

# Maine Water Environment NEWS

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## President's Corner

By Matt Timberlake, Ted Berry Company



Matt "the Hulk" Timberlake shows he's ready to work with the Bangor crew during a recent tour.

As I write this it is hard to believe that I am nearly halfway through my year as President of MEWEA. As I look back on the first half of the year, I am still amazed at how much our association does, how much time, effort, and skill our volunteers give to the organization, and how relevant we are as an association.

I am also reminded of our long and storied history, we are an operators association, always have been, and, if I have any say, we always will be. With that said we can also be more than that without losing what is our core, our

wastewater operators. I have had the pleasure of touring a dozen or more members' plants in the last few months and learning from operators what their challenges are, how MEWEA can help, and what role we play in their success. We are small plants, big plants, lagoons, satellites, and nearly everything in between. I got to spend time with Andy in Bangor, Nick in Mechanic Falls, Heinz in Norridgewock, Travis at LAWPCA, Mark in North Jay, and others and everyone shares one thing - PASSION for their work.

In 2015 MEWEA held our annual strategic planning session and it was evident that some changes to the organizational structure of the board and committees will be needed to be able to truly capitalize on the talent and time that our members volunteer, and to make sure our efforts align with our mission. We have an amazing executive committee (and have for a long time). We have amazing committees doing amazing work, and we want to be able to build off that and give back to the members what they need most. Over the last year and a half an Ad Hoc committee originally appointed by 2016 President Scott Firmin and reappointed with additional members by me in early 2017 has worked on evaluating committee structure and function. Through a collaborative effort the committee has drafted standard operating procedures for future committees to help transition duties to new people and help us maintain our standards. That Ad Hoc committee has a very diverse group of members from all types of backgrounds and we made certain to ask a number of "legacy" members to be a part of it and to help guide us into the future. After attending the 2016 Past Presidents lunch I realized for the first time really how much experience and passion our past leaders carry and I saw how they can help carry forward the legacy of the organization.

Our association is strong! We currently have nearly 700 paid members and our conferences have continue to grow. We have tried new things, not all have

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## 2017 Officers

### President

Matt Timberlake  
Ted Berry Company

### First Vice President

Paula Drouin  
LAWPCA

### Second Vice President

Stacy Thompson  
Saco WRRD

### Immediate Past President

Scott Firmin  
Portland Water District

### Secretary/Treasurer

Al Jellison  
Dedham, ME (retired)

Jeff McBurnie  
Casella Organics

### NEWEA State Director

Mac Richardson  
LAWPCA

\*For a complete Board Listing, please visit the MEWEA website at:

[www.mewea.org](http://www.mewea.org)

## Upcoming Executive Committee Meeting Dates:

June 16 – LAWPCA

August 18 – Executive Board Meeting/Summer BBQ – Sunday River

# 2017 April Stools Day for Cleaner Water Resources & Parks

By Fred Dillon, City of South Portland Stormwater Program Manager

On April 22<sup>nd</sup> (Earth Day), after a long, hard winter of frigid temperatures and seemingly unending snow storms, residents from South Portland and surrounding communities endured another cold and damp day to walk their dogs in the City's parks. Like the previous three years, City staff and project partners were there to greet them at Hinckley Park, Willard Beach and Bug Light Park for our 4<sup>th</sup> annual "April Stools Day." The City once again partnered with Pet Life, the Maine Healthy Beaches Program and the Friends of the Eastern Promenade in Portland. The event was held to raise awareness about the adverse effects of improper pet waste disposal. Rainwater or snow melt can carry parasites, bacteria and viruses from dog waste left on the ground into nearby surface waters resulting in health risks to canines and humans. Dog waste can also degrade water quality by promoting algal growth and decreasing dissolved oxygen levels.

At Hinckley Park, Pet Life Manager Jessie Ellebracht and South Portland Stormwater Program Coordinator Fred Dillon provided visitors with "doggie bags", dog treats and store coupons along with a quick overview of why picking up dog waste is so important for local water quality protection efforts. Meanwhile, citizen volunteers from the South Portland Land Trust and Protect South Portland picked up over 50 pounds of dog waste from the trails and woods next to Hinckley Pond. Pet Life employees Patrick and Tanya Scott and Carrie London provided similar services at Willard Beach and Bug Light Park, respectively. Staff from the City's

Parks & Recreation Department had the toughest part of the job in properly disposing of the dog waste collected at all 3 locations.

Many of Hinckley Park's trails drain directly to a pair of ponds that flow into Casco Bay via Kimball Brook. At Willard Beach and Bug Light Park, the connection between poorly managed dog waste and Casco Bay is even more direct. Both locations are very popular destinations for swimmers, sunbathers and boaters in the summer. Dog waste left on the beach or ground in the surrounding neighborhoods has a much greater likelihood of coming into contact with humans and canines through direct discharge from the City's storm drain system. The City's life guards collect water samples to test for bacteria at Willard Beach during the summer months.

