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Volume VII — Winter 2011



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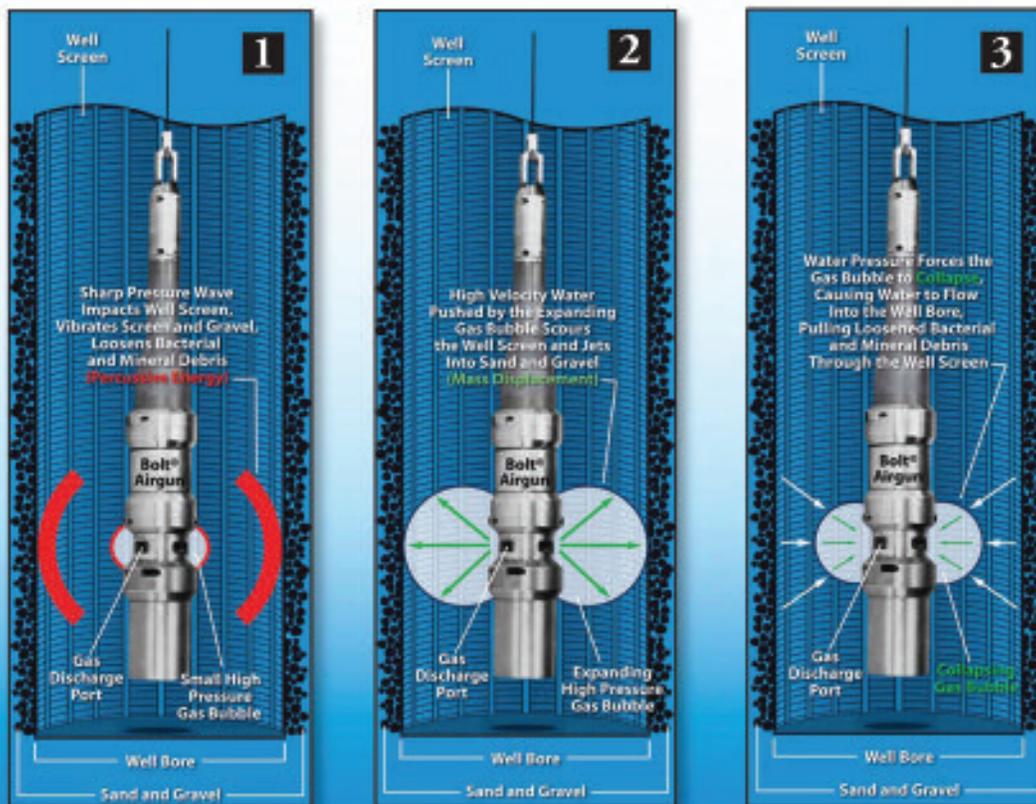
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EPA Source Water Specialist

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Circuit Rider

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Circuit Rider

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Wastewater Technician

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BILL DOWELL

Wastewater Technician

dowell@ilrwa.org • 217-820-1562

MARK MITCHELL

USDA Source Water Specialist

mitchell@ilrwa.org • 217-820-1565

ARTICLES

It's Time to Pay The Piper	by Mark E. Mitchell	5, 9
Time Will Tell	by Frank Dunmire	6
Leak Detection.....	by Chuck Woodworth	8
29th Annual Technical Conference:		
Attendee Information		12-16
Who is More Qualified?		19
Welcome New Members		20
SmallWaterSupply.org – Free Operator		
Resources and Support for Water and		
Wastewater Operators	by Steve Wilson	21-22
Smiles Will Constantly Brighten		
Your Day	by Winston Sparks	23
What Will You Find When You Are		
a Water or Sewer Operator.....	by Perry Musgrave	24
Take That Next Step!	by Bill Dowell	25

MISSION STATEMENT

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

ON THE COVER:

Picture of a winter landscape on Route 159 south of Bunker Hill.

The photo was taken by Circuit Rider Pat Gammill.

Water Ways is the official publication of the Illinois Rural Water Association, P.O. Box 49, Taylorville, Illinois 62568, and is published quarterly for distribution to members as well as other industry associations and friends. Our website is www.ilrwa.org. Articles and photographs are encouraged. Advertising and submissions should be mailed to the above address or e-mail us at ilrwadb@ilrwa.org.

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Water Well Solutions.....	11





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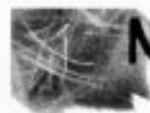
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It's Time to Pay The Piper

by Mark E. Mitchell,
Source Water Protection Specialist

"It's time to pay the piper." We've all heard it. Most of us have used this phrase at one time or another. What does it mean? Where does it originate?

It is based on the story of the Pied Piper, who removed the rats from a town, and when not paid, he took their children instead! The Pied Piper of Hamelin is the subject of a legend concerning the departure or death of a great many children from the town of Hamelin (Hameln), Germany, in the Middle Ages. The earliest references describe a piper, dressed in pied (multicolored) clothing, leading the children away from the town never to return. In the 16th century the story was expanded into a full narrative, in which the piper is a rat-catcher hired by the town to lure rats away with his magic

pipe. When the citizenry refuses to pay for this service, he retaliates by turning his magic on their children, leading them away as he had the rats.

