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Newsletter

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SUCCESSFUL EVENTS OPEN THE 2010-11 FWQA NEW YEAR

By Mary B. Klein

The December 1 luncheon at the Pier 7 Restaurant featured Horst Otterstetter (right), environmental health consultant speaking on pharmaceuticals and public health in Brazil. Quincalee Brown (below) President of US Chapter of AIDIS introducing Mr. Otterstetter



September included the first luncheon program for the 2010-11 fiscal year and our 19th Annual National Capital Environmental Scholarship Golf Tournament and Barbeque. September 10 began with many of our generous sponsors and professionals enjoying "tee time" at the Bretton Woods Country Club in Maryland. See full article on page 3.



Our group was active from September to December hosting various successful events for enhancing professional expertise and providing support for our scholarship fund. Read on and catch up on the summaries of the events including pictures in this issue!

On September 30, our first featured speaker addressing this year's theme on "Protecting our Global Water Resources", Gilberto "Tito" Irizarry spoke on "Responding to the Oil Spill in the Gulf of Mexico" at the Channel in Washington DC. Tito, who is the Director of the Environmental Protection Agency's (EPA's) Office of Emergency Management Program Operations and Coordination, raised awareness about the current situation in the Gulf of Mexico following the BP oil spill in the Spring of 2010. He provided details on the events surrounding the spill, the Federal response, clean up efforts, and the short and long impacts known about the water and ecosystem along the Gulf coast.

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The event calendar year concluded at the Channel Inn in Washington DC on December 1 with a professional luncheon done in coordination with the Inter-American Association of Sanitary Engineering and Environmental Sciences (AIDIS-International). Mr. Horst Otterstetter, former director of Health and Environment at the Pan American Health Organization, spoke on the Impacts of Pharmaceuticals and Other Contaminants of Concern on the Water Environment in Brazil.

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Newsletter Editor

Mary B. Klein
(MaryL2002@earthlink.net)

President's Corner

by Adam Krantz

There is little doubt that current events are making it clear that the actions of one country, or even one individual, can have global impacts and consequences. This seems most clear in terms of economic policy but even individual actions like the Wikileaks document controversy demonstrate the global impacts of our individual activities and decisions. The same holds true not only in the economic or foreign affairs arenas, but perhaps even more clearly in the environmental arena.

The air we breathe and the water we need to live are constantly used and reused. Our waterways are interconnected and interdependent as a result of the nature of the hydrological cycle. As the Water Environment Federation's (WEF's) Washington, DC-based member association, the Federal Water Quality Association's (FWQA) unique perch in the Nation's capital enjoys a unique vantage-point to shed light on just how policies here in the United States have global consequences and how water policy in other countries can impact and edify the policy choices we make in the U.S. For these reasons we have chosen as our theme for this year — "Protecting Our Global Water Resources."

FWQA has already featured a great mix of local, national, and international topics during our luncheon series this year and we have just gotten started, so please visit our website at www.fwqa-dc.org for additional information and please plan on joining us at our upcoming events.

Perhaps most importantly, FWQA has recognized the fact that thinking globally also demands local action. With the impacts of the global recession in mind, FWQA is stepping up to do what it can to help DC-area students through a forward-looking expansion of its scholarship program. To help students pursue their dreams of a college education in the environmental sciences, FWQA has dramatically expanded its scholarship program from 4 scholarships of \$2,000 each (totaling \$8,000) to helping these students each year they are in college. This means that once the program is fully phased in, FWQA will be supporting 16 scholarships at \$2,000 each (totaling \$32,000).

In line with this dramatic expansion, NACWA is urging the recipients of this newsletter to continue to provide generous contributions to the scholarship program — by doing so, we will play our part — through these talented students — in making sure that new technologies and creative approaches are developed that will improve our global environment and ensure sustainable expansion. As always, thank you for your generous support and Happy New Year!

Continued from "Successful Events",
page 1

Horst began by explaining that in Brazil, the disposal of pharmaceuticals were of concern only in the academic world in the year 2000, and the government took interest in 2003. In Brazil, disposal methods included 88.6 percent going to the trash, 9.2 percent ending up in the sewer and 2.2 percent disposed with other methods such as return back to hospitals or pharmacies.

Mr. Otterstetter explained the actions to take in Brazil to address the problem of pharmaceutical contamination in the water environment. He concluded that currently there is no solid link between pharmaceutical contamination and human health.

