



Not Just Tractors

By: **Frank Dunmire, Executive Director**

**September 2019
Newsletter**

As I am writing this article, IRWA just finished its biennial exhibit at the Farm Progress Show held at Progress City USA in Decatur Illinois. IRWA is one of the many participants in the Partners in Conservation tent located on the East side of the show grounds. Other partners include: US Geological Survey, USDA NRCS, American Farmland Trust, Trees Forever, IDOA, IL LICA, Macon Co SWCD, IL Soil Classifiers Assn, IDNR, AISWCD, IL Stewardship Alliance, Natural Resources Env Council, IEPA, The Land Connection, The Wetlands Initiative, Mason State Nursery, Ag Watershed Institute, USDA NRCS Illinois, and IL Water Survey. This year's show ran from August 27 – August 29 and it is estimated that of the approximately 150,000 people that attended the event, 3,500 visited our site.

Monday is always move in day for us and Mother Nature decided to make a surprise appearance and dump a bunch of rain on the show site. This is not nearly as bad as it was in the past when the show was held in the middle of a farm field, as now the show alternates between Decatur and Boone, Iowa where permanent sites with paved streets have been constructed. But, unfortunately, the exhibitor parking turned into a mud pit with many vehicles getting stuck while searching for that elusive parking spot close to an entrance. Visitor parking was much better as it was in a hayfield that was well drained.

U.S. Secretary of Agriculture Sonny Perdue attended the show on Wednesday. U.S. Rep. Rodney Davis and State Senator Chapin Rose were in attendance as well and stopped by the IRWA trailer for a live interview on a local radio station that was broadcasting their morning show from the IRWA Training Trailer. Gov. J.B. Pritzker was scheduled to stop by on Wednesday, but he cancelled at the last minute.

We did get the opportunity to wander around the grounds and marvel at the size of today's farming equipment. Yes, there were tractors and combines to wow the exhibitors but there was so much more to see. There was everything from hand tools to pole barns to grain bins and even a house for visitors to stop and look at. Occasionally, you would just stop and stare at some behemoth of a machine and try to figure out what it was and what in the world you would use it for. One of those machines turned out to be a machine that was used in cleaning sludge out of lagoons.



Congressman
Rodney Davis



State Senator
Chapin Rose



IRWA Trailer

In addition to international visitors, the Farm Progress Show hosted more than 45 international exhibitors hailing from 7 different countries – Brazil, China, India, the Czech Republic, Canada, Sri Lanka and the UK.

If you have never attended the Farm Progress Show, I would highly recommend it. There is much more to see than just tractors. One word of caution – wear comfortable shoes!

**Water
Quality
Assessment
Batteries
Not Just Tractors**



WHYS

By: John Bell, Wastewater Technician

I wonder why they change the password on the CDXdmr every ninety days? What nut would want to hack into that program? Most operators who are required to be in that program don't want to be in that program. Yea! Changing the password every ninety days is a ton of fun! Boo-Hiss! However, IT experts think this minor irritant is better than hackers possibly tampering with years of lab results. They may also think its better than angry operators rioting in the streets because they needed to reenter years of lab results. Could be they are right. Let me see, where did I put my pitch fork and torch? I like being ready.

I wonder why activated sludge questions are on the class four waste water exam? To my knowledge, and a few years of experience, I have never visited a class four activated sludge facility. But there may be one! After all I have seen a pink elephant holding a martin glass along I-55. Anything is possible. I know there a lot of class two and class one facilities that use the activated sludge process. The class one and two exams are filled with activated sludge questions. Could it be, that some caring soul inserted a few minor activated sludge questions on the class four exam to prepare operators of things to come on upper level exams? I have heard from many operators about these activated sludge questions being on the class four exam. Darn it, they had to "look-it-up" in their study

material to see what was the correct answer. A very clever method of getting someone to look in the book to find answers. Nothing beats being prepared.

