



Year in Review

The year 2013 was a very eventful one for the Washington State Environmental Health Association. Here is a summary of reasons to be proud of belonging to this professional organization:

Return of the AEC! Thanks to **Mark Toy** and his AEC team, we were able to once again attend our greatly missed Annual Educational Conference on May 6th and 7th. The Great Wolf Lodge was the venue, centrally located on the west side and close to many Department of Health employees who attended and presented at the conference. The number of total registrants was 264, the total cost was \$32,635 and the total income was \$42,753. Way to go Mark and the 2013 AEC Committee!

Pool Conferences: This was our 36th year of the Annual Washington State Swimming Pool and Spa Conferences. On April 23rd, the Benton Franklin Health District Training Room held 87 registrants while the April 25th conference at Clover Park Technical College in Lakewood had 58. Thank you to **Gary Fraser** (and Happy Retirement) and to his team!

WSEHA Awards: **Dave Tipton**, an Environmental Health Specialist in Thurston County, was awarded the John Nordin Outstanding Sanitarian Award. **Mark Toy**, an engineer in the Washington State Department of Health (DOH) Shellfish Program received the Jack B. Hatlen Inspirational Award. **Joe Graham**, the Technical Lead of the DOH Food Safety Program, was given the Environmental Health Professional of the Year Award. **Tess Wilson**, an undergraduate student majoring in Environmental Health at the University of Washington, and **Freya Fradenburgh**, a student in Environmental Studies at Western Washington University's Huxley College of the Environment both were awarded Cind M. Treser Memorial Scholarships this year. Congratulations to all award recipients!

International Health: At the AEC this year, more than \$2,800 was raised through a silent auction, raffle and donations for **Friendly Water for the World**, which is an Olympia-based non-profit that works with communities around the world to help people, through community sanitation, hygiene, and fabrication of bio-sand water filters, ensure their own clean drinking water supply.

Membership Growth: In December of 2012, WSEHA had 114 members. One year later, we now have 183 members! Thank you WSEHA members - our organization would not exist without you and your volunteer efforts!

Newsletters: This is WSEHA's 4th newsletter this year. Thank you to Megan McNelly, Publications Chair, and all those that contribute! Anyone wishing to submit an article for consideration can contact Megan at mmcnelly@co.pacific.wa.us.

A Dedicated WSEHA Board: The WSEHA Board of Directors meets about once a quarter to discuss the ways the Board and volunteers will carry out its mission to provide continuing education to environmental health professionals. Other topics include, but aren't limited to, recognizing deserving environmental health

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See the 2014 AEC Update on Page 7



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JOB POSTINGS

Did you know job openings are on the WSEHA website?
<http://www.wseha.org/professional-development/job-postings/>

If you have a job related to environmental health that you would like posted on our website, please email our Executive Secretary with the job title, closing date, job description and application information (or a simple link to the job announcement will do).

Next Newsletter Deadline: Friday, February 28, 2014

The Washington State Environmental Health Association Newsletter is the official publication of WSEHA. Membership in WSEHA includes a subscription to the newsletter. Manuscripts for publication must be type-written and submitted via e-mail to kerri@wseha.org, or on a computer disk mailed to WSEHA at the address above. Membership in WSEHA is not required for acceptance of articles in the newsletter.

Opinions expressed in articles published in the WSEHA newsletter should not be accepted necessarily as statements of policy or opinions of WSEHA.



President's Message

By Kay Massong

Wow!! 2013 is quickly coming to an end and it has been terrific. Our membership has grown and we had a couple of events that showcase the reason WSEHA exists. The AEC and pool conference were well attended. These events offered a sharing of knowledge and the opportunity for networking with fellow professionals. Environmental health encompasses everything we touch and everywhere we go. As an organization, our power to make change comes from a knowledge base that is supported and shared by/at our functions. As a state wide organization, we need to be consistent in our interpretation of "the codes". The more we get together and share what we know, the better we can accomplish this task. The 2014 AEC and pool conferences are already in the planning stage. Your support and attendance sends a message to the WSEHA Board that these opportunities are valuable and worth the effort. I am truly privileged to be a part of WSEHA.