19th Golf Tournament by Sharon Nye

FWQA's annual golf tournament once again was a great success. On September 10, golfers from all sectors of the water quality field met at Bretton Woods Country Club on the Potomac River in Germantown, MD to compete on the links. 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 following the tournament. Each year in May, FWQA awards scholarships to four deserving local high school seniors planning to pursue a college degree related to the environment and water quality. Thanks to the participation of members, colleagues, and friends of the golf tournament, FWQA is able to continually invest in the futures of these promising young adults. Thank you to all players and sponsors. Also, a special thanks to the fundraising chairs, Dawn Kristof-Champney and Ken Kirk for their hard work and dedication to FWQA's *National Capital Environmental Scholarship Program*.

Water For People Report by Cynthia Hartley

Hike-A-Thon -- It was a brisk morning in November 2010, when over 60 hikers converged on the Washington Suburban Sanitary Commission's (WSSC) Rocky Gorge Reservoir in Laurel, MD for the **2nd Annual Water For People Hike-A-Thon**. Families, friends, coworkers, and dogs aplenty joined to take in the spectacular leaves changing colors and great views of the lake. The five-mile hike, jointly hosted by the Washington, DC and Chesapeake Section Committees of Water For People, served to benefit much needed water improvement projects in one of the eleven countries in which Water For People works. Our special guest this year was the WSSC's very own Chief Engineer, Gary Gumm. Gary welcomed the hikers with a few words about WSSC and Water For People, then the hikers set off on their hike, challenged by several trivia checkpoints along the way. The hike concluded with a well deserved lunch and chances at several raffle prizes depending on the number of trivia questions correctly answered. Huge thanks to WSSC for opening up one of their

reservoirs to us! Keep your eye out for the 3rd Annual Hike-A-Thon, tentatively scheduled for **Saturday, October 8, 2011**.

World Water Day -- The Washington, DC Water For People Committee is also preparing for its **5th Annual Washington, DC Water For People World Water Day** event. This year, as in previous years, the committee will be partnering with the DC Environmental Film Festival to promote this year's featured water film, *Chattahoochee: From Water War to Water Vision*. For almost twenty years Georgia, Florida and Alabama have been locked in a fierce struggle over water. By interweaving individual stories, *Chattahoochee: From Water War to Water Vision*, educates viewers on the complex issues and choices that increasingly face all of us when it comes to one of our most precious natural resources, water. Please save the date of **Monday, March 21, 2011** to celebrate World Water Day and hear first hand from filmmakers Rhett Turner and Jonathan Wickham about their motivation and journey in the making of this relevant and thought provoking documentary.

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19th Annual Golf Tournament Highlights: (Left) FWQA President Adam Krantz ready to have the participants "start their engines!"; (Right) Kudos to volunteers, (left to right) Dawn Kristof Champney, Sharon Nye, and Shalina Baker



CALENDAR OF EVENTS

Continued from "Water for People Report," page 3

February 10: Luncheon -
"Protecting Our Global
Water Resources: Uniting
People & Policy for Water
Sustainability"; Ben
Grumbles, Speaker

March 21: World Water Day
event sponsored by Water
for People

May: Luncheon -
Scholarship and Science
Fair Winners

June: Water for People
Event on June 13
Annual Picnic!

Water for People Gala -- With AWWA's 2011 Annual Conference and Exhibition taking place in Washington, DC, the Washington, DC Water For People Committee is hosting the signature Water For People event of the year. To kick off ACE 2011 the **Washington, DC Water For People Gala** will take place at the National Museum of Women in the Arts on **Monday, June 13, 2011**. Please visit <http://www.waterforpeopledc.org> for additional details including sponsorship opportunities and ticket purchasing. For more information, email info@waterforpeopledc.org.

Below -- Water for People Volunteers (Cynthia Hartley second from left) at the Registration Table for Fall Walk-A-Thon



*Things to look for in the
next issue:*

*First in a Series on the
History of our Water
Environment Federation
FWQA Member Association*

*Upcoming events – mark
your calendars!*

NEXT LUNCHEON

When: Thursday, February 10, 2011
Where: the Channel Inn, Washington, DC

The topic will be *Protecting Our Global Water Resources: Uniting People & Policy for Water Sustainability*. The Featured Speaker is Ben Grumbles, President, Clean Water America Alliance and former Assistant Administrator for Water at the US Environmental Protection Agency.

