A bi-monthly

## 25 x 25 Report— Increase water quality education, boost investments, hold more water on land

Reprinted from the MPCA Waterfront Bulletin - February 20, 2018

Gov. Mark Dayton recently released a report summarizing key findings from 10 Water Quality Town Hall meetings held last year across the state. The report, which summarizes more than 3,500 suggestions from more than 2,000 meeting participants, recommends strategies to boost water quality education efforts, empower local action and collaboration, and increase investments in local clean water infrastructure, among other ideas. Improving education and reducing runoff ranked among the top themes and comments.

Holding more water on the land was also a top concern across the state. Participants in the town hall meetings, who rotated among small group discussions, suggested a wide range of strategies, reflecting regional topographic differences along with the assertion that solutions to hold water on the land need to be site specific. Many of the recommended strategies provide multiple benefits. For example, rain gardens not only slow the flow of water, but also provide habitat for pollinators and can serve as educational tools for communities. Cover crops another example. They help reduce erosion and build soil health, further reducing the need for fertilizer and other inputs.

#### Top strategies suggested for agricultural areas:

- Expand cover crops
- Reduce tillage
- Increase crop diversity
- Increase perennial crops
- Improve drainage management for better water retention
- Improve soil health

#### Top strategies suggested for urban areas:

- Expand rain gardens
- Improve storm water management

#### Expand green and permeable infrastructure

Increase native landscaping

25x25 Report, Continued on Page 16

III dillo Eltac Digger
25x25 Report: Water Findings Pg. 1
Governor's Proclamation Pg. 2
Executive Director's Column Pg. 3
Calendar of Events Pg. 3
Convention HighlightsPg. 4
Convention HighlightsPg. 5
2018 Convention Photo Contest Pg. 7
Gustafson Natl. Award Pg. 8
Troubleshooting Hydraulic Overload. Pg. 9
Imperial Industry Truck AwardPg. 10
Water Summit SummariesPg. 11
2017 TR Scholarship Essay Pg. 13
2018 TR Scholarship Auction Pg 15
2018 OSTP Course Listing Pg.17
2018 OSTP Course Listing Pg.18
MOWA Welcomes New Members Pg.18
2018 MOWA Membership Form Pg.19

In this I ittle Digger



Page 2 Little Digger

# STATE OF MINNESOTA

#### EXECUTIVE DEPARTMENT



#### Emergency Executive Order 18-05

#### Providing for Relief from Regulations to Certain Motor Carriers and Drivers Operating in Minnesota

I, Mark Dayton, Governor of the State of Minnesota, by virtue of the authority vested in me by the Constitution and applicable statutes, do hereby issue this Executive Order:

Whereas, extreme winter weather conditions and lack of snow cover have caused freezing of septic systems over much of Minnesota;

Whereas, it is urgent that immediate action be taken to prevent danger to public health and to avoid further damage to septic systems;

Whereas, the seasonal load restrictions, as described in Minnesota Statutes, section 169.87, subdivisions 1 and 2 went into effect on March 5, 2018 in the southeast and metro zones; on March 6, 2018 in the south zone; and will go into effect in the other portions of the state in the near future; and

Whereas, these seasonal load restrictions will impair the removal of sewage from septic systems and increase the harm caused by leakage and rupture of septic systems.

Now, Therefore, I hereby declare that:

 A state of emergency exists in Minnesota, and that vehicles used to pump and/or transport sewage from septic systems be exempted from the seasonal load restrictions on local and state highways and streets, imposed in Minnesota Statutes, section 169.87, subdivisions 1 and 2, while providing emergency septic system pumping services.

Pursuant to Minnesota Statutes, section 4.035, subdivision 2, this Emergency Executive Order is effective immediately and must be filed with the Secretary of State and published in the State Register as soon as possible after its issuance. It remains in effect until June 1, 2018.

In Testimony Whereof, I have set my hand on this 9th day of March, 2018.

Filed According to Law:

Steve Simon Secretary of State



# From MOWA's Executive Director

By Pat Martyn, MOWA Executive Director

We hope you enjoyed the 2018 Winter Convention in Alexandria as much as we did. It was so great to see some old friends, and it was very exciting to see the vitality of the membership. The annual meeting at lunch was a special time, as we were able to

report that MOWA is as healthy financially and in terms of membership, it as strong as it has been in more than a decade.

We are off and running again with a new Board of Directors, and have added a new terrific operator: Travis Johnson of Septic Check. You are encouraged to connect with any of those folks if you have a thought about MOWA or want a new idea brought forward. Also, if you would like to be on a Committee, please contact the Chair of the Committee or the MOWA office and we can get you set up. We have succeeded in our goal to improve the volunteer experience inside of MOWA, and your ideas and time are much appreciated.

Now, on to thanking the people who put this Convention together. A round of applause, please, for the Convention Committee that did such a good job organizing the 2018 MOWA Convention. It was a great few days during which we had the MPCA, excellent speakers, social events, and terrific exhibitors. Of course, the attendees drive the show, and the evaluations were really good. Thanks to all who participated.

And, you might be interested in knowing that we raised over \$6,400 for the scholarship program! Thank you to all who donated and who bid for your generosity and to the great

volunteers who worked so hard this year. Make sure you look at the Tony Ruppert scholarship program that is offered on our website.

Now, we are moving on planning the next annual MOWA Event – our 2018 Summer Seminar. The committee is already hard at work on planning this event, so stay tuned for the Save the Date and other details to be announced soon.

And, finally, don't forget to mark your calendar for the 2018 ONSITE WASTEWATER MEGA-CONFERENCE OCTOBER 21-24, 2018 being held in partnership with NOWRA. This exciting event will be held at the Doubletree by Hilton Bloomington.

We look forward to seeing you there!

#	Name	Bowling Pins	Golf	Basketball	Total
5	Chris Klein	0:44	1:07	0:31	2:22
4	Dan Fischer	0:56	0:15	1:01	2:12
3	Darren Flygare	0:56	0:22	0:43	2:01
2	Lee Loverink	0:55	0:12	0:45	1:52
1	Mike Schmidt	0:59	0:18	0:34	1:51



Mike Schmidt, Roe-d-hoe winner 1st place winner, will complete in the National Roe-d-hoe competition to be held at the 2018 Fall Convention in Bloomington.