Year in Review (continued)

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professionals, aiding in international health, providing scholarship money, managing the budget, and views for the organization's future. The WSEHA Board consists of dedicated volunteers who truly care about our organization. If you'd like to be considered for an upcoming Board position, please see the Board of Director Nominations (page 4) in this issue.

2014 AEC Planning Committee: **Michael Baker**, Director of Environmental Health at Whitman County, has stepped forward to be the Chair of the 2014 AEC. He and his team are working hard to provide you with a great conference next year! Mark your calendars for May 12 – 13, 2014. Keep updated on AEC developments by visiting our website at www.wseha.org.

Reminder: We are now accepting Abstract Proposals for people who would like to be a speaker or poster presenter at the conference. Be sure to submit your proposals soon – the deadline is coming up in January!

Upcoming Educational Opportunity

The biennial meeting of the Conference for Food Protection (CFP) will be held May 3 – 7, 2014 at the Buena Vista Palace Hotel and Spa in Orlando, Florida. The biennial meeting offers an opportunity for each participant to be heard on matters affecting retail food safety. This year the Conference is proud to present an Educational Workshop entitled "**Regulations, Scientific Issues and Food Safety Impacts to Seafood.**"

Conference and Workshop registration, a tentative program, and a hotel reservation link are available online at <http://www.foodprotect.org/biennial-meeting/>. Issues to be considered at the meeting may be submitted online until January 21, 2014.

Visit the organization's website at www.foodprotect.org for further information about the meeting and the Conference for Food Protection. Questions about the CFP and biennial meeting may be directed to either:

Lisa Wright, Executive Assistant
858-536-8030
ewright1@san.rr.com

David McSwane, Executive Director
317-696-0573
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Awards and Board of Director Nominations

By Joe Graham, Chair of Nominations and Awards Committee

Award Nominations

I've written several articles in WSEHA newsletters over the past few years asking you to nominate deserving Environmental Health Specialists for a WSEHA award. I have touted the value of giving awards to hard-working and rarely-recognized professionals. Thank you for taking me up on this invitation and submitting so many awards nominations for the 2013 AEC. I can now attest from personal experience how good it feels to be recognized in front of one's peers.

Once again I encourage you to recognize the spectacular work that Environmental Health Professionals perform for their communities. The following is a list of the Awards for which we are currently accepting nominations:

- The John Nordin Outstanding Sanitarian Award
- The Jack B. Hatlen Inspirational Award
- Environmental Health Professional of the Year award
- Rookie of the Year Award
- Environmental Health Story of the Year Award
- Most Humorous/Embarrassing Moment Award



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A list of the awards and eligibility criteria for each can be found in the [Awards Manual](#). Please make sure the nominee meets the eligibility criteria for the award you are nominating them for. Nominations may be made by any member of WSEHA. To nominate an environmental health professional, send an email or letter with the appropriate eligibility information for the respective award to the address above.

The deadline to nominate candidates for awards is March 14th. Awards will be presented at the WSEHA Annual Educational Conference May 12-13, 2014, at the Great Wolf Lodge in Grand Mound, WA.

Board of Director Nominations

We are seeking nominations for the two Board of Directors positions that will become open in 2014 - the President Elect and the Secretary. The Board runs the affairs of the Association and without a Board there is no Association. Nominees must be active members in good standing of the Association. Please consider nominating environmental health professionals for these offices.

The President Elect serves in that position for one year and is in charge of coordinating the activities of the committees and works closely with the Regional Vice Presidents. At the conclusion of his/her term, the President Elect becomes the President.

The Secretary serves for two years and has the following duties:

- keeps the records of all proceedings of the Association,
- has custody of all records and papers belonging to it,
- notifies in writing all officers of their election,
- gives notice of the time and place of meetings, and
- conducts the correspondence of the Association

The deadline to nominate candidates for these offices is March 14th. The election will take place just prior to the AEC and the winning candidates will take their respective office immediately at the conclusion of the conference. To nominate candidates for these offices, send me an email or letter with the name of the nominee. To read more details about these and other WSEHA Board officer positions, please see the association's online [Policy and Procedure Manual](#).



