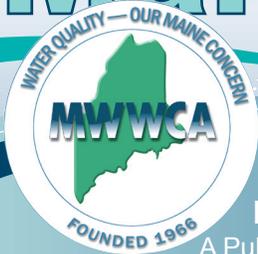


# Maine WasteWater NEWS



February 2012 • Winter

A Publication of the Maine WasteWater Control Association

1-800-452-8786

## The President's Corner

By Jeff McBurnie, President, MWWCA

The year is barely two months old, yet things are hopping at Maine Wastewater Control. In late January we participated in New England Water Environment Association's Annual Conference in Boston. The State of Maine and our Association were well-represented, not only by attendees but by members in leadership positions with NEWEA. We reported to NEWEA's Affiliated State Associations group on our association's activities over the past year and our plans for the coming year. Maine continues to be one of the leaders in the region with its outreach, training and legislative activity. MWWCA was recognized with a special state association award from EPA, based on a nomination from the Maine DEP regarding MWWCA's effort in providing operator training opportunities.

In early February, We cosponsored with the Maine Water Utilities Association a full day of training at the MWUA annual meeting and trade show. During MWUA's Annual Business Meeting, MWWCA was the surprise recipient of MWUA's President's Award, recognizing MWWCA's efforts in securing matching funds for Maine's SRF Programs.

On February 16th, we cosponsored the Annual Legislative Breakfast with MWUA and NEWEA. As in years past, the event was well attended. The formal proceedings (welcoming remarks and a couple of utilities success stories from users of SRF funding) were kept short, so that for the bulk of the time our legislative guests were able to network with members of all three associations. The overarching message of the meeting was to thank the legislators for their past support and remind them that our work with infrastructure maintenance and improvement, and the funding gap associated with it, is far from complete. So in addition to getting a wicked decent breakfast buffet, the Senators and Representatives were able to carry back to their colleagues some very compelling stories about the value of supporting drinking water and clean water infrastructure.

While all these activities have been swirling about, many other things have been quietly moving forward. Even though months

Cont'd on page 8

## 2012 Officers

### President

Jeff McBurnie  
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\*For a complete Board Listing,  
please visit the MWWCA website at:

[www.mwwca.org](http://www.mwwca.org)

## Upcoming Board Meeting Dates:

**March 16** – 9:00 A.M.  
Monthly Meeting – MMA

**May 18** – 9:00 A.M.  
Monthly Meeting – MMA

# WHAT CLEAN WATER WEEK MEANS TO ME

## COMPETITION FOR GRADES 3-8

By Matt Timberlake, Maine Wastewater Control Association, Public Relations Committee Chair

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.

In recognition of Maine Clean Water Week, June 4-8, 2012, the Maine

Wastewater Control Association is again sponsoring a poster competition for students in Grade 3-8. The theme of the competition is "What Clean Water Means To Me." Each class may submit up to three posters for final judging.

Cash prizes will be awarded to the top three entries chosen from all posters submitted. In addition, the winning student's school will receive a television/DVD combination and educational tapes. The winner will be honored at the Maine Wastewater

Control Association's 2012 Fall Convention or at a school assembly.

Editor's Note: this is the basic information sent out to all Maine Elementary and Middle Schools. Any support and encouragement you can lend to your local schools and students is helpful. MWWCA has a new person chairing the Public Relations Committee: Matt Timberlake of the Ted Berry Co. He may be reached at [matt@tedberrycompany.com](mailto:matt@tedberrycompany.com) or 897-3348. 

## MAINE CLEAN WATER WEEK POSTER CONTEST

SPONSORED BY: MAINE WASTEWATER CONTROL ASSOCIATION

WHAT CLEAN WATER MEANS TO ME!



**FIRST PRIZE:** Winning Student: \$200.00 Cash  
Sponsoring School: TV Monitor, DVD and Education Tapes

**SECOND PRIZE:** Winning Student: \$100.00 Cash

**THIRD PRIZE:** Winning Student: \$50.00 Cash

### Who can submit a poster?

Any student in Maine School Grades 3-8. Each Class may submit up to three posters for final judging.

### 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 us. Use crayons, marker, paints or other format.

### When is your poster due?

All posters must be received by MWWCA by Friday, April 6, 2012.

