



Congratulations Dave , Mark, and Joe!

2013 WSEHA Award Recipients

Dave Tipton, an Environmental Health Specialist in Thurston County, Mark Toy, an engineer in the Washington State Department of Health (DOH) Shellfish Program, and Joe Graham, the Technical Lead of the DOH Food Safety Program, received WSEHA awards at the 2013 Annual Educational Conference (AEC) in Grand Mound May 6-7.

Dave was awarded the John Nordin Outstanding Sanitarian Award. Dave has continuously received accolades from the public, his coworkers, and public health partners during more than 30 years in Environmental Health. His skillful communication ability and innovative approaches have brought great success to several environmental health programs. During his years working to find failing on-site sewage systems, Dave was able to effectively work with homeowners and the industry to find and repair failing systems. His work resulted in the upgrading of an entire shellfish growing area to approved status. Dave designed outreach and education programs for small businesses that use hazardous materials or generate hazardous waste. He also developed a huge on-site sewage operation and maintenance



Art Starry, Thurston County Environmental Health Division Director, presents Dave Tipton with the John Nordin Outstanding Sanitarian Award.

program for a shellfish protection area. He converted septic tank pumpers into full-fledged on-site sewage system inspectors and taught 2,500 septic tank owners how to inspect their own systems.

Mark received the Jack B. Hatlen Inspirational Award for his crucial role in bringing back the Association's AEC. President Geoffrey Crofoot put out a call for a volunteer to chair the AEC and Mark answered the call. He used his inspirational leadership to recruit other volunteers to help. His organizational skills resulted in the largest collection of presentations ever recruited for a WSEHA AEC. In addition to chairing the AEC, Mark authored two successful grant applications to the EPA for Puget Sound restoration work (<http://www.doh.wa.gov/CommunityandEnvironment/Shellfish/EPAGrants.aspx>). Some of these funds are being used by local health departments for pollution identification and correction (PIC) and onsite sewage system (OSS) projects that were featured at the AEC.



Jerrod Davis, Director of the Office of Shellfish and Water Protection, WA State Department of Health, presenting Mark Toy with the Jack B. Hatlen Inspirational Award.

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Dave Gifford, Food Program Manager, WA State Department of Health, presenting Joe Graham with the Environmental Health Professional of the Year Award.

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Joe was very surprised to be awarded the Environmental Health Professional of the Year Award, considering he is the Chair of the Nominations and Awards Committee. He received the award for his leadership and professionalism during the revision of the state's food service rules. He led a workgroup of 20 public and private sector stakeholders and kept track of over 100 technical food safety issues discussed by the workgroup. DOH received a number of accolades from participants and stakeholder groups, several of which shared their satisfaction at State Board of Health meetings. In addition, the Washington Restaurant Association told the Governor's office that the process could be used as a model for all state agencies.

These awardees are among many environmental health professionals worthy of recognition. Please consider nominating the professionals you work with for WSEHA awards. A list of awards and criteria for each can be found here: <http://www.wseha.org/wseha-committees/awards/> Please contact Joe Graham at 360-236-3305 or joe.graham@doh.wa.gov if you have questions about the awards or nomination process.

Next Newsletter Deadline:

Friday, August 30, 2013

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 submitted via e-mail to kerri@wseha.org, or on a computer disk mailed to WSEHA. 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.

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Post 2013 AEC Update



**By Geoffrey Crofoot,
Immediate Past President
and
Mark Toy, 2013 AEC Chair**

After the AEC, WSEHA conducted a debriefing to see what went well and what needed improvement. Mark Toy submitted the following rough synopsis of the 2013 AEC process from start to finish. Upon reading it, I thought it was interesting, educational and worth a wider read so that folks could get a sense of what actually goes into large scale conference planning. For the most part, I've left Mark's words as is and in his perspective. In some instances, I've added my own perspective as the former president of WSEHA. I've noted my thoughts in bold type.

