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Volume IV – Summer 2008

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"Protecting and preserving the water and wastewater resources of Rural Illinois through education, representation and on-site technical assistance".

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# Congressman Ray LaHood IRWA's Person of the Year

by Frank Dunmire, Executive Director

During the recent Rural Water Rally held in Washington DC, Congressman Ray LaHood was presented with the Illinois Rural Water Association's 2008 Person of the Year award. This award is presented each year to a person who has demonstrated an unselfish devotion to the advancement of expanding the availability of quality water to residents of rural Illinois. Due to a scheduling conflict, Ray was unable to attend the IRWA annual conference held in February and Carol Merna of his staff accepted the award on his behalf. She stated at that time how disappointed Ray was that he could not accept the award in person and asked if we could re-present it to him during our upcoming DC trip. We were more than happy to accommodate her request and arrangements were made to do just that.

Pictured to the right is IRWA Board President presenting the award to Congressman Ray LaHood who is serving his seventh and final term representing the 18th District of Illinois. First elected in 1994, Ray was re-elected to Congress on November 7, 2006 with over 67 percent of the vote and he has received over 60 percent of the vote in each of his elections.

Ray is a former schoolteacher, a long-time community leader, and has extensive legislative experience. The district Ray represents includes the hometowns of several significant American leaders such as Abraham Lincoln, Everett Dirksen, and Bob Michel. In fact, the 20 counties of the 18th District contain the same 11 counties Lincoln represented as a Congressman.

Ray serves on the House Appropriations Committee, the panel that oversees federal discre-

tionary spending. His subcommittee assignments include the Agriculture Subcommittee, the Legislative Branch Subcommittee, and the Intelligence Oversight Panel.

Over the years, Ray has been lauded by many for his leadership on the local, state, and national levels. He is widely viewed as someone who has a deep respect for the institution of Congress and who works across party lines to achieve policy goals. His knowledge of Congress and his fair-handed demeanor have enabled him to be called upon many times to chair the House of Representatives during proceedings on contentious issues including the impeachment debate in 1998.

Locally, Ray has led efforts to work with officials in a collaborative manner



to address various issues facing the communities of the 18th District. He regularly convenes bipartisan meetings with the area's state representatives and senators and often meets with local mayors and other elected officials. Ray's greatest collaborative achievements include the establishment of a federal health clinic in Peoria, the creation of the PeoriaNEXT business incubator, and moving forward with the construction of the Peoria Riverfront Museum.

Since his first election, agriculture has been one of Ray's top priorities. With some of the finest farmland in the world, the 18th Congressional District has a tremendous farming heritage. Ray has been a leader in the promotion of ethanol and has supported policies that are allowing unprecedented expansion of ethanol production in Illinois.

Ray is viewed as a leading proponent for preserving the Illinois River. He led efforts to secure Illinois' inclusion in the Conservation Reserve Enhancement Program, a unique and highly successful environmental program for the Illinois River which has allowed over 100,000 acres to be put into conservation easements. He has sup-

*continued on page 5*



# Congressman Ray LaHood IRWA's Person of the Year

by Frank Dunmire, Executive Director

ported efforts to enhance the Chautauqua National Wildlife Refuge in Mason County, expand the Emiquon National Wildlife Refuge in Fulton County, and create the Hennepin-Hopper Lakes back-water restoration project.

Ray has led efforts to enhance Illinois' infrastructure. He has worked to secure funds to improve local highways, such as the reconstruction of Interstate 74 in Peoria, the expansion of U.S. Route 67, and the completion of Route 336. Ray has been a proponent for improving local airports through securing funds for new construction and expansion while also working with officials to increase air service.


Among Ray's highest priorities is helping local communities with various

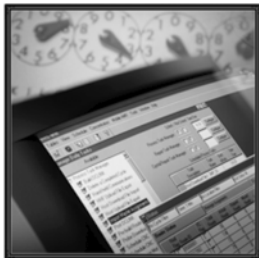
efforts to attract industry and increase employment opportunities. Ray has particularly emphasized rural development through assisting economic efforts and infrastructure improvements in the many rural communities he represents. Just one of these efforts would include Cass County Rural Water. During their groundbreaking ceremony, Ray said, "One of my top priorities is to help rural areas get funding for infrastructure improvements and economic development and I'm really proud to have been a part of this county-wide effort to lay the groundwork for the future of Cass County."