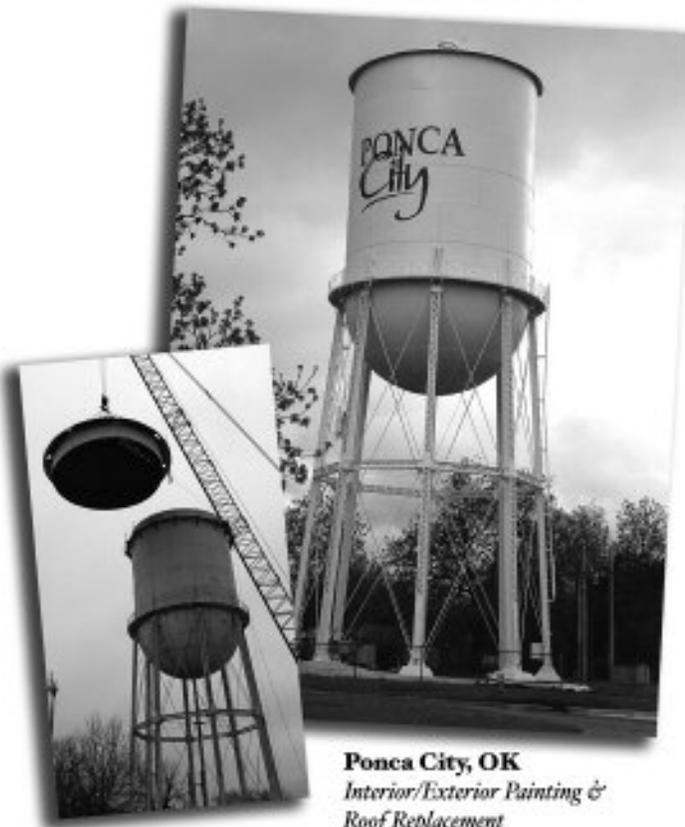
Now, you might be asking, "Where are you going with this train of thought?"

The groundwater supplies in Illinois that have received the Special Exception Permit (SEP) from the Illinois Environmental Protection Agency (IEPA), allowing them to opt out of SOC, VOC and Cyanide (Phase 2 and 5 Contaminants) sampling, have recently received letters with an attached form to fill out to renew their SEP. This is a one page application for groundwater systems utilizing a confined aquifer source. It is a 2 page application for groundwater supplies utilizing an unconfined aquifer source.



The most important thing that the IEPA Compliance Assurance Section wanted me to remind everyone receiving this letter and renewal application is: **FILL IT OUT AND RETURN IT!** IEPA cannot renew your SEP (monitoring waiver) if you do not reapply. If you do not reapply and receive the waiver,

continued on page 9



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On January 5, 2011, the 112th Congress was convened and one of the first things on the agenda was the swearing in of a new Speaker of the House. With a shift in the balance of power in the House of Representatives from the Democrats to the Republicans comes a new Speaker. The Republicans chose as their leader Representative John Boehner from Ohio. Speaker Boehner is a 20 year member of Congress whose district covers much of the extreme western parts of the state. According to his website, Speaker Boehner comes from a large family and it was reported that 10 of his siblings and their families made the trip to DC to watch the swearing in and passing of the ceremonial gavel. Known to be emotional and break down in tears, Boehner promised a more humble leadership style by promising to take his cues from the constituents.

As I listened to the incoming Speaker's speech during the opening session of the 112th Congress I couldn't help but wonder what the future might hold. For many years the American people have sent Congressman after Congressman to Washington in hopes of curbing (if not ending) the cavalier "business as usual" attitude in the nation's capitol. In his opening remarks Speaker Boehner said "We gather here today at a time of great challenges. Nearly one in ten of our neighbors are looking for work. Health care costs are still rising for families and small businesses. Our spending has caught up with us, and our debt will soon eclipse the size of our entire economy. Hard work and tough decisions will be required of the 112th Congress. No longer can we fall short. No longer can we kick the can down the road. The people voted to end business as usual, and today we begin carrying out their instructions."

He then went on to remind all the members of Congress that the very wave that swept almost 100 new faces into office this year and tipped the balance of power over to the Republicans is also the same wave that swept an equal number out of their offices. I thought he summed it up nicely in his speech when he told them, "In the Catholic faith, we enter into a season of service by having ashes marked on our foreheads. The ashes remind us that life in all its forms is fragile – our time on this Earth, fleeting. As the ashes are delivered, we hear those humbling words: 'Remember you are dust, and to dust you shall return.' The American people have humbled us. They have refreshed our memories as to just how temporary the privilege to serve is. They have reminded us that everything here is on loan from them. That includes this gavel, which I accept cheerfully and gratefully, knowing I am but its caretaker. After all, this is the people's House. This is their Congress. It's about them, not us."

