

Maine Water Environment NEWS



February 2015 • Winter

A Publication of the Maine Water Environment Association

1-800-452-8786

President's Corner

By Tom Connolly, Yarmouth Water Pollution Control Facility



Our timeless and timely fearless leader, Tom Connolly

Hello, my name is Tom Connolly and I am the Maine Water Environment Association President for 2015. I have been an operator, chief operator and superintendent of waste water treatment plants through the years, beginning in 1982. Like many of you, I have experienced many catastrophes, challenges and triumphs through the years. It has taken the combined skills, talents and resources of myself and many others to manage these past events, to succeed in overcoming obstacles and to move ahead to the next hurdle. It always seemed that just when you thought you had seen it all, well, another challenge comes along.

I have worked with many talented people through the years. People so dedicated to their work that any other profession seemed unimaginable. Shift operators, plant operators, collection system operators, consultants, regulators, engineers, vendors and tradesmen. Although none of them, I think, ever day dreamed as a child that they would one day be involved in a profession that quite literally is on the front line of protecting and preserving man's most valuable resource, water! All of us, working toward the same goal. Think about that for a moment. From the Gulf of Maine to the Gulf of Mexico, anywhere around the world, people need clean water to survive and thrive. Now take a moment and congratulate yourselves on a job well done!

We all face the same challenges to one degree or another. Financial resources are limited, discharge parameters become stricter as science evolves, we do more with less than ever before and the list goes on. Yet we persevere in our daily tasks. Dedication, perseverance, resilience, call it what you like. As a group, we make it work. We always have, and I believe we always will. Yes folks, we are that good!

My message to you as you read this is simple. Do your job. Take pride in your work. Let everyone know what you do and why you do it. Give tours to the public, have open houses, participate in community events. Be proud of the work you do daily. You are making life better for the rest of the world! 🌊

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Yarmouth, Maine

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*For a complete Board Listing, please visit the Mewea website at:

www.mewea.org

Upcoming Board Meeting Dates:

February 26 Legislative Breakfast/Monthly Meeting - Senator Inn - Augusta

March 20 Maine Municipal Association



MEWEA/NHWPCA SKI DAY – March 27, 2015

The Maine Water Environment Association & New Hampshire Water Pollution Control Association is proud to Announce the 8th Annual Ski Day for Members and Sponsors!
Join us for a day of skiing, networking, and a day of fun!

Arrival Time: 8:00-9:00 a.m.

FEE: \$47.00 (MEWEA/MWUA/NHWPCA members) per person/lift ticket
 \$56.00 (Non-members of MEWEA/MWUA/NHWPCA) per person/lift ticket
 \$15.00 per person/no lift ticket required

INCLUDES: Lunch buffet, 1 apres ski beverage ticket and after skiing hors d'oeuvres.

REGISTRATION INFORMATION: Send in registration form with payment to MEWEA, 60 Community Drive, Augusta, ME 04330. **Fee must be pre-paid by March 13, 2015.** Please make checks payable to MEWEA.

QUESTIONS: Call Affiliate Services at MEWEA at 1-800-452-8786.

OVERNIGHT ACCOMMODATIONS ARE ON YOUR OWN! If you wish to make reservations, you may contact Sunday River Resort 1-800-207-2365.

Arrival: March 26, 2015

Departure: March 27, 2015

Standard Room: \$129.00

Reservation and deposit must be received by March 2, 2015.

Apres Ski: After a great day of skiing, join us for some apres ski beverages, hors d'oeuvres and networking.



New for 2015!

MEWEA is pleased to announce that we are now accepting credit cards and payments through PayPal! To register and pay using your credit card or PayPal account, just go to this link and complete the online registration:

<http://www.mewea.org/events/2015-ski-day/>



(Certain restrictions apply. See online registration for details.)

8th Annual MEWEA/NHWPCA Ski Day – March 27, 2015

Please register the following person(s) from _____ (Employer/Municipality) for the 2015 Ski Day.