Bacteria levels can be elevated significantly following a heavy rain event and it is likely that improperly managed dog waste is a contributor to this problem.

Maine's Stormwater Permit requires South Portland and other regulated municipalities to conduct education & outreach efforts and increase public awareness about polluted stormwater runoff. Poorly managed dog waste is a small but important contributor to overall water quality problems because it is largely preventable. For more information about the City's Stormwater Management Program, please contact Stormwater Program Coordinator Fred Dillon at 207-347-4138 / [fdillon@southportland.org](mailto:fdillon@southportland.org).

*The City would also like to thank Verbena and Otto's Pizza for their generous contributions to the 2017 April Stools Day event*



Pet Life manager Jessie Ellebracht presents the "golden turd" award to Dan McLactchy at Hinckley.



Despite inhospitable weather, Patrick and Tanya Scott provide smiles and goodies to volunteers at Willard Beach.



Protect South Portland volunteers remove dog waste near Hinckley Pond.



Dog reads up on sign reminding humans to pick up pet poops.

# ON MY SOAPBOX:

## Old

By Mac Richardson, Newsletter Editor

**Note: The opinions, positions, and views expressed in any "On My Soapbox" feature are those of the author(s) and do not necessarily reflect the opinions, positions or views of the Maine Water Environment Association.**

As of today, that is now, whenever it is that you are reading this, I would like to declare officially that I am old. And I expect, and I am laying claim to, all the benefits that accrue thereto. That is, I am now expecting you to "cut me slack" and to give me credit above the merits of my actions simply because I have now crossed the threshold of existence on this planet for more than six decades! To illustrate, I expect you say things like "Wow you ski great for an old guy!" Or "That was a heck of a tennis shot for someone of your age" Maybe, "Hey I can't believe a guy as old as you would do \_\_\_". I accept it all with glee and gratitude. The key is simply for each of us to keep doing all we can for as long as we can. So don't expect me to slow down, or ease up – I just want to be celebrated beyond reason for anything I am still able to do!

If you will allow me, this brings me to share with you a life-long motto: "If I am not good enough for you, you obviously need to consider lowering your standards!" Think of how profound this really is (maybe you want to adopt it as well). Essentially, what it says is, "Hey, I am doing the best that I can; deal with it, or find somebody else!" This relieves me of a tremendous amount of worry and guilt. Of course, if you decide to subscribe to this philosophy, it does require that you put out the best you have every day. This philosophy can be looked in another way as well, what more can anyone or even our God (however we chose to perceive God) ask of us? And if we put out all we can for our fellow homo sapiens, is it not their obligation to accept what we offer?

So, yes, getting back to the point; it is great to hit sixty! I am feeling more comfortable with myself every day. It is so liberating to care a little less about what other people think of me. This brings up a little story. The other day I was looking in the mirror, and noticed that the major portion of the white hair (or gray hair if you prefer – in any case the old guy hair) was concentrated around my chin. So I decided to shave off the portion of my beard around my chin and see what people would say (the procedure gave me

this odd sort of a Chester A. Arthur look—like some sort of lunatic from the late 1880's – is that when he was our President? He was distinguished primarily as one of America's 10 most forgettable presidents. Anyway, I thought I would get a load of questions along the lines of "why the bleep did you shave like that?" Or maybe even "Are you aware that your beard looks really weird?" But nothing! None of the people I work with or even the guys I play tennis with said one word! What is the take away message here? I am guessing it is that people don't really notice, or care, or at the very least care to comment about how I look. Once again, how liberating! I am sort of free to do whatever I feel like as to how I look!

Switching gears again, I received a review the other day from my Board of Directors, pretty much good news: anyway I

don't think they are inclined to give me the boot anytime soon. On the other hand an explicit requirement is that I develop a succession plan. How's that feel short timer? To be fair, we discussed this openly and I have discussed how long I will stay with LAWPCA. Retirement, never! But I could leave LAWPCA anytime! Allow me to be quick to say that I am blessed with a wonderful staff at LAWPCA that is more than capable of carrying on without me and never miss a beat. This is a wonderful thing. I am not really so alone in this. I have become convinced lately that the generation that is now coming of age is a bunch of capable go getters! We can help, maybe even mentor, but in large measure we just need to get out of the way. Stay tuned. So when I figure out when my exit time is, I will let you know. Until then, remember I am pretty darn awesome for an old guy! 🌊



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# Bond Free – With Asset Management

By Tim LeVasseur, Kennebec Sanitary Treatment District

In 2017, KSTD will be retiring two long term bonds dating back to 1998. In addition to repaying the principal on these bonds of \$6,649,956, KSTD will have also paid another \$2,201,795, in fees and interest (State Revolving Fund @ 3.23%), for a total repayment of \$8,851,751.