As the 112th Congress sets about doing business they will be charged with the daunting task of completing some leftover business from the 111th Congress – passage of a spending bill. During the last Congressional year, the House and Senate could not agree on spending levels for many of the appropriations bills and consequently passed a number of continuing resolutions that kept the Federal government operating at FY 2010 funding levels. The latest of these resolutions was signed into law on December 22nd and will expire on March 4, 2011 – just two months into the new Congress. It has been reported that the Incoming House Appropriations Chairman, Hal Rogers of Kentucky, is planning to introduce a major rescission package as one of his first moves.



Obviously this sort of talk is of great concern to all of the rural water associations across the country.

As I write this article I am scheduled to fly to Washington DC in a few days to start the process of introducing and educating five new Congressmen from Illinois on the benefits of Illinois Rural Water Association. These new members include: Bobby Schilling, 44, of Colona, in the 17th District; Joe Walsh, 49, of McHenry, in the 8th District; Bob Dold, 41, of Kenilworth, in the 10th District; Adam Kinzinger, 32, of Manteno, in the 11th District; and Randy Hultgren, 44, of Winfield, in the 14th District. While in D.C., I will be joined by Executive Directors from almost all of the other state associations as they educate their new members as well. Hopefully this show of strength and numbers will convince Congress that funding for rural water initiatives across the country should be towards the top of their priority lists.

Will the promised changes be forthcoming or will it be business as usual? Who knows! Speaker Boehner probably summed it up best towards the end of his speech when he said that "We will not always get it right. We will not always agree on what is right... Let us now move forward". I don't know about you...but I hope they get it right! Only time will tell.



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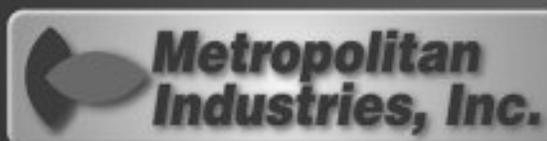
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Leak Detection

by Chuck Woodworth, Circuit Rider

During my past thirteen years of working at Illinois Rural Water, I have helped search for and locate hundreds of water leaks for water systems throughout Illinois. More so in the last couple of years after I became Circuit Rider #3. Some of those leaks have been narrowed down to a small area of the system by the water operator, some are more allusive and a system wide search is needed. Some things that I have found that help to locate a water leak are to; talk to your customers ask them if they have had any pressure changes, if they have seen any standing or running water, and the most important question do they know of any tiles that continually drain even during dry times. I have found that the old man down the street that watches everything go on in town is a great resource sometimes for finding those small pesky leaks. He has lived here his whole life, possibly watched workers put in most of the water mains, remembers tiles that are not on any maps and he knows where they discharge to. I found a leak under a busy highway by asking an older person if he knew of any tiles in the area and where it discharged at. It discharged into a drainage ditch a half mile outside town, the operator and I went to the drainage ditch found the tile running clear water that tested positive for both chlorine and fluoride at levels comparable to what should be in the distribution system. We found that a couple of sections of the old water main had not been moved when the highway was widened, of course his map showed that all of it had been

moved and was wrong by about 25 feet, the leak was on the old section right under the tile. I could hear the leak on the hydrant and the valves in the area but when using the ground mic I could not hear anything on the main that was not there. I asked the older person again if he knew approximately where the old water main was before they widened the road. After moving over to the edge of the highway I was able to hear the leak and pinpointed it within a few inches. I don't know if we would have been able to find it without the help of that nosey old man.

Did you know a 1/8 inch hole in a metal pipe, at 40 psi, leaks 2,500 gallons of water in 24 hours, a leak the size of a pinhead can waste 360,000 gallons per year, enough to fill 12,000 bathtubs to the overflow mark, a leaking toilet can use 90,000 gallons of water in 30 days, a dripping faucet/hose bib can lose up to 180 gallons a month or 2,160 gallons per year, approximately 1 in every 20 pools has a leak, approximately 1 in every 318 homes or buildings has a leak, a typical toilet leak at today's rate can add \$500 to a single water bill, one trip through a car wash uses 150 gallons of drinking water. Most of the leaks I have been locating this year have been on cast iron pipe with a 1/2" to 1" hole on the bottom side of the pipe. Most of these have been going directly into a sewer line or an tile, very few leaks I have located have been coming up to the surface. The other leaks have been the "normal" stress cracks around the pipe on cast and or AC



pipe. Then the rest have been service connections that were "shut off" but still running 20,000 gallons a day, as long as the floor drain is clear these leaks will not make it to the surface. Last winter I located a 1 1/2" service line running full into a basement, the drain was taking all it could and the water was still about 2 feet deep. The heat had been shut off as the water should have been. I know it is now.

It seems to me that almost all of the leaks that I have located this year did not come to the surface, either the soil was soaking up the leak or it was being transported to the surface by a tile, storm drain and or sewer collection system. If you think you have a leak and it is not showing up on the surface check for other ways the leaking water could be leaving the area, look for that nosey old person that watches everything you do, ask customers questions, walk or drive the system. If you don't find anything by doing all of that give the Association office a call and ask for the circuit rider in your area, help is only a phone call away.