Please check one: MEWEA Member MWUA Member NHWPCA Member

FULL NAME : _____ TITLE : _____ TEL: _____ FEE: \$ _____

EMAIL : _____

FULL NAME : _____ TITLE : _____ TEL: _____ FEE: \$ _____

EMAIL : _____

BILLING ADDRESS : _____ AMOUNT: \$ _____

Mail Registration Form to: MEWEA, 60 Community Drive, Augusta, ME 04330
 Complete this form and fax to 207-624-0128

In order to ensure your complete participation, we would appreciate your informing us of any special requirements you may have due to a disability.

PLEASE MAKE CHECK PAYABLE TO MEWEA

ATTENDING

ON MY SOAPBOX: What Does it Take?

By Mac Richardson, Editor

Note: The opinions, positions, and views expressed in any "On My Soapbox" feature are those of the author(s) and do not necessarily reflect the opinions, positions or views of the Maine Water Environment Association.

Finishing a project, rather a capital expansion, a successful sport season, transforming an organization, or nearly any worthwhile goal, can be a tricky proposition. When it is all done, you may be asked (or you might even ask yourself) "how the heck did you get it done?" You might be tempted to the off hand remark such as "lots of luck" or "many long hours" or "hard work and determination".

None of these quite get to what I am thinking about today, however. I suppose I am trying to get at the difference between those efforts that are successful and those that fall short. Here are a few ideas that I hope you find useful:

Vision: It is critical that you can see the final destination when you start. Why is it worth doing, what will be the benefits be and what will it look, sound, smell, FEEL like? This is your launching pad, if you don't start off strong it will surely be hard to have the energy necessary to keep going.

Belief: Perhaps the most overlooked ingredient, you must be convinced that the project will be completed and be successful. Think about it like this: If you believe you can do something maybe you can, but if you believe you cannot do something then it is certain that you cannot.

Perspective: See the big picture, when you are in the middle of problems and issues and what will go wrong next (or if everything is going "too right") it is easy to get caught up in details that don't really matter. Sometimes projects are killed by adding on too many nice to have items until the cost of the whole is so large it sinks the whole thing. Keep your eyes on the prize!

Communication: Let people know what you are doing, and listen to what they tell you. Be sure to let others know why what you are trying to do will be a benefit to them. Deal with any negative effects in an honest and straight forward manner.

Synergisms: How does your plan make things better for someone else? Better yet how does it open up new and exciting possibilities for someone else? Partners and allies can be your key to success.

Timing: While timing in life might not be everything, it sure can be a big deal. Are there opportunities that will be gone soon? Would waiting a little while be to your advantage?

Perseverance: Any goal worth effort will have set backs along the way, and it is likely that achieving your goal will take much longer than it really should.

The ability to keep with it and "stay the course" when a few rough seas are encountered can make all the difference.

Luck: Yes, luck has something to do with it. Or, as I can say from personal experience, "Sometimes it is better to be lucky than good!"

To close, I hope that you set your sights on making things better and that your projects come out well in the end, whatever you decide to do when you are done take a little time to reflect and bask in the feeling of accomplishment. It will be a reward you have worked for. 🌊

SPRING CONFERENCE

Friday, April 17, 2015

Hilton Garden Inn – Auburn River Watch

14 Great Falls Plaza – Auburn, Maine 04210

This is your newsletter – if you have news you would like to pass along or an opinion to express that would be of interest to the membership of MEWEA we are always interested in receiving material and will make every effort to incorporate your submissions.

Environmental Regulatory Inspections: Are You Prepared?

By Sharon G. Newman, Esq., Preti Flaherty



Sharon G. Newman, Esq.

The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) recently announced that stormwater compliance remains among its highest national enforcement priorities through 2016. This greatly increases the likelihood that MEWEA member facilities, both private and public, will be the subject of site investigation by EPA and Maine Department of Environmental Protection (DEP) inspectors.

While no one can anticipate everything that can come up during an environmental inspection, being prepared and having a game plan in advance can make a difficult process go more smoothly. The following is designed to provide you with an overview of the inspection process and the steps you can take – before, during, and after an inspection – to respond more effectively, limit disruption to your facility’s operations, and present your facility in the best possible light under the circumstances.

What are the Regulators’ Inspection Rights?

After presenting their credentials, inspectors may enter the facility at “reasonable” times (normal working hours) to conduct a site investigation. Inspectors have the right to obtain a search warrant in order to conduct inspections.