### Where do I send my poster?

#### Send posters to:

Melissa Carver  
c/o MWWCA Clean Water Week Contest  
Maine Municipal Association  
60 Community Drive  
Augusta, ME 04330

### Questions?

Visit [www.mwwca.org/clean-water-week.htm](http://www.mwwca.org/clean-water-week.htm) or call Matt Timberlake at: (207) 897-3348

### IMPORTANT!!

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

# ON MY SOAPBOX: Money, Money, Money!

By Mac Richardson, Newsletter Co-Editor

Whether it is our personal life, the facilities we are trying to operate and maintain, the business we are trying to keep going, the fundraising for our kids' activities, or just filling up the gas tank, these days money seems to be hard to come by. We know that the State and Federal budgets are in trouble with cuts and deficits as far as the eye can see. Finding three or four million dollars for the Maine match needed to capitalize the State Revolving Loan Fund is once again shaping up to be a battle. Maine is struggling to fund Maine Care. So why do the millions keep flowing into political campaigns like water flows out a CSO in the hundred year storm? (Okay, I suppose that was a bad analogy, but both exhibit gushing and might smell bad!)

As of the end of January the Romney campaign spent close to \$19 million, raised another \$6.5 million and had super PAC backing on the order of another \$6.6 million. Taken as a group, the Republican survivors raised somewhere around \$22 million in January and their super PACs raised another \$22 million. Then there is the party and all the other "issue PACs" out there. And our President is going out to raise similar millions. Clearly the Republicans and Democrats are equal opportunity fund raisers.

This is ridiculous! Where is this money coming from and what does it buy but negative attack ads and vicious, hateful speech. I don't know about you, but I don't have \$2,500 to contribute to this display of acrimony. Talk about your nattering Nabobs of negativity! (thank you Donald Rumsfeld).

Then when we hear the smallest shreds about where the money goes – into \$400 haircuts (thank you John Edwards), parties and alcohol to garner more fund raising dollars, and who knows what else! What do contributors think they are getting for their money? How many believe that they are buying influence and

how many are buying access if not influence? Why would any sane and otherwise intelligent business person throw money at these politicians unless they felt that a return on investment was coming their way?

So what is the answer? I wish I was smart enough to solve this problem! I will say that in my mind this level of money is absolutely corrupting and a new solution needs to be found. Voting doesn't seem to

help – all the candidates play the same game (amassing tons of money and spewing out negativity seems to work). Maybe we can ask the candidates how are they going to solve the money race problem and keep asking and asking again. Maybe we can let them know what a disgusting spectacle elective politics has become, and how money threatens the very fabric of our republic. ●



## South Portland Conducts Massive Confined Space Entry Training Event

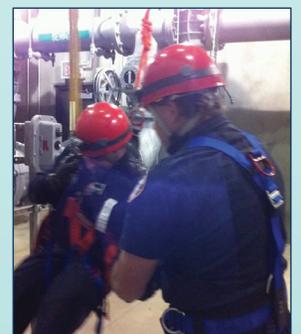
By Tom Wiley, Compliance Administrator, City of South Portland

On each of the first four Wednesdays of November 2011, the City of South Portland Water Resource Protection Department's Long Creek Pump Station came to life as it became the site of the City's Confined Space Entry training.

The training was a joint venture between the Water Resource Protection Department and the City's Fire Department. The training included on a tour of the new facility and a slide show discussing the vast array of confined spaces that can exist within the City's infrastructure, including wastewater pumping and treatment systems, as well as

stormwater systems. Each of the sessions ended with the trainees having to enter a confined space to perform the mock rescue of a "victim", who acted as though he had broken his leg while in the space.

The training allowed each department to see how the other works and created an avenue for communication between the two groups. Both departments intend to continue this type of event each year. The cumulative training effort saw a total of 29 employees from Water Resources and nearly 60 fire fighters participating over the course of the month. ●



# Maine WasteWater Control Association SPRING CONFERENCE

## “Being Prepared in a Changing World”

Friday, April 27, 2012 • Best Western • Black Bear Inn, 4 Godfrey Drive, Orono, ME

The MWWCA invites you to join friends and colleagues at the Spring Conference on April 27th. The Personnel Advancement Committee has done an excellent job in organizing sessions that can help you in your job right now. Send in your registration today!