Our present budget includes \$475,000 per year to pay down existing bond principal and interest expenses. To be fiscally responsible and to realize cost savings in the long run, once this amount becomes available, it will be placed in a *Capital Reserve Fund* to cover future expenses for infrastructure maintenance and necessary upgrades in lieu of borrowing funds for those purposes.

KSTD infrastructure is 40 years old and there is a need to maintain and to make necessary upgrades to the infrastructure. Many portions of the plant and interceptors are 1976 vintage. Rather than return to the bond market in 2018 to fund an estimated \$12 plus million worth of upgrades, the District decided to establish and use a true *Capital Reserve Fund*. The first action required to do so is to amend the existing Charter, for it clearly states any year end surplus funds must be allocated back to the District members by the first of the following New Year, hence not allowing for accumulation of an operating reserve account.

In early 2016 a District Charter amendment was enacted through the State of Maine Legislature and signed by the Governor, creating a true *Capital Reserve Fund* listed as \$500,000 per year and to be capped at \$2,000,000. It is foreseen that the four accounting categories of the *Capital Reserve Fund* account may include Capital Improvement, Equipment, Credit Reserved, and Debt Pay-down. These accounts within the *Capital Reserve Fund* will help provide further accountability over time. In addition, a written detailed explanation of how to use these accounts was created for future implementation and control.

To garner local support for the Charter amendment the District Board and community members needed to see how and why such funds would be justified, which brings us to an *Asset Management Plan*.

The fiduciary responsibility for *funding and maintaining our wastewater treatment facility* requires a detailed *plan* listing all *assets*, indicating their age, condition and projected cost of maintenance, rehabilitation, or replacement. The assets then need to be prioritized, as to their potential impact on process and grouped into common construction activities or categories. All of these interactive needs are driven by affordability and availability of funds as years flow by. Many of the needs will require pre-engineering, as well as final engineering assistance which may take two or more years. To demonstrate the structure of the *plan* we created a large, detailed, excel spread sheet listing all portions of the District's facilities, from the first manhole to the final outfall pipe and everything in between. The *Asset Management Plan* quickly grew into a twenty year projection. The plan will be divided into modules, bundling similar projects to allow the most economical scale for future expenditures. The Plan will be updated and approved each year by the KSTD trustees and staff. As the years pass and the work is completed, the trustees will re-work the *Asset Management Plan* to expand or limit further increases of the account balances as needs grow

or change and as reserves are depleted.

Historically, annual budgets have provided an average of 1.5 to 2 percent (approximately \$48,000) of the total budget for expenditures to improve, rehabilitate, maintain or replace areas within the facility. These funds will now be added into the *Capital Reserve Fund*, bringing the total up to \$500,000. This historical approach maintained *our aging treatment plant* at a slow but steady pace, addressed existing smaller systems, and stopped the facility from simply *falling apart*. Using this approach kept many systems such as roofing, waterproofing, small pumps, process piping and vales (there are too many to list them all!) in minimum adequate shape. With that said, as long as the overall facility remains in a fairly healthy state the *Bond-Free* approach could work, and the District's future appears to indicate no need for increased capacity or additional process treatment changes driven by the people and economy of Maine or present regulatory requirements. A change in future economic and demographic trends, or in wastewater treatment standards could be a game changer, and possibly smaller, short term loans may prove necessary at some point.

The District believes that if this program is in place by 2018, the potential for not borrowing - that is, *Bond Free Operation* - is realistic. Annual review of the *Asset Management Plan* will take place and most likely lead to multiple reassessments as time moves on. Many challenges are expected as the aged portions of the facility create either a growing fear of failure or the possibility of faster failure than projected. The success of this plan will be measured by its effectiveness over the next eight years.

Some critics argue that it would make more sense economically to do a larger, one-time, upgrade project. However, this option does not lend itself to being reviewed and adjusted annually over time. A benefit of our proposal is that it keeps a fairly stable annual budget by prioritizing needs as they arise and evolve. If a newer bond were to be required, we may still have funds within the existing budget to make the necessary payments while we re-tune the *Asset Management Plan*. Additionally, just having a sense of local control of expenses is very desirable.

