

Maine Water Environment NEWS

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A Publication of the Maine Water Environment Association

Timberlake Steps up – Welcome Mr. President!



Matt Timberlake, Ted Berry Co.

As I have settled into my new role as MEWEA President for 2017, I continue to be amazed at the amount of work that is happening everyday inside your association. It has been my pleasure to hear from a number of you in response to my weekly message and I hope you all find that a helpful way to keep a pulse on what is happening in the association.

Maine DEP has presented a Water Quality Bond and MEWEA is working with other industry associations through a broad coalition to support this bond proposal. The DEP bond would request \$50M to fund wastewater infrastructure and water quality programs for three years. This would leverage federal and state funds to facilitate \$121M+ worth of projects, as well

as create or sustain as many as 900 jobs. The Commissioner has spoken about our "invisible infrastructure" and I thought that was very well put and a great message we can talk about in our communities. The work we do and the infrastructure we operate and manage goes largely un-noticed and this "invisible infrastructure" is critical to the life, health, and success of our communities.

Our 2017 Legislative Breakfast is scheduled for Thursday March 9th at the Senator Inn in Augusta, we have collaborated with a number of organizations including NEWEA, MWUA, MRWA, AGC, APWA, TNC, Maine Audubon, and others. Our keynote speaker will be Maine DEP Commissioner Paul Mercer. Please reach out to your elected officials and personally invite them to attend, the best way to get them in attendance is to hear from their constituents personally.

Your association is working hard for you and if there is anything I can do to help you or your community please reach out to me directly anytime. ☺

OPERATIONS CHALLENGE TRAINING DAY 2017

Friday, April 7, 2017 • Holyoke WWTP • Holyoke, MA

Come and learn about each challenge event: Collection Systems, Process Control, Laboratory, Safety and Maintenance, in a relaxed atmosphere. The training will consist of both classroom and hands on practical experience and is truly a fun day of training. The event is open to anybody and you do not have to be on an operations challenge team to attend.

This is a fun and rewarding experience, a great opportunity to network with other operations professions, TCH's will be provided, and a tour of the Holyoke WWTF will be available. This is an awesome opportunity for low cost training. For more information contact Travis Peaslee at: tpeaslee@lawpca.org

2017 Officers...

President

Matt Timberlake
Ted Berry Company

First Vice President

Paula Drouin
LAWPCA

Second Vice President

Stacy Thompson
Saco WRRD

Immediate Past President

Scott Firmin
Portland Water District

Secretary/Treasurer

Al Jellison
Dedham, ME (retired)

Jeff McBurnie
Casella Organics

NEWEA State Director

Mac Richardson
LAWPCA

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

www.meweа.org

Upcoming Executive Committee Meeting Dates:

March 9 Monthly Meeting/
Senator Inn, Augusta

April 13 Monthly Meeting/
Ramada Inn, Lewiston



Mainers Once Again a Force in Beantown Convention!

By Mac Richardson, Newsletter Editor

Maine was once again well represented at the NEWEA annual convention, from committee members: Doug Miller (bylaws), Chuck Applebee (awards), Jim Galasyn (laboratory Practices), Brad Moore (Nominating), Travis Peaslee (Operations Challenge) to award winners: Paige Brown (Stockholm Junior Water Prize), Mark Holt (NEWEA Operator), Tim Levasseur (Alfred E. Peloquin), Vivian Matkivich (Operator

Safety and Quarter Century Club), Rob Pontau (Young Professional), Clayton Richardson(Biosolids and Quarter Century), Scott Firmin (E.Sherman Chase), James Morris (WEF Life member), Jim Galasyn (laboratory Analyst), Dan Bisson (Arthur Sidney Bedell), Zach Henderson (Golden Raindrop) to session moderators and paper presenters: Mike Stein, Robert Polys, Ed Leonard, Tim Vadney, Jon Hume, Steve Sloan, Zach Hender-

son, Shawn Ready, Brian Tarbuck, Andy Begin, Chris Dwinal, Doug Miller, James Morris, Matt Timberlake, Howard Carter, Andre' Brousseau, Dan Bisson, and Tom Schwartz. Of course many more Mainers were in attendance learning at the technical sessions, enjoying the AFC Championship game, learning about new products from the vendors and generally having a good time! ☺



Mac Reports – Chuck seems unimpressed.



