



YP Connections

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YP WEFTEC HIGHLIGHTS

WEFTEC 2015 Water Palooza

By Michael Quamme

The 3rd annual Water Palooza took place Friday, September 25th on the grounds of John J. Pershing Magnet School in Chicago's Bronzeville neighborhood. Over 1,000 Kindergarten through 8th grade students from 8 area schools gathered throughout the day to learn about the value of water and how to become stewards of their own water environment through hands on and demonstrative activities. A total of 18 booths represented by 15 organizations from the Chicago area and around the country engaged students in subjects from rain barrels and how green infrastructure filters stormwater runoff to future water careers and local wetland animals. This marked our largest event to date and we look to continue growing this highly successful program at WEFTEC 2016 in New Orleans!



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WEFTEC 2015 HIGHLIGHTS

WEFTEC 2015 Service Project

By Tim Moran, Nibco Inc.

We had 114 volunteers from WEF participate, but we also had 15 to 20 student, teacher, faculty, and neighborhood volunteers pitch in. Our Volunteers modified 2,845 square feet of the school grounds. Under the 707 square foot outdoor classroom we created stormwater storage to handle up to a 25-year storm. The volunteers installed a teaching tool to demonstrate the rate at which stormwater infiltrates the various materials used in the construction and found in the school grounds.



Within an hour of finishing the gardens, Monarch butterflies were fluttering from plant to plant.

A group of volunteers left the Pershing School project to visit the 2013 service project site, Haines Elementary, to construct a fence and maintain that rain garden. This was the first time we have attempted to complete the service project at multiple locations simultaneously. There were challenges with doing this, but our motivated volunteers and leaders were able to achieve amazing results with limited time and resources!

Our partners at MWRD, Dept. of Water Management, and Chicago Public Schools provided an amazing amount of support. Anthony Giovannone, Chicago Chair of the planning subcommittee, is looking forward to working with them again for WEFTEC 2017.



STUDENT DESIGN COMPETITION WINNERS

This year students from Southern Methodist University took home first prize in the Student Wastewater Design Competition. The SMU team of Kaylee Dusek, Abigail Klaus and Allison Leopold presented a wastewater treatment facility improvement plan for reducing nutrients, reclaimed water supply, and biosolids handling upgrades for beneficial land use. We asked this group a few questions about their experiences:

How did you find out/get involved in the competition?

The Water Environment Association of Texas (WEAT) wastewater master plan for the design competition was one of the projects offered as part of our senior design class at Southern Methodist University. Based on class and work experience the three of us were interested in the topic and becoming more involved in WEAT. We are so thankful to have been chosen to represent SMU at the competition and to have had such real-world experience.

What is the most valuable item you learned from doing your project?

The most valuable item we took away was the real-world experience and full breadth of knowledge in regards to an entire wastewater treatment system redesign. Getting to analyze all treatment processes at the plant, take part in a plant tour, and offer sustainable and financially responsible design solutions was an experience we will all take with us in our future careers.

What were positive aspects for your group on presenting in the design competition?

At SMU, we had many run-throughs in the classroom and presenting to professionals around the DFW area. Presenting in the design competition allowed us to use our verbal presentation skills and convey the passion that we all had for the project. We loved that the audience at the competition shared our enthusiasm for wastewater and Environmental Engineering.

Are there any lessons learned from either creating your project or presenting you project?

Throughout both the WEAT and WEF competitions we got to enhance our presentation skills and learned the importance of those skills in an engineering consulting industry. We approached the project as a real consulting project so we learned how to apply feasibility, economics, constructability, and how to design for our client.

Has this competition affected your view on the value of water, and becoming involved in the water industry?

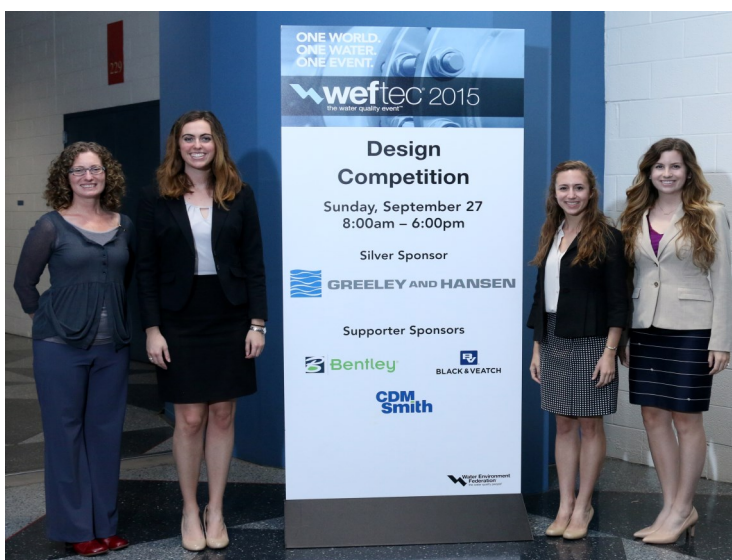
Yes, it's a great and supportive community of people who are solving the nation's challenges of water. It was inspiring to be a part of that group and to learn about how the industry is moving forward.

