

AzOWRA Arizona Onsite Wastewater Recycling Association

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Dedicated to the Education of the Onsite Wastewater Industry and the Public

First Flush

Volume 5, Issue 2
April-July 2011

AzOWRA Conference a Great Success!

After months of hard work, missed deadlines, stress and murderous thoughts the 2011 conference, held for the first time in Tucson, was a great success! The conference was June 9 and 10 with several pre-conference workshops on June 8.

The Radisson Suites is a wonderful property. Very inviting and comfortable with a warm, caring staff. We all have employees and we know how hard it is to find good ones. Well, management at this property is doing something right because most of their staff has been with them for YEARS— many of them for decades! Everyone I met behaved as if they knew that the success of their property depended on the wonderful way they each did their jobs. It was a real pleasure to interact with people of this caliber.

The weather was perfect-too hot to skip out on the presentations but cool enough to enjoy the Bar-B-Que and Roed-Hoe. Families enjoyed their time at the pool and any who stayed over Friday night were able to enjoy snow cones and other treats by the pool.

Forty-eight people actively participated in presentations-asking questions, offering insights from their own practices. The evaluations received were very positive and encouraging. Attendees were asked to provide input into the content for the next conference. Readers are asked to do the same. Please send comments to Suzanne Ehrlich at:

suzanne.ehrlich@co.yavapai.az.us.



Financially the conference did well. The goal of breaking even was met and surpassed. Funds earned from the conference go back into AzOWRA's ongoing education efforts such as the Homeowner's Education class, the real Estate CE course, one-day seminars for practitioners and future conferences.

AzOWRA Meetings Calendar

For Call-in Phone Number Contact Kathy Mills:

kmills@millseng.com

April 13, 2011

2011 Conference
Committee Call 1:15 pm

April 27, 2011

2011 Conference
Committee Call 1:15 pm

June 9 and 10, 2011

AzOWRA Educational
Conference
Radisson Suites Tucson
Tucson, Arizona
<http://azowra.org/>

July 9, 2011

Board of Directors' Summit
Meeting
Cave Creek Town Hall 9:00 AM

September 19, 2011

Board of Director's Meeting
Conference Call
1:00 pm

December 21, 2011

Board of Director's Meeting
Conference Call
1:00 pm

To Be Determined

Annual Membership Dinner
Meeting and Election
TBD

Questions, comments or to remove your name from our mailing list, please contact suzanne.ehrlich@co.yavapai.az.us

Report of the Last Board of Directors Meeting-June

Members are invited and encouraged to listen in on the Board of Director's Meetings. These are held via teleconference. The phone number for the meetings depends on the expected number of participants. Please contact Kathy Mills, AzOWRA Secretary at kmills@millseng.com. Meetings last around 2 hours, are held quarterly (see AzOWRA calendar) and many topics of interest to the organization are discussed.

Education: NAU Demonstration Site MOU in place. Now they are looking for cash to start operating – hiring staff, starting first system operating and testing. Grants will be applied for and Lou suggested asking for corporate sponsorship. Anyone interested can contact Richard Sinclair at richards@apewater.com. **Conference Committee** Conference a success. Preconference training well attended. 48 registered for conference. 11 Exhibitors. Roe-de-Hoe and BBQ went well. Contract issue resulted in \$1300 owed to hotel; negotiated for sponsorship/advertising worth \$1300 for AzOWRA instead. Many new memberships as a result of the conference.

Membership: Membership meeting to be scheduled between November and January. Suzanne suggested the Radisson in Tucson. Suzanne recommended AzOWRA have a two year membership instead of one year since the conference is every 2 years.

Communication: New membership list – check for errors in your name, address, etc. Website – Jeremy will update website with Conference success. Kathy will update calendar ongoing. Suzanne suggested putting free link or Email contact for business members. Lou will send Jeremy information. Newsletter – Suzanne will send out latest newsletter on 6-30-11. Dawn will write summary of the AZ Water sessions AzOWRA sponsored and photo for newsletter. All BOD are encouraged to write and submit articles for the newsletter.

Policy: Environmental Management Templates – Kathy and Brian edited templates– will send to Jeremy to post on website with Email to notify board. Two new templates will be sent for review later this month. 2011 Objectives – Executive Committee reviewed; Lou will send to BOD

Old Business: Alcohol Policy. No report. AZ Water conference 2011 – The AzOWRA on-site wastewater track on Friday morning went well. Justin, Brian, and Dawn presented. Kathy presented slides from the ROC since the speaker suddenly resigned. Attendance varied from 30-40. BOD feedback by others recommended to continue this track in 2012.