Call Jim Wheeler (202) 564-0662 or Clara Alston (202) 564-0677 by Monday, February 7, 2010 to make your reservation

DIRECTOR'S REPORT

by Tim Schmitt, FWQA Delegate

The annual meeting for the WEF House of Delegates (HOD) was held on October 2 during WEFTEC in New Orleans. The meetings at WEFTEC actually consist of two sessions: the morning session was for the close of the 2009-2010 HOD, while the afternoon was the opening of the 2010-2011 HOD. Because I am in my second year of a three year term that began in 2009, I attended both sessions.

The day began with a joint session of the 2009-2010 and the 2010-2011 HOD members, where the Water Environment Research Foundation (WERF) and WEF committees gave presentations on their current work. Bart Jones, Chairman of WEF's Committee Leadership Council, discussed WEF Committees, Communities of Practice (CoPs), and Councils, what each type of group does, and how they relate to each other to further WEF's mission. WEF Committees do the heavy lifting for WEF and have many duties, including developing conference programs, writing technical manuals and books, developing training materials and program content, and implementing many other WEF program activities. You must be a member of WEF to serve on a WEF Committee. In contrast, a WEF CoP is designed to allow outside expertise from non-WEF members. CoPs are formed to coordinate and enhance the knowledge and practice for a specific issue that may or may not end up being the focus of a

expressed the need for more coordination of these various groups with the Member Associations. WEF is requesting that each MA provide a list of its individual MA committees and Chairpersons to WEF so that WEF can develop a matrix of similar groups across MAs and WEF itself. WEF is also planning on allowing each MA to designate a "corresponding member" from that MA who will receive summaries of the activities of the Committee CoP or Council for relay to the MA.

The HoD then split into Working Groups to discuss specific issues. I attended the Working Group on MA Representation and Voting. The primary issue in this Working Group was how many WEF members an MA should be required to have to remain eligible to have a delegate to the HOD. After much discussion, the Working Group put forth a recommendation requiring 50 members for a North American MA and 5 members for an international MA (reduced from 100 and 20, respectively) to have representation at the HOD. The Board of Trustees will vote on this issue soon. The Working Group will continue to meet by telephone during the 2010-2011 term to discuss whether representation in the HoD should be increased for large MAs. Currently, representation stands at one delegate for MAs with up to 499 WEF members; two delegates for MAs with 500-1,999 WEF members; and 3 delegates for MAs with over 2,000 WEF members.

delegates for MAs with 500-1,999 WEF members; and 3 delegates for MAs with over 2,000 WEF members. In the afternoon, the 2009-2010 HoD heard a report from WEF President Paul Freedman, voted on the nominations of new members of the Board of Trustees, and heard reports from each HOD Working Group.

Later, the 2010-2011 HoD convened to approve the nomination of a new Speaker of the House, hear from the new WEF President Jeanette Brown, and identify issues for discussion by Working Groups that will continue throughout the year. I continue to be involved with the Working Group on MA Representation and Voting. One of the statements that resonated from the HoD session was Bill Bertera, outgoing Executive Director of WEF, discussing the important role that the HoD plays in WEF. He reminded everyone that the HoD is critical in ensuring that strong leaders are nominated and approved for WEF leadership positions. He also reiterated that WEF is an industry leader not just in North America, but internationally, in water issues.

While I still have one year remaining on my term in the HoD, I would strongly urge anyone with an interest in serving on the HoD to contact me or any other FWQA Board Member to discuss serving in future terms.

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WANTED: Volunteer Judges for Spring Science Fairs

FWQA supports budding scientists and engineers by judging at Regional Science Fairs in the Metropolitan area each year. We are always looking for volunteers to help judge. Judging typically involves taking 4 hours of your time on a Saturday to attend the Science Fair and judge the projects. FWQA provides awards and recognition of Science Fair participants and it is a great way to encourage young people to stay interested in science and engineering pursuits. Science Fairs take place in March and for most of the fairs you would be paired with experienced judges. If you are interested in volunteering please contact Janet Goodwin at janetkaygoodwin@gmail.com. I would appreciate if you would let me know what jurisdictions are most convenient for you. We judge at Fairs in most of the counties surrounding the District as well as the District itself.

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Federal Water Quality Association

P.O. Box 14303

Washington, DC 20044-4303