For more information on the 2016 WEFTEC competition please contact

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Erin Mosely (WEF Board of Trustees), SMU Team members Kaylee Dusek, Allison Leopold and Abigail Klaus.

AZ AND WESTERN NYWEA WATER ACTIVITIES

By Gretchen A. Baumgardner, City of Mesa

The **AZ Water** YP Committee wrapped up another successful year – educational outreach, networking and reaching out to our members and the public. This school semester the YP Committee visited several of the state's educational institutions with the intention of bringing awareness of the association's message and an opportunity for students to get involved with the committee. Members of the committee sponsored a technical presentation at both University of Arizona and Arizona State University's Environmental seminar class and visited Gateway Community College's WAVES club. This fall marks the third year the YPs have organized an AZ Water sponsored tent at Tempe's Sister Cities Oktoberfest. This event was a lot of fun and a great way to spread the message about water in the community. This fall we also had our annual kickball event. This event has turned into a competitive bout between the AZ Water YPs and ASCE young professionals group, the YMFs. This year the YPs took the crown. We had 2 site tours this fall; one at the Tempe Town Lake Dam, which included members of the AZWater YP committee and NAWIC (National Woman In Construction) Phoenix Chapter. The new dam will be the world's largest hydraulically-operated steel gate dam system. The other at the 91st Avenue Wastewater Treatment plant (205 mgd) that serves the Cities of Phoenix, Mesa, Tempe, Scottsdale and Glendale.



AZWater YPs vs. ACSE YMFs in a friendly game of Kickball at Daley Park in Tempe

By Alexander Emmerson, Buffalo Sewer Authority

On September 19, 2015 the **NYWEA Western Chapter** Young Professionals participated in the Buffalo Niagara Riverkeeper's "Summer Shoreline Sweep". A bi-annual single-day service event organized by the Buffalo Niagara Riverkeeper. The YPs were assigned to a site along Scajaquada Creek in Buffalo, NY and spent the morning cleaning up litter and debris along the stream bank. The event had a great turnout including members from the newly established University at Buffalo Student Chapter. The spring-fed, 13-mile long Scajaquada Creek is located within a 29 square mile watershed which ultimately empties into the Black Rock Canal and then into the Niagara River. According to the Buffalo Niagara Riverkeeper, approximately 200 bags of trash totaling almost two tons were collected and removed by volunteers from 5 separate groups.



NYWEA Western Chapter Young Professionals

Debris included car tires, syringes, plastic bottles, inflated balloons and automobile gas tanks. In total, over 6 tons of trash were removed by over 800 volunteers throughout 25 sites in Western New York - making this the most successful Summer Shoreline Sweep. The YPs reached out to Buffalo Niagara Riverkeeper to adopt this site for future cleanup events. Going forward, the Western Chapter YPs plan to make this a yearly volunteer opportunity.

VIRGINIA WEA JOINT ANNUAL MEETING

“WaterJAM” is the Joint Annual Meeting of the Virginia Section American Water Works Association and the Virginia Water Environment Association. The Young Professionals Committee for WaterJAM is a joint committee that helps plan and organize several activities for WaterJAM to encourage Young Professionals’ networking and early involvement.

YP Booth/Corn Hole: The YP Booth is a place for YPs to ask questions or connect with each other during breaks and have some fun with Corn Hole! The booth featured a cell phone charging station, encouraging YPs to stay for a few minutes and network.

YP Service Event: The WaterJAM YP Service event is held each year prior to the opening session of WaterJAM. For the past two years, the committee has partnered with Fort Monroe, a retired military fort that has become a National Monument. Over the past two years, the service events have focused on activities to improve the health of the Chesapeake Bay including planting trees, rain garden maintenance, placing “No Dumping – Drains to Chesapeake Bay” markers on storm drains, and beach cleaning.



YP Workshop: A technical session organized by YPs. A workshop theme is chosen by the YP WaterJAM Committee that is of interest to YPs, and other professionals are asked to present on that topic. Operator/PE credits are offered in these sessions.