NEWEA Executive Committee Meeting.



Travis Peaslee chats with Mike Burke.



Lab Folks, clockwise: Phyllis Rand, Andy Fish, John Hart, and Paula Drouin.



Attendees enjoy a Patriots win in the AFC Championship game Sunday Evening



Howard Carter makes a point at NEWEA Executive Committee Meeting.

ON MY SOAPBOX:

Working On Living In A State Of Gratitude

By Mac Richardson, Newsletter 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.

Starting out I have to admit, this is my third time trying to get a decent column down on paper. Perhaps that is one more sign that it is time for someone else to set into the role of newsletter editor. In case you have not heard, I will definitely be relinquishing this role no later than the MEWEA fall conference.

The first two columns I wrote got a bit too political for this space, and I have noticed that I have been letting events and statements on both sides of the political spectrum get to me lately – so much so that I have decided to start limiting my news watching and listening time! I found myself getting upset about things over which I have no control, and decided it is much better to try to live each day in a state of gratitude. So while I retain some strong feelings about various policy matters, I will try to spend more effort on what is right with my life and my country than was is wrong. So here goes...

I have a great job (actually two) in which I am truly blessed to feel that what I do really makes our world, mostly our environment, a bit better. My employment situation has been blessedly stable and allowed me time with my kids as they were growing up. Put another way, what's not to like?

I am pretty healthy. As six decades leave their marks on me, I am grateful to be active to ski, garden, hike, swim, kayak, play

tennis, etc. Going forward I realize I have to work at staying in shape a bit more, but I'm not complaining!

I have the best workers and colleagues to cooperate with. I have said it before, but people that get into the clean water/waste-water treatment/water pollution control business are generally some of the most down to earth, put in a good days work people you will ever meet.

I am lucky to have been born an American, and to live under the system of government we enjoy. While it is far from perfect, we seem to get by pretty well. I am reminded of the quote (I don't remember from whom) that goes something like this: "Our form of governance is the worst form of government except for every other one that mankind has tried."

I dearly love where I live. Maine is such an incredible place to be, I just can't understand why we are not flooded with people wanting to move here. That is Okay with me, a part of me wants to hog it for myself!

My kids. I would be terribly remiss if I did not mention what a blessing they are. Four in total, they are all off or moving off the payroll! My youngest is a sophomore at the University of Maine, so the end of tuition is in sight! I can also say that they all still are willing to spend time with me and do fun thinks like ski and backpack with their old geezer father.

So going forward, I also need to think and act in a couple of ways that will increase my chance of being deemed marginally sane and functional. It is all too easy to let small misfortunes upset our sense of balance. In my life, a recent one was the need to replace the boiler and hot water system in house. Now that the place is 25 + years old everything seems to need replacement. The well pump then the cooking stove then the wood stove and now nine thousand dollars for a new boiler! But really it is all relative and I shouldn't complain, much less let it turn me into a miserable cuss! Which brings me to my final point, co-operation. I did what I could to help the two guys that installed the new boiler. I suppose I could have said, "They are getting paid for it; let them lug the supplies down to the basement". Instead I carried them down the night before they arrived. As I see it, it was a win-win. If I can make their job a little easier or more pleasant, it will only make them feel more like doing their best for me. We have often espoused this philosophy at LAWPCA, and I can say it certainly helps us when we are doing capital projects. The work gets done well, on time, and on budget. As a society we would do well to remember that cooperation is every bit as important as competition. Both have their place, but sometimes we place a bit too much emphasis on the latter. Be well, and be grateful! ☺

Remember the Clean Water Week Poster Contest!

