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MISSION STATEMENT

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

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



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Year In Review

by Frank Dunmire,
IRWA Executive Director

This past year has seen many changes and challenges for rural water associations across the nation – including Illinois Rural Water Association. When the New Year rang in, there were many who were wondering whether or not rural water would survive 2011. The political climate in our Nation’s Capital seemed to be turning toxic and there was a real and justifiable concern that the Government would shut down without some sort of a spending package passing the deeply divided Congress. Despite these challenges and those presented by the depressed economy; the ever-increasing federal budget deficit and the political climate in Congress rural water folks chose to heed the words of one of the greatest football coaches of record. Notre Dame’s Lou Holtz once said “How you respond to the challenge in

the second half will determine what you become after the game, whether you are a winner or a loser.” Not wanting to be a loser, representatives from rural water associations across the country descended on DC in an effort to convince their Senators and Congressmen that not only should a spending agreement be reached but that funding for rural water and wastewater systems should be a part of that agreement. It is with great pleasure that I can report to our membership that, although it was a “bloody battle with many injuries”, rural water has come out a winner. I thought I would close out this year with a brief review of some of the year’s high (and sometimes low) points for IRWA.

- ❖ Towards the end of the heated and sometimes contentious debate over the budget, a shutdown of



the Federal Government (and its programs) was looming on the horizon. In a nutshell, if a shutdown were to occur all nonessential staff and services would not be paid or funded during its duration. While the dreaded shutdown did not occur it was comforting to know that the Circuit Rider program

continued on page 5

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was considered to be an essential program and would have continued to receive its funding without interruption.

- ❖ During the appropriations process, the House generally funds a program at one level while the Senate funds it a slightly different level. To reconcile the different funding levels a joint conference is held where the final level is determined and is most generally set somewhere between the two. This year the Circuit Rider program was funded at the higher of the two levels...a major accomplishment given that other programs were either completely cut out or received substantially reduced funding.
- ❖ Although it was slightly lower than FY

10, Rural Development funding for water and wastewater programs was set at approximately \$513 million.

- ❖ FSA Source Water assistance was funded at a level that would not sustain the then current number of programs across the country necessitating cutting the number of programs. Ten states lost their FSA Source Water program. Illinois was not one of those cut!
- ❖ It seemed that it was “open season” on USEPA in DC this past year and it was originally feared that the revolving loan funds for both drinking and waste water would be significantly reduced if not cut altogether. As of this writing, both of the revolving loan programs were funded at reduced levels. The

drinking water SRF was funded at \$919.4 million while the wastewater SRF received \$ 1.469 billion.

- ❖ In 2010 the USEPA training and source water funds were sacrificed when the no earmark wave swept through Washington. For 2011, these funds have been reinstated on a competitive bid basis – no longer stipulating they go to the state rural water associations through NRWA. It goes without saying, but I will put it down here anyway, IRWA along with all of its sister associations will be doing everything within their power to ensure that these funds are secured for rural water systems. That being said, it will most likely be somewhat of a lengthy process

continued on page 6



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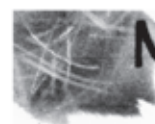
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wading through all of the levels of bureaucracy surely to be placed in the way.

- ❖ Even with the loss of funds IRWA has been able to fall back on their reserves and maintain current staffing levels. Unfortunately, the loss of these funds has forced IRWA to cease sponsoring almost all of its free training sessions and move into the fee-based arena. As I write this article, IRWA's Training Specialist is being assisted by Kathy Rodgers (former USEPA Source Water Specialist) in developing advanced training sessions to be offered in the upcoming year.
- ❖ In response to reduced funding both the staff and Board of the IRWA

looked at other ways of generating revenue that might offset a portion of those reductions and has introduced two new programs this past year. These programs, video surveying sewer lines and GPS/GIS mapping, have both been well received by our members and are beginning to generate some revenue.

- ❖ Last year's annual conference held in Effingham was another one for the books and this year's agenda has already been set. If you have not already, you will be receiving your registration packets for this year's conference shortly. Hope to see you there!
- ❖ Finally, we in Illinois have brought to a close another embarrassing

chapter in Illinois politics. Former Governor Rod Blagojevich was convicted on most of the counts brought against him and will begin serving his time next month. Let's hope this is the last time we have to send our Governor to prison – we are running out of room for them!

Although the past year may have been a challenging one, it has been a rewarding one as well. Through adversity we all grow stronger and that certainly has been demonstrated by those of us in the rural water family. In closing I would like to leave you with another of Lou Holtz's quotes: "Life is ten percent what happens to you and ninety percent how you respond to it."