10 Questions about the 2014 AEC

By Michael Baker, AEC Chair

Following the announcement of the 2014 Annual Educational Conference (AEC), the members of the Washington State Environmental Health Association (WSEHA) have been looking for more information about how to participate and the overall conference. Here are the “top ten” questions about the AEC. Although in no particular order, the questions and answers do highlight the benefits of the AEC and the numerous activities, both professional as well as personal, that attendees can participate in. If you would like more information about the AEC, be sure to contact [Kerri](#), [Michael](#), or your [Regional Board Member](#).

1. *What is an AEC?*

Annual educational conferences are an opportunity for professionals in a specific field to network, share ideas and experiences, and learn from experts in their fields as well as from their peers. The Washington State Environmental Health Association’s Annual Educational Conference is the Association’s effort to remain the leading source of environmental public health information for professionals in Washington State. The conference gives professionals in the region the opportunity to highlight their efforts at improving the quality of life in their communities.

2. *When is the 2014 AEC?*

Monday, May 12 and Tuesday, May 13, 2014

3. *How can I be a presenter at the AEC?*

To submit your abstract online, go to WSEHA’s 2014 AEC website (<http://www.wseha.org/2014-aec/>) and look for the “Submit Now!” button. Simply complete the online submission form (which includes an abstract summary of 250 words or less, a statement of learning objectives, and your bio). Abstract are due by January 17, 2014.

4. *Can I help in other ways at the AEC?*

Volunteers are always needed and welcomed. Currently, volunteers are serving on the AEC’s Planning Committee, Speaker Committee, Registration Committee, Marketing Committee, Social Committee, Facilities Committee, Student/Moderator Committee, and the International Health Committee. Responsibilities vary from planning and arranging for speakers to helping fill bags with goodies and everything in-between. Opportunities are available now or during the educational conference.

5. *How much does the AEC cost this year?*

There are several options available for attending the AEC. Refer to the registration fee chart for the option that best meets your needs.

	Early Registration (postmarked on or before March 14)		Late Registration (postmarked after March 14)	
	Member*	Non-member	Member*	Non-member
AEC Package	160	220	200	260
Monday only	95	120	125	155
Tuesday only	95	120	125	155
Student Package	100	110	110	130
Student Economy	60	-	60	-
Emeritus Member	100	-	125	-



Book Review

RABID... A Cultural History of the World's Most Diabolical Virus

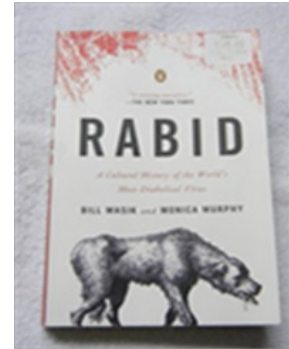
by Bill Wasik and Monica Murphy

Penguin Books: Penguin Group, 2013.

(Paper Back of 275 pages.)

A Book Review by Steve Garrett

This very well written work, classified non-fiction, carefully lays out the cultural and medical history of the ancient rabies virus, including the development a vaccine and a discussion of somewhat successful attempts to treat human victims in late stages of the disease. The reader must keep in mind that modern medicine began only recently, historically speaking, and that the scientific method had not been used to understand and cure disease before that window of time. Early disease was therefore an enigma to dedicated medical personnel who in most cases could only react to disease symptoms in a primitive way. Since the symptoms of rabies in the later stages are terrible to behold, and of course not well understood, various cultures throughout history have imagined terrible monsters with traits and characteristics similar to human and animal victims of rabies in those final stages of the disease. The authors then relate and justifiably compare the rabid animal and human to the mythical vampires and zombies of recorded and anecdotal history. And of course the similarity is surprising.