In summary, for many years KSTD has practiced a strategy, which will help the *Asset Management Plan* using the *Capital Reserve Fund* to be *Bond free*, which is; *keeping the house clean approach*. One must work proactively to learn about and provide what is needed, develop the proper budgeting and accounting practices, and provide for necessary equipment, process control, operational and maintenance skills. Another goal is to retain a trained and safe operating and maintenance staff to perform all the work needed. Do not allow the facility to *run itself down into disrepair and non-compliance*. Our Managers must become skilled at projecting future financial, process, and maintenance needs, along with meeting the terms of successive DEP discharge permits. We must create constructive relationships by providing and exchanging appropriate information with the Trustees, community stakeholders, DEP, and EPA. Continuous cost reduction through reduced energy consumption or enhanced operations and maintenance is critical. Performing these tasks drive the staff to become aware of evaluation process bottle necks and discovering process trouble spots within the facility. With such

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# Pilot Testing New Grease Management Technology

By Rychel Gibson, Hoyle Tanner and Associates

The Freeport Sewer District collection system consists of 20 miles of gravity sewer, 11 pump stations and the main wastewater treatment facility. Due to the commercial nature of the downtown Freeport area, common issues in this system include large quantities of grease from the many restaurants and other facilities in town which lead to frequent odor complaints at the pump stations. Grease buildup in the pump stations leads to monthly pump station cleanings for the District, which is a significant maintenance cost.

The District is currently in design to upgrade three of their existing pump stations and construct a new pump station. As part of the upgrade, the District chose to pilot grease removal technology at one of the stations that accumulates the most grease. The Vapex Nano FOG (fats, oils and grease) Management System was selected by the District for pilot testing in January 2017.

The Vapex Nano unit produces ozone, which is combined with water and air to create an oxidizing fog that breaks down the fatty acid chains in accumulated FOG. The oxidant is pumped into the station wetwell and constantly eats away at the grease blanket. As secondary benefits, the Vapex system also breaks down odor generating grease and decreases corrosion by killing off acid generating bacteria.

The Vapex Nano pilot test at Mast Landing Pump Station occurred from January 25<sup>th</sup> to February 27<sup>th</sup>, 2017. The District had to reconnect an on-site water well to provide water service to the station. Installation of the unit was fairly simple. The Vapex Nano unit is approximately 16 inches by 31 inches, by 47 inches tall, and was installed inside the existing pump station for security purposes. For the pilot test, temporary piping between the unit and the wetwell was run out through the 8" mushroom vent in the dry pit and into the wetwell through the manhole opening. The wetwell opening was then temporarily closed off, and piping between the two locations was insulated. Inside the wetwell piping was installed using temporary mounts to direct the nozzles toward the top of the water.

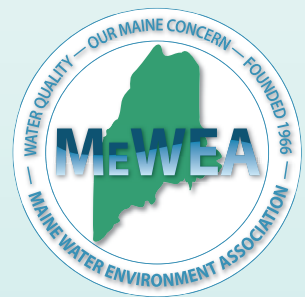
Typical grease accumulation in a one-month period at the Mast Landing Pump Station ranges from 10" to 14" across the top of the water during this time of year. The wetwell was cleaned 5 days prior to the start of the pilot test and 1"-2" of grease had accumulated by the start of the test on January 25<sup>th</sup>. On February 27<sup>th</sup>, results of the pilot test showed water visible in wetwell - minimal grease blanket had accumulated on the water surface compared to the typical 10"-14". In addition, system operators noted a lack of odor from the wetwell during the pilot study. Three days following pilot completion, a grease blanket had begun to form again and was 1"-3" in depth.

As a result of this pilot study, the Freeport Sewer District has decided to continue with design of the pump stations with the inclusion of two Vapex units at two different pump stations. Results of the study showed a significant decrease in grease accumulation and a reduction in odor. The trial wetwell remained clean through the duration of the study and did not appear to be increasing in accumulation at the end of the study. The Pump Station Upgrade Project is ongoing with completion of design slated for this summer and bidding to follow.

## Bond Free – With Asset Management cont'd

information the Staff will step up to properly maintain and guide cost effective expenditures along with accurate resolution needs. Of course it continues to be important to keep the floors, walls and grounds in good housekeeping order.

In conclusion we all say "Yes there's always more to be done and it can be overwhelming, but let's face it, we are only short term stewards of these facilities. As much as we may feel or think all is in (or will fall into) disrepair, that's just how it is. This is not a healthy attitude. Many facilities in Maine are 40 to 50 years old at this point, and will continue to grow older. We know the history; now we *must* face the future needs of our infrastructure today! Can we learn from the movies and ads, which say: "The future is now"?