When the Washington State Environmental Health Association (WSEHA) started discussion of bringing back the AEC in May 2012, the choice couldn't have been more stark – have an AEC or shutter the organization. **This is true. The WSEHA board was considering rolling up the carpet based on finances and participation.** The WSEHA Board at the July 24th meeting agreed to hold an AEC in 2013, and Mark Toy volunteered to be the AEC chair. Three things were key in the beginning to get things started:

- ◆ A commitment by the WSEHA Board to absorb potential losses for putting on the AEC. From the May 3 minutes: "There was discussion to dip into WSEHA reserve funds to make a go at doing an AEC with the expectation that the first AEC will not break even and hope that future ones would."
- ◆ Outreach to senior management at both the State and local level for early buy-in
- ◆ A decision to have the AEC close to Olympia to minimize travel costs for State employees (a condition by DOH management for maximizing participation of their employees)

After drafting a draft budget and looking at several local venues and an initial AEC committee meeting on August 28th, a contract was signed on August 29, 2012 with the Great Wolf Lodge to host the AEC on May 6 & 7, 2013. **The Great Wolf Lodge was selected, principally, because of cost. At the time of the decision, it was clear to the Board and the AEC committee the Great Wolf Lodge would provide better value.** A preliminary call for papers went out in September 2012. AEC subcommittees were also populated in September. An article announcing the AEC was published in the winter edition of

the WSEHA newsletter in November 2012. A commitment by the DOH EPHLT early on to solicit speakers within DOH (with Nancy Napolilli taking the lead) was helpful in the initial push to put together a technical program. Having someone like Ted Dale available to organize all the paperwork was invaluable in putting together the program. Several meetings in early January resulted in development of a Preliminary Program about January 15.

Beginning in January, monthly updates on how the AEC was developing were posted on the WSEHA website.

Behind the scenes, the AEC committee labored to organize all aspects of the AEC. The bottom line is many people helped to carry the load of the conference planning so, that it wasn't just one or a few that were tasked with the big job.

Conference finances were very uncertain until relatively late in the game. Projected income did not match expected expenses until after the Early Bird deadline of March 15th, and we did not have cash in hand in excess of expected expenses until April 23th. In the end, results exceeded expectations in terms of attendance, income, and participant satisfaction with the conference. **It seemed like in the last month prior to the AEC, the finances turned a corner. Membership in the organization steadily ticked up. Conference registrations kept coming in and the final cost remained relatively stable. It wasn't until the first day of the conference that the Board learned of relative financial success of the conference and the positive effect on the overall WSEHA budget. As a result of the AEC, WSEHA was able to pass the first in-the-black budget in several years.**

"...the AEC is as much about education as it is about re-connecting with peers and friends."

It is relatively easy to measure the success or failure of an event based on the bottom line. In the case of the 2013 AEC, the bottom line looked pretty good. The numbers reflect success: The number of total registrants was 264. The number of registrants attending Monday was 223. The number of registrants attending Tuesday was 239. The total cost: \$32,635. The total income: \$42,753.

It's harder to measure what the effect of the AEC is on members and the organizations though. It's my sense, through talking with many folks at the conference and from reviewing the comments, that people had a good time and want to see more AECs. Sitting with folks over a beer at the beer/ice cream social reminded me that the AEC is as much about education as it is about re-connecting with peers and friends. It's my sense that people missed that connection and that there is true value in what happens at a conference after the course work ends.

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While the AEC was a success, the glow of success isn't to be basked in for long. The board will be considering several issues over the next few months. Principally, should the AEC be an annual event or on some other, perhaps bi-annual, schedule. Another big decision is where to host the next AEC: West-side or East-side? There is a good argument for the Great Wolf again – because it'll be easier for those planning to use the form already cast from the 2013 event. That said, other options still must be considered.

With the 2013 AEC came one final success. This success came in the form of many volunteers. WSEHA has sent out initial contacts to those who have already indicated that they would like to help out. If you wish to help out with the next AEC, participate on a committee, or even chair a committee and you haven't yet contacted WSEHA: Kerri, our Executive Secretary, will be more than happy to take your call or email. I've added the WSEHA contact page [here](#) for your convenience. In the next months, WSEHA will be looking to use all of the volunteer resources to help build WSEHA for the future. A big step in this direction will be WSEHA's first board meeting since the AEC on June 26th from 10:00 am - 3:00 pm. For those of you who wish to chair a committee, or are seeking other leadership opportunities, please contact Kerri at kerri@wseha.org or (360) 738-8946 for the meeting location. For anybody else who just wants to get involved, please let us know. Use the hyperlink [here](#) to send an email or make a call.

WSEHA appreciates your membership, your participation in the 2013 AEC and looks forward to seeing you at the next meeting or conference.