It's Time to Pay The Piper

continued from page 5

you will be required to "Pay the Piper". Your sampling will increase and in turn your laboratory fees will increase.

If nothing has changed over the last 3 years, it will be a very easy fix. If there are changes, simply note them, send in the application and IEPA and the supply can work those out on a case by case basis.

For those groundwater supplies in Illinois that utilize an unconfined aquifer and also received a monitoring waiver, "Paying the Piper" also applies to you. When you worked through the Part 2 section of the application last time, you were required to put together a Source Water Protection Plan (SWPP). In that SWPP, one of the main portions is the management plan. The management plan contains what your supply was going to do to reduce the risk to your unconfined aquifer groundwater supply.

Illinois Rural Water Association assisted many supplies with developing these SWPP's which are locally owned and locally managed. If your SWPP was placed on a shelf and never looked at again without any effort made to reduce the risk to your unconfined groundwater supply, now it could be... "Time to Pay the Piper."

These monitoring waivers come with a substantial cost savings to a water supply due to the fact that less monitoring means less laboratory costs. If the waiver is not renewed, sample collection and analysis will resume for these contaminants. A significant increase in laboratory costs will be incurred by supplies not renewing their SEP. Make sure you reapply for your SEP. If you have to complete Part 2, I hope you have been pro-

tecting your source as you agreed. If not, now you may indeed, "pay the piper".

If you find yourself in a bind or need help filling out the reapplication, please do not hesitate to give the Source Water Protection Specialists at IRWA (Kathy Rodgers or me) a call at 217-820-1565. As always, we are eager to assist you with this process and we are also familiar with the different types of "best management practices" IEPA is looking for in your SWPP.

Oh, and by the way, IEPA would probably appreciate me adding this last statement about the phrase, "It's time to pay the piper"...

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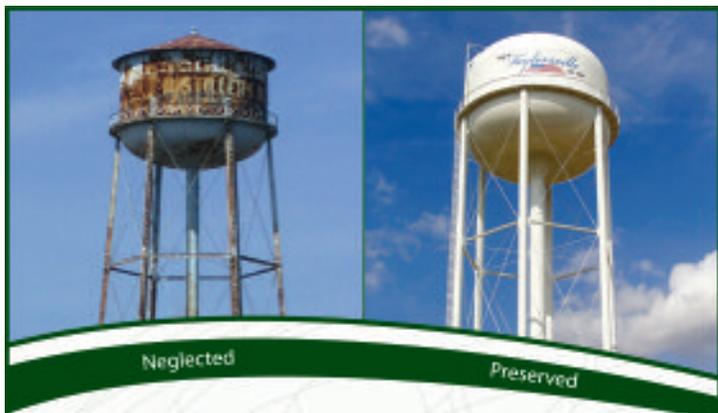
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REGISTRATION

Registration is required for all conference attendees. Badges are required for all attendees. Please register each attendee using the registration form included in this packet. Include the attendee's full name on the registration form as it should appear on his or her badge.

Pre-Registration:

To pre-register just complete the registration form and mail with payment to:

IRWA

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Or pay on-line with your credit card at www.ilrwa.org.

Pre-registration must be postmarked by

February 5th, 2011

On-Site Registration

All conference attendees must obtain a name badge and conference material at the registration desk. If you do not pre-register, please make sure that you register as soon as possible after you arrive at the Keller Convention Center.

Please note that on-site registration is \$25.00 higher than pre-registration.

Registration Hours:

Tuesday, February 22nd	8:00 a.m.-4:00 p.m.
Wednesday, February 23rd	8:00 a.m.-4:00 p.m.
Thursday, February 24th	8:00 a.m.-9:00 a.m.

Cancellation & Refunds:

Refunds only in the event of emergencies. We must have a written notice of cancellation to issue a refund.

EXHIBIT HALL

Professionals from all areas of the water and wastewater industry will be on hand to help solve your problems and provide you with the information you need to make those crucial decisions. Over 85 companies will be bringing their products and services to you at this year's conference. The exhibit hall will be open during the following hours:

Tuesday February 22nd	10:30 a.m.-4:00 p.m.
Wednesday, February 23rd	8:00 a.m.-3:15 p.m.

EXHIBITORS HOSPITALITY NIGHT

Tuesday, February 22nd	5:30 p.m.- 9:00 p.m.
------------------------	----------------------

Come down and thank the exhibitors for providing the food, soda and beer for the evening.

PUB CRAWL

Tuesday, February 22nd

Buses will be available again this year for those who wish to go on a pub crawl.

CASINO NIGHT

Wednesday February 23rd	6:00 p.m.-9:00 p.m.
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SPORTSMAN RAFFLE

The exhibitors will be donating sports related prizes for the raffle. Attendees have the opportunity to purchase raffle tickets for these prizes, with the winners announced at the conclusion of Casino night. Last year we purchased new equipment for the staff to better assist our members and sent a portion of the proceeds to rural water lobbying efforts in Washington D.C.