Inspectors may have access to and copy records, take notes, photographs, videos, and physical samples, and to interview employees. If an inspection is being conducted pursuant to a warrant, the scope of the inspection is strictly limited to the stated scope of the warrant.

Steps to Take BEFORE the Inspection

Identify a control group that is responsible for compliance implementation and will be included in the response to the inspection. Limit communications about the inspection to this group. Communications with others should be on a “need to know” basis.

Have a plan for email and other written communications. If you are with a private entity, consult with your attorney. You may be able to take steps to ensure these communications are privileged and confidential. If you are with a public entity, you should assume that any emails are subject to disclosure and govern your communications accordingly.

Have a written procedure to follow during and after the inspection. This includes selecting an “official greeter” who will greet the inspector, be in charge of responding to questions and otherwise coordinate the inspection process and an “assistant” who will observe and take notes, photographs, etc. You should plan on having backup personnel trained and available for these roles.

Understand what documentation the inspector is likely to ask

for, and make sure those documents will be in order and readily available should an inspector request them.

Have a plan for communications with the public and with media. This may be necessary if the inspection results in a publicly announced enforcement action or otherwise attracts press attention. Make sure there is a single spokesperson so that communications are clear and consistent.

Have a plan for communicating internally, as necessary.

When the Inspectors Arrive

Confirm the identity of the inspectors. If they haven’t provided credentials, ask for them.

Ask for the purpose of their inspection and its scope, what documents they want to see and which personnel they wish to speak with. (They will likely volunteer this information, but if they don’t, you should ask.) This will allow you to locate and alert appropriate personnel and schedule their availability. If the inspectors have a search warrant, make a copy of it, and read it, so you understand the maximum scope of the inspection.

Generally speaking, you should provide access to the facility (unless it is outside normal working hours or the inspector lacks required safety equipment, in which case you should condition access on meeting those requirements). Denying access outright will not reflect well on the facility and could subject you to contempt of court charges if the inspectors have a warrant – or cause the inspectors to seek a warrant.

During an Inspection

The designated “official greeter” should accompany the inspectors at all times.

If the inspectors request records, make two copies (one for the inspectors and one for your records). Keep all originals in-house. Make a list of the requested documents.

Interviews: Inspectors can interview employees and you cannot

Cont’d on page 5

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www.mewea.org

(Please note: payments are accepted for conferences and events only and not for membership dues)



Certain restrictions apply. See online registration for details.

Environmental Regulatory Inspections cont'd

prevent employees from being interviewed or otherwise impede an investigation. Employees can decline to be interviewed and have the right to request that counsel be present. The official greeter and the assistant should be present during any interviews. In some circumstances, you may wish to consider sending non-essential personnel home.

Stay calm and do not argue!! Ask to call legal counsel to resolve areas of disagreement. If the inspector seems out of line, take good notes and resolve these issues after the fact.

Do not volunteer information!! If you don't know the answer to a question, don't speculate. Offer to find the appropriate person to answer the question; if such personnel are not available, offer to provide the information as soon as possible.

Take thorough notes.

When the inspector takes photographs or videos, take yours from the same viewpoint.

If samples are taken, ask to obtain a split sample (in the case of soils) or take your own sample (in the case of surface or waste water). Video the sampling procedure and document the locations where the samples were taken.

Customarily, the inspectors will conclude the inspection with a close-out meeting where they review and summarize the inspection results. Take very good notes at this meeting! Keep in mind that it may be a very long time before the inspector follows up. Just because you haven't heard anything (even for months) doesn't mean further enforcement actions aren't being planned.

After the Inspection

As soon as possible after the inspection, meet to debrief with appropriate personnel and consider consulting with counsel, particularly if non-compliance was identified during the inves-

tigation. Make a list of every item requiring follow-up or corrective action.

Make a written request for copies of any photographs or videos taken during the inspection; laboratory results of sampling; and the inspector's field report.

Act immediately to conduct corrective actions and photograph or otherwise document corrective actions that are completed and provide that documentation to the regulator. Don't wait for them to notify you.

Post-Inspection Follow-Up Requests

Inspectors may follow up with formal or informal requests for additional information. If the inspector telephones, ask for the request to be made in writing so you can be sure to answer it correctly and completely. If the written question is not clear, ask for clarification – in writing!