President's Message by Kay Massong, WSEHA President

What a wonderful AEC!! Thank you to everyone who made it happen. There were many hours of preparation for the AEC, but the positive response that was shown by the number of attendees was even more amazing. My vision for WSEHA is education. Workshops, AECs, newsletters like this, etc. are excellent opportunities for new and experienced environmental health workers to network and share lessons learned. WSEHA is a tool to help Washington State Health Workers become more consistent and knowledgeable. I am very honored to be WSEHA's president this year and wish you all a wonderful summer.



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The 2013 Annual Educational Conference

Great Wolf Lodge, Grand Mound, WA

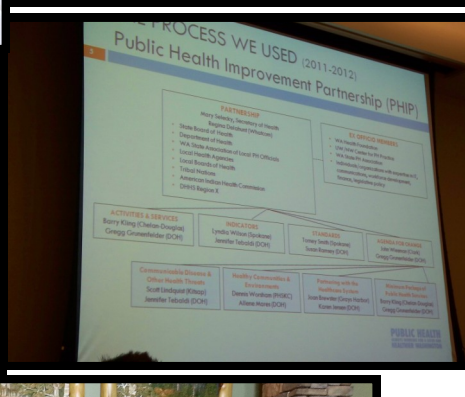
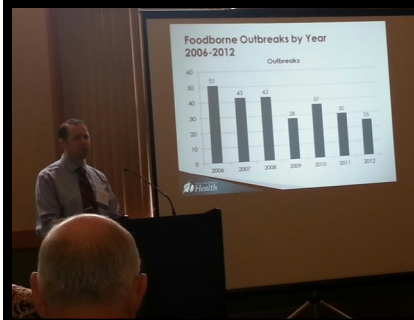
May 6-7, 2013



The 2013 Annual Educational Conference

Great Wolf Lodge, Grand Mound, WA

May 6-7, 2013



2013 AEC Silent Auction

Submitted by David Albert, Friendly Water for the World

At the 2013 WSEHA Annual Educational Conference, more than \$2,800 was raised through a silent auction, raffle and donations for Friendly Water for the World. Friendly Water for the World (www.friendlywater.net) is an Olympia-based non-profit that works with communities around the world to help people, through community sanitation, hygiene, and fabrication of BioSand Water Filters, ensure their own clean drinking water supply. The Conference was attended and a presentation made by Florence Nkatarutimana, project manager of a Friendly Water for the World effort in a very rural area of Burundi, in East Africa.



Toddler with a baby from DRC Congo

The funds raised at the Conference are going to be used to start a new BioSand Filter/community sanitation/hygiene program in a Batwa (Pygmy) community in Kahororo, DRC-Congo, between Uvira and Bujumbura, Burundi. This community has no source of clean water (their only well gave out almost a decade ago), and no latrines. Cholera, bilharzia, typhoid, bacterial dysentery, and amebiasis are common, and this community has among the highest child (under 5) mortality rates in the world. Two very enthusiastic initiators of the project have already been trained, and, with funds raised by WSEHA, all necessary equipment and starter material will be provided. Thanks to all who made this possible!

Friendly Water for the World is holding three trainings this summer in the Pacific Northwest – in Olympia (June 26-July1), Anacortes (August 21-26), and Newberg, Oregon (September 29-October 3). For more information, contact David Albert at david@friendlywater.net or call 360 918-3642. Below are pictures from Kahororo, Congo, where the money raised at the silent auction will be used. More pictures are on the following page...



Current water source



Water from hole



Village meeting



Drawing water



Man in cowshed

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The following pictures are from Nedjlo, Ethiopia. The head of this program, Abraham Bezabeh, is going to be in Olympia for our June 26 - July 1 training.



Current water source



Bottom of the filter



Diffuser box on top



Washing gravel



Putting the washed gravel in the bottom of the filter



Abraham and boys washing sand.



Washed sand goes in



Helping with installation



The water is getting clean.



Before and after.



Job is done

Thank You to Our 2013 AEC Exhibitors!



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Gregg Grunenfelder and Mary Selecky Retire

Submitted by Ned Therien, State Board of Health



Mary Selecky and Gregg Grunenfelder

Gregg Grunenfelder and Mary Selecky both retired from the Washington State Department of Health earlier this year. Gregg's last day was January 31. Mary's was April 12.

