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# FEDERAL WATER QUALITY ASSOCIATION

An Affiliate of the Water Environment Federation

## NEWSLETTER

Volume 35, No.1, Summer 2010

[www.fwqa-dc.org](http://www.fwqa-dc.org)

### PRESIDENT'S CORNER

by Adam Krantz, FWQA President  
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It is an honor to return as the Federal Water Quality Association (FWQA) President for a second year of service. This past year has witnessed some key milestones, most notably the expansion of the Association's National Capital Environmental Scholarship Program to support four students per year (i.e., 16 total) with a scholarship award of \$2,000 for each of the four years they are in college in an environmental program. The FWQA Board of Directors endorsed this program expansion precisely to help these students and their families when they most needed it, but also to further incentivize D.C.-area students to embark on, and complete, an environmental education.

This commitment to the Scholarship Program also comes at a time that we most need the best and brightest to help solve national but global environmental challenges – challenges that will only grow more complex over time. Although we have a limited fresh water supply on this planet, population, industry and agriculture are all expanding exponentially and placing an enormous pressure on our sanitation and water supply capabilities. Nutrient challenges and climate change are putting pressure on our water resources the likes of which we have not seen at any time in the past.

As the old adage goes "whiskey is for drinking but water is for fighting." As severe water shortage increase globally there will be serious repercussions for U.S. national and international policy. The FWQA's presence in Washington, D.C. makes it uniquely situated to provide a forum to discuss these issues and shine a spotlight on them. For this reason we have chosen Protecting Our Global Resources as our discussion theme for this year.

Last but certainly not least, we would like to thank all of our sponsors and contributors to the Scholarship Program who have helped us make the expansion of this effort a success. We look forward to working with you for many years to come and to having an ever-growing impact on the lives of students seeking out careers in the environmental arena and also in advancing our national and global water environment.

### SEPTEMBER LUNCHEON PROGRAM

Protecting Our Global Water Resources:

*"Responding to the Oil Spill in the Gulf of Mexico."*

Featured Speaker: **Gilberto "Tito" Irizarry, Director Program Operations and Coordination Division, EPA's Office of Emergency Management**

**RSVP to Jim Wheeler - (202) 564-0662**

**September 30<sup>th</sup>**

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## 2010 OFFICIAL ELECTION RESULTS

All candidates were elected by majority vote. The FWQA received 31 ballots, including one write-in candidate for the Office of Vice President. James Wheeler is serving the second year of a two-year term as Treasurer; John Tucker, a former FWQA President, was appointed by the new President to serve as the Past President, in place of Tim Schmitt, the outgoing President. Tim Schmitt is serving the second year of a three-year term as the Federation Director. The Executive Board also includes three Members-at-Large, to be appointed by the new President. The newly-elected officers below took office on July 1, 2010.

|                        |                 |                         |             |
|------------------------|-----------------|-------------------------|-------------|
| <b>President</b>       | Adam Krantz     | <b>Treasurer</b>        | Jim Wheeler |
| <b>President Elect</b> | Julia Anastasio | <b>Director</b>         | Tim Schmitt |
| <b>Vice President</b>  | Madeleine Nawar | <b>Past President</b>   | John Tucker |
| <b>Secretary</b>       | Sharon Nye      | <b>Members-at-Large</b> | TBD         |

## SPEAKER ROSTER FOR THE YEAR SHEDS LIGHT ON KEY 21<sup>st</sup> CENTURY WATER ISSUES

Last year's theme of *The Next Generation of Water...Challenges and Opportunities* proved to be a popular and successful one for FWQA's series of Luncheon addresses. On February 17, 2010, Jeff Lape, then-Director of the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency's (EPA) Chesapeake Bay Program, discussed the current regulatory framework being developed by EPA and the important role of state watershed implementation plans in meeting the nutrient challenges in the Chesapeake Bay watershed. The presentation was followed by an informative Q&A period with a focus on the best methods to address nonpoint sources of nutrients, especially agriculture.