### Calendar of Events

#### MOWA Events

October 21 – 24, 2018 – NOWRA/MOWA Mega-Conference – DoubleTree by Hilton, Bloomington, MN (visit www.mowa-mn.com or www.nowra.org for details).

# MOWA 2018 BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Andy Winkler, President Wieser Concrete winkler@wieserconcrete.com 715-647-2311

Mike Capra, President-Elect Capra's Utilities

mike@capras.com 651-762-2500

Dean Flygare, Past-President Flygare Excavating, Inc. deanflygare@gmail.com 320-980-3856

Cindy Tiemann, Secretary Fiedler's Your Pumping Specialists

cindy@fiedlerpumping.com 320-252-9916

Pete Otterness, Treasurer

**Nicollet County** 

pete.otterness@co.nicollet.mn.us 507-934-7076

Eric Blasing

Wenck Associates eblasing@wenck.com 651-428-8038

Stacev Feser

Feser Environmental staceyfeser@gmail.com 612.382.7491

**Nick Haig** 

**MPCA** 

nick.haig@state.mn.us 651-757-2536

Travis Johnson

**Septic Check** 

travis@septiccheck.com 320-630-4253

Chris LeClair

**Washington County** 

chris.leclair@co.washington.mn.us 651-430-4052

Bernie Miller

Miller's Sewage Treatment Solutions

bernie@millerssewage.com 320-398-2705

Page 4 Little Digger

# Convention Highlight: Training, networking and awards!



Overall, over 200 members, industry professionals, speakers and exhibitors were in attendance over two action-packed days at the Arrowwood Resort in Alexandria on January 30 and 31.

Photos: Educational session (top); MPCA staff on-

site during the Exhibitor's Reception (right); QBE staff at their booth with the MOWA "dividend check" totaling \$413,943 during the Exhibitor's Reception (bottom right); and MOWA President Dean Flygare (left) and MOWA Executive Director Pat Martyn (right) during the Scholarship ceremony (bottom).

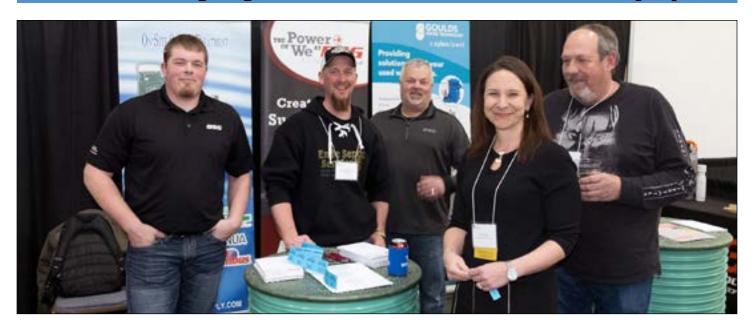








# Convention Highlight: Vendors and Wastewater Olympics!





Good times all around at the 2018 MOWA Convention Vendor Show and Wastewater Olympics held Tuesday evening, January 30th.

Photos: MOWA members and vendor staff (above and below right); Wastewater Olympics contenders (bottom left); and Wastewater Olympics skills test (center left).

A MOWA Thank-You goes out to Convention, Exhibit and Tony Ruppert Scholarship Sponsors. We can make great things happen when we work together!

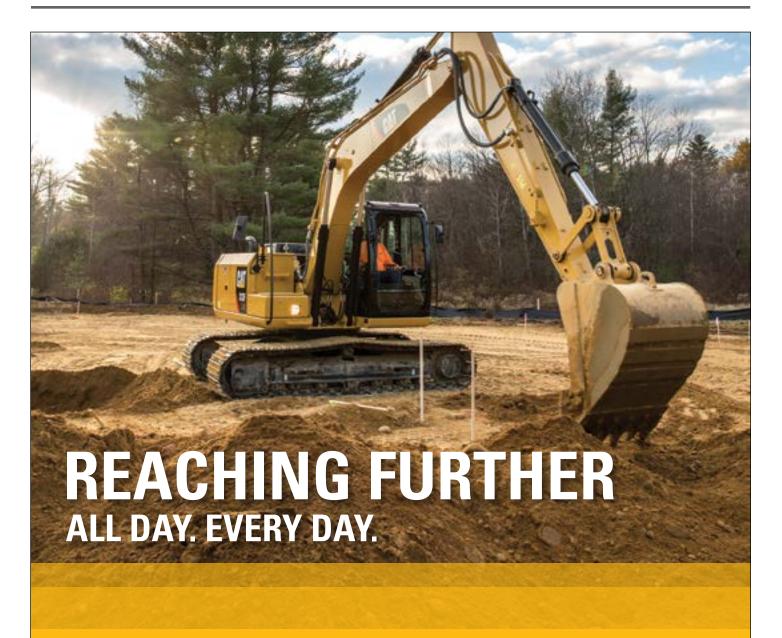
For photos of the Tony Ruppert Fundraiser Auction, go to Page 15.





MISSION: Promoting professionalism in the onsite wastewater industry

Page 6 Little Digger



# DO MORE WITH THE CAT F SERIES

The next generation of Cat hydraulic excavators is designed to reach further — to set new industry standards for productivity — all day, every day.

- Greater lift capacity and digging force result in higher productivity
- Cab improvements increase operator comfort
- Multiple Cat Work Tools available for a wide range of applications
- Cat Grade Control allows real-time bucket tip elevation guidance

#### MINNESOTA 800.352.2812

Bemidji • Brainerd • Buhl • Columbus • Crookston • Duluth • Fergus Falls • Jackson Mankato • Marshall • Minneapolis • Rochester • Shakopee • St. Cloud • Willmar



www.zieglercat.com

# Convention Photo Share: The Best & The Worst!

#### MOWA Best/Worst Photo Contest

True to our word, MOWA is sharing "the best" and "the worst" photos entered in the 2018 Convention Photo Share contest. You have to admit, these photos are awe-inspiring—whether it's roots masqerading as Rapunzel's hair (bottom right), the "Blue Lagoon" (below), or an homage to Inspector Gadget (bottom left). The darn'dest things can happen!