NEW PRODUCTS/SERVICES ROOM

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CONFERENCE AT A GLANCE

Tuesday, February 22nd

Registration Open: 8:00 a.m. —4:00 p.m.

9:00 a.m.—10:30 a.m.	Opening/Awards Ceremony/RD Update		
10:30 a.m.—11:15 a.m.	Break/Exhibit Hall Opens		
	WATER	WASTEWATER	BREAKOUT
11:15 a.m.—12:00 p.m.	Tanks A-Z	IEPA Update	Excel Crash Course: The Do's and Don'ts
12:00 p.m.—1:00 p.m.	Lunch Buffet—Ticket Required		
1:00 p.m.—1:45 p.m.	Chlorination—Where it's Headed	Ammonia Removal in Lagoons	Cellular Technology for the Municipal World
1:45 p.m.—2:30 p.m.			Using a Multi-Meter Correctly
2:30 p.m.—3:00 p.m.	Break/Exhibitor Drawings		
3:00 p.m.—4:30 p.m.	Source Water Protection	Proper Sewer Camera Etiquette	IMRF Overview
4:30 p.m.	Annual Meeting/Water Taste Test		
5:30 p.m.—9:00 p.m.	Hospitality Night		

Wednesday, February 23rd

Registration Open: 8:00 a.m. —4:00 p.m.

8:00 a.m.	Exhibit Hall Opens		
9:00 a.m.—10:30 a.m.	Energy Conservation	Algae/Weed Control	Where Has My Chlorine Residual Gone?*
10:30 a.m.—11:00 a.m.	Break/Exhibitor Drawings		
11:00 a.m.—12:00 p.m.	IEPA Regulatory Update	Budgeting	R.O. Membrane Operation and Failures
12:00 p.m.—1:00 p.m.	Lunch Buffet/Ticket Required		
1:00 p.m.—2:30 p.m.	J.U.L.I.E. Update	Workplace Safety	Board Liabilities
2:30 p.m.—3:00 p.m.	Break/Exhibitor Drawings		
3:00 p.m.—4:30 p.m.	Laboratory Procedures	Pump & Motor O & M/Troubleshooting/Rehab	Employee Handbooks/ Disconnect Policies
6:00 p.m.—9:30 p.m.	Casino Night /Announcement of Sportsman Raffle Winners		

Thursday, February 24th

Registration Open: 8:00 a.m. —9:00 a.m.

7:30 a.m.—8:30 a.m.	Breakfast Buffet/Ticket Required		
8:30 a.m.—10:00 a.m.	Advances in Meter Technology	Troubleshooting Control Panels	Operator Certification Math
10:00 a.m.—10:15 a.m.	Break		
10:15 a.m.—11:45 a.m.	Using Mapping Technology to Help Run & Manage Your Utility	Recirculating Sand Filters	Operator Certification Math (Continued)
11:45 a.m.—12:00 p.m.	Closing Ceremony/Grand Prize Drawing		

* CEU's transferable to water

SESSIONS AT A GLANCE

WATER SESSIONS

RD Update - Mike Wallace; Rural Development - Hear the latest information about funding opportunities from Rural Development for your water and/or wastewater projects.

Tanks A-Z, Dave Friedrich; Cady Aquastore - This overview of tanks will show you how initial choices in selecting a tank will impact the utility years down the road.

Chlorination - Where It's Headed - Andy McGill; Brenntag Mid-South, Inc. - This session will talk about using gas and liquid chlorine.

Source Water Protection - Mark Mitchell & Kathy Rodgers; IRWA - Presenting ideas for protecting our source waters including best management practices for new well siting in respect to existing potential sources of contamination & utilizing existing state ordinance for protecting your wells.

Energy Conservation - TBA

IEPA Regulatory Update - Dave McMillan; IEPA - It wouldn't be a conference without hearing about new or ever-changing regulations that affect our industry.

J.U.L.I.E. Update - Dale Kuhn; J.U.L.I.E. - Do you know the correct procedures & requirements for J.U.L.I.E. locates?

Laboratory Procedures - Julia Rada; PDC Laboratories - Learn some tips on how to do your in-plant testing better as well as what happens when the samples go to the lab.

Advances in Meter Technology - Chuck Tindall; Badger Meter - Using fixed based networks are the technology of the future. Hear how you can use it for your system.

Using Mapping Technology to Help Run & Manage Your Utility - Ron Householder & Eric Muncy; MapSync - A basic overview of how you can use this technology to your advantage.

WASTEWATER SESSIONS

IEPA Update - TBA - We wouldn't leave you wastewater guys out of the loop. Hear the new rules and regs on your side of the fence.

Amonia Removal in Lagoons - John Hinde; Air Diffusion Systems - Yes Virginia, there is a Santa Claus! And aerated lagoons can effectively remove ammonia while providing electrical power savings. Learn how in this session.