The March 24 luncheon followed, exploring the impacts of climate change and the pressing need for a national policy by Dr. Joseph Romm, editor of *Climate Progress* and senior fellow at the Center for American Progress and author of the recent book on climate issues, *Straight Up*. Dr. Romm emphasized the fact that the science was clear regarding the human contribution in creating the climate change problem and that the need to develop a price for carbon and to develop meaningful carbon emission limit is now.

On April 29, FWQA enjoyed a highly successful event at the Canadian Embassy where attendees heard from Kevin O'Shea, Minister (Political Affairs) at the embassy in Washington. Minister O'Shea provided a discussion of lessons learned from U.S. infrastructure management and investment as well as an update and assessment of the Great Lakes Compact signed by the U.S. and Canada in 2009.

The embassy luncheon exemplified the increasingly international nature of today's water quality challenges, helping, in part, to lead to the theme for this year's Luncheon Series – *Protecting Our Global Water Resources*. The FWQA looks forward to an equally compelling speaker roster this, which will kick off on September 30 with a presentation by Gilberto "Tito" Izzarry, Director of Program Operations and Coordination Division, with EPA's Office of Emergency Management. **Mark your calendars for this event.**

## **FWQA ANNUAL AWARDS LUNCHEON UNDERSCORES IMPORTANCE OF EXPANDED SCHOLARSHIP PROGRAM**

*by Adam Krantz*

On Thursday, May 27, 2010, clean water professionals from around the D.C.-area came together to celebrate and honor the class of FWQA's 2010 Scholarship Award recipients. The luncheon was well-attended at the National Press Club. The keynote speaker, Pete Silva, Assistant Administrator for Water at the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, provided an engaging speech about the for more students to be encouraged to enter the field of environmental sciences and engineering. As an engineer himself, Silva remarked on the Gulf oil spill as an example of the increasingly complex challenges the water environment will face and the need for programs like that of FWQA to encourage the best and the brightest into the environmental field. The luncheon featured a standing ovation for this year's group of award recipients. It also focused on the FWQA's expanded scholarship program to provide scholarship support for each of a student's four-year stay in college to further encourage and help students not only embark on, but continue in, an environmental studies program. Also honored at the luncheon were this past year's local area high school science fair winners, a group of young adults who truly provide hope that the U.S., despite many challenges to our water quality, is poised to continue to be the leader in addressing environmental challenges.

## **RECOGNIZING FUTURE ENVIRONMENTAL CHAMPIONS**

### **2010 FWQA SCHOLARSHIPS AWARDED**

*by Sharon Nye*

This year four outstanding applicants were chosen by the FWQA Scholarship Committee judges early in May, as the recipients of four separate \$2,000, 4 year scholarship awards. The judging committee consisted of Sharon Nye (chair), WWEMA, Barry Benroth, U.S. EPA, Christian Davies-Venn, PEER Consultants, and Sheila Olem, AFLAC and Herndon Town Council. Scholarship applicants from D.C. and surrounding Maryland and Virginia counties were rated on academic achievement, environment-related essay, references, extra-curricular activity related to the environment, and overall presentation. A fourth scholarship was awarded this year due to the high caliber of applicants and their environmental awareness relating to water quality. The 2010 FWQA scholarship winners are: Linda Epstein of Lake Braddock Secondary School, Burke, VA (Gordon McCallum Scholarship), Matthew Hunt of Poolesville High School, Poolesville, MD (Richard Barber Scholarship), Elizabeth Saccoccia of Forest Park High School, Dale City, VA (Harvey Olem Scholarship). The additional President's Scholarship was awarded to Samuel Widmayer of Poolesville High School, Poolesville, MD.

### **SCIENCE FAIR WINNERS ANNOUNCED**

*by Janet Goodwin*

Once again FWQA supported local science students in 2010. As Science Fair chair, I would like to extend my appreciation to all of our judges for supporting science education and introducing these impressive young winners to FWQA. Several of our science fair first place winners attended our May Awards Luncheon at the National Press Club, where they had the opportunity to meet scientists and engineers that work in environmental fields these which interest these students. Special thanks to FWQA members and professionals who volunteered to judge at various local science fairs this year, including Northern Virginia, Fairfax County, Loudoun County, Prince William County, Montgomery County, Prince Georges County, Anne Arundel County and the District of Columbia. Judging were: Jack Kooyoomjian (USEPA), Sharon Nye (WWEMA), Susan Helling (WWEMA), Chris Hornback (NACWA), Joe Ford (USEPA), Chandra Vavilala (USEPA), Vendra Walker (WSSC), Ryan O'Banion (Limno Tech), Jeff Burkhart (Jacobs Engineering) and Jan Goodwin, chair (USEPA).