I wonder why experience is such a good teacher? Could it be that once you go through the trials and errors of a situation you are not likely to forget what happened? I'm sure we don't want to repeat some events. We solidly remember what not to do if it should happen again. Also, we will vividly remember what to do to make the outcome successful. Experience can be a tough task master! I'm sure you all have noted that each waste water certification examination level requires that experience is a factor prior to anyone being eligible to take the examination. Could it be that IEPA have similar thoughts? Let me go a step further regarding experience. Experience and lending a helping hand is at the heart of the Illinois Rural Water Association. When waste water technicians and water circuit riders visit, you are accessing "experienced operators". That experience can help you better handle bad situations. Its up to you to make use of this valuable tool. It is also helpful for me, if you have the coffee brewing.

GPS/GIS MAPPING SERVICES

Through the implementation of GPS & GIS technology, IRWA can effectively produce hard copy and digital maps. With this service available from IRWA, utilities can attain new and accurate maps to better manage their water, wastewater, and storm sewer assets.

The printed maps can be large-scale wall maps up to 36"x48" showing utility features with the desired layers (aerial photos, streets, topography, etc.).

The digital map files on a CD, can be viewed and printed with free software that IRWA will provide and install on a utility computer. The software allows you to view and click on a system feature (such as a valve, hydrant, meter pit, curb stop, manhole, lift station, treatment facility, etc.), and pull up attribute data about each...as well as several other capabilities such as printing, zooming, etc.

Also, IRWA has a working relationship, with DiamondMaps.com, to put your IRWA project maps, on their server, for mobile viewing with a smartphone or cellular capable tablet...including editing capability. This is at no extra charge to the system for the first year's subscription. Continuance of the Diamond Maps service after the first year, is at the utility's discretion.

Payment for GIS services, is a set charge per feature, with IRWA members receiving an automatic 30% discount, and even more of a reduction with bigger projects. More information is also posted on our website at: www.ilrwa.org, or you may call our office at 217-287-2115.



15th Annual Northern Conference

October 22 & 23, 2019 at

Giovanni's Restaurant & Convention Center – Rockford, Illinois



Join us for 2 days of training (10.75 credit hours available) and visit with 40 exhibitors (ALL BOOTHS ARE SOLD OUT!) For more information and to register via credit card go to www.ilrwa.org and look under upcoming events on the left side of the home page for the conference link.

Registration Form

Please print or type



NAME: _____ E-MAIL ADDRESS: _____

SYSTEM REPRESENTING: _____

ADDRESS: _____

CITY: _____ STATE: _____ ZIP: _____

(PLEASE CIRCLE REGISTRATION TYPE)

FULL REGISTRATION:

(Includes Technical Sessions, Meals, Activities & Exhibit Hall for both days)

MEMBER \$150.00

NON-MEMBER \$190.00

ONE DAY REGISTRATION:

(Includes Technical Sessions, Meals, Activities & Exhibit Hall for ONE DAY ONLY- circle day)

MEMBER \$120.00 attending Tuesday or Wednesday

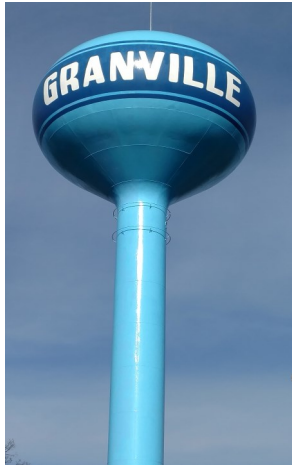
NON-MEMBER \$160.00 attending Tuesday or Wednesday

Please make check payable to: Illinois Rural Water Association, P.O. Box 49, Taylorville, IL 62568

Attendee pre-registration is open through October 11, 2019

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Welcome New IRWA Members

Bone Gap, Village of
Brookport, City of
DeWitt, Village of
Eads, Garrod
Four Points Land Surveying & Engineering, Inc.
Graveline, Troy
Homann, Doug
Indelco Plastics Corporation
London Mills, Village of
Olmsted, Village of
Putnam County Painting, Inc.
Raisbeck, Scott
Schaeffer, Douglas
Shick, Dan
Stanley, Jeff
Tackett, Ronald
Water Treat Technology

Welcome!