Proper Sewer Camera Etiquette - Tom Hochmuth; Aries Industries, Inc., John Bell & Bill Dowell; IRWA - Find out the operational details of IRWA's new sewer camera and the proposed program.

Algae/Weed Control - The Latest & Best Methods - Kevin Ripp; AQUAFIX - Check out the latest methods for those pesky weeds and unfriendly algae.

Budgeting - John Bell; IRWA - The basics of setting up a budget from scratch.

Workplace Safety - Bill Dowell; IRWA - Bill will cover the topics of confined space entry as well as flagging procedures.

Pump & Motor O & M/Troubleshooting/Rehab - Eric Goggil, General Pump & Machinery - Our pumps and motors can take a big bite from our budgets and there is never a good time for them to fail. In this session learn how to take care of one our biggest investments.

Troubleshooting Control Panels - Larry Henderson; Energenecs - New gadgets to help in troubleshooting a control panel.

Recirculating Sand Filters - Rodney Potts; John H. Crawford & Associates - A case study of the construction & operation of Iola, IL recirculating sand filter.

BREAKOUT SESSIONS

Excel Crash Course: The Do's and Don'ts - Kathy Rodgers; IRWA - This presentation will demonstrate the benefit of putting together a dynamic spreadsheet for your operations while discussing common pitfalls of spreadsheets.

Cellular Technology for the Municipal World - Brian Gorniak; R.E. Pedrotti - Cellular technology can put information at your finger tips easier than you might think and in a SECURE environment. See what additional information is available for FREE when utilizing this technology.

Using a Multi-Meter Correctly - Brian Gorniak; R.E. Pedrotti Comany, Inc. - Class limited to 20 attendees. Hands on class demonstrating proper techniques in using a basic multi-meter.

IMRF Overview - Mandy Beedie; IMRF Office - None of us are getting any younger! Find out how to prepare for retirement and maybe make it a little easier when you get there.

Where Has My Chlorine Residual Gone? - David Harvey; Water Solutions Unlimited, Inc. - Hear how to prevent distribution system residual loss by restoration of flow rates and reducing chlorine demands.

R.O. Membrane Operation and Failures - Ken Robinson; Avista Technologies - What gets R.O. membranes in trouble? Learn the answer to this and the steps to take to correct the problem.

Board Liabilities, Employee Handbooks, Disconnect Policies - Mike Antoline; The Office of Mike Antoline - Come hear about all you want and need to know about these touchy topics.

Operator Certification Math - Paul Strobe; NRWA - Math got ya down? Turn that frown upside down and come learn some tricks to help you out!

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SmallWaterSupply.org – Free Operator Resources and Support for Water and Wastewater Operators

by Steve Wilson
Soup Member of ILRWA

www.smallwatersupply.org, is a new operator resource being developed at the Illinois State Water Survey – University of Illinois, with a grant provided by the Midwest Technology Assistance Center (MTAC). It's a really useful site for finding operator resources available for free on the internet, and I'm going to try and give you an overview of what it is and why you should check it out.

For a little over a year, the Illinois State Water Survey has been developing SmallWaterSupply.org. The website has links to over 9,000 documents, and also includes a national calendar of events that lists training, meetings, and conferences for nearly 800 organizations, all of whom work with small water and wastewater systems. The plan for the website is to link to every available, free document, computer program, and webpage on the internet that might be useful to operators, all at one location. Equally important, the website has a simple interface and filtering system to make locating those resources extremely easy. The project employs a number of University of Illinois students, as well as several part time staff, who search the internet for useful resources and create the database of searchable information on water and wastewater topics that you will find on the website.

This type of website is sorely needed, especially by small system operators. MTAC funded a survey of Illinois operators in 2006 which found that in very small systems, the average operator spends less than 25% of his/her time as a water operator. Many of the smallest systems have operators that have other full

time jobs, and they are taking training, studying for recertification, etc, at night or taking vacation time from their full time jobs to meet those obligations. Searching the web isn't something they, or any of us, generally have a lot of time to do. By creating a website that allows easy access to a wealth of free resources without any advertising or subscription fees, it saves operators significant search time, and frustration. Because the searches are only using the database of information we have created, only helpful, free resources are returned in any search results. Though this information is all found publicly available on the internet, who has time to search 800 different websites to hopefully find precisely what they are looking for?

