2018 Fall Tradeshow and Technical Sessions Draws 400!

If the packed rooms during lunch and training sessions were any indication, GMWEA’s annual Tradeshow and Conference of November 8, 2018, at the Doubletree Center, Burlington, was a great success!

In fact, the event began the night before, when GMWEA board members and staff met with vendors and trainers at the venue, socializing over snacks and beverages. Then, Thursday morning, 400 water, wastewater, and stormwater professionals, water quality technology and service providers, DPW administrators, staff from nonprofit organizations, and State agency administrators convened to attend training sessions, tour an incredible array of high-tech vendor exhibits, eat a delicious lunch, and hear speakers from Vermont and throughout New England.

Our keynote speaker, Vermont Agency of Natural Resources Secretary Julie Moore, spoke about new regulations and impending challenges facing Vermont’s natural waters and water quality infrastructure. The day also featured exceptional displays by 90 exhibitors, six technical trainings, guest speakers from NEWWA and NEWEA, vendor raffles, and lots of networking opportunities.

(Left: Julie Moore, ANR Secretary)

Thanks are due to our Continuing Education Committee (CEC) members for setting up our trainings agenda, and to all those who filled out their training evaluations. Our courses and session leaders received exceptionally high marks from attendees this year, thanks to member advice, the good work of the CEC, and, of course, the expertise of our trainers.

This year’s sessions included:

- Online Resources at the Office of Professional Regulation, by Tara Grenier, OPR’s licensing administration supervisor, and Kara Shangraw, OPR’s license administrator for water/wastewater system designers and operators.
- Safe Handling, Storage, and Pumping of Water and Wastewater Chemicals, by Loren A. Swears, Slack Chemical Technical Applications.
- Updated Boil Water Notice Policy, by Ben Montross, compliance and support services section chief, Vt. DEC Drinking Water and Groundwater Protection Division, and Patrick Smart, also from Vt. DEC, DWGWP Division.
- Working in Confined Spaces, by Raymond Morang, safety, training, and service manager, E.J. Prescott Inc.

Submitted by:
Daniel Hecht
GMWEA Executive Director

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GMWEA Mourns Steve Ryan

We were saddened to hear of the death, on October 12, of New England Water Works Association executive director, Steve Ryan, at 54, due to complications from cancer. Those of us who had the pleasure of working with Steve will miss not just his expertise in so many fields but his commitment to his work, to his friends, and to his readiness to drop other concerns in an instant to advise and assist us whenever called upon.

GMWEA extends sincerest sympathies to his family. We suggest that members contribute to a fund established for the education of his surviving children, Katie, 11, and Connor, 4. To donate to the fund, go to: www.gofundme.com/ryan-family-fund
President’s Message – Winter 2018

For some reason I always think that things will slow down in the fall and winter. I picture myself having plenty of time to catch up on email, read some of the articles that have been piling up on the corner of my desk, and finally organize those project folders that got into a state of disarray during “construction season”. In my naiveté, I picture myself doing this with a nice cup of coffee and maybe even some quiet music playing in the background. It really is a nice thought. However, I’m afraid that it won’t become a reality once again. Winter came early this year, which meant that winter preparations and planning also had to be completed sooner than normal. GMWEA events and activities didn’t take a break either, so I’d like to provide you with a short update on a few of those items that have been keeping us busy here at GMWEA.

The Fall Trade Show was a great success! It felt like there was a lot of energy at the show this year. It was a wonderful opportunity to catch up with colleagues, meet with vendors, and sit in on some training sessions. I hope that everyone got to meet our Exchange Operator, Ernie Smalley from Peterborough, NH. He attended the Fall show, visited a number of Vermont facilities, and talked with quite a few Vermont water and wastewater operators. It was a pleasure meeting him. I also enjoyed listening to ANR Secretary Julie Moore’s remarks during her lunchtime address. Secretary Moore undoubtedly understands the issues that face our industry and does all she can to advocate for water quality. I’d like to offer a big “Thank you!” to continuing education committee members and chair, Eileen Toomey, for putting together such a great conference agenda. We also owe a debt of gratitude to our administrative liaison, Lisa Goodell, for everything she does to put this event together. There are so many “moving pieces” on the day of the show, but Lisa manages to keep them all together and ensure that things run smoothly every year.