Page 8 Little Digger



# University of Minnesota MN Educator Honored at Natl. WWETT Show

### Wastewater Industry Honors Announced at WWETT Show—

# Gustafson Receives Ralph Macchio Lifetime Achievement Award

By Jim Kneiszel

The pumping industry's two major annual awards were presented at the National Association of Wastewater Technicians State Association Breakfast meeting at the 2018 Water & Wastewater Equipment, Treatment & Transport (WWETT) Show in Indianapolis on Feb. 22.

The Ralph Macchio Lifetime Achievement Award was presented to David Gustafson, P.E., of the University of Minnesota onsite wastewater treatment education program. Gustafson has taught education courses and seminars through NAWT for 30 years, both at locations across the U.S. and at the WWETT Show. He is known for lively presentations and encouraging active participation among attendees.

"He has proven a sense of humor goes a long way. David is certainly a drawing card at any training session. He keeps everybody on the edge of their seats, interactive and involved," Ferrero says.

"He still fills our classrooms. He apologizes every time for being an engineer, but he brings it down to our level and is certainly a worthy recipient."

Gustafson says the wastewater leaders in NAWT always pushed him to improve the training sessions. He thanked COLE Publishing founder Bob Kendall, who presented the award with Ferrero, for establishing the Pumper & Cleaner Environmental Expo, now the WWETT Show, and fostering professionalism in the industry.

"You get so much more than you could ever give from working with the professionals and the guys and gals that make this



David Gustafson, P.E., accepts the Ralph Macchio Lifetime Achievement Award. He is joined by Ralph Macchio, left, and Gene Bassett, right.

a fabulous industry," Gustafson says. "We need to keep the industry going forward. I think we're at a place that if we're not moving forward, we're going to lose significant ground."

The award namesake, Ralph Macchio, also thanked Gustafson for sharing his expertise. "You keep us on our toes, and we learn a lot from you by the way you teach. You're a special educator who has the ability to reach all the people in the room," he says. This article first appeared online at Pumper.com March 1, 2018, published by COLE Publishing, Three Lakes, Wis. It is reprinted by permission. https://www.pumper.com/online\_exclusives/2018/03/wastewater-industry-honors-announced-at-wwett-show?utm\_source=streamsend&utm\_medium=email&utm\_content=newsletter&utm\_campaign=180308







# Troubleshooting Starts with Communication

#### Problemsolving Tips from University of Minnesota Professor Emeritus—

## Troubleshooting: Check for Hydraulic Overloading

By Jim Anderson, Ph.D.



I continually get questions about why systems fail and questions about the cause of certain system problems. When you are called to a site where the system is struggling, your first step in finding a solution is to identify the cause of the problem. As you all know, this is sometimes a lot harder than it appears. I will spend a little time going through ways to troubleshoot systems of different types, going over what to look for, and — when possible - giving potential solutions. I did this a couple years ago as some of you may recall, and it led to a lot of good discussion about the causes, identifying them and finding solutions.

Troubleshooting a system starts with communicating with the homeowner. The more you learn about their water use and system use habits, the sooner you can home in on the problem. In addition, constant communication with the homeowner about what you are doing and why you are doing it will cut down on any misunderstandings about your recommendations and ultimately the services you provide and they pay for. There is nothing that creates more problems with homeowners than a lack of understanding what you as the service provider are doing and what is leading you to the conclusion — especially if that conclusion is going to result in the homeowner spending a lot of money on repairs or replacement. There is obviously a problem or you would not be there, but homeowners are just like us: hoping that the fix is easy and, above all, cheap. As we all know, this is often not the case.

When the troubleshooting call is due to surfacing effluent in the drainfield area or a backup into the house from a full system, discussion with the homeowner about what water use appliances are being used, how many residents are in the house, and any small-business activities taking place can go a

long way to determining whether the system is being hydraulically overloaded simply from using too much water. Many homeowners, particularly if they have not lived with a septic system before, do not understand or realize that their system has a finite or limited capacity to accept what they want to put into it.

If you are uncertain about what questions to ask the homeowner, there are numerous pamphlets and brochures available through the EPA, state Extension specialists and organizations

such as NOWRA - National Onsite Wastewater Recycling Association and National Association of Wastewater Technicians.

Based on their answers about water use, if you feel there is a good possibility that the system is overloaded, I suggest putting in a water meter for a period of time to measure actual use occurring in the home. One of my early troubleshooting experiences involved looking at a system serving a threebedroom house with an estimated flow of 450 gallons per day. The homeowner was adamant that they could not be using more than that amount of water. Homeowners usually underestimate their use by a lot.

In that case, we installed and calibrated the water meter and let it run for a week. When we came back, the actual average daily use was 750 gallons per day. This is 1.6 times the design flow for the system. The homeowners were still not convinced they could ever use that much water; we recalibrated the meter in front of them and left it for another week, and even though they "watched it," the average was still over 700 gallons a day. We then talked about installing low water use fixtures and enlarging the system to accommodate actual flow.

About the author Jim Anderson is connected with the University of Minnesota onsite wastewater treatment program and is an emeritus professor in the university's Department of Soil, Water and Climate. Send him questions about septic system maintenance and operation by sending an email to kim.peterson@colepublishing.com.

This article first appeared online at Pumper.com February 22, 2018, published by COLE Publishing, Three Lakes, Wis. It is reprinted by permission. https://www.pumper.com/ online\_exclusives/2018/02/troubleshooting-check-for-hydraulicoverloading?utm source=streamsend&utm medium=email&utm content=newsletter&utm campaign=180306

Page 10 Little Digger

# Truck Talk: Have Pride in Your Ride!

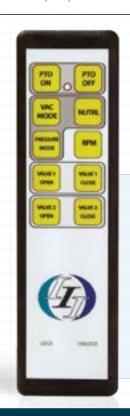
# Imperial Industries Builds Pumper's 2017 Classy Truck of the Year

Henry Damm of Big Bore Drilling in Fresno, California, wasn't in the market for a new truck until he needed a replacement truck after an accident. At first, Damm sought out used chassis and trucks, but couldn't find anything to suit the needs of his



business. That's when he decided to buy a new 2016 Peterbilt, built out with a tank by Imperial Industries. Damm also hired a graphic designer for the logo in hopes of getting his truck featured in Pumper magazine, and he ended up with the Classy Truck of the Year. In the market for a new truck? Check out Imperial Industries!