### FEES AND REGISTRATION

#### \*MWWCA Members: (Lunch Included)

Pre-Registration Fee: \$65.00 per person  
Door Registration Fee: \$85.00 per person

#### Non-Members: (Lunch Included)

Pre-Registration Fee: \$85.00 per person  
Door Registration Fee: \$105.00 per person

Pre-Registration Deadline: April 20, 2012

\*Individual membership in MWWCA costs just \$35.00 and includes 4 issues of Maine WasteWater News. Please call 1-800-452-8786 for a member application form.

Maine Water Utilities Association members are invited to register at MWWCA membership rates. Faxes accepted: 207-626-5947 – We can invoice post conference.

### QUESTIONS/CANCELLATIONS

Call the Affiliate Services Office at 1-800-452-8786 (Augusta area 623-8428). Notification must be given at least 72 hours before the session begins to obtain a refund (minus a \$10 processing fee). All cancellations are subject to a \$10 administrative fee for processing.

\*The MWWCA has blocked rooms at the Black Bear Inn in Orono. The room rate is \$79.95 single/double occupancy. Be sure to mention the MWWCA Spring Conference. Call for reservations: (207) 866-7120. (Deadline for room reservation at above rate is March 26, 2012.)

### STORM POLICY

If there is inclement weather, a decision to postpone will be made by 5:00 p.m. the day prior to the workshop. MWWCA encourages all registrants to check the MMA website at [www.memun.org](http://www.memun.org) or call the training hotline at 207-624-0117 before departing for any MWWCA sponsored events to ensure that the event schedule has not changed.

## AGENDA

7:30-8:30 a.m.	Registration and Breakfast	Part 2: Leveraging Emergency Response Funding (Jim Fitch, Woodard & Curran)
<b>8:30-9:30 a.m.</b>	<b>Welcome and Introduction</b> - MWWCA President Keynote Speaker: Marian H. Long (Gradient Planning, LLC)	12:00-1:15 p.m. LUNCH AND BUSINESS MEETING
<b>9:30-10:30 a.m.</b>		<b>1:15-2:15 p.m.</b>
Session 1		Session 7
Part 1: Pipeline Assessment and Certification Program (Matt Timberlake; Ted Berry Co, Inc.)		Does Climate Variability Affect Utilities? Challenges and Opportunities (Dr. George Jacobson and Dr. Shaleen Jain, University of Maine at Orono)
Part 2: When CCTV Steers You Wrong (Matt Timberlake; Ted Berry Co, Inc.)		Session 8
Session 2		Electrical 001: The Basics (Mike Gervais, Electrical Controls of Maine)
Vulnerability Assessments and VA Case Studies (Rebecca Reynolds; RCAP Solutions)		Session 9
Session 3		Nutrient Testing (Gayle Gleichauf, Thermo Scientific)
Legislative Update (MWWCA Government Affairs Committee)		2:15-2:30 p.m. BREAK
10:30-11:00 a.m. BREAK		<b>2:30-3:30 p.m.</b>
<b>11:00 a.m.-Noon</b>		Session 10
Session 4		Climate Change Panel (Moderator: Ray Sirois, Wright-Pierce; Panelists: Peter Owen, Bath DPW; Malcolm Burson Maine DEP, retired; and Dr. George Jacobson, UMO)
Chemical Use: What, Why and When (Lynn Petcher, Monson Companies)		Session 11
Session 5		Part 1: Pump Clogging: An SOP for Troubleshooting Your System (Scott Firmin, Portland Water District and Aubrey Strause, Tata & Howard)
FCC Bandwidth Allocation: How it can Impact SCADA and Communications (Tom Bahun, ME Warn Circuit Rider and Tom Connolly, Yarmouth, ME)		Part 2: Understanding the Maine Emergency Management Agency (MEMA Staff)
Session 6		Session 12
Part 1: Kennebunk Sewer District's Patriot's Day Flood Mitigation Project (KSD Staff, Jim Fitch, Woodard & Curran)		DEP Update (Brian Kavanah, Director of Water Quality Management and staff)
		3:30 p.m. Adjourn

# Maine WasteWater Control Association

## SPRING CONFERENCE

### “Being Prepared in a Changing World”

Friday, April 27, 2012 • Best Western • Black Bear Inn, 4 Godfrey Drive, Orono, ME