The New Year is right around the corner and with it comes the 2019 legislative session. The Government Affairs committee is getting ready for what could be a busy session. Please do not hesitate to contact us if anything comes up that you’d like GMWEA to address. Myself, GMWEA executive director (Daniel Hecht), and the Government Affairs Committee chair (Bob Fischer) would like to hear from you.

There has been a change on the GMWEA Board of Directors (BOD) since I provided an update in the Fall newsletter. Nate LaVallee has resigned from his position as First Vice President. Nate has been an active member of GMWEA and our BOD for many years. He also served on our Operator’s Challenge team. His departure is a loss for the board. Thank you Nate for all your efforts over the years, and we hope that you will continue to be involved in GMWEA activities as we move forward.

That’s it from me! I hope everyone had a good Thanksgiving. Have a safe and happy holiday season and I look forward to seeing you at the spring show, if not sooner.

Submitted by:
Tom DiPietro
GMWEA President
GMWEA Seeks 2018 Award Nominations

Now that 2018 is winding down, we’re beginning our annual search for the best in the business – that is, water-quality professionals who have distinguished themselves through service excellence this year. Since 1993, GMWEA has recognized exceptional service through awards that are presented at our Spring Conference and Member Meeting in May.

We’re now seeking nominations for individuals, facilities, fire districts, laboratories, and businesses that demonstrated highest standards in water, wastewater, and stormwater management in 2018.

Award categories include:
- Michael J. Garofano Water Operator of the Year
- Operator Excellence – Wastewater
- Operator Excellence – Water
- Facility Excellence – Wastewater
- Andrew D. Fish Laboratory Excellence
- Outstanding Industrial Wastewater – Operator
- Outstanding Industrial Water or Wastewater – Facility
- Bob Wood Young Professional Award (30 or under), Water or Wastewater
- Stormwater Award, Individual or Organization
- Elizabeth A. Walker Meritorious Service Award

For more information on each award, and a list of last year’s winners, visit our website’s Awards page, https://www.gmwea.org/awards.html.

To make a nomination, use the form on the website page, or contact Ryan Peebles at ryan.peebles@cleanwaters.us.

Submitted by:
Daniel Hecht
Executive Director
This could be your last Newsletter!

Don’t forget to turn in your GMWEA membership renewal that will soon arrive in your mailbox! GMWEA membership is a way for you to stay in touch with industry news, get training and connect with other professionals. Membership provides many benefits including this newsletter, discounts on GMWEA training and more.

Not a member yet? Didn’t get a form in the mail? Contact: Lisa Goodell at lisa.goodell@gmwea.org to receive a membership form and renew today!
Check Your Knowledge


1. What is the maximum contaminant level for nitrate (as nitrogen) in drinking water?
   a) 0.1 mg/l
   b) 0.5 mg/l
   c) 1 mg/l
   d) 10 mg/l

2. Which of the following has both a primary and secondary standard?
   a) Iron
   b) Chromium
   c) Fluoride
   d) Manganese

3. Which of the following violations is considered the most serious?
   a) Tier I
   b) Tier II
   c) Tier I-A
   d) Tier II-A

4. Which is the correct order (on the average) from the smallest to the largest for the microorganisms below?
   a) *Giardia* cysts, bacteria, viruses
   b) Viruses, bacteria, *Giardia* cysts
   c) Bacteria, *Giardia* cysts, viruses
   d) *Giardia* cysts, viruses, bacteria

5. Copper sulfate is used in surface water reservoirs to control
   a) Emergent weeds
   b) Algae
   c) Mosquito larvae
   d) Snails

6. The preferred way to waste activated sludge is
   a) Continuous wasting
   b) A set time of day
   c) Whenever it is needed
   d) Variable depending on time, flow, and amount of influent sludge, but never to change more than 15% from one day to the next

7. What should be done if too much nitrification is occurring in an aeration tank at an activated sludge plant? Assume the process is not moving out of nitrification.
   a) Reduce sludge influent
   b) Reduce DO
   c) Increase sludge influent
   d) Reduce return activated sludge
8. What should the pH be for the most efficient removal of phosphorus to very low levels?
   a) Above 9.0  
   b) Above 9.5  
   c) Above 10  
   d) Above 11  

9. To what should the pH be raised for converting NH₄⁺ to gaseous ammonia (NH₃)?
   a) 9.4 to 9.8  
   b) 9.5 to 10.5  
   c) 10.5 to 11.5  
   d) 11.0 to 11.3  