A teacher by training, Ray started his career teaching junior high school students in Catholic and public schools. He then moved to Rock Island where he

served as the Chief Planner for the Bi-State Metropolitan Commission, Director of the Rock Island Youth Services Bureau, and as District Administrative Assistant for Congressman Tom Railsback.

After serving in the Illinois State House of Representatives in 1982, Ray worked for U.S. House Republican Leader Robert Michel as District Administrative Assistant and, for four years, Chief of Staff. He succeeded Mr. Michel upon his retirement in January of 1995.

Congratulations Ray! You have been a true friend to not only rural Illinois but rural America as well. You were always a huge supporter of rural water and its causes and I, for one, will miss our conversations on what we can do to better serve the rural residents of Illinois. 



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# DISTRIBUTION RULES!!

by Patricia Gammill, Circuit Rider #2

No...this is not an article about rules (maybe next time) this is to say that distribution RULES (you know..like DOGS RULE!). Anyway, a lot of the systems I visit are distribution only. There are quite a few systems that operate and make their own water whether it be from wells or a surface water source, but a lot of the systems I visit now purchase water from one of just a few water sources in southern Illinois. Some of these sources include the Mississippi River, Kaskaskia River, Rend Lake, Carlyle Lake and some ground water wells. I guess what amazes me is the miles and miles of distribution lines it takes to service these cities and villages. Take for instance Bond-Madison Water Co. that gets their water from the Mississippi and whose distribution lines are in excess of 350 miles and still growing. Or Washington County Rural Water

who gets their water from Rend Lake and services 4200 connections and over 1100 miles of distribution.

Things have come a long way from towns that would only service their own community to now purchasing and some selling water to other villages. But when it comes down to it without these miles and miles of distribution there would be a lot of rural communities without potable water. So in my eyes distribution rules!

Well this got me to thinking about ancient times, no...not when I was a kid...although our water source was a hand pump in the side yard that furnished the best tasting water I can remember, but the ancient Romans and the aqueducts they built. So here are some fun facts from those times.

Ancient Rome had 11 major aqueducts, built between 312 B.C. and 226 A.D. the longest was 59 miles long. It has been calculated that in imperial times, when the city's population was well over a million, the distribution system was able to provide over one cubic meter of water per day for each



inhabitant: more than we are accustomed to use nowadays. For most of their length the early aqueducts were simply channels bored through the rock, from the water intake in the hills to the distribution cistern in Rome. In order to keep the flow constant, the aqueducts took a route following the contours of the land and along spurs which led towards Rome. Only in the final stretches was the conduit raised on arches, to give a sufficient head for distribution of the water into the city.

1. Water flowed to the city by the force of gravity alone and usually went through a series of distribution tanks within the city.
2. Generally water was not stored, and the excess was used to flush out sewers. Rome's famous fountains were also supplied in this way.
3. Roman aqueducts were built throughout the empire, and their arches can be seen in Greece,

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4. As central authority fell apart in the 4th and 5th centuries, the systems also deteriorated.
5. For most of the Middle Ages aqueducts were not used in western Europe, and people returned to getting their water from wells and local rivers.
6. Major advances in public water systems since the Renaissance have involved the refinement of pumps and pipe materials.
7. By the late 16th century London had a system that used five water-wheel pumps fastened under the London Bridge, and Paris had a similar device that was capable of

delivering 120 gallons per minute.

8. A private company built an aqueduct to London from the river Chadwell, 38 miles long that utilized more than 200 small bridges built of timber.
9. The 18th and 19th centuries saw the introduction of steam pumps and pressurized systems.
10. Wood pipes banded with metal and protected with asphalt coating were patented in the United States in 1855 and could withstand pressures up to 172 psi. Before long, wood was replaced by cast iron and steel.
11. Modern aqueducts, although lacking the arched grandeur of those

built by the Romans, greatly surpass them in length and size.

12. The water supply of New York City comes from three main aqueducts that can deliver 1,800,000,000 gal. of water a day from 120 miles away.
13. The aqueduct system in California is by far the largest in the world. This project under construction since 1960 will eventually bring water from the northern part to the Mexican border some 600 miles away.

I hope you have enjoyed some of these facts and share my opinion that Distribution Rules!!!!