YP Paper Session: The YP Paper Session is another technical session, this time primarily giving the opportunity for YP’s to present on their projects. Operator/PE credits are offered in these sessions.



YP Poster Contest: As WaterJAM is a joint VA AWWA and VWEA conference, the poster contest features a competition for each organization run in parallel. This year, there were 17 participants. Each expert judging panel consists of a judge from a utility, consulting and academia. The winners of both competitions receive a cash prize and the VA AWWA winner is sponsored to attend the national Fresh Ideas Poster Contest at the AWWA ACE Conference. Congratulations to the winners of this year’s competition: Min Tang (VA AWWA) and Harry Yuan (VWEA) both from Virginia Tech.

YP Reception: The YP Reception is held on the last full day of WaterJAM each year. The reception allows young professionals to network, connect and reflect on the conference. We’re excited that we have such an active Young Professionals Committee that gets the opportunity to work across organizations and organize events for the largest water/wastewater conferences in Virginia!

Article by Michele R. Siminari

The Effective Water Professional—Leadership, Communication, Management, Finance, and Governance provides young professionals with all the materials they need to succeed using proven techniques written by industry leaders. Challenges for the new era associated with the water–energy nexus, infrastructure, the need for global water solutions, and increased regulatory requirements require the use of new tools and nontechnical skills. This textbook covers leadership, communication, utility management, utility governance, and finance as it relates to the water industry in extensive detail and includes class discussion points and numerous examples.



THE EFFECTIVE WATER PROFESSIONAL

Leadership, Communication, Management,
Finance, and Governance



NEBRASKA WEA ACTIVITIES

By Ryan Hurst

The NWEA Young Professionals Committee teamed with the AWWA YP Committee to hold the 5th Annual Texas Hold'em Poker Tournament to benefit Engineers Without Borders (EWB). The event was a large success with approximately 60 participants, which was up from last year! This year we were again able to set a new record for the money raised. In large part to our sponsors, a total of \$3680.00 was donated to EWB! The funds raised will be used to support EWB water and power projects in Kianjavato, Madagascar. For the power project, they will use the funds to help purchase supplies to install solar powered lighting in classrooms at public primary schools. The school of focus for 2016 is the Ambolotara Public Primary School. The water project is currently focusing on the design and evaluation of several alternatives to rehabilitate a 25-year-old gravity-flow water tap system in the town of Kianjavato.

We appreciate everyone's support and look forward to another successful event next year!



ILLINOIS WEA ACTIVITIES



By Brian Foss

Members of the Illinois Water Environment Association (IWEA) met at Smith Park in Chicago on September 12th, 2015 to have a barbecue and brew a batch of beer. The event demonstrated how

much work goes into making a batch of beer while emphasizing the important role water plays in developing beer from mashing in to cooling. Using a recipe developed by Students and Young Professionals Vice Chair Brian Foss, members and friends of IWEA participated in making beer using an all grain recipe. The recipe designed was an India Pale Ale (IPA) and in honor of the committee's efforts it is being called the Young Professionals Ale (YPA).

NEW ENGLAND WEA ACTIVITIES

By Justin Skelly, "The New England Water Environmental Association Young Professional committee in conjunction with Boston-area graduate students held the second edition of the Poo and Brew series of networking events on November 5. The Upper Blackstone Water



Pollution Abatement Facility served as host for the "Poo" part of the event, with a tour of the biological nutrient removal facility. The UBWPAF in Millbury MA is one of the largest facilities in New England, serving roughly 250,000 people in the greater Worcester area. The Wormtown Brewery in Worcester, MA served as host for the "Brew" portion of the evening. A tour of the brewery was offered and fine food and drink was enjoyed. Thanks go out to the UBWPAF staff for volunteering their time to provide tours!

AMERICAN UNIVERSITY OF DUBAI STUDENT CHAPTER

By Nourhan Kassab, 2015 AUD Chapter President

The year 2014-2015 was a fruitful and productive year for the AUD WEF club as we successfully managed to launch the chapter, and hold various events that had a huge impact on the students and community including Introductory Events, Seminars, Field Tours, Social Events and Collaborative Events.

The AUD community was first introduced to WEF as a club and officers during the club signup event, in September 2014. Lead by curiosity, various students approached our booth asking questions about the club's mission, beliefs, and planned activities. Different themed activities were conducted by the officers including: hand printing using two colors green and blue. By the end of that day, WEF welcomed 164 new members from different majors.