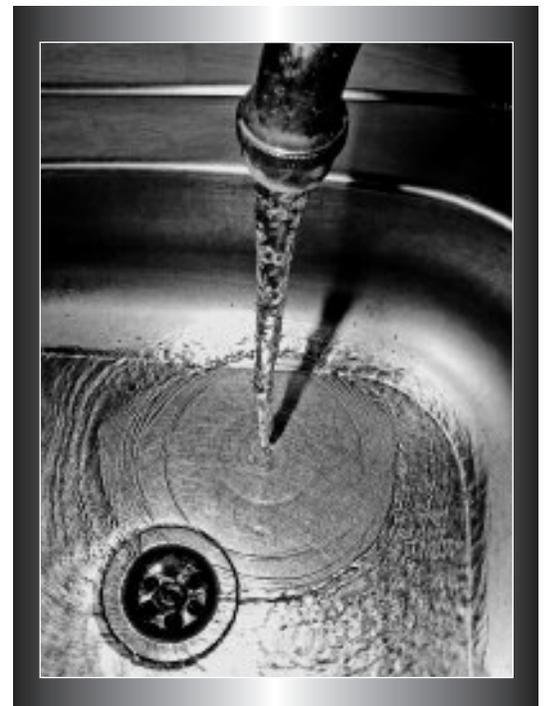
Most importantly, if you can't find something, you can call me or one of my staff and we will try to find the information for you. We make the calls and do the searching for you and get back to you with an answer or phone number of someone that can help you. I can't tell you how many times I have already called ILRWA to ask Wayne or Don a question about a water or wastewater topic to help someone out.

Keywords have been assigned to each document record, and each record is cataloged in a number of ways that allow a person searching the database to find the most relevant results. For instance, documents are cataloged by type (CD/program/spreadsheet, manual/handbook, factsheet/case study, form/template, reports, slides/pre-

sentations, or website list), category (to name a few, asset management, DBP's, lead and copper, monitoring, certification and training, source water, security/emergency response, etc.), and also by state and hosting organization. This allows users to narrow their initial search results. So, if a search is performed for "asset management" and there are 500 documents returned as matches, the results can be further filtered by specifying a type, such as CD/program/spreadsheet. The list will be narrowed to only those records related to asset management that are computer programs or excel spreadsheets that can be downloaded and used for free.

There is also a keyword search that allows users to narrow down search results looking for specific words in a title or summary. The keyword search can be used with the standard filters or

continued on page 22



by itself. For instance, typing “emergency response plan” in the keyword search by itself returns 57 results related to emergency response plans, but then narrowing the type to just “Forms/Templates” reduces that to 18 documents, several which are a full blown template for creating an emergency response plan, including step by step directions.

The value of the website is really clear when you search for information on a particular topic, because not only will you find resources that are available from organizations and primacy agencies in Illinois, but you will also have access to information from those same types of

groups in other states. Perhaps, you have an issue that isn’t very common in Illinois, so the state doesn’t have a lot of information available about it, but in a different state it is a really common issue. In all likelihood, you will find very helpful information from the other state where it’s a common issue for their operators.

In addition to the documents you can find on the site, there is a calendar that is searchable by state, making it easy to see what organizations in Illinois have training or events that are beneficial, just go into the event search and sort by state = Illinois.

The website has an email address and toll free phone number that users can call/write to request information or ask questions about the site. If you are looking for help on a particular topic and you can’t find what you are looking for, just call us. I would be happy to walk anyone through the site and show them how to use it.

What has been compiled is the largest single list of free resources for water and wastewater operators available on the internet. In doing so, we are, in fact, assisting the 800 or so organizations that have helpful resources in getting their information out to operators. SmallWaterSupply.org is really a partner to all of these organizations, especially ILRWA, by making it easier for operators to find out about the organization and the resources and training they provide.

I encourage you to check out the website. There are two very short videos at the bottom of the homepage that show you how to get started and take you through example searches of the document database and the events calendar. More features are still being added, including a forum for operators to share information and ask questions. Eventually, a webpage geared toward recent high school graduates, focusing on careers in the water/wastewater industry, will be developed.

Lastly, we are interested in your feedback. If you have any suggestions for the website, or ideas of things that you would like to see on the website, contact us and let us know. The website was developed to serve operators and the best way to make it more useful is to let us know what things you as an operator would like to be able to find on the website.



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Grinning is 1 of the easiest and cheapest methods to enhance one's high quality of life and the advantages from grinning reach extra than just a single individual at a time. Smiling is contagious, alterations our mood, can make us look younger and additional interesting, creates us glimpse extra successful and relieves pressure.

Grinning is contagious. When you smile, it causes others smile. It is like when you see others grinning it creates you want to smile as well. It just can make you think excellent when you see an individual smiling at you or even just in your direction and when you smile you are doing the same for other people. You are actively passing along a great feeling via your actions and you will draw people today towards you by presenting a appearance of happiness.

Like somewhat stated above, smiling can also transform your mood. Seeing other individuals smile adjustments your mood simply because they are presenting a seem of happiness. If you are feeling low, you ought to try smiling even if your feelings on the inside do not reflect it. It has been proven that grinning can trick your body into tricking your mood and can reverse sad or depressed feelings.

Smiling draws individuals in also simply because a smile on ones face can make them appearance additional appealing. Smiling also causes people search younger mainly because when you smile it lifts the muscles in the face. In addition, nothing is much more appealing to a

potential partner then an irresistible smile, so start grinning and spread the love.