By Jen McDonnell, Casella Organics

In celebration of 2017 Clean Water Week, the Maine Water Environment Association is once again sponsoring a poster contest for Maine students. Recent years have been a tremendous success and we hope to continue. Generally we have received over 500 posters which are then judged for creativity, delivering a strong message about water quality and connecting water quality with our association's mission. The theme of the poster competition is "WHY WATER'S WORTH IT TO ME! ME meaning, you

the student, and ME meaning the state of Maine. Prizes are awarded for the top poster in each of the age groups below and the three top posters in each age group receive recognition from the association. Winners in each group will be honored at the MEWEA Fall Convention, at the State House, or at a school assembly. Be sure to contact your local schools and spread the word.

Grades 1-3; Grades 4-6; Grades 7,8;
Grades 9-12.

This is a great opportunity to spread the word about what we do and why water really is worth it! ☺



Spring Conference Annoucement

By Travis Peaslee, LAWPCA

MEWEA Spring Conference Offers Wide Variety of Training Opportunities

Friday, April 14, 2017 – Ramada Inn Lewiston, Maine

Room Name	A	B	C
7:30 to 8:30	Registration and Continental Breakfast Welcome and Introduction (Matt Timberlake, 2017 MEWEA President)		
8:30 to 9:30	SESSION 1	SESSION 2	SESSION 3
	Nutrient Modeling and Monitoring Speaker: Angela Brewer & Gregg Wood - Maine DEP		
9:30 to 9:45	Break		
9:45 to 10:45	SESSION 4	SESSION 5	SESSION 6
	Chlorine Discharges-Issue profile and development of BMP's Speaker: Brian Kavanah- Maine DEP ; Bruce Berger- MWUA	Anaerobic Digestion Operations Speaker:Travis Peaslee- Lawpcap; Dave Weyburn- Village Green Ventures	Details that drive you Batty! Speaker: Kimberly Peace-Hoyle Tanner & Associates
10:45 to 11:00	Break		
11:00 to 12:00	SESSION 7	SESSION 8	SESSION 9
	Lewiston CSO Abatement Speaker: Dan Bisson- CDM Smith	Dry weather challenges during the 2016 Drought Speaker: Steve Sloan- PWD; Mark Holt- Jay Sewer	Cyber Security - Infrastructure Security Speaker: Brian McDonald & Christina St. Pierre - Maine Municipal Association
12:00 - 1:15	LUNCH/ BUSINESS MEETING		
1:30- 2:30	SESSION 10	SESSION 11	SESSION 12
	Community Involvement and Public Engagement Speaker: Ben Pearson- City of Portland; Michael Guethle- Wright Pierce	Hands-on valve and pump packing Speaker: Moe Bouley- A.W. Chesterton	Filamentous Bacteria: Causes and Control Speaker: Susan Jasper- PWD
2:30 - 2:45	Break		
2:45 - 3:45		SESSION 13	
		Government Affairs Update/ Maine DEP Update Speaker: Brian Kavanah- Maine DEP ; Tim Haskell- York Sewer District	

What Would You Like To See For Training?

- The MEWEA Personnel Advancement Committee does an outstanding job putting forward training sessions at our Spring and Fall conferences, but they can use your help. What would you like to know more about? Have you heard of a new technology or a new installation that you want to know more about? Could you use a class on the plusses and minuses of various pump types, or some other equipment? Please visit: <http://www.meweа.org/personnel-advancement-committee/> at your convenience and let us know. We look forward to hearing from you and will continue to offer this ability year round so it is never too late to send in your request. In advance we thank you for any suggestions as we work to serve your needs.

10th Annual MeWEA/NHWPCA SKI DAY – March 24, 2017

The Maine Water Environment Association & New Hampshire Water Pollution Control Association is proud to Announce the 10th Annual Ski Day for Members and Sponsors!

Join us for a day of skiing, networking, and a day of fun!

Location: Attitash Base Lodge, South Wing

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

FEE: \$55.00 per person/lift ticket required

\$15.00 per person/no lift ticket required

* Discount ski lift tickets available for
Saturday, March 25th & Sunday, March 26th
if you attend Ski Day!