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An Introduction to HDPE Piping Systems

*by Chuck Woodworth,
Circuit Rider, IRWA*

Recently I was invited to participate in a training session with other Circuit Riders at McElroy Manufacturing in Tulsa, Oklahoma. This training was all about HDPE (High Density Polyethylene) pipe and how to correctly fuse it together. As a Circuit Rider I found the training very valuable as I had never worked with HDPE pipe in the past. Not only was this training in a classroom sitting it was hands on training where us Circuit Riders operated the fusing machines and made fused pipe joints. I would like to extend a thank you to all the guys that provided great information, knowledge and time to do this training.

What is Polyethylene (PE)? PE is a thermoplastic produced from polymerization of ethylene molecules; ethylene is a derivative of ethane, a constituent within natural gas or a derivative of oil refining. Various grades of PE is used for different applications such as pipe, flat sheets, most commonly used as blown bottles, soda bottles, water bottles and various other types of bottles, jars and storage containers.

Some features and benefits of HDPE pipe; outstanding chemical resistance, tough and durable, lightweight and flexible, exceptional surge resistance, fused joints has no gaskets to leak, service range is -140° up to 140°F, does not support biological growth or iron build-ups, will not rust, rot, pit or corrode. Can you say that about your current system pipe? HDPE pipe has a broad range of uses; water related application include potable water distribution, raw water, waste water handling, intakes and outfalls. Other applications include gas distribution, oil & gas production,

industrial, mining, nuclear and power generation, telecommunications ducts and several other uses. PE has approvals from NSF, AWWA and FM. PE piping systems are designed to provide maximum capability and flexibility. It is well suited for multiple sized systems it is made in a full range of diameters from ½" CTS to 120" ID. When each piece of PE is properly fused together it becomes one solid piece of pipe.

During our hands on part of the training, I fused a TAP fitting to a 3" piece of PE, fused two pieces of 6" PE, fused a service line and watch as fused joints were tested for strength. During the fusion process these 6 steps must be followed for any type of fused joint.

- 1) clamp, clean and align the pipe ends.
- 2) face the pipe ends.
- 3) check alignment.
- 4) melt the pipe ends at a predetermined pressure.
- 5) join the pipe at the predetermined pressure. And
- 6) hold under pressure until cool. If each of these steps are followed the result will be a structurally sound, fully pressure-rated joint strong as or stronger than the pipe itself.

The strength test was very interesting I thought, they cut out a section of the joint and pipe in the shape of a bow tie making the fused joint the smallest part of the test strip and then using hydraulic pressure pulling on the section, the pipe will start to stretch and the joint remains the same.



I thought the most interesting picture out of all the pictures they had on the wall was a picture of a river bank that had been washed away from a recent flood. Sticking out of the bank was a broken section of cast iron pipe, a bell end of a section of PVC where the next piece had just pulled out of the bell and the HDPE pipe still connected snaking down through the washed out area of the river bed. This one picture containing three types of water mains in an extreme situation two of the three failed.

As I said before I have never worked with HDPE pipe as a Water Operator or as a Circuit Rider, I have put a few sticks of PVC together. But after my hands on experience in Tulsa I would have to say, in my opinion fusing HDPE pipe is easy and when fused correctly it becomes a part of a leak proof system. If you're looking for a leak proof system you might want to check out HDPE pipe. For more information about HDPE pipe go to these web sites, Plastic Pipe Institute at www.plasticpipe.org or WL plastics at www.wlplastics.com or if you would like to know more about fusion machines go to www.mcelroy.com.



What to Do When Fire Destroys Everything

*by Perry Musgrave,
IRWA Board Member*

First of all, I had never thought of this subject until a week ago. You see, this past December 5th, the church that I am a pastor at, burned down. It has been very devastating to lose the building, contents, and its history.

The reason I'm writing this, is to get you thinking about being prepared if such an experience and loss would ever happen to you. It might not even be a fire, but maybe a flood or a tornado. Is your City Hall or office for your water and sewer departments covered for such a loss? When a loss happens, it's too late to be reviewing your insurance policy to see if you were covered. You should be reviewing and updating them annually, or with every new piece of equipment purchased. In such a disaster, with a total loss, you have to list everything that was in the building. Are you prepared to do this? I know I was not. It's known

that we should make a video of all our contents and put it in a safety deposit box. I sure wish that I would have done so. Trying to recall everything from memory is not an easy task, and no doubt some things will be forgotten.

The next step is to backup your computers, or even better yet, have an off-site server to store all your information. Think of what you have on your computers... billing data, meter readings, board minutes, inventory, correspondence, ordinances, and many other documents. Some of you are thinking we backup our important records, and put it in our fireproof safe. That is a start, but when the fire department puts almost a million gallons of water on your burning building, and your safe is not water proof, you will most likely lose what was in it due to water damage. So, if you are depending

on a safe to store your records, make sure it is both fire and water proof.