New Business: ACDEHSA conference 2012 is set for Feb. 1-2. Special BOD meeting to discuss AzOWRA future – to be scheduled in July in Phoenix area.

Industry Calendar of Events

April 14-15, 2011

U of A Intro to Design of Onsite Wastewater Treatment Systems
TBD, Pinal County
<http://ag.arizona.edu/waterquality/onsite>

April 21, 2011

AzFOG Association Meeting
Gateway Community College
9:00 AM
(Quarterly- third Thursday of the month)
<http://azfog.org/index.htm>

May 4-6, 2011

AZ Water Association 84th Annual Conference
Arizona's Water Future is Here!
Glendale Renaissance Hotel & Spa
Glendale, Arizona
<http://www.azwater.org/events/annualconference2011.aspx>

June 8, 2011

NAWT Inspection Training and Recertification Course
AzOWRA Pre-conference Workshop
Radisson Suites-Tucson
6555 Speedway Blvd
Tucson, AZ
<http://ag.arizona.edu/waterquality/onsite>

July 21, 2011

AzFOG Association Meeting
Gateway Community College
9:00 AM
(Quarterly, third Thursday of the month)
<http://azfog.org/index.htm>

August 17-18, 2011

U of A Soil and Site Evaluation for Onsite Wastewater Systems Course
TBD, Coconino County
<http://ag.arizona.edu/waterquality/onsite>

October 20, 2011

AzFOG Association Meeting
Gateway Community College
9:00 AM
(Quarterly, third Thursday of the month)
<http://azfog.org/index.htm>

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Pre-conference Sessions offer More Choices

NAWT Recertification Course

The NAWT Course was held all day June 8 and offered 30 or more people recertification training for them to maintain their ability to conduct Transfer of Ownership Inspections as required by the Arizona Department of Environmental Quality (ADEQ). Dave Gustafson of the University of Minnesota Cooperative Extension, David Burchard, ADEQ Onsite Wastewater Program Manager, and Kitt Farrell-Poe, University of Arizona Cooperative Extension worked together to present this course.



Real Estate CE Course

The Real Estate CE course was arranged and taught by Lowell Fagen. He had 28 paid students (mostly from the Pima County area) who were active participants asking questions and offering comments. Jake Garrett and Dan Ice assisted Lowell Fagen in presenting the course.

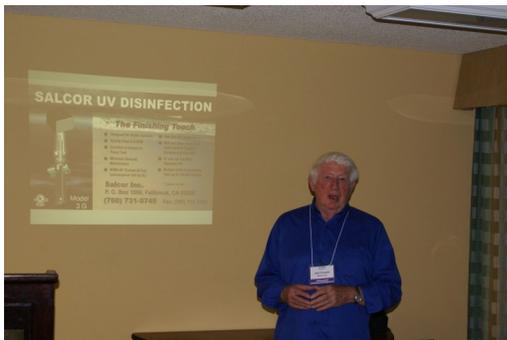


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Warranty sponsored the class with a cash donation, promotional emails and sign-in/administrative duties before and during the course. Westford College is the course administrator and will be sending us a check for our share of the registration fees.

As the end of the course approached Lowell mentioned there was not time for the quiz. The students were so involved they asked for it anyway and stayed late as a result. That is an engaging instructor and course. Excellent job, Lowell!

Ultraviolet Disinfection Course



Jim Cruver of Salcor, Inc, AzOWRA business member, volunteered to give a free, two-hour presentation on UV Disinfection and host snacks to make sure everyone had enough energy to participate in the discussions. Ten people arrived early to the conference to participate in this session and earn two more Contact Hours/ Professional Development hours.

The course covered the full gamut of this spectrum of light as it relates to its use in disinfecting water. Jim explained what is UV; how it is used; why it works; and the pros and cons of using UV in treating water, especially wastewater or gray water.

Huge Thank you to the Conference Committee

The conference committee had been meeting regularly for over a year to bring the 2011 Conference to Tucson. Much time was spent brainstorming on the conference theme, best speakers, new exhibitors, venues. Much time was spent contacting people and companies. Much time was taken away from profitable business hours in order to bring quality education to AzOWRA members and other non-members in the industry. Please thank the members of the Conference committee for their time and efforts to improve the professional abilities of the onsite industry: Dave Bartholomew, Richard Bartholomew, Brian Bishop, Lou Brown, Lowell Fagen, Kitt Farrell-Poe, Suzanne Ehrlich, John Mitchell, Richard Sinclair

Membership Increases

AzOWRA's Membership is at its highest level in several years. Our membership increased by 17 people and two business memberships. Many people took advantage of favorable pricing for the conference to make the jump from spectator to participant.