See ya in my travels!! 💧

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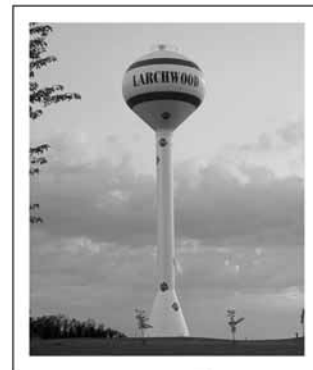
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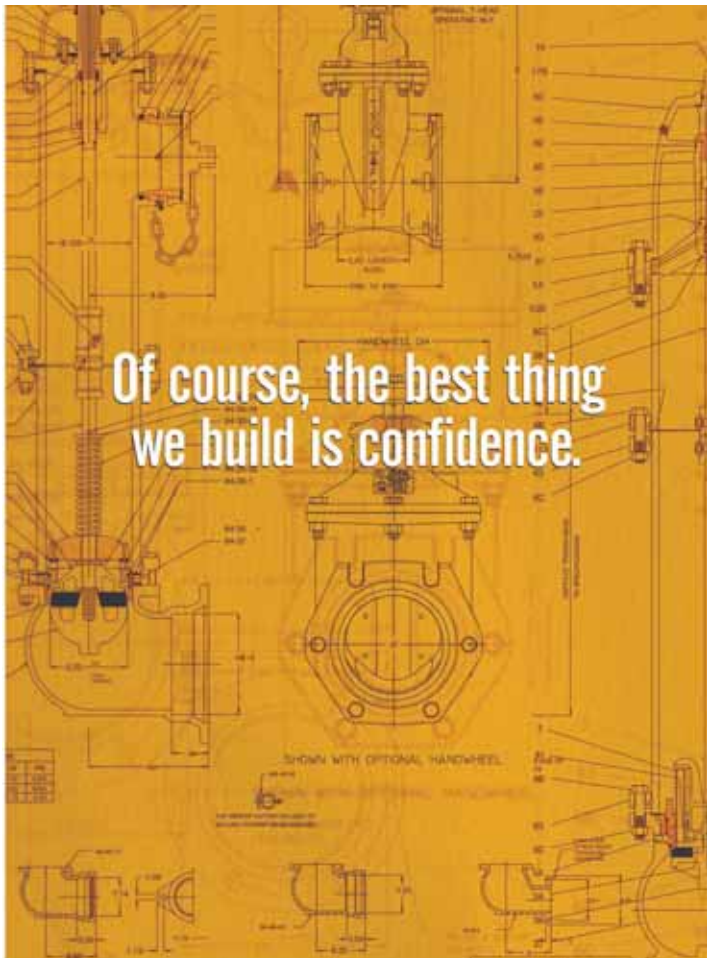
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## 2007-2008 Illinois National Directors Committee Assignments

by Steve Fletcher, District #7 Board Member/  
National Director

National Rural Water Association's Board of Directors consists of one representative from each of the 48 member state affiliates. Each of the directors, elected by the individual state associations' governing Boards, must commit to a schedule that can and will take them away from their jobs and families. Just as in almost all other bodies governed by a Board NRWA relies on committees to do specific tasks. I have had the distinct honor in being Illinois' representative for the past five years and would like to take this brief opportunity to report on some of the committee assignments that I have participated in during the past year.

The first is the awards committee. Among other things, this committee will consider candidates for several special awards (Dell Cornell, Man of the Year,

etc.). However, by far, the most time consuming would be the task of reviewing and judging every state association website. As part of the judging process, committee members will visit and score all 48 individual association websites at least twice throughout the year. The scoring process involves assigning a numerical value to each of 10 categories. After the scoring process, these numbers (1 being worst and 10 being the best) will determine how well each state association does in the various categories culminating in determining the winners.

Three times a year the committee will meet to compare and compile their individual scorings. Historically, two of these meetings will take place in conjunction with the annual conference and the Rural Water Rally while the third



meeting is held at the call of the chair and is usually held his or her hometown/state.

If the awards committee is the most time consuming, sitting on the scholarship committee would probably be considered the most difficult. This committee reviews applications and theme

*continued on page 18*

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## 2007-2008 Illinois National Directors Committee Assignments

continued from page 17

papers of college students (children of NRWA and state association staff) vying for college scholarships through NRWA and also the Joe and Jean Palmer Endowment Scholarship. Each committee member reviews all submittals and judges them based on set criteria. The number of applicants usually totals around 40 and there are multiple winners. Again, this takes considerable time to read and judge each application and theme paper. This committee meets at the NRWA annual technical conference and the NRWA Water Rally. This committee has about 30 days to finish its work. The meeting at the NRWA Water Rally concludes the work for that round of scholarship awards.