In the midst of all of this, you have to get another place to carry on your day to day business. Also, cancel utility services that you no longer need such as phone, water, sewer, gas, and electric. Then too, work with your insurance to get payment to clean up and rebuild. And last but not least, you'll have to find contractors to clean up the debris and to start reconstruction. So my advice to you is do your homework and be prepared. A little work now will help you put a plan in place that will save you a lot of hardship if you find yourself losing everything. This is much like our emergency response plan (ERP) for our systems. It's all about being prepared the best you can if a disaster happens to you.



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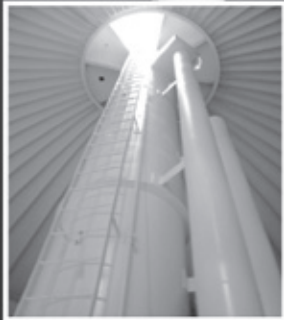


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Retirements & Infrastructure

by Mark E. Mitchell,
Source Water Protection Specialist,
IRWA

As January rolls around and another new year begins, I am thinking of the seasoned and experienced water and wastewater system operators we lost to retirement during the past year. How does this relate to infrastructure? I think much lip service has been given to repairing and replacing aging infrastructure, but what thought has been given to an aging work force that maintains, repairs and replaces (when possible) that aging infrastructure. As I visit with operators who are approaching retirement I always ask... "What is the City Council/Village Board planning to do about replacing your position?" All too often (most times) the answer is, "They are not planning to replace my position, but are going to try to consolidate tasks into existing people." Not sure how you see it, but to me that looks like the existing personnel are going to be asked to work harder and longer hours. These people will eventually crack under pressure (isn't that what is happening to our aging infrastructure), and then who will be left to maintain, repair and replace our existing aging infrastructure. I know I am "preaching to the choir" here, but

just possibly a mayor, an alderperson, a village/city manager or board member will read this and start to think that maybe, just maybe a way to start helping our aging infrastructure would be to invest in the personnel who maintain, repair and replace it.

I recently had lunch with Mr. Marvin Ong, Water Superintendent for the City of Geneseo who by now is fully retired after almost 38 years in the water treatment industry. He has much more to offer to our industry, yet due to circumstances beyond his control, has chosen to retire and he will take with him his many, many years of experience in the water treatment and distribution field. I asked Marvin over lunch in Geneseo when I was last there, if he was looking forward to his retirement. His response was that he was having mixed feelings. He was going to miss his co-workers, but was also looking forward to not having the constant headaches that are constantly thrust on those in responsible positions. This tells me something very important about our field and that is that our co-workers become extensions of ourselves



over the years and when it is our turn for retirement, we very well miss those relationships we have established over the many years most of us have been dedicated to our profession in many different facets.

The take-away from this article is that in my opinion, a major investment in infrastructure **MUST BE** an investment in the people who operate that infrastructure. And to all those dedicated water and wastewater operators who have retired, **Thank You for all your years of dedicated service to our industry. We appreciate it!**



