WEHA Newsletter

1250 McDougall Dr., Lander, WY 82520 Issue III September 2004

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President's Message

This will be my last President's message. I hope to keep it a little shorter than the past letters. I do have some kudos' that I need to give out. I want to thank the members of WEHA for allowing me to serve as your President for the past two years. I feel that it has been a mostly positive experience and everyone on the board and the committee chairs made it much easier. Thank you all.

I hope as President I was able to fulfill my duties as you expected. I worked hard to get a WEHA website going that all the members could use and be proud of. I believe it is a user-friendly site that provides members and interested parties alike useful information. Additionally, the AEC's have been educational, fun and very successful. I am always amazed at the quality of the speakers we have been able to bring in for our conferences. This year in Breckenridge should be outstanding. The Board has worked to make WEHA a better and stronger association and with the help of the board I think we have done that.

With my last parting words I hope that those who have been involved will stay involved in the association. I also hope that new members will become involved and bring with them a fresh vision so we can keep the association moving forward and make it better for all of us. As the past president of NEHA said: "The real value of membership is an intangible, it is being part of a good cause- it is being part of and supporting the environmental health profession." I want to encourage those of you who have not been on the board to please consider throwing your hat into the ring to make the association what you think it should be.

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NEHA AEC 2004
by Roy Kroeger

WOW! What a conference NEHA put on in Anchorage. It was great and I would like to thank WEHA for helping support my trip to the conference in May. The conference covered many interesting topics. This year a major topic was Bio-Terrorism. Other topics included: water and wastewater, food safety, swimming pools, air quality, solid waste, hazardous waste, GIS and technology and many, many more topics. The great thing about the national conference is that there are so many different sessions with such varying topics to attend all week long.

In addition to all the educational sessions, there were so many exhibitors showing their wares. There was an endless exhibit hall of salesmen showing environmental health professionals how to make their lives easier, and some of it looked promising.

Serving as an affiliate president also got me involved in numerous meetings, some of which gave me an opportunity to voice concerns to NEHA and others to give NEHA ideas on how to best lobby for the EH professional in Washington. At the Council of Delegates, the hot topic was finding ways to convey what the environmental health profession can and will do in the face of future domestic preparedness issues. It is amazing to me how many people do not see or have a skewed vision of the environmental health and public health roles in Homeland Security.

Once again I would like to thank everyone for helping support my trip to Anchorage with your stipend. I also want to encourage everyone to attend a future NEHA Annual Education Conference. There is surely something of interest to anyone in the field at the conference and plenty of opportunities to complete CEU requirements. Next year's meeting in Providence, Rhode Island will be held June 26-29. If anyone is interested or has questions please contact me or you can get more information by visiting the NEHA website at www.NEHA.org

Inspirational Words:

I don't know what your destiny will be, but one thing I do know: the only ones among you who will be really happy are those who have sought and found how to serve.

Albert Schweitzer

Training Opportunities:

CPO Courses:

Salt Lake City	**UT**	**October 12th & 14th**	**Lisa**	**801-569-0120**
Greenwood Village	**CO**	**December 8th & 9th**	**Erika Koth**	**303-761-1340**
Thornton	**CO**	**February 18th – 20th**	**Brad Anderson**	**303-762-2689**
Sandy	**UT**	**February 18th & 19th**	**Stacey Clark**	**801-209-2337**

CDC National Environmental Public Health Conference:
December 3-5, 2004: Hilton Atlanta Hotel, Atlanta, Georgia

NEHA 2005 AEC:
June 26-29, 2005 Providence, Rhode Island

International Association for Food Protection (IAFP 2004):
August 14-17, 2005: Baltimore, Maryland

The Cheyenne/ Laramie County Health Department recently received a Homeland Security grant in the amount of $91,000 to increase our capacity for providing an effective public health response to community health threats.

Public Health Mobile Response Unit

Project: **Laramie County Public Health Mobile Response Unit**

Project Summary: The Public Health Mobile Response Unit (PH MRU) will increase the capacity of Laramie County to respond to large-scale threats and acts of terrorism involving CBRNE (Chemical Biological Radiological Nuclear Explosive) weapons. The PH MRU will allow for increased coordination in the field response of public health and safety personnel in Laramie County. A self-propelled, motor home-type vehicle will serve as PH MRU, and will be equipped with sufficient supplies and equipment to coordinate and sustain a public health response to a community disaster or terrorist threat.