A relatively new committee is that of Professional Development. The main goal is to ensure that NRWA and its state affiliates perform their tasks to the highest of standards. This committee identifies elements of our every day activities that can be improved. We look at how we project our profession and try to develop ideas to improve how others look at NRWA and the state associations. The committee has looked at how to change our vocabulary to reflect modern terminology (ie. wastewater operator to environmental process control specialist). We are presently looking at our aging workforce and how we can replace our retirees. Also, reciprocity of certification from

state to state is being reviewed. Several other avenues of professional development are technical conferences, in-service training, website and publications.

As you can see, as National Director, there is much work to be done no matter what committees one might serve on. It is an honor to serve as your National Director and I want to thank the Board of Directors of IRWA for their confidence in me. More importantly, I want to thank Washington County Water Company and its Board of Directors for allowing me the opportunity and the time to serve on the both the Illinois Rural Water Association and National Rural Water Association Boards. 💧



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It was the decade of decadence. It was about glitz and glamour as well as baubles, bangles, and beads.

Everyone loved Luke and Laura in the afternoon. Lady Diane became the People's Princess when she married Prince Charles. Nighttime soaps like Dallas and Dynasty ruled the airwaves. President Ronald Reagan ruled the United States. Tom Cruise felt the need for speed. Michael Milliken was the Junk Bond King. Gordon Gekko taught Wall Street whiz kids that greed was good. Material Girl Madonna made her musical debut.

What decade was it?

We can only be talking about that terrific time period – the excellent eighties.

Here are twenty-one ways for you to verify that you belong to (or belong in) the 1980's.

1. Breakdancing on the sidewalk looked like fun. Now it just looks like you might break something.
2. You can still recite dialogue from any movie starring Molly Ringwald.
3. "Cell phones" meant the telephone people used when they got their "one phone call" in jail.
4. You had at least one of the following: a Cabbage Patch Kid, He-Man action figures, a Rubik's Cube, or something with a Pac-Man logo on it.
5. You remember a lot of headlines about the Human Genome Project, which was a complete mapping of human DNA. You also remember how this was supposed to lead to the eradication of disease.
6. You remember the day that thousands of radio stations across the world played "We Are The World" at the exact same time. (Now, you're singing it!)

7. Your first album was a vinyl 33 and you laughed at your parents because they wanted to play 45's and 8-track tapes.
8. You know who Oliver North is and why he was in the news.
9. Someone on your street or neighborhood sent his or her life savings to a later discredited televangelist.
10. You hung out with your friends at the mall, especially in the video arcade where you exchanged those hard-earned quarters for tokens.
11. You know that "glasnost" means openness or transparency and "perestroika" means economic restructuring.
12. You and your friends made fun of the "I've fallen and I can't get up" lady. (The fictional woman was named Mrs. Fletcher and the product was the LifeCall emergency service.)
13. You inserted "like" liberally and unnecessarily throughout your sentences. Like so, "Like, that was, like, the hardest test we ever had. So after class, I was all like asking the teacher and she was like it wouldn't have been hard if you had studied. Then I was like is that like wicked rude or what?"
14. You know there was only one way Dorothy on the Golden Girls could make Sophia behave. She simply said, "Shady Pines, Ma, Shady Pines."
15. You've actually tasted New Coke. Extra points if you wrote to Coca-


Cola and insisted they bring back the original formula.

16. You remember when there was no such thing as CNN, E!, or MTV.
17. Your parents were afraid you'd cut yourself putting on a snap bracelet.
18. You were inspired by Sandra Day O'Connor, the first female Supreme Court Judge, Sally Ride, the first female astronaut and Geraldine Ferraro, the first (and as of this writing only) female Vice Presidential candidate.
19. Renting horror movie sequels about Jason Voorhees, Freddy Krueger, and Michael Myers took up a lot of your time.
20. You loved the opposite sketches and green slime on You Can't Do That On Television.
21. You played Atari, Intellivision, Sega, Nintendo, and Coleco until your hands went numb.

Not nearly enough totally tubular nostalgia for you, for sure? Need more wicked rad 80's memories? See the complete list at <http://www.comprehensiveadvice.com/80s.html>

### About The Author

Matthew W. Grant is a writer and consultant who spends entirely too much time reminiscing about the 1980's.



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I live in Keithsburg, a small Mercer county river town. Keithsburg is located about one hour south of Moline on the Mississippi River. Normal river stage is about 6 to 7 feet, flood stage is 14 feet, and the river crested at 24.49 feet. Despite help from Illinois Emergency Management Agency, Illinois Department of Transportation, inmates from the Illinois State Correction Facility, Fire Departments, students from the area High Schools, and many other volunteers, serious flooding devastated residents after our levee broke in two places.