Vince Newton and
Marvin Ong
Geneseo, IL

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Technical Conference*



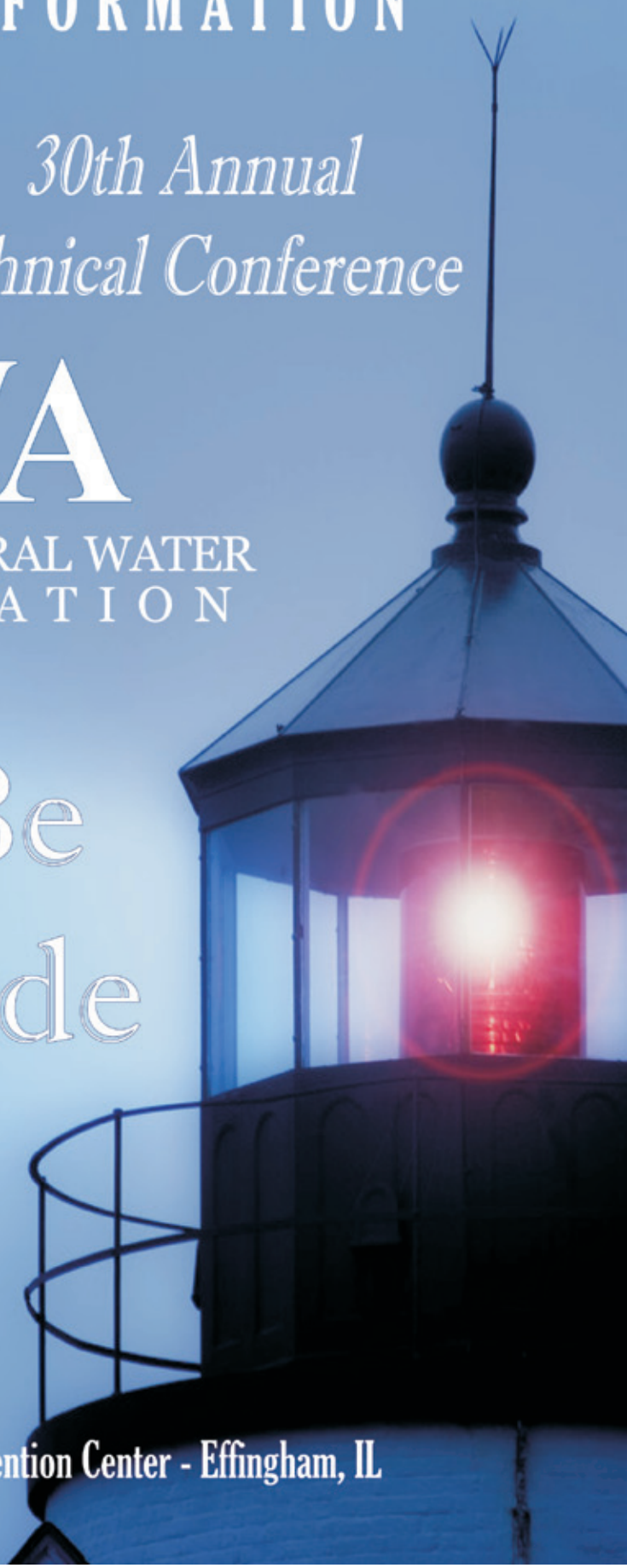
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Pre-Registration:

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

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Pre-registration must be postmarked by February 10th, 2012.

On-Site Registration

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

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



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Registration Hours:

Tuesday, February 21st	8:00 a.m.-4:00 p.m.
Wednesday, February 22nd	8:00 a.m.-4:00 p.m.
Thursday, February 23rd	8:00 a.m.-9:00 a.m.

Cancellation & Refunds:

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

EXHIBIT HALL

Professionals from all areas of the water and wastewater industry will be on hand to help solve your problems and provide you with the information you need to make those crucial decisions. 86 companies will be bringing their products and services to you at this year's conference.

The exhibit hall will be open during the following hours:

Tuesday February 21st	10:30 a.m.-4:00 p.m.
Wednesday, February 22nd	8:00 a.m.-3:15 p.m.

EXHIBITORS HOSPITALITY NIGHT

Tuesday, February 21st	5:30 p.m.- 9:00 p.m.
------------------------	----------------------

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

PUB CRAWL

Tuesday, February 21st

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

CASINO NIGHT

Wednesday February 22nd	6:00 p.m.-9:00 p.m.
-------------------------	---------------------

SPORTSMAN RAFFLE

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

NEW PRODUCTS/SERVICES ROOM

Stop by the Jefferson Room to see the presentations for the new and improved products or services our exhibitors have to offer. A new presentation will begin every 45 minutes. The schedule of sessions will be included in your packet at the conference. **These sessions will be included for CEU's.**