The Public Health Mobile Response Unit will serve Laramie County in several ways:

1. The PH MRU will serve as a transport vehicle to deliver up to eight initial public health responders to an event scene. During a response, the MRU will serve as a screening and intervention coordination center for an unlimited number of citizens depending on the event type.
2. The PH MRU will be stocked with screening, vaccination and medication supplies to serve as a mobile clinic / on-site surveillance center during an event or during pre- and post-event responses. The PH MRU will allow for mass distribution of antibiotics, smallpox vaccinations, or other public health control interventions as appropriate.

3. The PH MRU will be equipped to serve as a field response coordination center during response to high-risk events and during threatened or actual incidents.

4. The PH Mobile Response Unit will be equipped to serve as a temporary mobile public health office if security of the City County Health Unit is compromised and/or when a public health office is required in outlying areas of the county, assuring continuation of essential public health response activities during a threatened or actual event.

5. The PH MRU will be used in prevention activities to conduct outreach throughout Cheyenne and Laramie County, allowing for community-level preparedness and consequence management education sessions within all communities. Use of the Unit during non-emergency activities will help to establish recognition of the MRU and personnel as a reliable source of preparedness education and a source of information, clinical, and screening services during an event response. Use of the unit during large-scale non-emergency events will serve as drills to assure public health personnel and equipment readiness.

New Staff Members

DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE:
We are pleased to announce our new employees and our promotions.

Donny Malone is our new inspector in the Douglas area. Donny began with the department on September1, 2004. He comes to us as a manager from Douglas Liquor. He has a Bachelors degree in Biology from the University of Wyoming.

Dawn Helms has accepted the supervisor position in the western half of the state. Dawn will begin work on October 1, 2004. Dawn comes to us from the Livestock Board so has some background with cattle issues. She graduated from CSU in Ft. Collins, Colorado, with a degree in Animal Science. She is looking forward to working with the department and CHS.

Joe Martinez is the new inspector for Thermopolis. He will start on October 4, 2004. Joe has a degree from Texas Tech University in Animal Science.

Stephen LeSatz is the new employee for our part-time position in Casper. He will start on November 1, 2004. Stephen has a degree in Animal Science from the University of Arizona. He worked previously at Con Agra so has some knowledge in HACCP and processing.

Linda Stratton has moved up from the Consumer Health Protection Specialist Lead and as of August 1, 2004 is the Assistant Program Manager for Consumer Health Services. She has been with the Department of Agriculture for 24 years. Congratulations Linda!

Dean Finkenbinder was promoted to Program Manager of Consumer Health Services beginning July 1, 2004. He has worked in Public Health for 26 years. He was the area supervisor for the western part of Wyoming. Congratulations Dean!

We are doing an in-person interview for our final full-time position that needs to be filled in Lander. The in-person interview is a follow-up to a telephone interview. We are hopeful it will soon be filled and we can be fully staffed once again.

TETON COUNTY HEALTH DEPARTMENT:

We have hired a new Environmental Health Specialist here in Teton County bringing the count to three.

Brenda Ashworth, PG, REHS moved from our administrative assistant to EHS in July. She has an environmental geologist background that comes in very handy when we are faced with the All Hazards Response. Brenda lives with her two children ages 5 and 17 and husband in the Star Valley area. We are very excited to have the much-needed help.

We have also hired a new administrative assistant person to take over for Brenda. Julie Hayward started with us in August. She has been in Jackson for 7 years. We are really enjoying her organizational skills – our files have never looked better.

Outbreak of Salmonellosis associated with Turtles in Casper

The Casper/ Natrona County Health Dept. was involved in confiscating over 112 turtles of several varieties from two pet shop locations in Casper. On 8/27, two members of the department arrived at the pet shops and took possession of the turtles under order from the Natrona County Health Officer. These reptiles were linked with transmitting Salmonellosis to two citizens, one of which required hospitalization. The Wyoming State Vet and Public Health Labs made positive identification between the isolates recovered from the infected persons and swabs from the turtles themselves. There is a Federal law that bans the sales of these turtles if they are less than 4 inches in length. Title 21 of the Food and Drug Act, Subpart D, paragraph (b) specifically addresses the prohibition of sales for any purpose other than research. We believed this action was necessary, especially in view of the transmission of disease and the sales of these animals. If you happen upon similar circumstances, be aware that there is a federal regulation to support your actions should the need to confiscate be necessary.

Submitted by John Drinnon
Casper/ Natrona County Health Dept.