This article first appeared online at Pumper.com February 9, 2018, published by COLE Publishing, Three Lakes, Wis. It is reprinted by permission. https://www.pumper.com/video/video\_profile/imperial\_industries\_builds\_pumpers\_2017\_classy\_truck\_of\_the\_year



# THIS REMOTE-CONTROL TRUCK IS FOR GROWN-UPS.

BUT IT MAKES WORK CHILD'S PLAY.

Time is money, so why spend it running back and forth? Imperial Industries' remote-controlled vacuum system makes septic pumping easier than ever before, putting you in full control of your truck's PTO, intake valves and pressure settings, while saving as much as half the time spent at a job site.

TAKE CONTROL OF YOUR BUSINESS TODAY. 1-800-558-2945 | IMPERIALIND.COM

Imperial Industries, proudly family-owned and operated in central Wisconsin for more than 35 years, is the trusted choice for specialized septic solutions and expert service.



# Water Summit: What the Governor Heard!

#### Pollutants & drinking water \_

Across the state, Minnesotans expressed a desire to reduce the amount of harmful pollutants that enter our water. These pollutants come from things we do on the land such as applying fertilizers and pesticides on farm fields, yards, and lakeshores and from the chemicals and materials we use in our households, buildings, and industries. They are a concern forrecreation, wildlife, and drinking water.

#### Top pollutants of concern for Minnesota:

Contaminants of Nitrogen emerging concern Phosphorus (CECs), including Sediments pharmaceuticals and microfibers



#### Understanding the issue: Water pollution

Safe, clean drinking water is fundamental to the health and vitality of our state. Minnesota has a long history of providing excellent drinking water for our citizens due to investments in prevention, treatment and monitoring and building strong partnerships throughout the state. In recent history, Minnesotans have rarely had to consider where the water in their taps comes from. However, 20 percent of Minnesotans rely on private wells that are not regulated by the state after the initial drilling stage. In Minnesota, over 70 municipalities and thousands of homeowners who rely on private wells have nitrate pollution approaching or exceeding safe drinking water standards.

Looking ahead to the next 20 years, Minnesota will need to invest an additional \$7.4 billion to address existing infrastructure as it ages and needs to be replaced. Addressing familiar and emerging threats with new infrastructure for municipal systems and private wells will require additional funds in order to maintain the quality of drinking water we have come to expect. Major water problems elsewhere in the United States have been in the news over the past year, including ongoing lead problems in drinking water in the city of Flint, Michigan, and unsafe levels of nitrate in the rivers from which Des Moines, Iowa, draws its water. We have the knowledge and tools to avoid these problems, but it will require ongoing

vigilance and investment in the systems and infrastructure that keep our water safe. We cannot take drinking water for granted.

In addition to drinking water, monitoring shows that while 60 percent of lakes and rivers meet standards, another 40 percent are impaired. Some pollutants, such as phosphorus, have been an issue for decades, and we know a great deal about how they affect the environment. Other pollutants, such as pharmaceuticals, have been recognized as problems more recently, and still others we may not know about yet. The development of new products and chemicals and our knowledge about what affect chemicals have on the environment and human health are constantly evolving, and the challenges we face may change down the road.

#### Septic systems \_\_\_\_

A top concern in northeast Minnesota is reducing the number of failing and inadequate septic systems. Problematic septic systems exist throughout Minnesota, but residents in the northeast expressed a particular concern that the good water quality they enjoy in this area of the state is negatively impacted by septic systems that are improperly managed and maintained. Stricter enforcement of septic system regulations, providing financial assistance for costly system repair and installation, and education for septic system owners were three strategies suggested by the public to address this issue.

# Understanding the issue: Sub-surface sewage treatment

Minnesota residents in areas without access to public sewer systems maintain their own septic systems. When working properly, septic systems treat wastewater and ensure that pathogens, nutrients, and other chemicals do not reach ground and surface water. A poorly functioning septic system is a threat

to human health and the environment because it may not remove these harmful elements and can lead to contamination. The landscape of northeast Minnesota creates unique challenges for finding suitable locations for septic systems. Septic systems need adequate soil to allow for proper drainage. Shallow bedrock and extensive wetland areas make finding enough soil more difficult in this region of the state.

Often mound systems or advanced treatment systems are needed to treat the sewage to an acceptable level before discharge to the soil, but these systems are more expensive and can cost as much as \$20,000. St. Louis County offers grants to help offset costs for updating septic systems for low income families, but this funding is not sufficient to bring the majority of systems into compliance. Currently there is no good way to determine what percentage of septic systems in the northeast are not in compliance.

Page 12 Little Digger



# THE PERFECT FIT EVERY TIME!

We heard you! Polylok now offers risers in 2" and 3" heights. Whether you are working with a septic tank, distribution box or drainage box, stacking these new heights with our existing series of 6" and 12" risers will enable you to get the perfect fit every time!

Worried about safety? We are too! That's why you can install a concrete plug in our 20" and 24" riser pans. Additionally, we offer 12", 20" and 24" riser safety screens that provide a secondary layer of protection.

#### RISER SAFETY ACCESSORIES



Safety Screens (12") 3017-SS (20") 3009-SS (24") 3008-SS







24" Dual Safety Cover 3009-KYDC



24" x 2" Riser 3008-GR2



20" x 2" Riser 3009-GR2



20" x 3" Riser / Riser Pan 3009-LPRP

#### OTHER SIZES AVAILABLE

- 24" x 3" Riser / Riser Pan 3008-RP
- 24" x 6" Riser 3008
- · 24" x 12" Riser 3008-R12
- . 20" x 6" Riser 3009
- . 20" x 12" Riser 3009-R12
- 20" Riser Pan 3009-RP
- . 12" x 6" Riser 3017-R



1-877-765-9565 / www.polylok.com

For more information call or visit our website today!

# 2017 Tony Ruppert Scholarship Winning Essays

# Wastewater Treatment, Quality and Quantity

by Ashley Thelen of Park Rapids, MN, 2017 Tony Ruppert Scholarship Winner

What is wastewater? Wastewater is any water that has been adversely affected by anthropogenic influence. It can originate from a combination of domestic, industrial, commercial or agriculture influence. Waste water can come from many outside sources including, feces and urine, washing water (personal, floors, dishes, clothes), manufactured liquids from domestic sources (paint, cleaning liquid supplies, drinks and cooking oil), runoff waste from highways, roads, roofs sidewalks/ pavements which could contain oils, gasoline, animal feces, de-icing agents, etc.