CONFERENCE AT A GLANCE

Tuesday, February 21st		Registration Open: 8:00 a.m. — 4:00 p.m.	
9:00 a.m.—10:30 a.m.	Opening/Awards Ceremony/RD Update/NRWA Update		
10:30 a.m.—11:15 a.m.	Break/Exhibit Hall Opens		
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11:15 a.m.—12:00 p.m.	IEPA Regulatory Update	Video Inspections: Before and After	Low Lead or No Lead? Which one is it and are you ready for it?
12:00 p.m.—1:00 p.m.	Lunch Buffet—Ticket Required		
1:00 p.m.—1:45 p.m.	Water Sampling Sites	Solving Real Life, Unusual Wastewater Problems in Illinois Communities	FOIA/OMA Overview and Update
1:45 p.m.—2:30 p.m.		Nocarida/Filamentous Control	
2:30 p.m.—3:00 p.m.	Break/Exhibitor Drawings		
3:00 p.m.—4:30 p.m.	Emor	eDMR 2.0	Billing Software 101
4:30 p.m.	Annual Meeting/Water Taste Test		
5:30 p.m.—9:00 p.m.	Hospitality Night		
Wednesday, February 22nd		Registration Open: 8:00 a.m. — 4:00 p.m.	
8:00 a.m.	Exhibit Hall Opens		
9:00 a.m.—10:30 a.m.	Radium Treatment Residual Regulations	Magna Drive—Controllers	Impact of Health Care Reform on Small Municipalities
10:30 a.m.—11:00 a.m.	Break/Exhibitor Drawings		
11:00 a.m.—12:00 p.m.	GPS/GIS	IEPA Updates	Leak Detection
12:00 p.m.—1:00 p.m.	Lunch Buffet/Ticket Required		
1:00 p.m.—2:30 p.m.	VFD Applications	Pump Station Basics	Energy Provider Alternatives
2:30 p.m.—3:00 p.m.	Break/Exhibitor Drawings		
3:00 p.m.—4:30 p.m.	Network Security	Sludge Removal from A—Z	Get to Know Microsoft Access
6:00 p.m.—9:00 p.m.	Casino Night /Announcement of Sportsman Raffle Winners		
Thursday, February 23rd		Registration Open: 8:00 a.m. — 9:00 a.m.	
7:30 a.m.—8:30 a.m.	Breakfast Buffet/Ticket Required		
8:30 a.m.—9:15 a.m.	Storage Tank Water Quality	Lagoon Aeration	Using a Multi-Meter Correctly
9:15 a.m.—10:00 a.m.			Using a Multi-Meter Correctly (REPEAT)
10:00 a.m.—10:15 a.m.	Break		
10:15 a.m.—11:45 a.m.	Filter Media Management & TOC/DBP Control	Preparing for the Storm (Power-wise)	Cellular Technology for the Municipal World
11:45 a.m.—12:00 p.m.	Closing Ceremony/Grand Prize Drawing		

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SESSIONS AT A GLANCE

WATER SESSIONS

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

National Rural Water Update - Steve Fletcher; IRWA Board/NRWA National Director - Hear about the latest news and happenings from your state and national associations.

IEPA Regulatory Update - Dave McMillan; IEPA - Regulations may come and they may go (**no, they won't**) and they may change. Come hear about new and changing regulations in this informal session.

Water Sampling Sites - Dan McKeague; The Kupferle Foundry Company - Do your sample collection sites meet the criteria needed to provide good sampling results? Check out what you can do to improve your collection sites.

eMOR - Tim Bryant; Illinois State Water Survey - Come learn about eMOR, a new computer system that allows water operators to upload, save and access their IEPA Monthly Operators Reports.

Radium Treatment Residual Regulations - Gary Forsee; IEMA - The Illinois Emergency Management Agency is now completing an inventory of possible sites where radium could accumulate in some treatment plants. Hear how you can be sure to be in compliance with this new rule.

GPS/GIS - Don Craig; IRWA - Find out how GIS/GPS can make your job easier.

VFD Applications - Ryan Overby; Engineered Fluid, Inc.
VFD Drives – a multipurpose piece of equipment. Attending this session will reveal the full potential of VFDs.

Network Security - Matthew Cowell; Phoenix Contact - This session highlights the vulnerabilities associated with industrial devices and how they can be exploited. Simple countermeasures are offered up along the way for improving network security.

Storage Tank Water Quality - Ken Woods & Mike Duer; Red Valve/Tideflex Technologies - Come to this session to learn about the science of mixing water tanks.

Filter Media Management & TOC/DBP Control - Nick Stanley; Water Solutions Unlimited - Get the most out of your plant's filters as well as information on how to keep TOC's and DBP's under control.

WASTEWATER SESSIONS

Video Inspections: Before & After - John Bell, Bill Dowell, & Don Craig; IRWA - See out what we found in your sewer! We will be showing case study pictures from systems that have used the inspection van.

Solving Real Life, Unusual Wastewater Problems in Illinois Communities - Kevin Ripp; AQUAFIX - Find out how to combine practical knowledge and technical knowledge as you solve your problems.

Nocardia/Filamentous Control - Kevin Ripp; AQUAFIX - Controlling Nocardia, Microthrix and other types of filamentous organisms can be a challenging experience and lead to sleepless night. This session will focus on the causes of the major filamentous organisms and how they can be prevented. Attendees are encouraged to bring in samples of their wastewater if you are having bacterial issues.

eDMR 2.0 - Wayne Nelson; IRWA - The next generation of eDMR has arrived. Faster and easier than the old program you can now complete your DMR's on-line without watching your grass grow between steps.

IEPA Updates - Scott Twait; IEPA - Be sure to sit in on this session to hear about the updates on the wastewater side.

Pump Station Maintenance - Mike Rynd; Vandevanter Engineering - Along with the basic components and their function, Mike will also cover maintenance and safety of the pump station

Magna Drive Controllers - Jim Moorman; Core Energy Group - From couplings for water and sewer pumps to electric motors that result in less energy use and less alignment problems.