Never ignore follow up requests. Acknowledge them immediately and respond in a timely manner, even if it is to say you need more time to complete your response.

EPA has broad authority under the Section 308 of the Clean Water Act to gather information to determine compliance (including establishing and maintaining records; installing, using and maintaining monitoring equipment; and sampling effluent). EPA may send you a written request for information pursuant to Section 308. These "Section 308 RFIs" are enforceable in court and responses must be signed by a responsible officer under "penalty of perjury." Because of this and because Section 308 RFIs are often a precursor to formal enforcement actions by EPA, it is advisable to consult with counsel before submitting a response.

While you may not be able to avoid an EPA and/or DEP inspection, advance preparation can make the experience less painful and result in a more positive outcome and a better relationship with your regulators going forward. 

Mark Your Calendars! 2015 Events

Feb. 26	Legislative Breakfast–Senator Inn, Augusta
Mar. 27	Ski Day–Sunday River, Newry
Apr. 17	MeWEA Spring Conference–Hilton Garden Inn, Auburn
June. 1-6	Maine Clean Water Week
Sept. 16-18	MeWEA Fall Convention–Sunday River, Newry

Greater Augusta Utilities District Hosts Open House for Maine Legislators

By Phyllis Arnold Rand, Greater Augusta Utilities District

On Monday, February 9, 2015, Maine State Representatives Matthew Pouliot (R-Augusta), Craig Hickman (D-Winthrop) and Roberta Beavers (D-South Berwick) attended an Open House at the Greater Augusta Utility District's Wastewater Treatment Plant on Jackson Avenue. District staff Jane Carroll, Phyllis Rand, Kirby Pinkham, Andy Begin and Brian Tarbuck provided the representatives with an overview of the wastewater treatment process. The overview included an explanation of the "how's and why's" of treatment that culminated with the issuance of the District's MEPDES permit as well as a discussion on the complicated process of removing pollutants from wastewater. Samples of influent, primary effluent, mixed liquor, secondary effluent, return activated sludge and dewatered biosolids were provided as "hands-on" displays. District staff

also described how the District's employees worked to significantly reduce overtime costs, electrical and Worker Compensation costs, and expenses associated with replacing 30-year-old wastewater treatment equipment.

Representative Hickman, Chair of the Legislature's Agriculture, Conservation and Forestry Committee, toured the wastewater and drinking water laboratories. He mentioned his occupation as a farmer, and said he used composted biosolids one year. The compost worked well, he said, but he is now an organic farmer and cannot use biosolids-generated compost. Representative Beavers serves on the Legislature's Energy, Utilities and Technology Committee; Representative Pouliot serves on the Legislature's Education and Cultural Affairs Committee. ●



L-R Rep Beavers, Jane Carroll, Andy Begin and Brian Tarbuck discuss wastewater treatment processes.



L-R Rep Hickman, Andy Begin and Brian Tarbuck discuss wastewater infrastructure issues



Rep Hickman receives an explanation of drinking water monitoring from June Mooney

Maine Proposes “Microbead” Legislation

By Aubrey Strause, Verdant Water, PLLC

You may have first heard about the issue of “microbeads” last June, when Illinois became the first state to ban the sale of cosmetic products that contain them. What exactly are microbeads? Well, they are the tiny little plastic spheres most commonly found in liquid hand soap, but also in face wash, toothpaste, and some cleaning products. The purpose of microbeads, in the case of soap is to remove heavy grime from surfaces and for face wash to scrub away dead skin cells.

However, in recent years, scientists and environmental groups have become concerned as microbeads have been found inside fish and other creatures caught in the Great Lakes and other water bodies. It turns out that the spheres don’t settle out in wastewater treatment facilities, and are too small to be filtered out, so they are typically discharged in effluent. Once they enter rivers and streams, fish ingest them. Illinois took its action to prevent widespread contamination of the food chain by these plastics, since effects of consumption aren’t known.