One of our new members, Doug Disbrow, volunteered to make a presentation during the conference and another is developing subject matter for a one-day seminar-more information on this as it progresses.



The Board of Directors will meet on July 9 in Cave Creek to discuss how to provide increased value in AzOWRA membership and promote member participation-key items to member retention, growth and the success of AzOWRA.

Everyone with ideas to improve member benefits and experience is encouraged to contact AzOWRA President, Lou Brown; Membership Chairman or Richard Bartholomew.

Thanks to Our 2011 Exhibitors

The AzOWRA Conference committee depends on exhibitors to draw people to attend and support the conference financially. The committee works hard to balance the exposure needs of the exhibitors with the educational needs of attendees. Based on the conference evaluations completed by our exhibitors the exhibitors felt that goal was achieved. Thanks went out to these folks in a PowerPoint that ran during each break, in the conference programs and on the last page of this newsletter.



A few exhibitors-Highland Tank/APE, Eljen, and Clarus



Wilson-Bale Booth manned by Dustin Lewis

Wilson-Bale was unable to staff their booth due to illness so Dustin Lewis passed out surveys and books for them so their research into industry perceptions could continue. Thank you, Dustin.

In addition to attending the conference two exhibitors sponsored some of our meals. Eljen helped provide breakfast and Highland Tank helped with lunch. Special thanks went out to these exhibitors with signage at the buffet lines and in a special "thank you" PowerPoint that ran during all the breaks.

[AzOWRA Presents Training Track at AZ Water Conference](#)

This May, AZ Water offered AzOWRA the opportunity to have a training track during the AZ Water Association's 84th Annual Conference & Exhibition held in June 2011. Four presentations were available- each presented by an AzOWRA member.

Kathy Mills, PE, Mills Engineering, LLC moderated the track and stepped in to deliver the presentation prepared by the Arizona Registrar of Contractors reviewing licensing requirements, license types and the scope of work allowed with each license.

Justin O. Ramsey, PE, Environmental Hydrosystems, LTD discussed the advantages and disadvantages of the treatment and disposal systems covered under General Permits and design tricks to aid in quick approval and a fully functioning system.

Brian Bishop, AIM Environmental, Inc, made a presentation, later shared with attendees to the AzOWRA Conference in Tucson, about septic and alternative system installation problems.

Dawn Long, American Septic Service, made the case for point of sale inspections of wastewater systems as protection from liability for both the buyer and the seller.

AzOWRA felt that the attendance (in the range of 30 to 40 people) was quite good-especially for the first chance of presenting although AZ Water thought that the attendance during this track was low compared to other tracks.



[Roe-D-Hoe was a Ball of Fun](#)



We said we would and we did it! The first AzOWRA Roe-D-Hoe was held during the Bar-B-Que on Thursday night after a long day of learning and sharing in the AzOWRA conference, June 9, 2011. Contestants provided the entertainment during the bar-b-que-good natured cheering and encouragement was handed out to all who participated. There were six contestants (Dustin Lewis, Sally Cruver, Warren Brown, John Bruckmeier, Doug Disbrow, Jan Allbright) vying for a cash prize pot of \$220. There were two timed challenges: the softball dunk and the golf ball scoop. Each challenge was timed separately and rankings determined by the judges, Dave Bartholomew and John Mitchell.

The equipment was provided by the Bingham Equipment company in Tucson. Jason Burczynski had two pieces of equipment sent over to the hotel Thursday morning. Conference attendees were able to look at the equipment and get catalogues for further information. Later in the afternoon, Jason brought the equipment over to the bar-b-que area and the mini-excavator was fitted with the challenge equipment.



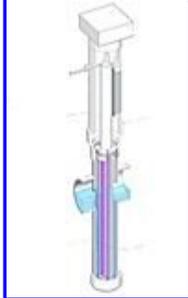
In the end, Dustin Lewis placed 1st and won \$100; Doug Disbrow took 2nd along with a \$70 check; Warren Brown had 3rd place along with a \$50 prize while Jan Allbright received the Earl.

Congratulations to all. It was a good time.



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