit@septicguy.com

Vacuum Truck Technician Training

Sign up for Vacuum Truck Technician Training
online ANYTIME! Visit
<http://nehacert.org/catalog/> and choose
Certification Review.

Treatment Symposium

Oct. 6-7 – Sutter Creek, Calif.
COWA/NAWT Septage Treatment Workshop
Contact: Kit Rosefield at (530)513-6658 or
kit@septicguy.com