

THE

## LITTLE DIGGER

MINNESOTA ONSITE WASTEWATER ASSOCIATION

A Bi-Annual Publication

Spring/Summer 2023 - Vol. 38, Issue 1

## Loess, Sand and Bedrock... Oh My!

### MOWA Annual Soils Seminar is July 19th in Hastings

by Dan Wheeler and Stacey Feser



While it may sound too good to be true, MOWA has found a site for the Summer Soils CE session with a little bit of everything (almost)! This region of Minnesota is truly a transition between glacial river-dominated outwash with sand and gravel and resistant bedrock controlled landscape all capped with some windblown silts (loess). If we look hard enough, we may even discover more parent materials on this site... Oh my!

The Education Program at the UM OSTP is thrilled to partner with MOWA again for this Soils CE summer session course in 2023 near Hastings, MN. This is an in-person class with the AM session focused on region specific soils and landscape information along with site evaluation pointers and a soils-specific discussion lead by the MPCA. After lunch we will explore the field site to investigate the landscape, parent material(s) and soils in soil pits. We will be paying special attention to:

- soil textures and their transitions;
- percent volume rock;
- soft and harder bedrock determination/identification; and
- soil colors, mottles and redox features description/interpretation.

This 6-hour Soils CE course will answer these and other common questions often found in these unique settings and we will also translate these answers to other regions of Minnesota as well.

**Loess:** One of the last parent materials deposited during glacial times, this windblown silt (textures as a silt loam) caps much of southeastern Minnesota's soils. The silt was blown off the surface of the glacier. The sands that also blew off the glaciers also sandblasted any rocks that were at the surface!

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**2023 Soils Seminar is July 19th, Continued on Page 6**

**Register for July 19th MOWA Soils Seminar and BONUS Hands-On Training Session**

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## A Message from the MOWA President

### With five short months before winter, work is well underway for members and MOWA Board

by Kurt Christopherson, MOWA President



**BONUS HANDS-ON TRAINING**  
after July 19th Soils Seminar will include  
use of field tools, proper locating demo, control  
panel and float operations

I am so proud to be a long-time member of MOWA and on the Board of Directors! In retrospect, I look back on where our SSTS (Subsurface Sewage Treatment System) Industry has evolved from and how our great State of Minnesota is so fortunate to have such a strong vital association that represents the onsite wastewater profession!

We began 2023 with our Annual Winter Conference held at Cragun's Resort on Gull Lake near Brainerd with an outstanding program with record attendance led by Dave Gustafson from "Gustafson County" as our keynote speaker/ scholarship auctioneer!

Now we are in the registration process for our Summer Soils Seminar being held at Tony Scully's shop in Hastings, Minnesota on July 19th. The site has several unique soils that will interest anyone needing their soils CEU's! We will also be holding a bonus hands-on training that afternoon that will include use of field tools, proper locating demo, control panel and float operations. I also bet that we will have robust networking over a beverage or two!

We are also excited to announce that the planning of our Winter Conference to be held in Duluth at the DECC is well underway for February 5-6th 2024.

Back to the retrospection portion, our On-site Wastewater industry within Minnesota has been recognized as one of the nation's finest led by our University of Minnesota Onsite Sewage Treatment Program in conjunction with MPCA (Minnesota Pollution Control Agency). Our group of industry professionals continues to strive for the betterment of the environment through the continuously evolving methods of wastewater treatment!

In closing as President of MOWA, I am humbled to work with everyone over the last 30 plus years and look forward to our continued growth as an organization dedicated to Professionalism in the Onsite Wastewater industry! ■

**This is a bi-annual publication of the Minnesota Onsite Wastewater Association.**  
**Editor: Tammy Trantham, Email: [mowaexec@gmail.com](mailto:mowaexec@gmail.com)**

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 inquiries should be sent or made to any of the following: MN Onsite Wastewater Association, MOWA, 11468 Marketplace Dr. N., Ste. 600-PMB392, Champlin, MN 55316 - Phone: 612-361-9629 - [www.mowa-mn.com](http://www.mowa-mn.com)

**Hello, all MOWA (Minnesota Onsite Wastewater Association) members!**

As we are now in the full throes of another short Minnesotan construction season ... (winter is only five months away)... I realize that my term as President of the Minnesota Onsite Wastewater Association is also well underway!

## BOARD OF DIRECTORS

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# MOWA SUMMER SOILS SEMINAR July 19, 2023

**Location:**

Tony Scully's Shop, Hastings, MN

\*Address details will be sent to participants

**Class Session**

Registration Check-In: 7:30 AM

8:00 AM – 11:30 AM

**Field Session**

12:00 PM – 3:00 PM

- We encourage all participants to bring a beverage.
- Please be prepared to stand for long periods of time or bring your own accommodations (*i.e. something to sit or lean on*).
- Bring rain gear and boots in case of inclement weather; sun protection and/or bug spray.
- Bring your Munsell Color Book and spray bottle for coloring/texturing soil samples.

**Cost: 6 Direct CEs approved**

**MOWA Members: \$250**

**Non-Members: \$300**

**Cancellation policy:** Any cancellation notice must be received at least 5 days prior to the event for a full refund. If your cancellation is received less than 5 days from the event, you forfeit the course fee.

**Register on the MOWA website.** Online registrations only. [www.mowa-mn.com/seminars](http://www.mowa-mn.com/seminars)

**Course Objectives:** This 6-hour workshop has been designed to meet the requirements for soils specific training under MN Rules Chapter 7083.0160 Subp 1 A. Course topics were specifically chosen to reference 7080.1100, 7080.1710, 7080.1720, 7080.1730, 7080.2150, 7080.2270, 7082.0700 Subp 5.