As the levee first broke June 14, 2008 at 8:55 a.m. approximately 100 yards from my house, I was able to witness the force of the mighty Mississippi River.

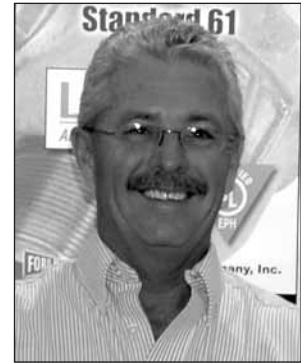
Residents were informed the night before at a town meeting that the fire siren would blow steady for three minutes if there was a breach. I was working on a new addition to my house when the siren went off. Thinking it was the noon

whistle, I didn't pay much attention until the siren continued to blow. Realizing what was happening, I walked to the corner of my property to witness something I'll never forget. Water was gushing into town at thousands of gallons per minute flooding everything, including houses, in its path.


Within hours, about forty homes were seriously affected by the flood waters. State, County, and City police departments then blocked public access to the 750-person city, allowing only residents and emergency people in and out.

A precautionary boil order was issued due to the fire hydrants being under water and sewers soon became a problem. Electricity was turned off for much of the town, but was soon rerouted to town from a different direction.

So, at this point, we still have water (just has to be boiled) and sewer (be conservative!) and electricity. Then about



6:30 p.m. the levee broke again flooding the downtown businesses. I was able to witness this also, and was shocked and amazed at what force the river had.

The breach occurred near a train engine and caboose located on the levee with again thousands of gallons per minute gushing into town. At that moment it seemed as if everyone gave in to fighting the Mighty Mississippi, and now focused on the work ahead to clean up, replace, and rebuild. The water has now receded, but the work now begins to clean up and rebuild our small river town. 



## Barley Straw — A Reminder

by Bill Dowell, Wastewater Technician

Periodically, questions are asked about the use of barley straw for algae and suspended solids control in wastewater lagoon operations. The technical aspects of barley straw treatment still elude precise definition. The chemical reaction of the decomposing straw in pond water apparently elevates the levels of hydrogen peroxide in the water and helps retard the growth of algae. However, the physical addition of hydrogen peroxide to those levels, as a separate operation, cannot duplicate the process or results of using barley straw.

Typically, the barley straw should be applied in doses of 305-375 pounds per acre of pond or lagoon surface area. The bales can be torn apart, rolled into snow

fence material, floats attached, and suspended at the surface approximately two-thirds of the way through the lagoon.

Or, the individual bales can be secured in a piece of snow fence material, floats attached, and suspended in the lagoon. Or, sometimes the bales are just thrown in the lagoon, and left to let nature take over. Just make sure any pieces that may break loose cannot plug any outlets or weirs.

Suggested installation is March/early April, although benefit still is derived from late installation times. Replacement dosing can be done in September/October to maintain an even, annual treatment level. Normally, the

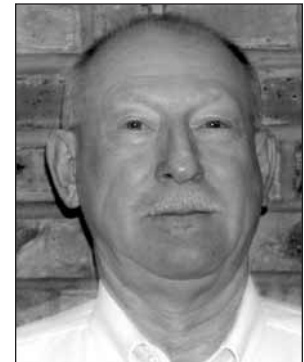
second year of usage will confirm the enhancements to effluent quality. Typical effluent TSS numbers are usually well below 40 mg/L.

Cost and availability of barley straw seem to vary

considerably, and this year's weather and fuel prices will have to be huge factors in both. Be sure to check your neighborhood first, as a number of farmers have quietly slid into the business in the last few years. Prices range from \$6.00 to \$18.00 per standard bale. That's about \$0.15 to \$0.45 per pound, if those price-ranges hold. Run a search for barley straw on the Internet, and all kinds of suppliers open up. So shop around, and keep in mind that this natural process can usually provide quality results. As with any large purchase for your system, be sure to do precise cost-comparisons with other methods or treatments.