10. Which one of the following determinations is the best means for monitoring the day-to-day operations of the nitrification process?
    a. pH  
    b. alkalinity  
    c. dissolved oxygen  
    d. CO₂ levels  

Answers for Current Issue
   1.d  2.c  3.a  4.b  5.b  6.a  7.b  8.d  9.c  10.b
Next Chapter for Shaun Fielder

After 13 years as executive director of Vermont Rural Water Association (VRWA), Shaun Fielder has decided to move on to his next career phase. We at GMWEA, along with towns and organizations throughout the state, will miss working with Shaun. For over 20 years, he has been a champion for water quality, and has provided generous energy, expertise, and moral support for all who work in the industry. He promises to continue his advocacy for rural water as he transitions to a position in municipal administration.

“I am extremely honored to have worked closely with all here at VRWA,” Shaun says, “and of course with all of you in the industry. I have been lucky enough to form some long-standing friendships with many of you and I hope this will continue. Just as rewarding has been the opportunity to support rural water systems all across Vermont and beyond.”

Thank you, Shaun! We wish you the best of fortune in all your new endeavors.

Submitted by:
Daniel Hecht
GMWEA Executive Director
Job Openings

Lead Operator, Water and/or Wastewater, Smuggler’s Notch, Vermont

Veolia North America seeks a full-time lead operator to plan, manage, and coordinate small municipal or industrial water and/or wastewater projects. Leads all aspects of facility operations, including laboratory, operations and maintenance. Manages technical and financial performance. Requirements: Min. 5 years’ experience with water/wastewater treatment; thorough knowledge of methods, techniques, principles, and practices of water/wastewater treatment, water distribution, and wastewater collection. Vermont Grade 2 minimum wastewater operator certification required or obtainable within 6 months of date of hire. If from another state, must achieve certification within one year. Vermont Class 4B minimum water system operator certification required or obtainable within 6 months; if from another state, must achieve certification within one year.

Detailed job description and application instructions are at: https://veolianorthamerica.jobs.net, then search “Smuggler’s Notch” or “Jeffersonville.” Interested applicants should send resumes to: paige.robichau@veolia.com

Wastewater Treatment Plant Chief Operator, Town of Brattleboro, Vermont

A full-time position, the chief operator oversees daily operations and is responsible for all state testing and permit requirements. Supervises crew of four employees. State of Vermont Pollution Abatement Facility Operator Domestic III License or greater required, or equivalent from another state recognized by the State of Vermont if certification can be transferred. Annual salary $67,000 to $72,000, plus good benefit package.

Send application to Town Manager’s Office, Attn: WWTP, 230 Main Street #208, Brattleboro, VT 05301, or by e-mail to tmsecretary@brattleboro.org by 5:00 p.m. Friday, December 28, 2018. Detailed job description and employment application can be found at www.brattleboro.org.
GMWEA WANTS YOU!

... to tell us what kind of trainings you would like us to present in 2019.

Whether it’s for TCHs or long-term professional development, we want to offer educational opportunities that best meet your career needs!

Got ideas for topics? Contact Eileen Toomey at eileen.toomey@gmwea.org or Daniel Hecht at dan.hecht@gmwea.org
## Upcoming Events & Trainings

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Location</th>
<th>Course/Event</th>
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<th>Registration Contact/ Download forms at:</th>
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<tr>
<td>2/14/19</td>
<td>Montpelier, VT</td>
<td>Local Government Day in the Legislature (co-sponsored by GMWEA)</td>
<td>VLCT</td>
<td><a href="http://www.vlct.org">www.vlct.org</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5/23/19</td>
<td>Killington, VT</td>
<td>GMWEA Spring &amp; Annual Meeting</td>
<td>GMWEA</td>
<td><a href="http://www.gmwea.org">www.gmwea.org</a></td>
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</tbody>
</table>

*Please check the GMWEA website at www.gmwea.org for the latest training schedule and links to training resources.*

## NEWWA Update

The Fall Council Meeting was held in Framingham, Massachusetts, chaired by NEWWA President Dave Miller. The NEWWA board of directors met on November 14th and approved Mike Barsotti as the Vermont representative to the NEWWA Board. The NEWWA Monthly Meeting for November was held in Lincoln, Rhode Island, and was a joint meeting with Rhode Island Water Works Association. The December NEWWA Monthly will be held Thursday, December 20th at The Lantana in Randolph, Massachusetts, and all are welcome.

Submitted by:
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GMWEA 2nd Vice President
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