AUD Student Chapter Executive Committee



A trip to DEWA, Dubai Electricity and Water Authority, started in the lecture room, where the lecturer identified DEWA's vision that is composed of three words, "A Sustainable World-Class Utility." DEWA's vision shows how it is committed to long-term sustainability, especially in delivering electricity and water throughout Dubai. The students also learned about the history of the plant, its parts, and its mechanism of working with emphasis on the desalination process. The students were informed that DEWA is manufacturing the new water brand MaiDubai, which is a high quality bottled drinking water that has low sodium content and balanced mix of other healthy minerals.

AUD WEF is interested in simple and sustainable solutions for saving water in UAE, so it was arranged for Engineer Fahd Mohammad Saeed Hareb from Dime Hydrophobic Materials to give a speech on their innovative product that promises to be a big leap in improving water conservation. This Hydrophobic sand is produced in Al Ain and could potentially save thousands of gallons of water. It has many applications such as landscaping, water proofing, and building foundations. The presentation focused on applications in gardening.



Q&A WITH PAUL BOWEN, WEF PRESIDENT

How has your involvement in WEF influenced your professional career?

Being a member of WEF has given me the opportunity to interact as a peer with a broad perspective of engineers and professionals. Not only do I have the opportunity to work alongside these individuals but I also was able to gain valuable insight in their ability to see simple solutions to complex problems. I've tried to keep that focus throughout my career.

What do you consider your greatest professional accomplishment?**Greatest WEF accomplishment?**

I've had three professional careers: academia, consulting and industry. Across all I've had the opportunity to work with outstanding professionals to complete numerous and diverse projects. Each project has allowed me to grow professionally and influenced me by gaining different perspectives. Some of the projects that have provided the most satisfaction include a National Science Foundation grant on sludge dewatering and particle charge, technical design review for Boston Harbor and Bangkok wastewater treatment plants, and leading The Coca-Cola System to 99 percent compliance with wastewater treatment requirements. The greatest accomplishment is yet to be realized, which is reducing the water use ratio of the Coca-Cola system below 2.0. We're on track to achieve this milestone in the next couple of years and reaching it will signal that we're producing more beverages than wastewater! From a WEF standpoint two things stand out. The first was when I was chair of the Program Committee. In collaboration with WEF staff, a mid-year planning and paper sharing concept was initiated. This model led to cross-functional sessions and positioning the best papers into the technical program. The second standout moment occurred while serving on the Board of Trustees when I helped integrate SMART objectives/metrics into WEF operations. To hear WEF staff and other trustees talk about this type of metric and embrace its application has been rewarding.



What should WEF's role be in influencing wastewater/water quality policy? WEF's role is primarily one of education and expertise. We offer our members with high-quality technical knowledge and provide information, opinions and guidance to inform decision makers. WEF volunteers should become water ambassadors to share knowledge and communicate guidance to the public and public officials at every level.

How do you balance professional organization commitments with work and personal obligations? A good question! I'm extremely fortunate to have an exceptionally understanding family and especially supportive managers. Balance is all about priorities. These priorities shift by the week, the day, and sometimes by the minute. I've try to put people (e.g., family, coworkers, staff) first. Balance is not easy and I keep working at it.

What future issue do you see as being the biggest challenge for current YP's in the water industry? If I could only look into my crystal ball! There are a couple of things that will challenge young professionals in the future. Technology will continue to advance and staying current with technology will always be a challenge. As these advances occur, the world will shrink even further so there will be no local conditions. Publicly, there will be global scrutiny of every decision made. Another challenge is that as seasoned professionals leave the work force, they will take a large amount of institutional knowledge with them. This knowledge is not compiled in textbooks or MOPs or SOPs and as a result YPs will have to learn it on their own.

What goals do you have for your time as WEF President? During my year as WEF President I want to focus on young professionals, long-range planning, and sustainable utilities. I believe WEF can do more to enhance the value of membership for young professionals, including scholarships, mentoring, expanded leadership roles, and increased inclusion. WEF's long-term vision and strategic goals provide direction for the organization. Long-range business planning with a 3-5 year horizon gives programs continuity and direction, which allows staff and volunteers to gain momentum toward goals. Sustainable utilities need to encompass more than water and recovered resources, and need to look to ways to develop as businesses that operate to return value.

If you could only offer 1 piece of advice to young professionals, what would it be? Only one piece! Robert Woodruff said, "There is no limit to what a man can do or where he can go if he doesn't mind who gets the credit." Inspired by his words, I say, "Do your job, do it well, don't worry about getting credit, and the rest will take care of itself!"

2017 YP SUMMIT

The 13th Annual YP Summit will be held in conjunction with the Utility Management Conference, Feb. 2017 in Tampa Florida. More information to follow!

<http://www.wef.org/YPSummit/>

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