Maine is one of several states considering similar legislation, offered this term as LD 85 (“An Act To Prohibit Synthetic Plastic Microbeads in Personal Care Products and Over-the-counter Drugs”), sponsored by Senator Thomas Saviello (Franklin), and co-sponsored by a bipartisan group including Representative Joan Welsh (Rockport), Sen. Davis (Piscataquis), Sen. Hamper (Oxford), Sen. Miramant (Knox), Rep. Duchesne (Hudson), Rep. Pouliot (Augusta), and Rep. Tepler (Topsham). Senator Saviello said that product manufacturers had come to him with this proposal, and many have already voluntarily changed their manufacturing process to eliminate the use of microbeads.

The bill received positive feedback at its hearing on February 4, 2015. Maine Water Environment Association testified in support of the bill, acknowledging the concern and noting that the burden to address this issue shouldn’t fall on wastewater districts and facilities, which don’t have the necessary equipment to remove microbeads. Our testimony pointed out that this equipment would be costly to buy and maintain and would take fund-

ing away from many existing needs that we’re already struggling to meet. Other groups supporting the bill included the Marine Biological Laboratory, Friends of Casco Bay, Natural Resources Council of Maine, and the Maine League of Conservation Voters.

Michael Kuhns from the Maine Department of Environmental Protection testified neither for nor against. DEP was concerned that a ban on these products might place burdens on Maine retailers.

After testimony, the ENR Committee immediately moved into work session on the bill. There was some discussion of a potential amendment, but the language in the proposed bill is the same as that approved in Illinois and Committee members expressed a strong desire to implement uniform language. Senator Saviello moved that the bill be approved Ought to Pass (OTP), and the Committee voted unanimously in favor of the bill. ●

M_EWEA E-Mail Database

All current members of M_EWEA should receive periodic e-mails, which may include the most recent newsletter, conference and training announcements, or regulatory updates. If you haven’t received any e-mails from the organization recently, you may wish to update your information in the distribution list by sending your current e-mail address to Joan Kiszely at jkiszely@memun.org. Don’t miss out on the exciting networking and educational opportunities M_EWEA provides! ●



Maine Water Environment NEWS is a quarterly publication of the Maine Water Environment Association. (Publication months: Feb, May, Aug, Nov) Comments on the content in this publication should be addressed to: M_EWEA, 60 Community Drive, Augusta, ME 04330.

Website: www.mewea.org

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crichardson@lawpca.org

MEWEA OPERATOR EXCHANGE 2014

By Mike Tibbetts-York Sewer District

Hello, my name is Mike Tibbetts. I have been working in the wastewater field since High School, where I started off as “the summer kid” at the Berwick Sewer District. I started lending a hand where I was needed with mowing grass, cleaning, and painting. After High School, I enrolled in the Pollution Abatement Technology course at Southern Maine Technical College, in South Portland. After completing the college program, I was lucky enough to start full time as an operator at the Berwick WWTF. I worked there for 4 years operating a 1.5 MGD extended aeration process, with nutrient limits treating residential wastewater and tannery waste.

In 2001, I started as an operator for the York Sewer District in York, Maine and have since worked my way up to Director of Operations. The York Sewer District is comprised of 38 miles of sewers, 12 pumping stations, 180 E1 Grinder stations, and a 3.0 MGD treatment facility.

Last fall I was asked if I’d be interested in taking part in the Operator exchange program.....and on Nov 5th I was traveling across New Hampshire to White River Junction, Vermont. I would like to thank Chris Robinson and the other members of Green Mountain Water Environment Association (GMWEA) for treating me to a two-day tour of some fantastically maintained and operated wastewater treatment facilities. It was a great experience to be part of.

I always enjoy hearing about the major hurdles operators in this field need to contend with. The common disaster most mentioned was Tropical Storm Irene, and listening to the stories of how they dealt with it, and the destruction that it caused was pretty amazing. Seems like every geographical region has their own natural disaster they’ve dealt with. In York we just say “The Mothers Day Storm”.

In York we are looking into ways to control filamentous problems by creating anaerobic and/or anoxic zones. All the treatment facilities I visited had nutrient limits and different ways of achieving their goals. This will be very useful to me as I research, evaluate and implement the best option for York, which experiences significant seasonal changes due to climate and tourism.

Anaerobic Digestion for sludge handling is something I have never personally been exposed to. Most of the facilities I visited operated anaerobic digesters, and the operators did a great job walking me through the entire process.