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# Clean Water Week Poster Contest Winners Chosen

By Jen McDonnell, Casella Organics

Selected from an avalanche (over 500!) of posters submitted as part of MEWEA clean water week activities were four outstanding examples of the talent and creativity of our Maine School kids. As contest chair, I am coordinating an event to recognize these young enthusiasts for Maine's clean water in Bangor during Maine Clean Water Week, on June 8 at the treatment plant. Thanks to Amanda Smith for her help in organizing. At the event, we'll present the prizes to the winners on the banks of the Penobscot River and include a tour of the Bangor Wastewater Treatment Facility. MEWEA members are encouraged to attend. This year's winners are:

Jordan Drake	Central Maine Christian Academy	Oxford	Grades 4-6 (tie)
Sophia Spiller	St. Michael School	Augusta	Grades 4-6 (tie)
Mackenzie Cates	Bay Ridge School	Cutler	Grades 7-12
Etta Crosman	Bay Ridge School	Cutler	Grades 1-3

The winning posters and other notable entries will be included in the 2018 MEWEA calendar and will be available at the Fall Convention.

# Oxford Starts up New Wastewater Treatment Facility

By Rob Polys, Woodard and Curran

The town of Oxford has been undergoing an extended period of growth and development: however, until recently the Town did not have centralized wastewater collection treatment and disposal facilities. All that changed as the new treatment facility came on line as of August 2016 and began accepting flow. The WWTF is a suspended growth activated sludge biological treatment system with membrane filtration for solids separation within the biological reactor. As such, it is the first membrane bioreactor (MBR) process employed at a municipal facility in the state of Maine. Disinfection is accomplished with ultraviolet irradiation and phosphorus removal is included via chemical precipitation. Treated effluent is discharged through a new outfall to the Little Androscoggin River.



Where's the Treatment Plant? Oxford's new facility blends into the neighborhood.

# Mitchell Center Hosts Annual Maine Sustainability and Water Conference

On March 30<sup>th</sup> the Senator George J. Mitchell Center for Sustainability Solutions and the United States Geological Survey hosted the annual Sustainability and Water Conference at the Augusta Civic Center. Vice President Paula Drouin represented MEWEA and participated in judging the student poster competition. A number of other MEWEA members attended as well, including Jen McDonnell and Mac Richardson who presented in one of the morning technical sessions. Topics addressed in sessions ranged from food production and waste food recycling, climate change and infrastructure resiliency to PFOA contamination and Green Infrastructure. The Conference draws a wide variety of water resource professionals, researchers, consultants, citizens, students, regulators, and planners from across the New England region. Perhaps the most awesome part of the event is how many young people attend. This is most clearly demonstrated by the number of student posters presented. At this year's Conference, four high school students, nineteen undergraduate students and seventeen graduate students presented posters. As a forward-looking event, and in terms of technical environmental issues and the people that will be needed to solve the problems of the future, this conference is hard to beat!

# Northern Maine Community College Steps Up to Address Need for Water Environment Professionals

Northern Maine Community College is in the process of developing a Water Treatment Technology Program that will offer both one year certificates and two year associate degrees in water and wastewater treatment technology. As many have noted and pointed out over the years, this type of program is needed in Maine and New England as baby boomers (now officially old farts) retire. Many of Maine's most accomplished operators, superintendents and others fondly remember their training at Eastern Maine Community College or Southern Maine Community College (although they carried slightly different names back then).

Northern Maine Community College in Presque Isle is seeking a Water Treatment Technology Program Instructor to manage the program. A bachelor's degree in civil, environmental engineer-

ing or a related field is preferred and a minimum of five years of occupational experience directly related to water or wastewater treatment operations and management is required. The successful candidate must hold a minimum class III Water License and a class IV Wastewater Treatment Operator's License and be a member of at least one water/wastewater professional association. Additional information can be found at <http://www.nmcc.edu/about-nmcc/new-info/employment-nmcc/>

Additional information can be obtained from Charles Kelley (electrical/electronics instructor) (207)768-2680 [ckelley@nmcc.edu](mailto:ckelley@nmcc.edu) or Dr. Dottie Martin (Academic Dean) (207)768-2806 [dmartin@nmcc.edu](mailto:dmartin@nmcc.edu) Northern Maine Community College, 33 Edgemont Drive, Presque Isle, ME 04769. 🌐

## North Country Convention 2017

By LeeAnn Hanson, JETCC Coordinator

JETCC's North Country Convention and trade show (NCC) saw 156 attendees pass through the Presque Isle Inn and Convention Center on April 26 and 27, 2017.

After welcoming remarks from Presque Isle City Manager, Martin Puckett, and a Maine DEP update, attendees selected from 25 different classes during the two day event. Presentations were designed to suit everyone including new operators, laboratorians, personnel working on infrastructure or community relations and seasoned water and wastewater operators. Three different training tracks were offered each day to earn up to 12 hours of continuing education credit.

Along with an active exhibit area featuring 22 different displays, participants heard from Maine DEP Commissioner Paul Mercer and MEWEA President Matt Timberlake.