Gregg started his career in environmental health in 1976 at Thurston County. His career took him to Tacoma-Pierce County, back to Thurston, and on to the Department of Health, where he rose from Drinking Water Program Director, through Assistant Secretary for Environmental Health, and on to Deputy Secretary. He was the President of WSEHA in 1986 and received the Jack Hatlen Inspirational Award in 1994.

Mary started her career in public health in 1979 at Northeast Tri County Health District, where she was the administrator until appointed the acting Secretary of the Department of Health in 1998. Although not an environmental health professional, she was a great proponent of all fields of public health. WSEHA

welcomed Mary as keynote speaker on May 6 at the 2013 AEC and gave her a lifetime honorary membership.

2013 WSEHA Scholarship Recipients

Submitted by Chuck Treser, WSEHA Scholarship Committee Chair

Two undergraduate students were awarded Cind M. Treser Memorial Scholarships this year. The awards were presented on May 7th at the WSEHA Annual Education Conference held at the Great Wolf Lodge in Grand Mound, Washington. The WSEHA scholarship program gives recognition to outstanding and deserving undergraduate students majoring in environmental health (or in an allied discipline) and who intend to take employment in the field of environmental health in Washington State upon completion of the baccalaureate degree requirements.

There was a very strong pool of applicants this year and the Committee had a difficult time selecting a single recipient due the high quality of the applicants. However, in the end consensus was reached to award two scholarships -- one to Ms. Tess E. Wilson, an undergraduate student majoring in Environmental Health at the University of Washington and the other to Ms. Freya S. Fradenburgh, a student in Environmental Studies at Western Washington University's Huxley College of the Environmental majoring in Environmental Studies and Education.



Tess Wilson

This year's Scholarship Committee consisted of Chuck Treser (Chair and Senior Lecturer in Environmental Health at the University of Washington), Ned Therien (Washington State Board of Health), Joe Graham (Washington State Department of Health), and Geoffrey Crofoot (Snohomish Health District).

WSEHA Election Results

Thank you, WSEHA members, for voting in the recent election. For those who did not hear Geoffrey's announcement at the Annual Educational Conference, here are the election results:

- ◆ The Next President Elect: **Michael Baker**, Whitman County Public Health Department
- ◆ Secretary (Term to Last Until 2014): **Ross Lytle**, Kitsap Public Health District
- ◆ Treasurer (Term to Last Until 2015): **Jesse Smith**, Cowlitz County Health Department.
- ◆ The nomination and election of Regional Vice-Presidents process was amended to include that nominations and elections may be conducted by e-mail by members of

Also, we have a new Eastern Regional Vice President: **Scott Paradis** from Whitman County Public Health Department. Scott was born and raised in Southern Idaho. He attended college at the University of Idaho, graduating with a major in Environmental Science with emphasis put on aquatic ecology and water resources in 2009. During his time in college, he worked as a senior laboratory technician at a bio-assessment firm located in Moscow, Idaho. After college, he was involved in field sampling of lakes, streams, and canals with the Idaho Department of Environmental Quality. He was hired on to the Environmental Health staff in Whitman County in 2012 and has been working there as a generalist since. During his time with Whitman County, Scott has been working on a variety of program improvements and community outreach/education.



Welcome to the WSEHA Board, Scott!

Job Announcement

Environmental Health Specialist I, Waste Management Program

Tacoma-Pierce County Health Department

Online Applications will be accepted June 24 to June 28, 2013, Apply online at www.tpchd.org.

The Waste Management Program seeks an Environmental Health Specialist I to perform community outreach and field soil sampling for the Tacoma Smelter Plume project. This is a full-time (1.0 FTE,) Regular position within the Environmental Health Division. The successful candidate will gather and manage data from homeowners and residents, including Access Agreements, to support residential soil sampling. The selected applicant will perform soil sampling according to program standards and become familiar with laboratory processes and procedures. The employee in this position will work closely with Department colleagues, the State Department of Ecology and the EPA on residential yard remediation and other projects. The successful candidate will effectively present scientific and historical information about arsenic and lead health effects to both long-term and newer County residents.

Salary Range: \$23.75 to \$30.54/Hourly; Regular, Full-time (1.00 FTE)

If you or your organization 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).

For other job announcements, please visit our website at
<http://www.wseha.org/professional-development/job-postings/>