If you have additional questions on barley straw treatment, feel free to call and ask your IRWA wastewater technicians:

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October 21 & 22, 2008

CONFERENCE AT A GLANCE (tentative schedule)		
TUESDAY OCTOBER 21st		REGISTRATION OPEN 8:00 a.m.—4:00 p.m.
	WATER	WASTEWATER
9:00 — 9:30	Welcome/Rural Development Funding Update	
9:30—10:30	IEPA Regulatory Update	Blood Borne Pathogens
10:30 — 11:00	<i>BREAK</i>	
11:00 — 12:00	How To Install A Hydrant	Wastewater Math I & II
12:00 — 1:00	<i>Lunch (Provided)</i>	
1:00— 2:00	Source Water Protection	Collection System 101
2:00 — 2:30	<i>BREAK</i>	
2:30 — 4:00	Well Maintenance	Collection System 101 cont'd
4:00—4:30	J.U.L.I.E. Update (E-Tickets/New Mapping Tools)	Collection System 101 cont'd
5:00 — 8:00	<i>Hospitality Night</i>	
WEDNESDAY OCTOBER 22nd		REGISTRATION OPEN 8:00 a.m.—11:30 a.m.
9:00 — 10:30	Chemical Feeders	Land Application of Digested Sludge
10:30 — 11:00	<i>BREAK</i>	
11:00 — 12:00	Operation & Maintenance of Aging Infrastructure	IEPA Updates/DMR's/CEU's
12:00 — 1:00	<i>Lunch (Provided)</i>	
1:00—2:30	Justification for Locating Leaks	Lift Station O & M
2:30—2:45	<i>BREAK</i>	
2:45—4:00	Security Hardware for the Established Utility	Control Panel O & M
4:00	<i>Grand Prize Drawing/Closing</i>	
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- Member: \$110.00 = \$ \_\_\_\_\_
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Please circle which day you will be attending

TUESDAY                      WEDNESDAY

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# 2008 ILLINOIS EPA EXAM SCHEDULE

August 4, 2008      September 8, 2008      October 6, 2008

November 3, 2008      December 1, 2008

*Exams are scheduled the first Monday of every month unless indicated.*

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**OOPS!**

## OOPS!

In the article entitled "Fire Hydrant Flushing" that appeared in the last *Water Ways* magazine an incorrect table was inserted. The generally accepted color codes for hydrant bonnets should have read :

0 – 499 GPM  
500 – 999 GPM

Red  
Orange

1000 – 1500 GPM  
> 1500 GPM

Green  
Light Blue

Sorry for any confusion this might have caused.

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# 2008-2009 IRWA TENTATIVE TRAINING SCHEDULE

August 20, 2008	Cartersville	<i>J.U.L.I.E. Update</i>	Water
August 28, 2008	Paxton	<i>TBA</i>	Water
September 4, 2008	Macomb	<i>Blower O.&amp; M.</i>	Wastewater
September 17, 2008	Pittsfield	<i>Safety &amp; Confined Spaces</i>	Water/Wastewater
September 18, 2008	Cartersville	<i>Wastewater Ops A-Z</i>	Wastewater
October 21 & 22, 2008	Rockford	<i>4th Annual IRWA Northern Conference</i>	Water/Wastewater
November 6, 2008	Milan	<i>Class 3 &amp; 4 Overview</i>	Wastewater
November 19, 2008	Monticello	<i>Wastewater A-Z, Math</i>	Wastewater
November 20, 2008	Effingham	<i>Activated Sludge</i>	Wastewater
January 22, 2009	El Paso	<i>Wastewater A-Z, Math</i>	Wastewater
February 5, 2009	Stockton	<i>Activated Process Controls</i>	Sludge/ Wastewater
February 19, 2009	Flora	<i>Wastewater Math 3 &amp; 4</i>	Wastewater
February 17-19, 2009	Effingham	<i>27th Annual IRWA Technical Conference</i>	Water/Wastewater
March 6, 2009	Rock Falls	<i>Electrical Troubleshooting</i>	Wastewater
March 12, 2009	Cartersville	<i>Wastewater Budget</i>	Wastewater
March 25, 2009	Pittsfield	<i>Wastewater A-Z, Math</i>	Wastewater
April 16, 2009	Effingham	<i>Collection System O&amp;M</i>	Wastewater
May 7, 2009	Morris	<i>Control Panel O&amp;M</i>	Wastewater
May 21, 2009	Monticello	<i>Wastewater A-Z, Treatment</i>	Wastewater
May 28, 2009	Cartersville	<i>Wastewater Math 1 &amp; 2</i>	Wastewater
June 4, 2009	Galesburg	<i>Wastewater Math 1 &amp; 2</i>	Wastewater
July 16, 2009	El Paso	<i>Wastewater A-Z, Treatment</i>	Wastewater



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