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

REGISTRATION & PAYMENT

INFORMATION: Send in registration form with payment to MeWEA, 60 Community Drive, Augusta, ME 04330 or register and pay online at <http://www.meweа.org/events/ski-day>. Fee must be pre-paid by March 15, 2017. Unfortunately, no door registrations will be allowed.

REGISTRATION CONFIRMATION:

Registration confirmation and Skiday agenda will be sent out to all registrants on March 17th.

OVERNIGHT ACCOMMODATIONS ARE ON YOUR OWN!: Discounted room rates are available for Thursday through Saturday nights. You must contact the hotel directly no later than February 21, 2017 and reference "New Hampshire Water Pollution Control Association" to receive the discount. Please note that discounts must be applied at the time of reservation and cannot be credited at check-in/out.

- **Attitash Mountain Village:** this lodging is located across the street from the Attitash Base Lodge, where our Ski Day event will be held. Studios are available at \$102/night while they last. Call Attitash Mountain Village reservations directly at (603) 374-6500. Reference "New Hampshire Water Pollution Control Association."
- **Grand Summit Hotel:** this lodging is ski-in/ski-out, but located near the Bear Peak Lodge (shuttle bus to Attitash Lodge where our Ski Day event will be held): Standard deluxe rooms are available at \$119/night or one-bedroom suites at \$149/night. No Thursday rooms night available. Call Group Reservation Office directly at (888) 554-1900. Reference "New Hampshire Water Pollution Control Association."

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



10th Annual MeWEA/NHWPCA Ski Day – March 24, 2017

Please register the following person from _____ for the 2017 Ski Day.

(Employer/Municipality)

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

EMAIL : _____

BILLING ADDRESS : _____ AMOUNT: \$ _____

Please check one (I will be skiing on the following day/days):

Not Skiing - \$15.00 Ski Friday only - \$55.00 Ski Friday & Saturday - \$105.00 Ski Friday, Saturday & Sunday - \$120.00

Mail Registration Forms to: MeWEA, 60 Community Drive, Augusta, ME 04330 or fax (207) 624-0128 or register online at <http://www.meweа.org/events/ski-day>.

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

CHECKS MUST BE MADE PAYABLE TO MeWEA

ATTENDING

Maine Issues Revised Stormwater General Permit Rules

By Fred Dillon, City of South Portland

The Maine DEP has begun the process of renewing the General Permits for discharges from municipal separate storm sewer systems (MS4s) operated by certain municipalities and state and federal agencies. There are currently 40 entities regulated under these permits (30 municipalities, 8 state, 2 federal and 2 transportation). Coverage is generally determined by population and/or development density as defined by the U.S. Census Bureau's "urbanized area" designation. Geographically, these areas are located in the 4 most populous "clusters" of the state: the Bangor area, the Lewiston-Auburn area, the greater Portland area, and the southern York county area.

As with wastewater permitting, DEP has delegated authority from EPA to administer Maine's stormwater permits, which are

issued for 5 year terms. Maine has generally employed a proactive and collaborative approach in starting the permitting process early and getting it done on time. Ideally, the next round of General Permits will be finalized and ready for issuance on 7/1/2018 to provide seamless coverage following the end of the current permit cycle on 6/30/2018.

Beginning in March, DEP will hold a series of formal meetings with representatives from MS4 entities around the state to determine the provisions of the 2018 to 2013 General Permit. MEWEA's Stormwater committee will be actively engaged in this process and will promote smart and cost-effective solutions to protecting and improving our collective water resources. For more information or to join the committee and this effort, contact committee co-chairs, Zach Henderson or Fred Dillon. ●

YP Get Out For Some Ice Time

By Mike Guethle, Young Professional Committee Chair



Family and friends enjoying the Rink at Thompson's Point

In January, the MEWEA Young Professionals committee hosted an Ice Skating Family Night at Thompson's Point Rink in Portland. The annual event is organized as a laid-back opportunity for MEWEA members to spend time together as a group with their families in a social setting. While most of the organization's events are focused on technical education and networking, the annual skating day provides an opportunity for members to get to know one another on a more personal level. The event also allows for newer and younger members a less formal and more friendly atmosphere to interact with our long-standing members. This year, we were able to set aside a Friday afternoon for the event, and had over 20 attendees ranging from operators, superintendents, consultants, and vendors. We plan on having the same event next January, and hope to see you there!