Sludge Removal from A - Z - Greg Firrantello & Jason Hill; Stewart Spreading - Is your lagoon system getting older? Has the sludge ever been removed? Learn how to restore your lagoon's capacity from sludge judging to dewatering to actual sludge removal.

Lagoon Aeration (Fine Bubble) - John Jacobs; WTR Solutions, LLC - This discussion will cover the various types of aeration methods and their effects on the water biology. The benefits of fine-bubble diffusion will be explained.

Preparing for the Storm (Power-wise) - Allen Taylor; Richards Electric - Is your system ready when the electricity goes out? Knowing ahead of time what type of generator you would need can make the difference between a minor inconvenience to a major disaster. In this session hear about generator options and sizing, electrical connections, and safety procedures.

BREAKOUT SESSIONS

Low Lead or No Lead - Which one is it and are you ready for it? - David Cole; Mueller Co. - Find out how the new law will effect you and what products are included.

FOIA/OMA Overview & Update - Wayne Nelson; IRWA - FOIA and Open Meetings Act Continue to change. Now Public Act 097-0504 requires that EVERY elected and appointed official must pass the OMA exam. Learn about this new requirement and others. *If any attendees wish to take the OMA exam, it will be offered in the 3:00 - 4:30 time slot across from the exhibit hall in Room 5.*

Taking Utility Software to the Next Level - Beyond Basic Billing - Hunter Brown & Brian Boyd; United Systems & Software - Getting the most out of your billing software program? Join us as we explore current technology and advanced software features to help utilities manage billing operations and enhance customer service.

Impact of Health Care Reform on Small Municipalities - Brian Jablonski; Linden Group - Find out the latest on how the health care reform will affect you and learn what other municipalities have done to help offset the large health insurance renewals.

Leak Detection - Gale Moore, Pat Gammill, and Chuck Woodworth; IRWA - Are you losing water, and don't know where to find it? Our circuit riders can give you some helpful tips on what to look for when finding a leak in your system.

Energy Provider Alternatives - Tamika Cole; Ameren Energy Marketing - You are probably aware that in the State of Illinois you can choose which company supplies your electricity. Come to this session to hear some of the options that are available to you.

Get to know Microsoft Access - Kathy Rodgers; IRWA - Learn about the structure and benefits of a Microsoft® Access database, and become familiar with ways to get data into and out of one. A database is much more than just a list or table.

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

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

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Bird Contamination and Your Water Tank

Submitted by Don Johnston

In 1993, a small community located in the “boot-heel” of Missouri suddenly experienced a large waterborne disease outbreak. In a community with a population of a little over 1100 people, there was an estimated 650 cases of gastroenteritis. Of these, fifteen individuals required hospitalization and seven residents of a local nursing home died. The resulting investigation by federal and state authorities determined, that among other problems with the water system, pigeon droppings had found access to the water in the community’s 100,000 gallon water tower and had contaminated the city’s drinking water. An inspection of the water tank showed that access had been allowed by an improper roof vent and an uncovered hatch. Bird feathers were observed inside the tower indicating not only bird droppings in the water but also the possibility of dead birds and other contaminants.

Occurrences like this are all too common. Recent cases have happened in Kansas, Maine, Massachusetts, and other states across the country. One Midwest tank inspection firm reports that 20 to 25 percent of the tanks they inspect have serious sanitary defects. Improperly designed roof hatch systems and vents that do not provide a watertight seal are the cause of most of these defects. Damage or holes that have been cut in the tank’s roof and not properly sealed or open and unlocked access openings, and in some cases, the construction practices in some tanks more than 30 years old are typical defects. Sometimes hanging cathodic protection systems does not provide a tight seal. If you can stand inside your tank and see daylight through the roof, you’ve got problems.

Why are these defects problems?

Even if the openings in the roof aren’t large enough for birds to enter, tank roofs are basically flat structures and birds defecate on the roof. These bird droppings dry up and the wind blows it, or rain washes it, under poorly fitting roof vents and hatches, into poorly fitting cathodic protection systems, and in the case of older, bolted tanks, into the openings left when bolts have disintegrated or have worked themselves loose. Any section of the roof that has rusted through, may still allow the dried bird droppings access to your water supply.

As a water system operator, what can you do to ensure that your system is not affected by a waterborne disease outbreak? A regular, thorough personal inspection of all your water tanks is a good place to start. Examine the vents and hatches to ensure they fit properly and are properly screened. Then examine the overflow or your tank. It should come to near grade and be fitted with a ¼” mesh screen which is inside a close fitting flap gate.

