



FEDERAL WATER QUALITY ASSOCIATION

An Affiliate of the Water Environment Federation
www.fwqa.org

NEWSLETTER

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IN SEARCH OF.....Luncheon Attendees

A great start for the Fall season! WEFTEC.08 is just behind us and the holiday season is just ahead. Interesting events are happening all around us and everyone is listening closely to 'the buzz' (the political buzz, that is). In tune with that very subject all FWQA members, colleagues and guests are invited to attend our upcoming December 4 luncheon featuring Claudia Copeland, senior analyst and specialist in environmental legislation and policy with the National Resources Policy Division of the Congressional Research Service, U.S. Library of Congress. Those of you who have heard Claudia speak on past Administrations won't want to miss this event at the Channel Inn. Reserve your space now (\$25) by calling Jim Wheeler at (202) 564-0662 or 564-0677. Mark your calendars for the January 7, 2009 luncheon at the Channel Inn with guest speaker, Jeff Corbin, Assistant Secretary of Natural Resources for Virginia. Jeff gave us an in-depth look at Virginia's overall water situation a several ago and will update us with a look back and a look ahead for the future of Virginia's waters. Watch your mail for more information and plan to attend.

PRESIDENT'S CORNER

by Tim Schmitt, FWQA President

It is my honor to be writing my first column for our newsletter as President of FWQA. Since my election as president last summer, the members of the FWQA Board have continued our discussions as to how to best serve existing FWQA members, as well as to reach out and attract new members to our organization. Personally, I want to focus on our core mission and improving our communications to all of our members. To that end, we plan on revamping the current FWQA website to make it a better outreach tool – one that will showcase some of our strengths as an organization – including hosting great events and speakers; providing judges for local science fairs; and awarding scholarships to deserving students focused on environmental science. But I would also like feedback from you regarding things you would like to see FWQA do – whether these are programs, speakers, participation in different events, etc. This is *your* organization, and we want it to serve you well. Our theme for this year is *Evolving Perspectives on Water Resources Management*, and our agenda this year reflects this theme. We began the year on a positive note with an after-work tour of the green infrastructure at EPA Headquarters, followed by an evening reception (see accompanying article). This was a great event that reinforced the idea that stormwater is a resource that should be captured and reused, as opposed to putting it into a pipe to get rid of it as soon as possible. This event was held in the evening rather than at lunch in order to give more people the opportunity to attend. Following the success of an evening kickoff event at the Casey Trees Foundation two years ago, we found that this venue drew attendees who might not normally be able to make it during the lunch hour. We will be looking at other future evening events. In closing, I would like to reiterate my request for feedback from members. We would love to hear from you regarding FWQA, what it does, and what it can do. Be sure to keep FWQA in mind as your perspectives on water resources management evolve this year!

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**THIS YEAR - GIVE THE GIFT
OF MEMBERSHIP**

ELECTION RESULTS

The FWQA is pleased to announce the official results of the 2008 Executive Board elections. Thirty-one legal ballots were received. All candidates were unanimously elected, except for the Secretary (there was one write-in for Jeff Burkhart - not a legal candidate, since Jeff is already serving as Immediate Past President). The new board is:

President – Tim Schmitt, President-Elect – Adam Krantz, Vice President – John Tucker, Secretary – Sharon Nye, Treasurer – Jim Wheeler, WEF Director – Mike Sullivan, Past President – Jeff Burkhart. We appreciate your votes.

FWQA HOSTS TOUR OF EPA ‘GREEN INFRASTRUCTURE’ *by Tim Schmitt*

On October 2, FWQA hosted an evening tour of the “green infrastructure” that has been implemented at EPA Headquarters. The tour was led by Anne Weinberg, Communications Coordinator with the Office of Oceans, Wetlands and Watersheds Assessment and Watershed Protection Division. Mr. Rod Frederick, recently retired from EPA, provided additional insight as he had been intimately involved with the project from the beginning. The project is a demonstration project that represents a collaborative effort involving various partners. EPA’s Office of Water provided conceptual designs for the LID practices. The Facilities Management Division of EPA’s Office of Administration and Resources Management oversaw their construction. The General Services Administration (GSA) designed and maintains the landscape, including trees and plants. Other parties joined as the project evolved, including the U.S. Commission of Fine Arts, the National Capital Planning Commission, the D.C. Water and Sewer Authority, and a variety of contractors. As a group, we gathered on the steps of EPA West, where Ms. Weinberg and Mr. Frederick discussed the four bioretention basins along Pennsylvania Avenue. These bioretention cells were integrated into the existing planting beds for a seamless design. They are planted with sustainable, water-tolerant vegetation with similar height, texture, appearance, and seasonal interest. The cells are graded and contoured so they have a 6-to-8 inch shallow depression with a layer of filtering soil on a bed of stone to store and filter water that provides more than 400 cubic feet of stormwater storage volume. The group into the courtyard of the Ariel Rios building, which incorporates more bioretention cells, pervious pavement, soil amendments, sustainable landscaping, water collection runnels, and planting, and a high-efficiency irrigation system, as well as an underground cistern that collects runoff from the runnels for reuse in irrigation. Our hosts demonstrated how precipitation filters into the permeable paver surface instead of running off by dumping a bucket of water into the pavement. They then discussed several of the unique challenges with working in a historic federal building, including working with GSA on the types of soil that met the requirements of the bioretention units while being acceptable to GSA, and the fact that the project required the removal of a historic granite curb (later relocated). Following the tour, our group headed for the nearby Hotel Harrington for a reception at Harriet’s. It turned out to be a great evening. We would like to thank Ms. Weinberg and Mr. Frederick for their insight into EPA’s green practices, and thank everyone for coming.