#### REGISTRATION FORM – 2012 MWWCA Spring Conference – April 27, 2012

Please register the following person(s) from \_\_\_\_\_ for the 2012 MWWCA Spring Conference.  
(Employer/Municipality)

I am a member of:  MWWCA  MWUA

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

EMAIL: \_\_\_\_\_

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

EMAIL: \_\_\_\_\_

BILLING ADDRESS: \_\_\_\_\_ AMOUNT: \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Mail Registration Form to: MWWCA, 60 Community Drive, Augusta, ME 04330

Register online at: [www.memun.org](http://www.memun.org) or by completing this form which can be faxed to 207-626-5947

**ADA Message:** 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 MWWCA**

ATTENDING

## Request for Ideas

Would you like to submit a write-up of a recent project for the next newsletter? Has a staff member recently experienced a career milestone (retirement or anniversary), or would you like to announce a new hire? Did you troubleshoot a chronic issue at your facility or in your collection system, and you'd like to share the solution with your peers? If so, please contact Mac Richardson or Aubrey Strause.

## UPCOMING 2012 EVENTS:

### \*\*Ski Day\*\*

March 14 – Sugarloaf USA, Carrabassett Valley, ME

### \*\*MWWCA Spring Conference\*\*

April 27 – Black Bear Inn, Orono, ME

### \*\*MWWCA Fall Convention\*\*

September 12-14 – Sugarloaf USA, Carrabassett Valley, ME

## MARK YOUR CALENDARS FOR THE 2012 MWWCA FALL CONVENTION

The next Exhibitor Show will be held during the MWWCA Fall Convention at Sugarloaf in Carrabassett Valley, September 12-14, 2012.

The event will kick off with the annual golf tournament on September 12th, followed by two days of vendor exhibits and technical sessions. The exhibit area and technical sessions begin on Thursday, September 12th and conclude on Friday, September 13th. Join us for the latest in technology, networking, learning and fun. See you there!!!!

For more information, visit our website at [www.mwwca.org](http://www.mwwca.org) and Sugarloaf at [www.sugarloaf.com](http://www.sugarloaf.com)

## Member Profile:

# Dustin Price, Plant Operator, York Sewer District

By Mac Richardson, Newsletter Co-Editor



Dustin Price has been employed by the York Sewer District for about ten years now, and is involved in the Maine Waste Water

Control Association's Young Professionals Committee. His enthusiasm for what he does and the contribution made by wastewater treatment professionals is obvious and infectious.

Originally from Los Angeles, California, Dustin came to Maine with the Navy and spent a few years working at the Portsmouth Naval shipyard in Kittery. As he became ready to settle down, Maine was an obvious choice for him due to the quality of life and family friendly atmosphere afforded by the Pine Tree State. His entry into the field of wastewater treatment was pretty serendipitous. It was through a comment made by his landlord that Dustin first landed a maintenance position with the York Sewer District. As Dustin became familiar with the district he became interested in operations and laboratory work. He likens working in the laboratory and process control to puzzles which he has always loved. The challenge presented when something changes in process is the fun of the job from Dustin's point of view. He is particularly interested in the microbiology of the activated sludge process, noting that you can just about run a facility just by keeping watch through the microscope. This appreciation for microscopy came into "focus" when he took class on

microscopic examination taught by Dr. Michael Richards and hosted by JETCC. In keeping with his desire to give back to the community that has helped him, Dustin will be helping teach a JETCC class touching on microbiology and other laboratory issues April 10 in Augusta.

The York wastewater treatment facility sees flow of about 1.5 mgd as a daily average with peak flows around 7 million gallons. Slug loads of grease, sand and of course non flushable wipes can cause problems at the plant, sometimes leading to

readings or observations that "don't add up". Those days are just another puzzle to be solved according to Dustin and that is the challenge and the "fun of it". According to Dustin, the best part about working the wastewater treatment field is that there is enormous room for advancement and where you go is limited by your ability and what you put into your job. Don't be surprised if a few years from now you see Dustin sitting in a superintendent's chair. This is one young professional who is on the move! ●

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## 2012 Clean Watershed Needs Survey - Continued

By David Breau, P.E., Clean Watershed Needs Survey Coordinator

Well, we're in the hunt again! The Clean Water Act of 1972 requires that wastewater needs be collected every four years and 2012 is a collection year. This year's data collection period will run from January 9, 2012 thru October 26, 2012. During that time, any needs that have not been constructed or funded as of January 1, 2012 need to be entered into the national database, with appropriate documentation. **Please keep in mind that we are looking for any anticipated needs over the next twenty (20) years.** This exercise is important because Maine's needs, compared with total national wastewater needs, may be used to determine how federal State Revolving Funds will be allotted to Maine in the future. If our percentage of the national total drops, we could receive less money to make available for loans to towns and districts to make upgrades to wastewater infrastructure.