The MEWEA Young Professionals committee's next event will be a team at the Urban Runoff 5k and Green Neighbor Family Festival in Portland, where we have an activity booth geared at informing the public about the Clean Water Industry. ●

Founding Member Francis Anderson Passes

It is with sadness that we note the passing of another of the founding members of what is now the Maine Water Environment Association. Francis Anderson hosted the very first meeting of the Maine Waste Water Control Association at his office in Springvale, Maine. For many years, Francis served as the superintendent of the Sanford Sewerage District, retiring in 1997. During his career, he served as an instructor for the New England Regional Wastewater Institute from 1972 to 1974. ●

Versatile Operator Louis Beauchamp Remembered

Louis started his career in Wastewater in Maine in 1986 working as a lab tech for the Scarborough Sanitary District. In 1988 Louis took a position as water and wastewater superintendent for the Town of Wilton. In his 4 year stay with Wilton he took "one of the worst plants in the state", to "one of the best". Earning the town recognition from the EPA in 1989 for outstanding wastewater treatment facility operations and maintenance. He also gained recognition for the town being awarded the Charles Perry award in 1992 for outstanding operation and maintenance of their collections system.

In 1993 Louis took the position of Superintendent for the town of Old Orchard

Beach. He was able to run the plant more effectively and efficiently than in years past. He designed a chlorination facility at the treatment plant as well as oversaw many construction projects. He was promoted to Public Works Director while continuing to act as sewer superintendent until he retired from the wastewater field in 1995. He remained passionate in the field of wastewater throughout his life performing consultant work for Wright Pierce, and the town of Bridgton to name a few. His passion remains in the wastewater field through his son Dave who strives to make a positive impact in the industry he loved. He will be missed by family friends and all those that came to know him. ●

Casco Bay Estuary Project Releases 2016 to 2021 Plan

By Chris Bohlen, Director Casco Bay Estuary Partnership

The Casco Bay Estuary Partnership (CBEP), one of 28 community-based partnerships engaged in EPA's National Estuary Program, recently released a plan for the next five years (2016-2021). The Bay, while serving as the end of a watershed that is only three percent of Maine's land mass, holds over 18% of the state's population. Casco Bay is a large and diverse water body having 575 miles of shoreline and over 785 islands and ledges.

"For two decades CBEP, with its partnership of organizations, has made great strides in sustaining a healthy Casco Bay," says Curtis Bohlen, CBEP Director. "But stressors on the Bay are continually changing in character as well as growing in number and magnitude." For instance, while Casco Bay enjoys good water quality when judged by national standards, the waters of the Gulf of Maine – of which it is a part – are reported to be warming faster than 99% of global ocean waters. Casco Bay itself has warmed 3.6° F on a seasonally adjusted basis since monitoring began in 1993. Climate change has also brought increases in both annual precipitation and extreme precipitation events. This has raised concerns with stormwater impacts associated with nitrogen and phosphorus, and the potential to affect water quality issues from coastal acidification to algal blooms and lower dissolved oxygen.

Building on a Record of Accomplishments:

Working with numerous partners, CBEP has invested more than \$700,000 in several dozen projects since 2000, helping to conserve thousands of acres of forested woodlands near headwater streams and hundreds of acres of coastal habitats including salt marshes and seabird nesting Islands. The amount of conserved and permanently protected land in the lower Casco Bay watershed has more than doubled from 7,300 acres in 1997 to 18,960 acres today. Fish passage restoration has been another success story since the early part of the last decade. In the early 2000's few fish were able to make the journey upstream from Casco Bay to Highland Lake in Windham (11 miles from the Presumpscot River estuary). In 2015 and 2016, thousands of alewives were documented making the journey. This success came after more than a decade of work towards removal of the Smelt Hill Dam, fish passage improvements at the Highland Lake Dam, culvert modifications at three road crossings, riparian plantings and streambank stabilization. More than 50 acres of tidal marsh habitat has been restored at several locations in Harpswell and Brunswick, in the northern end of the Bay. Working with the Presumpscot River Watershed Coalition, CBEP helped develop a Plan for the Presumpscot River and completed a \$1,000,000 project under EPA's targeted watershed grants program.