AWWA recommends tanks be drained and inspected every three years. This would be a good time to have a professional tank inspection firm, knowledgeable in the sanitary aspects of tanks, to do the inspection. Not only can they address the issues of screens, access openings, cathodic protection devices, and problems inherent to radio antennas that may be on your tank, they can also do an ultra-sound to determine areas of your tank that may be susceptible to rusting through and causing more openings. A professional firm should also provide you with a written report of their findings and recommendations.

Contamination from birds is a major water quality problem in storage tanks. A

lot of the contamination occurs because of a lack of attention to the sanitary integrity of the water tank. Routine inspections of tanks should be done on a daily or at least weekly basis to monitor the exterior of the tank for evidence of intrusion, security, or vandalism. Periodic inspections should be done to review areas of the tank not normally accessible from the ground, in other words, the roof. And a comprehensive inspection should be done on a regular basis, to evaluate the current conditions of the tank components.

(Don Johnston is the owner of Pittsburg Tank & Tower Company Inc., which is an Associate Member of IRWA, and is located in Henderson, KY. IRWA is thankful for his article and continued support.)



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Aging Gracefully is a Widespread Self-esteem Challenge

by David Leonhardt

“Well, Happy Birthday! How old are you anyway?”

“Oh, I’m just 29 ... again.”

It’s a harmless game, denying our age, right? We play sensitive about our age as we get older, as we get further away from birth and closer to death. It’s just a way to share our unease of growing older with people around us. Ah ... aging gracefully.

Try as we might, time marches on and we get older just the same. I was reminded about this when I recently read that we are now seven million years old. That’s at least a million years older than we were just one year ago.

Of course, that does not mean you or I personally aged a million years in the past 365 days. That would be taking the term “personal growth” or “aging”,

gracefully or otherwise, too far. It would be either a b-rated horror movie or the phenomenal work of a genius. In fact, an early human skull found in the Sahara Desert is 7 million years old, pushing “the start of human evolution back at least another million years.”

For you and me, age is important. Denying one’s age, or even being sensitive about it, can be disabling to many of us. Our years, our lines, our scars are part of who we are. They should be a matter of comfort and pride and even our joy. Happiness eludes us when we feel embarrassed, guilty, or even shy about any part of who we are.

Aging gracefully is a matter of self-esteem

What’s at stake here? Our happiness. Our self-esteem. Our zest and sense of daily joy. Our life satisfaction.

It’s time for each of us to take pride again in everything we are. Try saying something like this: “I am pushing 40 (or whatever age applies to you). I have lived 40 years of happiness.

I have survived 40 years of challenges. I have experienced 40 years of personal growth. I have learned so many life lessons from 40 trips around the sun. (I have much more to learn, so God, please let me live another 40!) I am aging gracefully. I have thrived, mostly, during 40 years. And I am proud of every one of those years.”

Once upon a time, the elders of the village were revered. They bore both knowledge and wisdom. Now we settle for just knowledge. The elders carried traditions down from generations. Now we just create brand new “traditions”. The elders were our leaders. Now we downsize them.

Youth has its own beauty, its own advantages, its own joy, its own reasons to be admired. So, too, does middle age. In fact, every age is important and every age is beautiful. How old are you right now? (Really, I don’t mean “29 again”.) Whatever age you are, right now that is the perfect age for you -- and the perfect age to be proud of.

Oh sure, it is sort of harmless to kid about one’s age. And many people joke about it harmlessly. But many of us also have a deep unease about our age and our aging -- an unease that can hold back our self-esteem and our happiness.

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Aging Gracefully is a Widespread Self-esteem Challenge

continued from page 20

Aging gracefully is another type of personal growth?

I recall sitting in my pew when it suddenly dawned on me why one member of the all-female choir looked so different. Every lady was at least 40 years old. Most were over 50. But the other heads were jet black or honey brown or sandy blonde or some other artificial tint. White Top Lady stood out from the crowd. She packed a loaded bundle of white hair. Reality check.

It is no sin to dye one's hair, as long as we don't do it during the service.

It is just one of many ways we adorn ourselves. But the sight of a dozen elderly ladies with hair colors impossible for their age (and perhaps even impossible for any age!) made me want to laugh out loud right there in church. (I resisted.) All the heads would probably have looked normal if White Top Lady's hair had not been screaming out, "I'm proud of my color. I'm proud of my age. I'm not going to hide. I'm aging gracefully."

It's time to be proud of everything about ourselves, including our age. So to everybody aging gracefully out there, "Happy Seven Millionth!"

About the Author

David Leonhardt is author of a self-help happiness book. He also runs a Liquid Vitamins Store and serves as a SEO/SEM website marketing consultant. Read more: <http://www.thehappyguy.com/aging-gracefully.html#ixzzJfCPJEhSq>.