This year's process will continue to use the previously developed and

recently modified web-based data entry system. In addition, local entities may request permission and be granted access to enter data directly through the web-based site, with permission and oversight from the State Clean Watershed Needs Survey Coordinator.

Within the next month, we will be sending out the current summary sheets for your system(s), a letter inquiring into future needs for your system(s), and additional information on the web-based site and instructions on how to request permission to enter data directly into the web-based data collection system.

It is in everyone's best interest for municipalities and sewer districts to help collect and document the greatest needs possible in order to secure low interest federal State Revolving Funds for future projects. Any questions, please contact me.

**Tel: (207) 287-7766**

**E-mail: [david.p.breau@maine.gov](mailto:david.p.breau@maine.gov)** ●

# Explosion-Proof Sewage Pump Stations

By Gene Weeks, Blake Equipment

The National Electrical Code (NEC) defines Class 1 hazardous locations as locations where flammable gases or vapors are, or may be present, in sufficient quantities to produce explosive or ignitable mixtures. Is it possible that gasoline or other explosive substances could be in a sewage system? I think that most of us would have to answer “Yes” to that question. If we do, then we need to classify those pump stations as areas that should be designed to be explosion-proof.

Yet: has there ever actually been a real explosion in a sewage system? Again, the answer is “yes” – but not very many. In 1929, a series of explosions in the sewage system under the streets of Ottawa, Canada killed one person. Descriptions of the incident include the phrase “towering flames that erupted through manhole covers”! It was never proven what caused this incident, but the best suppositions were that oil and gasoline was being dumped into the sewage system by one or more garages, and that explosive vapors from these materials were somehow ignited. More recently, on September 30, 2011 there were multiple explosions in a sewage line near Anarkali Chowk in Pakistan caused by “gas accumulations in the sewage line”. Two people were injured and several vehicles were affected.

So how does a sewage pump get rated explosion-proof by Underwriters Laboratories (UL) or Factory Mutual Research Corporation (FM)? A good example is the process used by Myers Pumps years ago, when the words “explosion proof” were just starting to appear in specifications. Myers Pumps developed a definition of the conditions to be met in order to classify their pumps as “explosion-proof”. First of all, it was assumed that the pumps were in an explosive atmosphere – like the gasoline vapor mentioned previously. Then, it was

assumed that one or more pumps had a catastrophic electrical failure at the same time. To meet the requirement, no matter what happened to the pump, the pump could not be permitted to ignite the explosive atmosphere.

A procedure to test a pump’s response under these conditions was performed as follows: first, the pump motor was removed from its housing: after all, we have already assumed that a catastrophic failure has occurred. The motor housing was then drilled and tapped for a spark plug, and the motor housing filled with a mixture of acetylene and air. The modified motor housing was placed in a closed container containing another acetylene/air mixture. To be considered “explosion-proof”, when the spark plug was fired and an explosion occurred inside the motor housing, that explosion could not allow the acetylene/air mixture outside the pump to explode. Subsequent pump designs were required to satisfy this condition.

Does the installation of explosion proof pumps make it an explosion-proof pump station? No, it does not! In addition to the pump, anything electrical in the pump station that is not also rated explosion-proof must be protected by an intrinsically safe barrier relay, which reduces the voltage and amperage so low that there is no possibility of a spark, even in the case of exposed wires. This requirement applies to any level-sensing devices, such as float switches, pressure transducers, and ultrasonic transducers. If the pump station has any other electrical devices in the wet well, such as junction boxes, fans, or lights, they must either be rated explosion-proof or protected by intrinsically safe relays. Control panels that interface with any of these electrical devices must be rated UL698a. The last ingredient to make an explosion-proof pump station is

non-sparking slide rails.