Ongoing Collaboration:

Eliminating Combined Sewer Overflows is a big and expensive effort being led by the Cities of Portland and South Portland. The number of active CSOs discharging into Casco Bay has been reduced from 80 in 1990 to 43 in 2014, and additional CSOs were removed in 2015 and 2016. In terms of discharge volume normalized to rainfall, 24.9 million gallons per inch of rain was released from these sources in 2000. By 2014 that number had dropped to 7.9 million gallons per inch of rainfall. Pollution prevention and stormwater runoff elimination efforts are gaining momentum as well. In 2002 the Inter-local Stormwater Working Group (ISWG) was formed, with CBEP working with the Cumberland County Soil

and Water Conservation District and 14 area municipalities. In 2007, The City of South Portland received a grant to develop the Long Creek Watershed management Plan and worked closely with CBEP and CCSWSD to create the nationally recognized Long Creek Watershed Management District. This pioneering work, which involves more than 130 business and landowners (including two highway agencies and four municipalities), established the most comprehensive stream monitoring program in Maine and continues to work to improve water quality in one of Maine's most urban watersheds having one of the state's highest percentages of impervious surface.

CEBP actively supported the Friends of Casco Bay's water quality monitoring program which engaged over 80 citizen volunteers in last year's "Nabbing Nitrogen" program where organization volunteers simultaneously collected water samples along the Portland waterfront. The Partnership also funds the Presumpscot River Watch, which has been marshallig volunteers since 1989 to monitor water quality in that major tributary to the Bay.

Casco Bay was designated by the U.S. EPA as Maine's first "No Discharge Area", prohibiting discharge of all vessel sewage into the Bay and controlling the discharge of gray water from large commercial passenger vessels. Thanks to 23 shore-side pump out facilities and the Friends of Casco Bay's mobile pump out boat, it is now easy for boaters to comply with these important protective measures.

The effects of climate change on Casco Bay and the vulnerability of the Bay's coastal wetlands to sea level rise are ongoing areas of study for the CBEP. Along with tracking the spread of invasive species, the partnership continues to work with such organizations as the Northeast Coastal Acidification Network, the University of Maine, the University of New Hampshire and others in the region. For the next five-year period, the partnership has identified four primary goals to extend the scope and impact of collective work already underway on behalf of Casco Bay:

Protect, restore and enhance key habitats that sustain ecological health: CBEP commits to conserving priority undeveloped shorelines, protecting and restoring vital habitats such as eelgrass beds and tidal mudflats, enhancing connectivity among aquatic habitats, and strengthening the capacity of Casco Bay ecosystems to accommodate change.

Improve Casco Bay's water quality by reducing nutrient pollution and its impacts, including coastal acidification: CBEP promotes practices that reduce nutrient pollution, support public funding for improved stormwater management, and assess the dynamics of how nutrients enter and move within Casco Bay.

Foster resilient communities and their connections to Casco Bay: CBEP seeks to increase public engagement with Casco Bay and to support collaborative initiatives that illuminate the region's ecological and economic interconnections, celebrate the Bay's importance, and help citizens and leaders increase the region's resilience in the face of climate disruptions.

Mobilize collective knowledge and resources to support Casco Bay: CBEP serves as a convener and catalyst, mobilizing scientific, financial and human resources to help residents throughout the watershed effectively address the complex and evolving challenges facing Casco Bay.

MAINE WATER ENVIRONMENT ASSOCIATION
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please circulate and share with your colleagues



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