2004
MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION
WYOMING ENVIRONMENTAL HEALTH ASSOCIATION

Name:_____

Business Name:_____

Home Address:_____City _____ Zip_____

Work Address:_____City_____ Zip_____

Phone: Home_____ Office _____ Fax_____

E-mail Address_____

Position/Title:_____

Agency:_____

Counties/Cities Assignment Area: _____

Position Duties/Specialty Areas:_____

_____

_____

Are you a: Registered_____ Licensed_____ or Certified_____ Professional?

Are you a member of: NEHA_____ IAFP_____ Member of WEHA since:_____

Annual Dues: $100.00 Sustaining Membership
$10.00 Before March 31, 2004 or any new members
$15.00 April 1, 2004 or later.
$ 5.00 Student Membership

Please return completed applications with dues to: Doug Evans, Treasurer
2701 Dogwood Ave
Gillette, WY 82718

Please fill out forms completely.

Environmental Assessment at local Cheyenne Daycare

By Jennifer Escobedo

It seems as Environmental Health or Consumer Health Professionals we are constantly being challenged to think "outside-the box". The only thing we know for sure from day to day is that we are sure to encounter something unexpected, probably in addition to our normal daily tasks. The type of questions we are routinely asked continue to amaze me. It seems that our roles, and subsequently our knowledge, are ever expanding to encompass areas that could not have been foreseen a few short years ago. As the public becomes more aware of what is going on in their environments, we are being called upon more and more.

On this particular assessment, we received a call from a director of a local daycare center. She was calling to inquire about a letter she had received from her building maintenance supervisor. The letter detailed a stripping and re-painting project that was to take place around the outside of part of her daycare later in the summer or early fall. It also included MSDS sheets for the types of chemicals that were going to be used.

The chemicals were what she was most concerned with. The descriptions of the precautions and the possible effects or injuries that could be sustained if those precautions were ignored worried her. She forwarded the letter and the MSDS sheets to our office because she wanted our advice. After reviewing the information, our office was also concerned. We sought the expertise of our State Environmental Epidemiologist, Dr. David Barber. He also became very concerned, especially with the stripping agent that was to be used. One of the ingredients of great concern was methylene chloride. Many negative health effects have been observed, even with exposure to small amounts, to methylene chloride. Various adverse reactions to skin contact, eye contact, inhalation and ingestion were among the immediate reactions noted for the stripper. Long term effects of that chemical are unknown.

The building maintenance department requested to have a meeting with our department after we wrote a letter voicing our concerns about the continuation of the project. The premise of the meeting was to show us how the stripper was being applied on a different portion of the campus out of the area of the daycare and how innocuous it would be for use around children.

Present at the meeting in addition to representatives of the building maintenance department, were representatives from Cheyenne/Laramie County Environmental Health, Wyoming Department of Family Services, Cheyenne Fire & Rescue and Dr. David Barber.

We were invited to observe how the lone employee, who was on-site, was applying the chemical to the building in a "safe" manner and how it would be just as safe for children to be around. The employee applying the stripper should have worn protective clothing such as a respirator, full arm-length impermeable gloves, and an impermeable rain suit. What he was wearing instead was a plastic face shield (which was flipped up because the chemical he was applying had eaten a layer through the plastic), gloves of some kind and a rain suit with a large hole through the main part of the suit.

Additionally, the contractor supplied us with "new" MSDS sheets at the time of our meeting that apparently were the correct MSDS sheets. Importantly the new MSDS sheets said the product did not contain methylene chloride, but the empty bottle of stripper on-site at the time of our meeting clearly stated that the product did contain methylene chloride. Which should we have believed?

Of course the conclusion that we came to, was that the people in charge of the project may not know exactly what chemicals they were working with and thus would not know what kind of precautions to take. It surely would be a big issue if the chemical bottle were mislabeled. But what about the incorrect MSDS sheets? How are MSDS sheets regulated and why were we supplied with a seemingly incorrect set?

Our next stop was outside the daycare where the project was to take place. We were informed that the daycare was a positive pressure room so that no fumes of any kind could be pulled into the building. Hence, we were assured that neither the doors nor the ventilation system could pull fumes from the project into the daycare. In actuality the room was a negative pressure room so that the fumes could easily be pulled into the room.

Even after all these findings, the building maintenance reps were still trying to sway our opinion that the project was safe to continue without moving

the children. They voiced more concern for accidentally stripping the paint off of any cars in the area than for the children's well being.

To that end, it was our strong recommendation to the Department of Family Services that the project not continue on the outside of the daycare while the kids were present inside.