A returning draw to the NCC was the presence of internationally recognized microbiologist Michael Gerardi who traveled from Pennsylvania to offer three different specialty sessions on "WW Bacteria and pathogens", "Process Control Parameters" and "Odor Production".

Throughout the conference special attention was given to the new Water and Wastewater curriculum being launched in the fall by Northern Maine Community College (NMCC). Along with addresses from NMCC President Timothy Crowley, Academic Dean, Dottie Martin and Electronics Instructor, Chuck Kelley, the



Sure, Bob, Will and Joe are experienced, but none of them have been around for all 50 years of American Concrete!



Come to the County for NCC, true hospitality and good food!

school offered an exhibit featuring a headset with an interactive virtual tour of a wastewater treatment plant.

Rebecca Beam from Maine DEP's Augusta office was ready with a laptop to offer one-on-one tutorials on the use of, and changes to, netDMR. Of course, the first day included the always popular Meet-Greet in the exhibit area with raffle give-aways.

Day Two began with a full breakfast sponsored by EJ Prescott then another full day of training that concluded with a Drinking Water Program Update from DHHS.

JETCC thanks all of the generous sponsors, exhibitors and industry professionals who contributed and volunteered to assist with the 2017 North Country Convention. It can be a long drive to northern Maine, but everyone knows "it is always worth it"

The first North Country Convention was held in 1990 through a partnership between JETCC and the Maine Wastewater Control Association (now MEWEA). Since Maine

is such a large state with many small facilities in northern Maine it made sense to bring the benefits of a trade show to Aroostook County. The first NCC in 1990 was a 1-day event with 78 attendees. This year's attendance exactly doubled that! Along with its original audience of Wastewater Operators it is now also a draw for Drinking Water Operators and public works personnel. The NCC is now a regular event scheduled every other year. 🌐

# Young Professionals are Cool – No, they're Hot!

By Michael Guethle, Wright-Pierce

The Young Professionals Committee has already been active this year with two recent events. Our first event was in January, the second annual Family Ice Skating Night, which allowed for us to get together with our families on a Friday evening at Thompson's Point Ice Arena in Portland. We had around 25 attend, and were able to meet each other on a more laid-back, personal level. This is one of our newer events, but has been well accepted as a unique way to expand our network within the industry, and provide a less formal way for new members to attend.

Our committee also attended the Urban Runoff, a 5k run and neighborhood engagement event organized by Cumberland County Soil and Water Conservation District. This event provides us with the opportunity to educate many of the attendees using our post-race booth, where we talk to mostly children and families about the importance of stormwater management and sewage treatment. As is now tradition, we were the Largest Non-Profit Team for the 4<sup>th</sup> year in a row, thanks to the MEWEA members from many committees and communities across the state.

Over the next few months, our attention turns towards planning our fall events and appropriately recognizing those Young Professionals excelling within our industry, with the following awards process:

## Young Professionals Award

Do you have a younger staff member, a coworker new to the industry, or a friend dedicated to the clean water environment that you would like to recognize for their efforts? Please go to our website: <https://www.mewea.org/young-professionals-committee/> and nominate them for the Young Professional Award!

## Young Professional Higher Education Award

Each year since 2015 we have been providing a \$1000 academic achievement

award to an intern that is excelling within the clean water industry. If you have an intern that is committed to outstanding work, please go to our website: <https://www.mewea.org/young-professionals-committee/> and nominate them!

## Fall Convention

Look for us at the MEWEA Fall Convention! We will be raising money for our scholarship at the Golf Tournament, will be running Thursday's Vendor Raffle, and

will be awarding this year's scholarship and YP awards.

Please stay tuned for more information on our many exciting events for the end of summer and fall as those plans get finalized. Events include public information booths, a day of canoeing on the Androscoggin, and brewery and treatment plant tours.

If you would like to get involved or have any questions, please contact Mike Guethle, YP Committee Chair, at: [michael.guethle@wright-pierce.com](mailto:michael.guethle@wright-pierce.com)



January's skate party.



Looks like fun—wait! are all those Ps Y?

## Engaging the Next Generation

By Mac Richardson, Newsletter Editor

On May 20<sup>th</sup> three MEWEA past presidents (Darold Wooley – a two timer!, Andy Rudzinski, Mac Richardson) a MEWEA past President (Brad Moore) and one young and handsome MEWEA professional (Rich May) hosted a symposium at the University of Maine to introduce the Water Environment Profession to a group of around 20 students. We claim the free pizza and soda were not the main inducement! All five MEWEA members spoke of their experience in environmental work, and how they found it to be a rewarding career choice. We also touched on issues of how the work has changed over the years, including such issues as CSO control, repair and replacement of old infrastructure, the emergence of green infrastructure and the need for non-point pollution control. We discussed the aging workforce in treatment plants, regulatory agencies, consulting firms and equipment representative companies and how varied the work assignments for people interested in environmental work can be. Finally, we stressed the importance of networking, internships and joining organizations such as MEWEA and NEWEA. Not only did we feel it was a great success, we have already been invited back next year!