Executive Board

President Tim Schmitt (202) 833-9140

President-Elect – Adam Krantz

Vice-President – John Tucker

Secretary – Sharon Nye

Treasurer – Jim Wheeler

Past President – Jeff Burkhart

Members – Mary Belefski,

At-Large Jan Goodwin, Martin Brossman

Committee Chairs

Gov’t Affairs/Tech.5S – Jack Kooyoomjian

Scholarship Committee – Sharon Nye

Science Fairs – Jan Goodwin

Fundraising – Ken Kirk/Dawn K. Champney

Embassy Events/Membership – M. Brossman

Bylaws – John Tucker

Newsletter Editor – VACANT-volunteer needed

FWQA's 17th ANNUAL GOLF TOURNAMENT SETS RECORDS *by Sharon Nye*

FWQA's annual golf tournament once again was a great success, exceeding past years in sponsors and players. This year's event took place on Friday, October 10, when golfers from all sectors of the water quality field met at Bretton Woods Country Club in the rolling hills on the Potomac River in Germantown, Maryland to compete on the links.

The day was beautiful and 51 golfers took part in this year's tournament representing a cross-section of the water quality profession, from federal government personnel to consulting engineers and industry association executives. Though none were able to master the \$25,000 hole-in-one, there were winners all around as participants won over \$5,000 in prizes during the raffle held at the barbeque/reception following the tournament. Each year, FWQA awards scholarships to 4 deserving high school seniors planning to pursue a college degree related to the environment and water quality. The scholarships will again be presented at a luncheon in May, 2009. Thanks to the participation of members, colleagues, and friends in the golf tournament, FWQA is able to make this continued investment in the futures of many promising young adults. Thank you to all who played and sponsored, and thanks to fundraising chairs, Dawn Kristof Champney and Ken Kirk for their hard work and dedication to this program.

FWQA AWARDS SCHOLARSHIPS TO FOUR AREA HIGH SCHOOL SENIORS

Congratulations to Daniel Weller (Old Mill H.S.), Benjamin White (C.D. Hylton H.S.), Tina Tang (Hayfield Secondary School), and Yanran Chen (Mt. Hebron H.S.), winners of the 2008 FWQA scholarships in the amount of \$1500 each. The four outstanding students were honored along with local science fair winners at our yearly Scholarship Luncheon at the National Press Club in May. These students' accomplishments in the environmental field of study throughout high school have proven that they are deserving recipients. They have gone on this Fall to Ithaca College (Daniel), Virginia Tech (Ben), University of Virginia (Tina), and Princeton (Yanran).

FWQA FORMS ALLIANCE WITH WATER FOR PEOPLE

On March 22, 2008 (International World Water Day) a new alliance was formed between the Federal Water Quality Association (FWQA) and Water For People (WFP). As outlined in a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU), the FWQA agrees to be the official parent organization of the Water For People, Washington, D.C. Committee (WFP DC Committee). As the parent organization, the FWQA will offer financial oversight on the activities of the WFP DC Committee, and both organizations will collaborate in support of each other's initiatives and activities. WFP is an international non-profit organization that helps people in developing countries improve their quality of life by supporting the development of locally sustainable drinking water resources, sanitation facilities and health and hygiene education programs. Their vision is a world where all people have access to safe drinking water and sanitation. The organization was founded in 1991 by the American Water Works Association. It has been endorsed by the Water Environment Federation, the National Association of Water Companies, the National Association of Clean Water Agencies and the Association of Metropolitan Water Agencies. The WFP DC Committee raises funds to undertake activities in support of WFP's mission in Bolivia, Honduras, Guatemala, Dominican Republic, Ecuador, Nicaragua, India, Malawi, Uganda and Rwanda. To become involved with WFP, contact WFP DC Committee Chair, Cynthia Hartley at (202) 223-1733 or cynthia.hartley@mwhglobal.com.