I am sure that you can all see the implications in our findings. There will always be people out there who wish to push everything they do to the limits of what is acceptable. It is our job to protect the public health of our communities to the best of our abilities. This project in particular is still pending. It will not continue in the fashion that they originally intended because we followed through with our concern, and that makes me feel like I did my job. And tomorrow, I am sure, there will be another fire to be put out somewhere else and I only hope that we are ready.

Minutes
Wyoming Environmental Health Association
Executive Board Meeting
26 August 2004
Conference Room, Wyoming State Fair Grounds, Douglas, WY

An executive board meeting of the Wyoming Environmental Health Association was held Thursday, August 26, 2004 in the Conference Room, Wyoming State Fair Grounds, Douglas, WY. Present were, President Roy Kroeger ; President Elect, Sherry Maston; Treasurer, Doug Evans; and Secretary, Bryan Grapes.

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10. **CALL TO ORDER**

President Roy Kroeger called the meeting to order at 10:30 a. m.

II. SECRETARY'S REPORT

A motion to suspend the reading of the minutes was made by Sherry. Doug seconded the motion. Motion carried.

III. TREASURER'S REPORT

Doug reported:
Smith –Barney Account **$ 6796-93**
Community First National Bank checking account **$ 12,712.91**
Total WEHA funds are **$ 19,509.84** as of August 26, 2004

Sherry moved to accept the treasurer's report as presented. Bryan seconded the motion. Motion passed.

IV. COMMITTEE REPORTS

Child Care – Jerry Olson
There was no report offered.

Pools and Spas – Neal Bloomenrader
There was no report offered.

Library – Roy Kroeger
There was no report offered.

Public Relations – Linda Stratton
There was no report offered.

Newsletter – Jennifer Escobedo –
Newsletter is gathering information for the next offering. Next letter will be in September 2004.

Awards – Neal Bloomenrader –
There was a report on nominations received to this point for Donkey Tail Award. Sherry suggested that Bryan compile list of past award winners for Outstanding Environmental Health Specialist and Arthur Williamson Award recipients.

Legislative – Dean Finkenbinder –

A report was sent but had nothing to report. Dean was named the Legislative Chairman to replace Laurie Leis. Dean succeeds Laurie as Manager of the Consumer Health Services of WDA.

Archives / Scrapbook – Sherry Maston –
There has been no use.

By-Laws / Resolutions – Gary Hickman –
There was a report submitted. Gary recommended taking nominations from the floor rather than newsletter, as the deadline has passed. Nothing has been received in the way of by-laws and / or resolutions. Gary recommends that we support CERT training for all WEHA members. He said that there is a place there for our input, especially at the community level.

Small Wastewater – Roy Kroeger –
Small waste water systems contact people were invited to AEC.

Membership – Doug Evans –
We discussed dues and sending out letters to members whose dues have not been paid. Doug updated and reviewed the membership list. A letter was sent inviting new CHS employees to join WEHA.

Election Committee – Gary Hickman –
There hasn't been any action. There was a report submitted.

Education Committee – Roy Kroeger –
The AEC was mentioned as being 29 September – 1 October 2004 in Breckenridge, CO.

10. **BUSINESS**

OLD BUSINESS

Non-profit and tax exempt status – The executive board worked on the non-profit 501©(3) status application. The actions on the status will be tabled until January 2005.

2004 AEC – Breckenridge, CO. will be the site for the 2004 AEC held jointly with CEHA and WEHA. The AEC will be at the Great Divide Lodge from 29 September – 1 October 2004. More information is available on the web site. Roy reported on updates of the last AEC planning meetings in Northglenn, CO. The next planning meeting will be in Northglenn, CO on 13 September 2004 at 1:30pm at the Tri-County Health Department in Northglenn, CO.
WEHA general membership meeting is Wednesday, 29 Sept. at 12:00PM. There will extra-curricular activities at the AEC including interesting anecdotes, photo contest, volleyball tournament, and knowledge bowl. Please see that WEHA participates in these activities. There will desktop calendars given to all attendees and speakers. There will be a band, the New Shoes Band, at the awards banquet. Displays will be set up on Tuesday afternoon and torn down on Friday morning.

T-Shirts – Doug obtained bids for WEHA and "You Know You're an Inspector When…" t-shirts. The Jock Shop in Gillette will be awarded the bid. T-shirts will be ordered soon so that the T-Shirts will be available for the AEC.

NEW BUSINESS

2005 AEC – WPHA has expressed interest in a joint AEC for the fall of 2005.

VI. ADJOURNMENT

Motion made for adjournment at 11:55 a.m.