I also saw a few final effluent rotating filter systems for phosphorus removal. When I toured Shelburne’s treatment facility they happen to be changing out the filter material and it gave me a great understanding of how these work.

The thing that impressed me the most with my visit to the Green Mountain State, was that they have some seriously talented individuals that really have a drive and passion to better not only their own facilities, but the industry as a whole. I also saw some amazing teams at these facilities, and in my opinion, it starts at the top. Without

a team effort, none of the facilities would be successful.

Special thanks to John Choate for the Quechee and White River facility tours, Chris Robinson at Shelburne, Chelsea Mandigo at Essex Junction, Steve Crosby and Robert Baillargeon at South Burlington, and Bob Fisher for Northfield and Montpelier facility tours, along with all the operators from Vermont that took time to make me feel welcome.

If you’re ever in Southern Maine, please reach out for a facility tour and discussion about the common challenges that we all face. I would also like to mention that if any operator has an opportunity to participate in the Operator Exchange program, they should jump at the chance to meet their peers and learn about how the everyday challenges are handled. ●



Mike Tibbetts and Dennis Vigliotte network at the Green Mountain Trade Show



Brian Line, GMWEA Exchange Operator and Mike Tibbetts, MEWEA Exchange Operator trade lies at the GMWEA show

MeWEA YP Committee gearing up to represent at the 2015 Urban Runoff, and they want you!

The 2015 Urban Runoff 5k in Portland (Presented by IDEXX) is coming up on April 25. This fun race is part street, part trail and all fun in an effort to raise awareness about runoff pollution and what we can do to prevent it as well as raise money for clean water education in our school systems. Obviously, this is a message we can get behind, and last year we did just that...and in style.

Last April, members of MeWEA met in Portland on a crisp, chilled morning for a fun time of networking, live music and fundraising for clean water education. Oh, and they ran a 5k. Well, some ran. Some walked. Some sort of shambled, and some just came for the show. No matter how quickly they crossed the finish line they helped MeWEA saunter away with the Royal River award for largest non-profit team. An award we would like to bring home again this year!

To do that, we need you.

No matter your athletic ability, we would love to have you on our team. Trust me, last year I ran about as hard as I could and I barely beat Howie Carter... And he walked the whole way, and stopped for a coffee too, I think. Point is, if I can manage to finish, anyone can!

And after the race you can enjoy the Green Neighbor Family Fest, with live music, local vendors, contests and prizes. A genuinely good time for everyone! So sign up for the team, bring your family (They can join the team too!) and join us for one of MeWEA's best spring events. The cost is only 20 dollars per person if you pre-register, 25 dollars on race day. All members of our team also get a free MeWEA collectible race shirt!

To sign up, go to: www.urbanrunoff5k.com. Make sure when prompted to join the Maine Water Environment Association's team. Then please email me at the address below with your desired shirt sizes!

If you have any questions about the race, or anything else YP related, feel free to contact Dustin Price at: dustin_price77@yahoo.com.

Maine WEA is Well-Represented at NEWEA!

By Aubrey Strause, Verdant Water, PLLC

This time of year, a major event on the calendar of many Maine Water Environment Association members is the NEWEA Annual Meeting, held at Copley Plaza in Boston. Joining the usual suspects at the 2015 conference were lots of new faces, including Phil Tucker of the Sanford Sewerage District and Travis Jones (and friends!) from the Town of Bar Harbor Wastewater Division.

Sunday's activities included the NEWEA Executive Committee Meeting, where many Maine WEA members serve in leadership and support roles. Monday's technical sessions were packed, and many Committees held their luncheons and meetings. The monster "Blizzard of 2015" kept attendance down on Tuesday, but technical sessions went on with only a few modifications. Overall attendance was high, the vendor area had a record number of exhibitors, the variety of information and presentations was fantastic (as always), and, thankfully, there were still plenty of places to get a drink!