In this essay we will be discussing the importance of wastewater treatment, why it should be treated and what can happen if water isn't treated. What treatments can be done to maintain a good quality water resource? How does wastewater affect our environment? And also we will be discussing the importance of quality water and why good quality water is important in communities.

Why treat wastewater? Wastewater plays an important role in caring for our own health and the environment. There are a lot of good reasons as to why keeping our water clean is an

important quality. Clean water is critical for wildlife habitats and fisheries and it is crucial for plants and animals that live in the water. It is important for the fishing industry and future generations. Wildlife depend on the rivers, oceans, shoreline, beaches and marshes for resting and feeding. Wastewater treatment also plays a role



in recreation and quality of life. The recreational values of our waters and the scenic view are reasons many people choose to live where they do. Also if water isn't properly treated it can cause health concerns. If water is not properly cleaned, it can carry disease and harmful bacteria. The harmful bacteria would have to be removed to make the water safe.

What happens if wastewater isn't treated properly? Treatment of wastewater is very important for our environment, communities and for the population. Wastewater is treated to remove pollutants or contamination. Wastewater treatment is a process used to

TR Scholarship - Thelen, Continued on Page 14

# BUILD STRONG — BUILD SAFE

# With Precast Tanks to 40,000 Gallons



- Quality- Engineered
- Superior Construction
- Easy Installation
- Septic, Holding, Grease
- HS-20 Traffic Loading Tanks Available
- Latest Technologies
- Guaranteed Water Tight
- Vacuum Testing Available

Underground Precast Solutions!

Providing

Complete





Wieser Concrete has precast solutions for every underground project from basic manholes to custom designed storm water applications.



www.wieserconcrete.com



SERVING ALL OF MINNESOTA

Maiden Rock, WI Jordan, MN 800-325-8456 877-746-6211

"Where Quality is a Standard Not an Extra"

Page 14 Little Digger

#### TR Scholarship - Thelen, Continued from Page 13

maintain the overall quality and quantity of our water. Treating the wastewater from contaminants helps our environment because it can be recycled, treated, reused and discharged back into the environment. If our wastewater isn't treated properly it can cause health problems and diseases. Discharging untreated wastewater for example, water pollution, can cause the spreading of diseases, fish kills and can harm the aquatic life. The pollution of water can have some serious impact on all living creatures and it can negatively affect the use of drinking water, household needs, recreation and fishing.

Reducing wastewater saves money, helps our economy and can help the environment. Conserving water is a good idea for a number of reasons one big reason is reducing wastewater. Not only can it help lower monthly water bills but it can also increase wastewater treatment plant efficiency and savings on energy cost. However, the most important reason to reduce water use is to protect the water quality. And to ensure clean water is available in the future practice healthy habits by polluting as little as possible.

What are some wastewater treatment types? There are two types of wastewater treatment, Primary Treatment and Secondary Treatment. In Primary Treatment, suspended and floating solids are settled then removed from sewage. The flow from the sewers enters a screen or bar rack and removes large floating materials such as sticks of rags. It then flows through a grit chamber where heavier substances such as sand and rocks are removed. Grit

removal is then usually followed by a sedimentation tank or clarifiers where inorganic and organic solids are settled out. To treat and kill pathogenic bacteria the primary treatment used is chlorine (in the form of a sodium hypochlorite solution) to disinfect. Sometimes more chlorine is needed to kill adequate bacteria, excess chlorine can be removed by dechlorinating. But there is alternate disinfection methods as well, including ozone or ultraviolet light that are utilized by some treatment plants.

Another common treatment type is Secondary Treatment. The process of Secondary Treatment, the bacteria in the sewage is used to help further purify the sewage. Secondary treatment which can be referred to as a "biological process", removes 85 percent or more of the organic matter in sewage when compared with Primary treatment according to www.pollutionissues.com (Advameg Inc). In order to purify or clarify the wastewater, there is a process called the "activated sludge" or "trickling filters" which help provide a mechanism for bacteria, with added oxygen to come in contact with the wastewater to purify it.

In the sludge process, flow from the sewer or primary clarifiers goes into a tank, called the aeration tank, where compressed air is mixed with sludge and is recycled from the secondary clarifiers. In a trickling filter the wastewater flows over a bed of stones where the purifying organisms grow and come in contact

TR Scholarship - Thelen, Continued on Page 16



# 2018 Tony Ruppert Scholarship Fundraiser Auction!

The Tony Ruppert Memorial Scholarship Fund Silent Auction and Fundraiser has become an enduring tradition at MOWA's Annual Convention. MOWA members get to contribute to a worthy cause while remembering a good friend and colleague, with the added bonus of having more than one good-natured laugh.

This year's unofficial award for Most Surprised Gift Recipient goes to Ron Jaspersen, Willmar PreCast Co. (shown below opening and modelling his new holiday attire.)

This year's effort raised \$6,400 for the Tony Ruppert Scholarship Fund.

Ton Ruppert Scholarship Fund Vendor Sponsors were: Silver (\$250) - Hoot Systems; and Bronze (\$100) - Eljen Corporation, Granite Waterworks, RTVision and Wenck Associates, Inc.



Tony Ruppoert Scholarship Fund Attendee Sponsors were: Platinum Plus Sponsors (\$500) - Willmar Precast and Ziegler; Silver Sponsors (\$100) -Fiedler's-Your Pumping Specialists, James Brothers Construction and Olson's Sewer Service & Olson's Excavating Service; and Gold Sponsors (\$50) - C.K. Excavating.

Page 16 Little Digger

#### TR Scholarship - Thelen, Continued from Page 14

with the wastewater removing the contamination as it flows over the bed of stones.

Why is the quality of our water source so important? Water quality is essential to human life and the health of our environment. Water is a valuable natural resource that humans and marine life rely on. Our water resources are of major environmental, social and economic value. It is important not only to protect public health, it provides ecosystem habitats, used for fishing, mining, farming, contributes to tourism and recreation.

What affects the quality of our water? The water quality can be closely linked to the surrounding environment and the land used. Water is never pure and is affected by community use in agriculture, urban, industrial use and recreation. The weather too can have an affect on the water quality, for example a country like Australia which is a drier area is affected by the droughts.