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amount charged for a Map Book with be \$50 plus \$5 per page, and a wall map is billed at \$100 per map. More information is also posted on our website at www.ilrwa.org, or you may call our office at 217-287-2115.



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Taking Charge of Your Life

Contributed by Roger Ellerton

How do you live your life? At cause or at effect? It is important to be aware of this distinction. It is the rare individual who always lives his or her life at cause; however, far too many of us live a large portion of our lives at effect - responding to the whims, desires or emotional states of others.

Being at cause means that you are decisive in creating what you want in life and take responsibility for whatever you achieve. You see the world as a place of opportunity and you move toward achieving what you desire. If things are not unfolding as you would like, you take action and explore other possibilities. Above all, you know you have choice in what you do and how you react to people and events.

If you are at effect, you may blame others or circumstances for your bad moods, for what you have not achieved or for the disarray of your life in general. You may feel powerless or depend on others in order for you to feel good about yourself or about life. You may think, "If only my spouse, my boss, my co-workers, my parents, my children understood me and helped me achieve my dreams or did what I wanted or what is best for me, then life would be great." If you wait and hope for things to be different or for others to provide you with results or happiness, you are at effect, or a victim of circumstances. And really, how satisfying is that? How satisfying do you think it is for others to be around you? Believing that someone else is responsible for your happiness or your different moods is very limiting and gives this person mystical powers over you, which can cause both you and the other person a great deal of anguish.

Being at cause means you have choices in your life - you can choose

what is best for you while ensuring the choice is ecological for those around you, in your community and your society. That is, you consider the consequences of your actions on others, while not taking responsibility for their emotional well-being. Believing you are responsible for the emotional well-being of someone else places a heavy burden upon you and can cause a great deal of stress.

Those who live their lives at effect often see themselves as victims with no choices whatsoever. The truth is that they do have choices but have chosen not to take action. They are simply reactive to whatever is thrust upon them.

Emotions such as guilt, fear, anxiety and resentment are the result of being at effect. People at effect tend to blame others and do not take responsibility for their actions. Emotions such as these can wear heavily on a person's body and life, and can be the root cause of many physical and personal issues.

Do I always live my life at cause? No, not a chance; the great majority of

the time I do live at cause. When I don't, one of the following usually comes to mind: 'There is no failure only feedback' or 'There are no unresourceful people, only unresourceful states'. Then using various personal growth techniques, such as those from NLP (neurolinguistic programming), I am able to explore other ways to achieve my outcomes or ask others for help, without being a victim to their answers.

Each morning when you get up, you can either ask yourself, "I wonder what my day will bring," or "What do I choose to bring to my day?" The choice is yours.

About the Author:

*Roger Ellerton is a certified NLP trainer, certified management consultant and the founder and managing partner of Renewal Technologies Inc. (www.renewal.ca) This article is an extract from his book *Live Your Dreams - Let Reality Catch Up: NLP and Common Sense for Coaches, Managers and You* (www.live-your-dreams.biz).*



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SCARF	L D L Y K E P Y X J B Q H E A T E R Y S F L
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WHAT'S IN IT FOR ME?

ALL MEMBERS RECEIVE:

- ◆ Mailing of T.A.B. (Technical Assistance Bulletin) pertaining to water/wastewater systems every other month
- ◆ Mailing of "IRWA Water Ways" quarterly magazine
- ◆ Member prices for IRWA conferences and other fee based training
- ◆ Annual mailing of Industry Contact Book
- ◆ A voice at the State and Federal levels of



VOTING & SUPPORTING MEMBERS RECEIVE:

- ◆ Mailings of all upcoming training sessions in your area
- ◆ Free access to our large selection of technical equipment
- ◆ Technical assistance provided by field technicians at no charge to you
- ◆ Listing of your job openings in a mail out to our S.O.U.P. Members at no charge to you
- ◆ Access to IRWA Technical Assistance Library, slide presentations, & videos at no charge
- ◆ Discounts from affiliate programs through National Rural Water on fleet vehicles, and QuickBooks software



ASSOCIATE MEMBERS RECEIVE:

- ◆ Discount on advertising rates in Water Ways
- ◆ Free advertising in IRWA's Industry Contact Book
- ◆ Link to your website from ours
- ◆ Discount for members only given on IRWA's conferences
- ◆ The chance to offer IRWA's members a special discount to promote your product
- ◆ The opportunity to submit abstract for review for possible presentation at training sessions or conferences



S.O.U.P. MEMBERS RECEIVE:

- ◆ We will keep a database of all IRWA training sessions you have received throughout the year. A printout of IRWA CEU's will be mailed out to you on an annual basis
- ◆ Job referral mailing with a listing of jobs open in the water & wastewater industry from our voting members
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