The authors provide an interesting narrative of the attempt to identify the source of rabies. Even after the discovery of bacterium as the logical source of disease, the medical community is still unable to isolate a source for rabies, because a virus is the cause of the disease. But Louis Pasteur was able to show the contagion of rabies through the use of laboratory animals and cause and affect demonstrated by scientific method. Throughout the history of mankind, the result of infection of the rabies virus into the human body was a terrible and agonizing death once symptoms of the disease are revealed. But one man, Rodney Willoughby, was determined to devise a way to save a child who displayed symptoms of rabies. Read the book to discover if he was successful.

Wasik and Murphy discuss the attempts and difficulty of eradicating rabies through vaccination. Using the example of trying to contain and eliminate rabies on the island of Bali in Indonesia, they show the difficulty of mixing politics and public health. Eventually private individuals began a vaccination program on Bali. Read the book to see if this effort was successful.

The authors point out that the rabies virus is a bit unique in that it progresses through the body to the brain via the nervous system not by blood circulation. They explain that the “blood-brain barrier,” a peculiarity of the capillaries of the brain, foil the attempt to medicate the brain through the blood stream. But guess what, the rabies virus may hold a key to medication of the brain because this aggressive virus knows the password to enter the brain.

This book will provide the reader with a better understanding of rabies as a diabolical killer of animals and humans, and at the same time explain that rabies may be almost impossible to eradicate. But, that said, at least medical science has provided a vaccination barrier between man and man’s best friend.

The Authors: Bill Wasik is a senior editor at Wired and former senior editor at Harper’s Magazine on subjects of technology, media and crowd dynamics. Monica Murphy holds degrees in public health and veterinary medicine.



10 Questions about the 2014 AEC

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6. *Will it be held at the Great Wolf Lodge again?*

Yes. Based on the success of the 2013 Annual Educational Conference and feedback from the attendees, the Great Wolf Lodge was selected as the site for 2014. The lodge has a great atmosphere and is very family friendly. (Water Park...Need I say more?!). Discounts on rooms will be available for attendees as well. Keep an eye out for the announcement. For more information on Grand Wolf Lodge, please visit their website at <http://www.greatwolf.com/grandmound/waterpark>. Additionally, there are also a lot of activities (golf, food, shopping, and casinos) located nearby. Check out the Centralia Outlet Mall for “Brand Names and Big Savings!”



7. *Who should attend?*

You! Anyone employed or interested in Environmental Public Health will be able to take away something from the AEC. Either as a presenter or a participant, the AEC is designed to offer something for everyone. This year, a special emphasis is being placed on a legal/political environmental public health perspective. This should be of interest to both in-the-field professionals as well as managers and directors.

8. *When will I know the complete schedule of speakers?*

Results of acceptance will be made by close of business Friday, February 14, 2014. A completed schedule of events and presenters will be made available at that time.

9. *What else will there be besides presentations and EH activities?*

WSEHA members are working with area representatives to make the AEC an all-around inclusive event. There will also be planned times and events to socialize with your peers and opportunities to interact with program vendors. For additional information about the region, be sure to visit the Chehalis Tribe's website <http://www.chehalis tribe.org/> or check the community listing for Rochester/Grand Mound <http://www.co.thurston.wa.us/grandmound-rochester/swedehall.htm>

10. *I went to last year's AEC, do I really need to go again this year?*

YES! Support your peers, support your profession, and support your association. The Washington State Environmental Health Association strives to be biggest support of environmental public health professionals. The AEC is a part our dedication to meet your needs.

2014 AEC Update

The theme for 2014's Annual Educational Conference is "Environmental Public Health – Improving Quality of Life in Our Communities". We are currently accepting abstract submittals. Please see our **"Call for Papers Notification"**. We just extended our deadline for abstract submittals – all presentation proposals must be submitted online no later than **Friday, January 17, 2014**. We encourage submittals prior to the new deadline to assist our Speaker Committee with planning. Please share this information with anyone you think may be interested in presenting at our conference.

Submit an Abstract
Proposal Now!

We are also now accepting applications for Exhibitors! Please see our **"Vendor and Exhibitor Invitation"** which includes the Exhibitor/Break Sponsor Registration Form. Again, please share this with anyone you think may be interested. Thank you!