A personal highlight for me was the Awards Reception held on Wednesday. Many Maine WEA members were honored by NEWEA, WEF, and USEPA, among them:

- NEWEA Operator Award: Mike Tibbetts, York Sewer District
- NEWEA Alfred E. Peloquin Award: Travis Peaslee, Lewiston-Auburn Water Pollution Control Authority
- NEWEA Young Professional Award: Dustin Price, Town of South Berwick
- NEWEA E. Sherman Chase Award: Aubrey Strause, Verdant Water
- WEF Operations Challenge, Division II: Force Maine (Dan Laflamme, Alex Buechner, Scot Lausier, Stacy Thompson, and Ian Carter) for 1st Place in Process Control- **AGAIN!!!**
- WEF William D. Hatfield Award: Steve Sloan, Portland Water District
- WEF Fellow: John Hart, Saco WRRD

- WEF Quarter Century Operator's Club: Phyllis Arnold Rand (Greater Augusta Utility District); Timothy Baker (Portland), and Greg Thulen (Brunswick Sewer District, retired)
- WEF Arthur Sidney Bedell Award and WEF Life Membership: Steve Freedman, AECOM

These members were honored alongside many of our friends from other New England states. If you know these recipients or have the pleasure to meet them, please congratulate them. We'll share some photos from the NEWEA Conference as soon as they're posted on NEWEA's Flickr page, <https://www.flickr.com/photos/newea>





WHY WATER'S WORTH IT TO ME! COMPETITION FOR MAINE STUDENTS

In 1983 the Maine Legislature made provisions to designate the first full week of June as Maine Clean Water Week. Maine Clean Water Week was created to increase the public's awareness of the improvements made in the quality of Maine's waterways. One of the primary reasons our waterways have so greatly improved is due to the hard work of Maine's collection system and wastewater treatment plant personnel.

The Maine Water Environment Association (Mewea) is a nonprofit organization whose goals include: promoting education and communication within the wastewater treatment industry and to the general public; supporting a balanced view of environmental policies; and enhancing the image of wastewater personnel.

In recognition of 2015 Maine Clean Water Week the Maine Water Environment Association is again sponsoring a poster competition for Maine students.

The theme of the competition is **"WHY WATER'S WORTH IT TO ME!"**

Prizes will be awarded for the top poster for each age group and recognition for the top three posters in each age group.

Grades 1-3
Grades 4-6
Grades 7-8
Grades 9-12

In addition, the winning students' schools will receive recognition. The winners will be honored at the Maine Water Environment Association 2015 Fall Convention, at the Maine State House, or at a school assembly.

Thank you,

Matt Timberlake
Maine Water Environment Association Public Relations Committee Chair

MAINE CLEAN WATER WEEK POSTER CONTEST

SPONSORED BY
Maine Water Environment Association

WHY WATER'S WORTH IT TO ME!

FIRST PRIZE Grades 1-3: Winning Student: \$100.00 Cash

FIRST PRIZE Grades 4-6: Winning Student: \$100.00 Cash

FIRST PRIZE Grades 7-8: Winning Student: \$100.00 Cash

FIRST PRIZE Grades 9-12: Winning Student: \$100.00 Cash

Who can submit a poster? Any student in Maine School Grades 1-12.

What do you submit? A poster no larger than 22" x 28", which illustrates what clean water means to you or why you think clean water is important to the State of Maine (ME). Use crayons, marker, paints or other format. (*tip: colorful posters are judges favorites*)

When is your poster due? All posters must be received by MEWEA by April 10, 2015

Where do I send my poster?

Send posters to:
c/o MWWCA Clean Water Week Contest 2015
Maine Municipal Association
60 Community Drive
Augusta, ME 04330

Questions? Visit www.mewea.org or call Matt Timberlake at 207-897-3348

IMPORTANT!!

MAKE YOUR POSTER AND PUT YOUR NAME, HOME MAILING ADDRESS, HOME PHONE NUMBER, GRADE, TEACHERS NAMES, AND SCHOOL ON THE BACK. ALL POSTERS SUBMITTED BECOME PROPERTY OF MEWEA AND THE DECISION OF THE SELECTION COMMITTEE IS FINAL.

MAINE WATER ENVIRONMENT ASSOCIATION
LOCAL GOVERNMENT CENTER
60 COMMUNITY DR
AUGUSTA ME 04330

Maine Water Environment **NEWS**

Winter 2015 ISSUE

please circulate and share with your colleagues



www.mewea.org