How does this discussion relate to your existing pump stations? Should you consider explosion-proof ratings in your maintenance or upgrade programs? When you have to replace a pump, should you install an explosion-proof pump in place of an older non-explosion proof pump and retrofit intrinsically safe relays into your control panels? The answer to all of the above is: possibly; these are questions you may want to discuss with your engineering firm.

## Editor’s Note:

**About the author:** Gene Weeks is the newest member of the MWWCA Newsletter “staff”. He is a 20 year pump veteran in the water and wastewater industries. Gene has a B.S. degree in Mechanical Engineering and is currently employed as a sales engineer by Blake Equipment in Portland, ME, covering New Hampshire, Maine and northern Massachusetts.



**Maine WasteWater NEWS** is a quarterly publication of the Maine WasteWater Control Association. (Publication months: Feb, May, Aug, Nov) Opinions expressed in this publication should be addressed to: MWWCA, 60 Community Drive, Augusta, ME 04330.

Website: [www.mwwca.org](http://www.mwwca.org)

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[astrause@tataandhoward.com](mailto:astrause@tataandhoward.com)

# 2012 Legislative Breakfast

## *Continuing the Effort*

By the MWWCA Government Affairs Committee

On Thursday, February 16 over fifty people attended a breakfast at the Senator Inn in Augusta to showcase the efforts that have been made in the past year to keep Maine's water and wastewater infrastructure strong and to underscore the value of the Sate Revolving Loan Program to that effort. Jointly sponsored by the Maine Wastewater Control Association, the Maine Water Utilities Association and the New England Water Environment Association, nearly 25 legislators from both political parties were treated to a delicious breakfast and a slide show featuring projects from every corner of Maine. Before and after breakfast, time was allotted for networking and for the legislators to ask questions of

treatment facility personnel, regulators and consultants. Brief remarks were offered by MWWCA president Jeff McBurnie, MWUA president Jon Ziegra, and NEWEA president Dan Bisson. A brief case study was also presented by Mike Hanson of the Sanford Sewer District.

We wish to offer our special thanks to Patty Aho, Maine DEP commissioner for attending and bringing a number of key staff to the event. As was later noted at the MWWCA executive committee, it is our association's continued presence, year after year, that makes MWWCA a strong voice in Augusta for issues affecting our water environment. ●

### President's Message cont'd

away, Spring and Fall Conference planning is well underway. MWWCA Ski Day is just around the corner on March 14th. A Young Professionals group has been established and is becoming quite active. Our Government Affairs Committee is diligently monitoring what is going on in Augusta and Washington to ensure that proposed legislation does not negatively affect our profession. The Lab Committee has been active, working with the DEP, to gain clarity regarding analyses and reporting limits. In early March, a group of Executive Committee members and other volunteers will head to Washington, DC, to plead the case for continued support of SRF and other infrastructure funding from the Maine delegation. The list goes on. Finally, we can't forget the stalwart, yet often overlooked, work of our fine MMA support team.

With the breath-taking speed at which things move, it's often easy to forget that we are a volunteer group, working for the benefit of all members. Our volunteers participate because they are passionate about our environment and the effort required to protect it. These volunteer efforts return amazing results to our Association and the industry in general. As always, we invite you to be an active part of this great group, whether through volunteering on a committee, submitting an article for the newsletter, joining us at an Executive Committee meeting, or just asking us questions or requesting our support on an issue important to you and your utility.

Finally, I wish you all the best for the coming year (or at least what's left of it) and hope that you are all safe, healthy and productive. ●

# Urban Runoff 5K to be Held in Portland

by Aubrey Strause, Tata & Howard, Inc.

The Cumberland County Soil and Water Conservation District (CCSWCD) helps administer the USEPA Municipal Separate Storm Sewer System (MS4) permit for eleven southern Maine communities regulated by that permit. This year, the CCSWCD is also helping coordinate the first Urban Runoff 5K, which will be held on April 21, 2012.

The goals of the run/walk are to raise awareness of water pollution and raise money to support clean water education in local schools. The date was chosen to coincide with Earth Day and spring's "first flush" of stormwater pollution. To learn more about how your district or community can get involved, including how to register as a participant or volunteer, visit <http://www.urbanrunoff5k.com/>

**MARK YOUR CALENDARS!**

**MWWCA  
Spring  
Conference**

**April 27, 2012  
Black Bear Inn  
Orono, ME**

# Drinking Water – Wastewater It's all in the Lab!

By June Mooney, Greater Augusta Utility District, and MWWCA Laboratory Committee

Greetings to MWWCA members, I am the chairperson for the Laboratory Committee. I have the privilege of being the keeper of an e-mail list of people with lots of experience and many talents.