In conclusion, we can improve our water quality by providing information to the public, developing environmental educational programs, develop pollution reduction programs, working with the community to tackle difficult water quality problems and working together with other government agencies to implement effective water quality. We can also play a role in maintaining our quality water source by polluting less, reserving water usage and keeping our environment clean. If we have a healthy clean

environment we can guarantee a healthy resource of water for our future generations.

#### Sources

Heritage, C. O. (2017, May 12). Water quality. Retrieved August 15, 2017, from http://www.environment.nsw.gov.au/water/waterqual.htm

(n.d.). Retrieved August 15, 2017, from https://engineering.purdue.edu/~frankenb/NU-prowd/wwater.htm

(n.d.). Retrieved August 15, 2017, from http://www.pollutionissues.com/Ve-Z/Wastewater-Treatment.html

Perlman, U. H. (n.d.). Wastewater Treatment Water Use. Retrieved August 15, 2017, from https://water.usgs.gov/edu/wuww.html

Wastewater. (2017, August 15). Retrieved August 15, 2017, from https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Wastewater

#### 25/x25 Report, Continued from Page 1

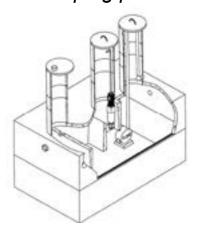
When releasing the report, the governor emphasized the need for his proposed \$1.54 billion bonding packaging, which includes money for water infrastructure and resources. See the governor's website for a full list of projects included his public works proposal.

This will be the final session for the two-term governor, who has made water quality a top issue of his time in office. The Legislature, which convened Feb. 20, must complete its work by May 21 this year.

# **WILLMAR PRECAST COMPANY**

# **Products, Services & Solutions for Your Septic Installation**

"Helping put money in your pocket and not down the drain."



- · Complete line of tanks to accept effluent filters
- Prompt delivery on your schedule
- Entry to the tank can be made from either side or the end
- Tanks designed to conform to standards set by the Minnesota Pollution Control Agency
- Engineer designs available upon request

For ordering, pricing and other information, please contact:

Concrete Drop Boxes
Straight 1000-3500 Gallon Septic Tanks
1500-3500 Gallon Combination Lift Tank & Septic Tank
Complete line of Zoeller pumps, gravelless drain field and filter fabric

Willmar Precast Company Toll Free: 1-800-559-8527

## 2018 OSTP Certification Course Descriptions and Offerings

#### Introduction to Onsite Systems (15 Direct Credits)

Fee: \$360 Exam: Yes

This 15-hour workshop is the foundation for all SSTS certification courses and is best completed prior to the other workshops. It prepares participants for the Basic exam and provides an overview of onsite treatment options and concepts. Enrollment in this workshop includes a copy of the Manual for SSTS Professionals in Minnesota.

#### Topics include:

- Treatment of wastewater
- Site evaluation
- Wastewater characteristics
- Soil treatment systems

10-3 Mankato - AmericInn 11/12-14/18 Deadline: 11/5/18

#### Installing Onsite Systems (12 Direct Credits)

This 12-hour workshop prepares attendees for the Installer exam and provides information about proper installation practices.

#### PREREQUISITE: Introduction to Onsite Systems

#### Topics include:

- Construction planning
- Tools for installing
- Construction practices 112-3 Mankato - AmericInn
- Pipelayer certification 11/15-16/18 Deadline: 11/8/18

#### Basic Design of Onsite Systems (21 Direct Credits) Fee: \$440 Exam: Yes

This 21-hour workshop teaches attendees to properly design various septic systems in preparation for the Basic Designer exam. Enrollees must have the current manual to use during the workshop. Onsite Manuals are available for \$50.

#### PREREQUISITE: Introduction to Onsite Systems

#### Topics include:

- Flow determination
- Tank design
- System design
- Pumps and pressure design

20-2 Grand Rapids - Sawmill Inn

4/17-20/18 Deadline: 4/10/18

#### Advanced Design & Inspection of Onsite Systems

(21 Direct Credits)

Fee: \$440

Exam: Yes

This 21-hour course includes a field portion and focuses on the design and inspection of Type IV systems with flows greater than 2500 gpd. This course explores high strength waste, site assessment techniques, and prepares participants for the Advanced Design exam.

PREREQUISITE: Full Certification as a Basic Designer or Inspector and successful completion of Intermediate exam.

- Collection system design Nitrogen & phosphorus removal
- Groundwater mounding High strength waste

29-1 Alexandria - Douglas County Public Works Building

3/27-30/18

Deadline: 3/20/18

### Inspecting Onsite Systems (12 Direct Credits)

Fee: \$265

Exam: Yes

This 12-hour workshop identifies Minnesota requirements for existing and new system inspections and prepares participants for the Inspector exam.

PREREQUISITE: Introduction to Onsite Systems.

#### Topics include:

- Administrative requirements
- New system inspection
- Existing system inspection
- Tools and procedures

30-1 Alexandria - Douglas County Public Works Building

6/6-7/18 Deadline: 5/30/18

#### Maintaining Onsite Systems (15 Direct Credits)

Fee: \$310 Exam: Yes

This 15-hour workshop gives participants an overview of system management, the federal requirements for land application of septage, and prepares people for the Maintainer exam.

#### PREREQUISITE: Introduction to Onsite Systems

#### Topics include:

- Land application rates
- Record keeping
- Maintaining Type I SSTS
   Soil survey use

415-1 Alexandria - Douglas County Public Works Building

4/2-4/18

Deadline: 3/26/18

#### Service Provider (21 Direct Credits)

Fee: \$490 Exam: Yes

This 21-hour workshop prepares attendees for the Service Provider exam and offers an in-depth look into the care of all system types. This course is based on the National O&M Service Provider materials and will include a field component. It is intended for system maintainers, designers or MPCA certified operators who need training for soil-based system management.