Grinning can make you extra flourishing. Even though this may be tough to believe, it is true. When you walk into function, wearing a smile you will seem extra pleasant and outgoing. It has been proven that people today who smile a lot more though on the task are less likely to be passed up for promotions. Use this bit of facts to enhance the high quality of your existence and moving ahead in your career. Your next work advancement may possibly just be a smile away.

If you feel stressed at operate, home, or just in general try a smile on for size.

Smiling initial gives you the appearance of not being stressed and second it helps by lowering your blood pressure, boosts your immune system, and releases endorphins that make you feel excellent and melts the pressure away.

It is awesome how such a little act can transform so several lives for the much better all at once.

About the Author

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What Will You Find When You Are a Water or Sewer Operator.

by Perry Musgrave,
Village of Elkhart

As operators, we have all found our share of strange and out of place things. For those of us that still have to manually read meters it is not unusual to find crickets, cockroaches, mice, spiders, and snakes. But last fall I found my most unusual thing in a meter well. It was a cloudy day and when I drove up to the house I noticed the meter lid was off. When I look down into the meter well to read the meter I could not see the numbers. So I figured the home owner had shut the lid. I reached down to open it and I thought I saw the ground move so I got a light out of my truck and shined it into the well. To my surprise there was a muskrat in the meter well. Thankfully I still have my hand.

When testing some big meters, I found a child's toy, rocks, and part of a PVC 2 inch tap. After flushing, following some new construction, the hydrant I was using would not shut

all the way off. When I took it apart I found a piece of broken PVC pipe logged in-between the seat and the shoe. Another operator told me that he had found a two by four in his new construction.

Now for the things that I can talk about that I have found in the sewer. I have found a two by six, broken clay tile, PVC pipe, clean out caps, toys, tee shirts, underwear, a softball, syringes, and many other foreign objects. I also jettied a dead squirrel out of a stopped up sewer main and found a live snapping turtle in my wet well.

But the most dangerous thing that I have found was on December 31, 2010 when I was checking a lift station. The lift station is at a remote wooded area with a chain link fence around it. I unlocked the gate and the control panel, wrote down the pump hours and as I started to lock up I noticed something just outside the fence in the weeds. It was a gallon jug with a zip lock baggy over it and taped on. I could see a whitish crystallized substance inside. I knew it was Meth from operator training that I had through IRWA. So I called 911 and reported it and the police came out and removed it. I would say I spoiled someone's New Years Eve party. But the most important thing was I



knew what to do because of training so I did not get hurt. We face many surprises as operators in what we find... some good and some are bad. So, to all of you, please be safe and alert.



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Take That Next Step!

by Bill Dowell,
ARRA Circuit Rider

For some time now, periodic discussions have broached the subject of recruiting water and wastewater operators to replace the large numbers of folks leaving those fields. During the last couple of years, the economic climate has put such stress on the various political entities that basic needs and operations have been difficult to maintain. As a consequence, future planning or expansion usually becomes one of the first victims to budget adjustments. Those “put-off” issues still have to be dealt with at some point. The same is true for those operators, or aspiring-operators, who have put off taking that next certification test. Passing that test and becoming The Operator might be one the most economical solutions to a staffing problem for both the system and the employee.

Recruiting, training, and then retaining operators can be long-term processes. Systems usually get immersed in the routine of operations and maintenance, monitor the costs involved for all that to the penny, yet allow opportunities to consider the value of experience and training slip away. Water and wastewater positions that require specific certification levels are constantly in demand. The certification/testing procedures have become more stringent, and the training opportunities appear to be harder to find. As the available workforce in these fields continues to shrink, the complexity of “getting started” seems to be intimidating, and sometimes, overwhelming, to aspiring operators.

A basic requirement, before any certification can begin, is hands-on experience, and usually one year of it for either field. At some point in the latter part of

that one year period, other study methods should begin. There are some excellent water and wastewater courses offered at colleges and universities. Internet courses and correspondence courses are also available for a wide range of topics. Ask your IRWA circuit-rider or wastewater technician about opportunities for learning and training. They will always encourage you to study and advance through the certification process at every opportunity. And they can give excellent advice on a course of study, because they all have done it themselves.

Keep in mind that age is not considered a factor here. We have seen numerous, early-retirees, (or just escapees), from other fields begin new careers in water and wastewater. They will all attest to the fact that study pays off and the certification process isn't as bad as it may seem at first.

As further information, we would like to pass along that Illinois Rural Water



Association is currently reviewing its One-on-One Certification Overview programs. These reviews are done periodically in order to enhance these already high-quality learning experiences. And you all know that the free-to-members training sessions given throughout the year are constantly updated, and an excellent source of new information. More information on these programs, as well as numerous other subjects can be found at www.ilrwa.org.

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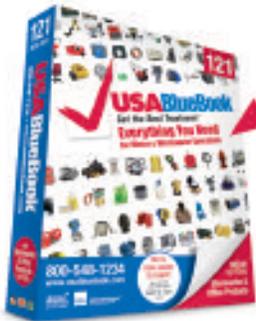
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