## FWQA LOSES TWO LONG-TIME SUPPORTERS

It is with great sadness that we report the passing of two extended FWQA board members this year. Edward H. (Ed) Bryan and Irene Dooley had been active on the board for many years in the past and will be sorely missed.

**Dr. Ed Bryan**, 85, was an environmental engineer who worked for the National Science Foundation from 1972 to 2000 as an engineering program director. He was very involved in the FWQA even after his retirement several years back. Ed served honorably for nearly 2 decades as the distinguished Charter 5S pH 7 Influent Integrator of the Select Society of Sanitary Sludge Shovelers (5S) FWQA Chapter. If you are fortunate enough to have received one of the coveted gold shovel pins, Ed Bryan may have been the one to pin it on you. Ed also served for many years as Technical and Science Editor of the FWQA newsletter.

**Irene S. Dooley**, age 58, passed away suddenly of natural causes on September 6 of this year. A long-time employee of the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency and a great friend of FWQA, she will be remembered for her energy, intelligence, intensity, caring, and compassion. She graduated from the University of Illinois. Irene was a dedicated volunteer and served as Scholarship Chair at FWQA for many years.

### DC Water For People Committee Updates

You may have noticed a few changes going on lately with Water For People. In March of this year, they unveiled their new logo, branding, and strategic plan. A new strategic plan already you ask? That's right, they were so successful in meeting the goals of their last plan, which went through 2011, that they had to hurry up and develop a new one. To learn more about their new strategic plan, visit <http://www.waterforpeople.org/media-center/press-release/water-for-people-rebrands.html>.

To continue with that momentum right here in DC, we have several busy months ahead of us! First up is a hike-a-thon this fall. Last years hike was such a great success, with over 70 hikers and raising \$4,000, we're having another one. The hike will be Saturday, November 6<sup>th</sup> starting at 10:00 AM at the Rocky Gorge Reservoir in Laurel, MD. Stay after the hike to enjoy a light lunch with fellow hikers. We hope the changing leaf colors are at their peak! For more information and to register, please visit our website [www.waterforpeopledc.org](http://www.waterforpeopledc.org) and click on the hike-a-thon button. Register by October 10<sup>th</sup> to be guaranteed a commemorative shirt. Not a hiker, but want to help? We are looking for volunteers.

Next spring, we plan to host our 7<sup>th</sup> annual World Water Day outreach event in March. If you have ideas for this event, or would like to help us plan, please let us know! This year our event was held at Ulah Bistro in the U Street corridor. We partnered with Bartending4Change ([www.bartending4change.com](http://www.bartending4change.com)), a local non-profit created to help raise money for charities in DC. The bartenders' tips, as well as 10% of Ulah Bistro's proceeds were donated to Water For People. We also raffled off some beautiful prizes.

And last but not least, we have begun the planning for our biggest undertaking of next year – we're hosting a "Women in Water" themed gala at ACE2011. ACE is the national American Water Works Association (AWWA) annual conference, which will be held here in DC next June. Our event will be held at The Women in the Arts Museum on Monday, June 13, 2011 at 5:30 PM. We want to recognize and honor the struggles and victories of women around the world working to provide clean, potable water to those most in need.

**Sponsorship opportunities are available** for all our events, as well as an annual sponsorship package which will cover all our events. For more information, please visit our committee website at [www.waterforpeopledc.org](http://www.waterforpeopledc.org). And are you on FaceBook? If so, please consider becoming a fan of our committee page: <http://www.facebook.com/#!/group.php?gid=141698302517610&ref=ts>. If you'd like to get involved in our committee, help plan one of our events, learn more about sponsorship opportunities, or just have a general question, please email our committee chair, Cynthia Hartley, at [Cynthia@waterforpeople.org](mailto:Cynthia@waterforpeople.org).