#### PREREQUISITE: Introduction to Onsite Systems

Topics include the management of:

- Type I O&M
- Type IV O&M
- Collection system O&M
   System troubleshooting
- 49-1 Mankato AmericInn
- Deadline: 4/24/18 5/1\_4/18

#### Soils (15 Direct Credits)

Fee: \$310 or \$475 with Munsell Color Guide Exam: Yes This 15-hour workshop prepares attendees for the Soils exam and provides participants with a detailed understanding of how particular soils affect the treatment of sewage. Participants will also receive instruction at a field location. Munsell Color Guides are available for \$165 and Sand Cards for \$10. This class does NOT meet the 6-hour soils continuing education requirement for all Designer and Inspector categories.

#### PREREQUISITE: Introduction to Onsite Systems

#### Topics include:

- Percolation testing
- Soil characteristics
- Field evaluations
- Soil survey use

515-1 Grand Rapids - Sawmill Inn 515-2 Faribault - Rice County Gov't Services Center

5/22-24/18 6/12-14/18

Deadline: 5/15/18 Deadline: 6/5/18

#### Installer Continuing Education (12 Direct Credits)

Fee: \$265 Exam: No

This 12-hour workshop will meet the continuing education requirements for any certification but is specifically tailored for Installers. All information will be provided from the perspective of a system installer.

#### Topics Include:

- Construction safety
- Keys to proper installation
- Pumps and dosing
- Rule change implications
- 69-3 Grand Rapids Sawmill Inn
- Deadline: 11/29/18 12/6-7/18

#### Maintainer Continuing Education (12 Direct Credits)

Fee: \$265 Exam: No

This 12-hour workshop is specifically designed as continuing education for those involved in maintaining septic systems.

#### Topics include:

- 503 regulations
- Troubleshooting
- System care
- Other establishments

46-1 St. Cloud - Moose Lodge Deadline: 3/29/18 4/4-5/18

Enroll online: septic.umn.edu

Page 18 Little Digger

# 2018 OSTP Continuing Education Course Descriptions and Offerings

#### **General Continuing Education (12 Direct Credits)**

Fee: \$265 Exam: No

This 12-hour workshop is designed to meet the continuing education requirement for SSTS professional registration. The topics will be varied to give a wide range of information for SSTS professionals.

#### Topics include:

- Rule change implications Pressure distribution
- Working on difficult sites MPCA update

60-3 Alexandria - Douglas County 11/6-7/18 Deadline: 10/30/18
Public Works Building
60-4 Mankato - AmericInn 12/11-12/18 Deadline: 12/4/18

#### Design/Inspector Continuing Education (12 Direct Credits)

Fee: \$265 Exam: No

This 12-hour workshop is designed to meet the continuing education requirement of SSTS professional holding a designer and/or inspector certification. The course is will focus on design and inspection issues.

#### Topics include:

- Rule/policy updates
- Commercial systems
- How to add capacity
- Challenging inspections
- System design with new forms

82-1 Mankato - AmericInn

4/12-13/18

Deadline: 4/5/18

#### Payment is required to reserve a spot in any course.

Confirmation with instructions will be EMAILED along with a receipt.

Questions? Call: 1-800-322-8642

#### Soils Continuing Education (6 Soils-Specific Direct Credits)

Fee: \$240 or \$405 with Munsell Color Guide Exam: No This 6-hour course couples classroom and field training to meet soils-specific MPCA continuing educational requirements for designers and inspectors. Munsell Color Guides are available for \$165 and Sand Cards for \$10.

#### Topics include:

- Regional geology and soils Local soil hydrology information
- Soils observations
   System siting and design

		-	_	· ·	
55-	1 St. Cloud - Moose Lodge	5/15/18		Deadline: 5/7/18	
55-	2 Rushford - MiEnergy Co-op	6/19/18		Deadline: 6/12/18	
55-	3 Pine City - Pine County	6/28/18		Deadline: 6/21/18	
	Courthouse				
55-	4 Fergus Falls - Otter Tail County	7/12/18		Deadline: 7/5/18	
	Gov't Services Center				
55-	5 Grand Rapids - Sawmill Inn	7/24/18		Deadline: 7/17/18	
55-	6 Two Harbors - Superior Shores	9/6/18		Deadline: 8/30/18	
	Resort				
55-	7 Waseca - Southern Research	10/10/18		Deadline: 10/3/18	
	and Outreach Center				

#### **Design Field Day Continuing Education**

(6 Direct Credits) Fee: \$150 Exam: No

This 6-hour workshop combines a classroom and field component to disuss the process of design. The course will review the requirements for designing a system and the required aspects to be submitted to the LGU. The field portion will be an evaluation of the soil characteristics and completion of the design report.

#### Topics include:

- Required design steps
- System loading
- Working with elevations
- Soil applications and concerns

63-1 Grand Rapids - Sawmill Inn

7/25/18 Deadline: 7/18/18

Enroll online: septic.umn.edu

### Welcome to MOWA's Newest Members!

**Our Mission...** To promote the protection of human and environmental health through professionalism in Minnesota's onsite wastewater treatment industry.

MOWA strives to accomplish this through involvement in education, legislation, and government. We endeavor to develop and promote standards, products, and services reflecting our belief that our customers are best served by well-trained professionals who have the resources needed to thrive in a competitive marketplace, and who place a high value on protection of our natural resources.

### Benefits of Membership

- Ability to influence state and national rules & policy
- Substantial business insurance savings
- Free directory & web site listings
- Connection with other onsite professionals
- Reliable information about the industry
- Reduced fees to MOWA events

# The is a bi-monthly publication of the Minnesota Onsite Wastewater Association Editor: Carla Tourin E-mail: MOWAcarla@aol.com

Editor. Cana louini E-man. MOVAcana@aoi.com

### ·

# Jim Moser Affordable Pumping, Inc. Grove City, MN

# Steven Davis AK Industries, Inc.

Plymouth, IN

Alex Pepin
Apex

Anoka, MN

#### Kristi Adams

Imperial Industries, Inc.