My name is June Mooney and I work for the Greater Augusta Utility District. I started with the Augusta Water District 22 years ago as a lab tech, and over time I've been a water treatment plant operator and the lab person for surface water treatment and ground water. About six years ago the Augusta Water District and the Augusta Sanitary District were merged to form the Greater Augusta Utility District. As a result I have been introduced to wastewater laboratory practices.

Last November, Leeann Hanson from JETCC asked me a question. "What are common tests and practices in both wastewater and drinking water laboratories?" I think that is a very good question, and I'll try to answer that one here.

We can begin with bacteria such as total coliforms, fecal coliforms, and E. coli done a couple of ways. Colilert™ presence/absence, quanti-tray, and most probable number are most commonly used. Then there is membrane filtration for colony counts, and depending on what media you use, the colonies will be total coliforms, fecal coliforms, Klebsiella or fecal streptococcus.

Some other tests we all use are pH, ortho-phosphate, total phosphate, free and total chlorine residual, total solids, alkalinity, temperature, ammonia, nitrate, nitrite, conductivity, turbidity, and total organic carbon.

We need to be able to identify algae, as well as ciliates, flagellates, rotifers, filamentous forms, and nematodes, and various types of bacteria. Depending on the type and abundance of various bacteria, we may be look-

ing at good floc or bad floc and may be able to diagnose many operational problems and make changes before effluent exceedences are experienced. In short, knowing how to use a microscope is important.

We are all concerned with laboratory safety. We have to deal with chemical storage, labeling, and disposal. And let's not forget Material Safety Data Sheets (MSDS) and the personal protection equipment (PPE) that keeps us from harm when we use it correctly.

Then there is the laboratory equipment we all rely on. Generating good data depends on the accuracy of your equipment. The balance has to weigh accurately over a broad range. The incubator, drying oven, muffle furnace, and autoclave all operate at precise temperatures. In order to accomplish good and defensible results for solids tests, and many others we need a standard, calibrated thermometer. Let's not

overlook the dissolved oxygen meter; if it isn't working we are not happy.

Laboratory people also need to be familiar with the metric system as well as the uses and functions of all the different laboratory glassware. We all need to keep good records of testing results, know how to choose a certified lab, and read those lab results when they come back.

The Laboratory Committee is here to help MWWCA members respond to problems they might encounter and answer questions that may arise. We are connected by e-mail, if you need help write to me at [jmooney@augustawater.org](mailto:jmooney@augustawater.org) and I'll pass the question to the committee and we will try to get a good answer for you. If you would like to have a training class on a particular topic you can contact me or Leeann Hanson at JETCC, [jetcc@maine.rr.com](mailto:jetcc@maine.rr.com). We welcome your suggestions for training classes. 🌐

## Reaching OUT!

*Editor's note:* We hope to make this a feature in each issue of your MWWCA newsletter. It is very important that we let the public know what we do and share the hard work that our people do each day to protect and improve Maine waters. As a way to build and foster outreach, we will list tours, presentations, cooperative ventures that Maine wastewater treatment facilities have completed. Please send simple statements to: [crichardson@lawpca.org](mailto:crichardson@lawpca.org). We will list as many as space allows.

**January 10** – LAWPCA participated in the Androscoggin Area Career Fair for high school sophomores at Central Maine Community College

**Jan 10&11** – INDA (trade association of non-woven fabrics)/MWWCA/

PWD joint study on the impact of "flushables" on pump clogging

**January 12** – Sanford Sewer District hosted a bus tour of Maine legislators stressing the value of the SRLF program

**January 20** – Girls Scouts from troop 3136 (Wells) toured the Sanford Sewer District Facilities

**February 7-12** – Bates college Students toured LAWPCA

**February 16** – Boy Scouts from Troop 805 (Windham) toured the LAWPCA treatment plant.

**February 15** – South Portland met with eight 4<sup>th</sup> grade teachers to make plans to help over 300 children learn about wastewater and stormwater issues. 🌐

# Maine WasteWater NEWS

## FEBRUARY 2012 ISSUE

*please circulate and share with your colleagues*



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