Submitted by
Bryan J. Grapes. Secretary
Wyoming Environmental Health Association

New T-shirts Available

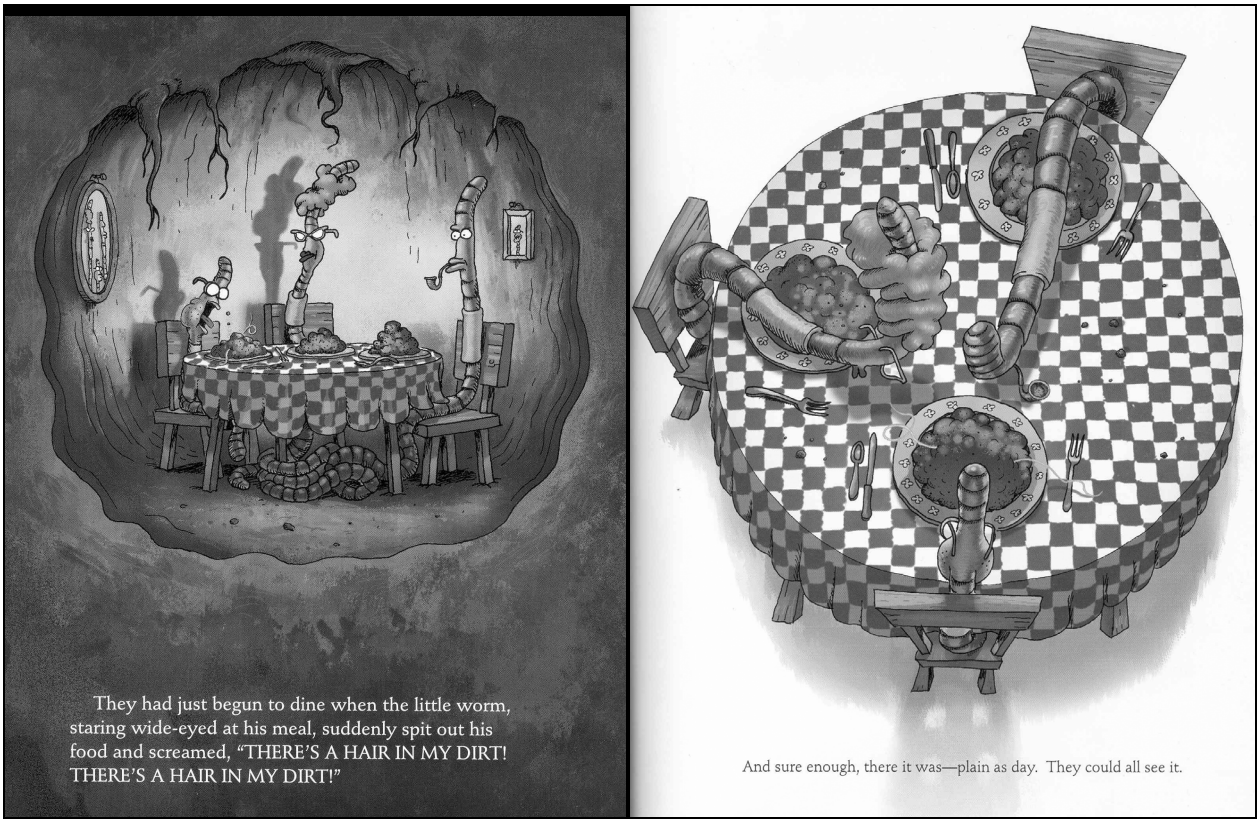
The new t-shirt design will be available at this year's AEC. They will be $20 for the long sleeve shirts and $17 for the short sleeve t-shirts. You guys picked em', the top tens ways that you know you're a health inspector are as follows:

"YOU KNOW YOU'RE A HEALTH INSPECTOR WHEN…"

1. People ask you where NOT to eat – and you just smile.
2. You interrogate the cook at your own family's Thanksgiving dinner.
3. The waiter asks, "How would you like your burger?" and you reply, "Cooked to 160°F, please."
4. Vomiting, diarrhea, and parasitic organisms are just part of the dinner conversation.
5. You have a pool and spa test kit on the edge of your bathtub.
6. Your pockets contain test strips, alcohol wipes, thermometers, and spare change.
7. Examining septic systems and leach fields constitutes your daily aerobic workout.
8. You know how to pronounce words like "Escherichia" and "Staphylococcus".
9. Children avoid your neighborhood when setting up lemonade stands.
10. You have developed a HACCP Plan for your backyard barbecues.

Cartoon Corner

From "There's a Hair In My Dirt – A Worm's Story" by Gary Larson



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