Rothschild, WI

#### **James Baker**

Multi-Flo Wisconsin

Janesville, WI

#### **Eric Ruther**

Ruther Excavating, Inc

Richfield, MN

The articles printed in the publication do not necessarily reflect the opinion of this organization. Readers are encouraged to respond to the articles with their own points-of-view. We welcome industry-related comments or articles. Information or inquires should be sent to any of the following: MN Onsite Wastewater Association, MOWA, 5021 Vermon Ave, So., Suite 241, Edina, MN 55436 Phone: 612.801.5897 Fax: 952.487.4447 Website: www.mowa-mn.com

	wastewater association	Membei	rship:	☐ Re	enewal	י 🔲 י	New Mem	ber	
	Individual Member \$240 (1 person)	\$340		e; \$100 /pers	ment Unit son after 5) sone NOWRA mer	\$140	tudent (1 person)	☐ Life 〔	-time ☑ Honorary
Mem	nberships are based on (						usiness or go	v't groups for	remainder of 2018
ual/Gr	oup Contact: This pers	on will be listed as	the NOWRA mer	mber on the Se	eptic Locator websi	te. They will	be listed first in	all MOWA publ	ications. Please print
mber				Company N	lame				
s				City/State/Zip					
		Phone			Mobile/800#			Fax _	
			_ Website				County		
ne cour	nties you work in: Need	ed for Directory a	nd website.						
ide		14		29				59	Steele
	Clearwater	r15 16		30 31				60	Stevens
		od17		31				61 62	Swift Todd
		18		33				63	Traverse
i		19	Kandiyohi	34	Morrison	49		64	
		20	Kittson					65	Wadena
		21	Koochiching					66	Waseca
		22	Lac qui Parle L Lake		Nicollet Nobles			67	Washington
		24	Lake of the Wo		Norman			68 69	Watonwan Wilkin
		25	Le Sueur					70	Winona
		26		41		56		71	Wright
		27 28		42 43				72 73	Yellow Medicine
	l Business/Gove			Title				County	
S				•					
		IVIODIIE/QUU#			Fax				
				_					
mber				Title				-	
mber				Title				-	
mber s				Title City/State/Zi	p				
mber				Title _ City/State/Zi	pFax		Email _		
mber	(Please li	_ Mobile/800# ist additional busi eceiving 'Little Dig	ness/governme ger' newsletters	Title City/State/Zi	Faxnbers on separate	sheet with c	Email _ omplete conta ☑ Electronical	ct information	.)
mber_sscatio	(Please li Pns: Would you prefer r We currently send one p	_ Mobile/800# ist additional busin eceiving 'Little Dig publication per add perships: Mo	ness/governme ger' newsletters ress to business OWA members	Title City/State/Zi int group men s via s/government chip fees inclu	Faxnbers on separate  Regular Mai groups. Contact tl	sheet with c	Email _ omplete conta Electronical fice if you'd like	ct information ly additional cop	.) pies.
mber_s catio	(Please li Pns: Would you prefer r We currently send one p II NOWRA Members	_ Mobile/800# ist additional busin eceiving 'Little Dig publication per add perships: Moships here: Co	ness/governme ger' newsletters ress to business OWA members st - \$40 per per	Title City/State/Zi int group men s via s/government thip fees inclured.	Faxnbers on separate  Regular Mai groups. Contact to	sheet with c	Email _ omplete conta  Electronical fice if you'd like oper company	ct information ly additional cop lorganization	.) oies. . List names of me
mber_s catio	(Please li  Ons: Would you prefer r  We currently send one p  II NOWRA Members  MOWRA	_ Mobile/800# ist additional busin eceiving 'Little Dig publication per add perships: Mobilips here: Co	ness/governme ger' newsletters ress to business OWA members st - \$40 per per	Title City/State/Zi ent group men s via s/government ship fees inclusion.	Faxnbers on separate  Regular Maigroups. Contact thude one NOWRA	sheet with c il he MOWA of membership	Email _ omplete conta Electronical fice if you'd like o per company	ct information ly additional cop forganization 5)	.) pies. . List names of me
mber_s	(Please li  PINS: Would you prefer r  We currently send one p  INOWRA Members  MOWRA members	_ Mobile/800# ist additional busin ecciving 'Little Dig publication per add perships: Moships here: Co 3)	ness/governme ger' newsletters ress to business OWA members st - \$40 per per	Title City/State/Zi ent group men s via s/government ship fees inclureson.	Faxnbers on separate Regular Maigroups. Contact the one NOWRA and the one NOWRA and the one NOWRA Medd'l NOWRA Medd'	sheet with c il l he MOWA of membership	Email _ omplete conta  Electronical fice if you'd like oper company	ct information ly additional cop forganization 5)	.) oies. . List names of me
catio	(Please li  PINS: Would you prefer r  We currently send one p  INOWRA Members  MOWRA members	_ Mobile/800# ist additional busin eceiving 'Little Dig publication per add perships: Mobilips here: Co 3) Membership \$	ness/governme ger' newsletters ress to business OWA members st - \$40 per per	Title City/State/Zi int group men s via s/government thip fees inclusion.  + A to MOWA)	Faxnbers on separate  Regular Mai groups. Contact thude one NOWRA (4)	sheet with color in the MOWA of membership emberships	Email _ complete conta Electronical fice if you'd like per company =	ct information ly additional cop forganization 5)  Amount	.) pies. List names of me
catio	(Please li  PIS: Would you prefer r  We currently send one p  I NOWRA Members  MOWRA members	_ Mobile/800# ist additional busineceiving 'Little Dig publication per add perships: Mobilips here: Co3) Membership \$ Check enclo	ness/governme ger' newsletters ress to business OWA members st - \$40 per per	Title City/State/Zi ent group men s via s/government thip fees inclured to MOWA) on Date:	Fax	sheet with color in the MOWA of membership emberships	Email _ complete conta  Electronical fice if you'd like coper company  = sterCard	ct information ly additional cop forganization 5)  Amount	.) pies. List names of me



**MOWA** 

5021 Vernon Ave, So., Suite 241

Edina, MN 55436 Phone: 612.801.5897 Fax: 952.487.4447

www.mowa-mn.com

Presorted
Standard
U.S. Postage
PAID
Rochester, MN
Permit No. 289

RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

# EZconnex® 4-PORT SUSTEM

Revolutionary Float Switch Connection System

**Installation is as easy as 1, 2, 3...**Simply install the manifold, plug in the floats, and wire the manifold cable to the control panel. The color-coded cable makes for a quick, clean installation! The quick release float switch connections allow for easy maintenance and replacement of floats, saving installers time and money...up to 75%! Many float switch options and 3-port manifold available to suit your needs!



- Simple, clean installation
- Up to 4 quick release floats
- · Mounts directly in riser
- · Great for new and retrofit applications
- Easy maintenance