This is your newsletter – if you have news you would like to pass along or an opinion to express that would be of interest to the membership of MEWEA we are always interested in receiving material and will make every effort to incorporate your submissions.



# Washington Whirlwind Tour

By Matt Timberlake, MEWEA President

The Maine Water Environment Association (MEWEA) in cooperation with the New England Water Association (NEWEA) and the Water Environment Federation (WEF) among others participated in the 2017 National Water Policy Fly In on March 21 and 22. Four members of MEWEA, President Matt Timberlake, Vice President, Paula Drouin, NEWEA Director Mac Richardson and past Treasurer, Dan Biss along with two municipal officials, Krystal Flagg, Town Manager Livermore Falls and Chris Littlefield, Town Manager Hartland attended many scheduled events and visited with all four members of the Maine congressional delegation or their environmental staff. The meetings with Senators and Representatives were often short, but were followed with more detailed and specific discussions with the staff people responsible for these policy areas. We feel that it is helpful to have elected officials and/or direct municipal managers attend these events as they can speak to the difficulty that municipalities are facing in operating and maintaining critical wastewater and drinking water infrastruc-

ture –especially in light of often challenging economic times. In the case of both Livermore Falls and Hartland, the towns operate facilities that once relied on large payments from a single large industrial user and are facing the realities of funding services with declining or ended industrial support. In speaking with our representatives, it is clear that they understand the challenges and appreciate that we come to Washington to remind them of these issues partially because there are so many competing needs for Federal resources.

In addition to meeting with our Senators and Representatives, our group also benefitted from attending the NEWEA luncheon, the Rally for Water and the

Congressional Reception. All of these activities serve the dual purpose of uniting the water environment professionals that spend their time coming to Washington to advocate for the importance water and maintaining our water infrastructure, but also sending these important messages out to a wider audience. In our experience the two days spent in Washington are both exhilarating and exhausting. To be sure it is an honor and a privilege to be included in this effort and at the same time a significant expenditure of time and money, but we need to remind our elected officials of what we do and why we do it every day. If we are not there, the amazing job that our profession does every day can too easily be taken for granted. ●



A pair of fired up demonstrators on Capitol hill.



MEWEA People meet with Senator King

# Wastewater Bond Moves Forward

LD 1510 – An Act To Authorize a General Fund Bond Issue To Fund Wastewater Infrastructure Projects for Ratification by Voters in the June 2017 Election. (Sponsored by Rep. Fredette of Newport.) This bill sends out to the voters a proposed \$50 million bond issue designed to improve water quality, support the planning and construction of wastewater treatment facilities and assist residents whose homes are served by substandard or malfunctioning wastewater treatment systems. \$2 million of the bond issue is dedicated to the Small Community Grant Program, administered by the Department of Environmental Protection, that can provide funds for the municipally-supervised repair of malfunctioning wastewater systems, \$350,000 of the issue

is dedicated to the Overboard Discharge program which is similarly designed with respect to malfunctioning residential wastewater systems in coastal watersheds,

and \$47.65 million of the issue is dedicated to wastewater treatment facility planning and construction grants. ●

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# MEWEA Annual Fall Conference!

The Maine Water Environment Association will hold its annual fall convention at Sunday River in Newry, Maine on September 20-22, 2017. The convention is typically attended by over 300 wastewater professionals and provides an excellent opportunity for manufacturer representatives, industrial distributors, contractors, financial institutions, and engineering firms, to present information about products and services. As usual, on Wednesday September 20th the annual golf tournament will be held at the scenic Sunday River Golf Club with a BBQ to follow.

This year expects to be exceptional with 27 technical sessions available with topics such as Hands-on clarifier optimization, Hands-on nitrification and denitrification, Collection system operator "hacks", and virtual plant tours to name just a few. Extra time has also been allotted for vendor interaction so that you have an opportunity to see the latest in products and services. This year we welcome the Maine Water Utilities Association who is sponsoring three sessions Thursday morning. We look forward to more collaboration with MWUA at future events. Vendors will be given multiple blocks of vendor time throughout both days, a meet and greet period on Thursday afternoon, and a networking opportunity Thursday night in the vendor sponsored hospitality suite.

There is something for everyone at this show so make sure you keep an eye out for registration information later this summer. We look forward to seeing you there! ●

## Hear Ye! Hear Ye! Time for Awards Nominations

by Mary Waring, Casella Organics

Maine Water Environment Association is seeking nominations for several awards to be presented at its Fall Conference. Complete descriptions, nomination criteria, contact information and nomination forms for each of the following awards are available on the Association website at: <https://www.mewea.org/recognition-program/>

**Nominations are due by July 7, 2017.**

### ***David Anderson Award for Laboratory Excellence***

This award is designed to recognize individuals for outstanding performance, professionalism, and contributions to the water quality analysis profession.

### ***Charles Perry Collection System Award***

This award is given to recognize the outstanding efforts of collection systems' personnel for excellence in the Management, Operations and Maintenance of that collection system.

### ***Pretreatment Excellence Award***

This award recognizes an industrial facility that is an indirect discharger in Maine, and has made exemplary efforts towards meeting the requirements of a State/National Pretreatment Program permit, or State or local authority control mechanism.

### ***Young Professionals Award***

Candidates for nomination will have made noticeable contributions to or achievements within the water environment industry and/or to MEWEA.

### ***Communications Award***

This award is intended to honor the outstanding efforts of a person, group, utility, agency, or other organization to share the Association's mission or the importance of investing in and protecting the water environment.

### ***Industrial Discharger Award***

This award recognizes a Maine industrial discharger who has made exemplary efforts towards reducing discharge volumes and/or pollutant concentrations in their effluent. ●

## President's Message cont'd

worked, but we constantly learn and grow and look for a strong future for YOUR association.

In May we held our Executive Committee meeting at the Bangor WWTP, thanks to Andy and the folks there for a great space and a tour of the facility. It is always great to get out into our communities and see the real work happening with our members. As we move to other locations, be aware that all members of MEWEA are invited to sit in on Executive Committee Meetings. We would love to see you there! (watch the web site for details on dates and locations).

I look forward to seeing you all at Sunday River in September. ●

This is your newsletter – if you have news you would like to pass along or an opinion to express that would be of interest to the membership of MEWEA we are always interested in receiving material and will make every effort to incorporate your submissions.

## MEWEA E-Mail Database

All current members of MEWEA should receive periodic e-mails, which may include the most recent newsletter, conference and training announcements, or regulatory updates. If you haven't received any e-mails from the organization recently, you may wish to update your information in the distribution list by sending your current e-mail address to Joan Kiszely at [jkiszely@memun.org](mailto:jkiszely@memun.org). Don't miss out on the exciting networking and educational opportunities MEWEA provides! ●



# Maine Water Environment Association 2017 Schedule of Events

Date	Day	Time	Event	Location
June 4-7	Sun.-Wed.		NEWEA Spring Meeting	Sea Crest Beach Hotel North Falmouth, MA
June 8	Thurs.	10:00 a.m.	Clean Water Week (Poster Contest Presentation)	Bangor Wastewater Treatment Facility
June 12	Tue.		Hall of Flags joint event with AGC Maine & "Clean Water for ME" coalition	State House, Augusta
June 16	Fri.	9:00 a.m.- 12:00 p.m.	Executive Board Meeting	LAWPCA, 535 Lincoln St., Lewiston
July	TBD	5:30 p.m.	Androscoggin Land Trust Paddle After Hours	Auburn - Great Falls
August	TBD	5:30 p.m.	Androscoggin Land Trust Paddle After Hours	Auburn - Great Falls
*August 18	Fri.	9:00 a.m.	Executive Board Meeting/Summer BBQ	Sunday River
Sept.	TBD		Portland Green Fest	Portland - TBD
Sept. 20	Wed.	11:00 a.m.	MEWEA Golf Tournament	Sunday River Golf Club
Sept. 21 & 22	Thurs.- Fri.	8:00 a.m.	MEWEA Fall Convention	Sunday River
Sept. 30-Oct. 4	Sat.-Wed.		WEFTEC	McCormick Place, Chicago, IL
Oct. 4 & 5	Wed.-Thurs.	8:00 a.m.	MMA Convention	Augusta Civic Center
Oct. 20	Fri.	9:00 a.m. 12:00 p.m.	Executive Board Meeting	TBD (Member Facility)
Nov. 17	Fri.	9:00 a.m. 12:00 p.m.	Executive Bd Meeting/Budget Workshop	Maine Municipal Association
* Dec. 15	Fri.	9:00 a.m. 12:00 p.m.	Executive Bd Meeting/Holiday Luncheon	Maine Municipal Association

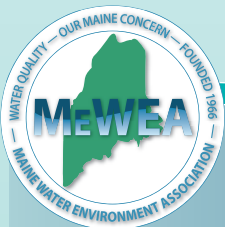
\* Lunch Provided

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# Maine Water Environment **NEWS**

**May 2017 ISSUE**

*please circulate and share with your colleagues*



[www.mewea.org](http://www.mewea.org)