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## BONUS HANDS ON TRAINING BY MOWA

**Stay or register for this special training session.**

Anyone who registers for the Soils Class will be registered for this session. If you only want to register for this Bonus Hands-On Training, you can pay the nominal registration fee of \$30 (MOWA Members) or \$60 (Non-members) to participate.

**Session:** 3:00 PM – 5:30 PM (*No CEs for this session*)

Topics will include:

- Using Tools in the Field presented by Northwest Laser & Instruments, Rob Luers
- Setting Floats and Float Trees – presented by SJE Rhombus
- Locating Demonstration - Joe Rubbelke, Utility Logic
- Deciphering Control Panels – SJE Rhombus



## Hands-On Training with Industry Experts

### Earn CEUs in the AM; Get Hands-On Training and Troubleshooting Tips in the PM

Join us after the MOWA Summer Soils Seminar to see live demonstrations of wastewater products and troubleshooting. We have some great companies participating!

Cost to attend this session is only \$30 for MOWA members or \$60 for non-MOWA members. It takes place from 3:00 PM – 5:00 PM. The event will be near Hastings. Details on the site will be emailed out to participants. You can register on the MOWA website. Topics to be covered:

#### Locating Demonstration/UtilityLogic – Joe Ruebelke

UtilityLogic will provide an overview of underground utility locating, including theories, procedures and product evolutions. When it comes to locating equipment, UtilityLogic has the benefit of offering the good, the better and the best products for each job scenario, and we pride ourselves on training and technical support for the life of our equipment. We like to say that we can teach anyone to operate a locator in 20 minutes.

#### Rep Rite Burk – Andy Cutter

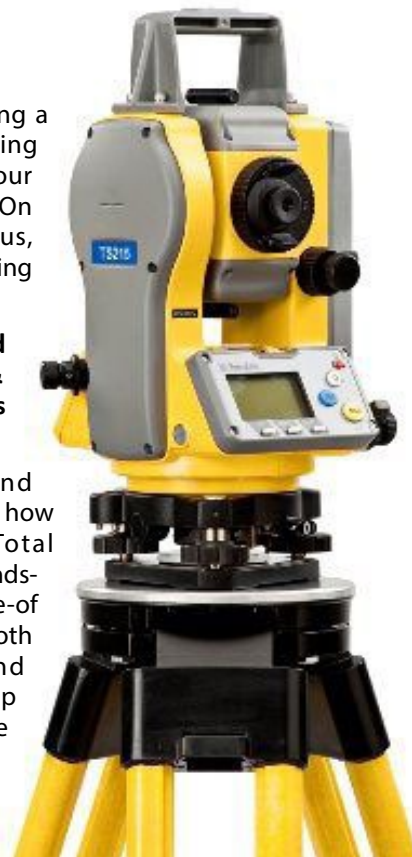
#### Panel Overview and Float Tree Assembly/SJE Rhombus

During this year's MOWA Soils class, we will be exploring the best install practices and common troubleshooting for pump panels and posts. This includes SJE Rhombus panel overview and options, and visual examples of "what not to do." We will

also go over assembling a float tree and answering any other questions our attendees may have. On behalf of SJE Rhombus, we look forward to seeing you there!

#### Using Tools in the Field /Northwest Lasers & Instruments – Rob Luers & Tony Edberg

Northwest Lasers and Instruments will cover how the Leica Robotic Total Station Works with hands-on work. Exploring line-of-sight concepts, Bluetooth communications, and discussing good setup with good layout are just a few topics to be covered. ■



## THERE'S STILL TIME TO BECOME A SPONSOR!

### Support the MOWA Summer Soils Class!

Have opportunities to meet with MOWA members during breakfast, refreshments and lunch.

**Lunch Sponsorship:** \$500 \_\_\_\_\_

**Breakfast and Break Sponsorship:** \$250 \_\_\_\_\_

**Total Sponsorship:** \_\_\_\_\_

Contact Name: \_\_\_\_\_

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Email: \_\_\_\_\_

**MOWA will email you an invoice that you can pay online through QuickBooks.**

**Email completed form to: mowaexec@gmail.com - Tammy Trantham, Executive Director.**





## Onsite Wastewater Mega-Conference

2023  
Hampton, Virginia

NOWRA

NAWTV

ASPE

WQMA

**October 22-25**

**Hilton Hampton Convention Center  
Hampton, Virginia**

<https://www.nowra.org/conference/mega-conference/>

**HOTEL INFORMATION:** You can book your accommodations now by using the Booking Link at <https://www.hilton.com/en/attend-my-event/2023onsitewastewatermegaconference/> or calling the Embassy Suites at 1-800-EMBASSY and mention the Code ONW.

**ROOM RATES** are \$129/night plus tax for single or double, \$139/night plus tax for a triple, and \$149/night plus tax for a quad. The cutoff date for booking rooms at the agreed upon rate is September 20, 2023. To make reservations, go to the Booking Link (above) or call the Embassy Suites at 1-800-EMBASSY and mention the Code ONW.

# Save The Date!



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## READY TO SHARE YOUR KNOWLEDGE?

**Our industry becomes stronger when expertise is shared!**

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at the 2024 MOWA Convention.**

**Go to [www.mowa-mn.com/convention](http://www.mowa-mn.com/convention)  
for the Speakers Application**

**2023 Soils Seminar is July 19th, Continued from Page 1**

**Sand:** In this area, there is sand from many different sources. We expect to see sand that was deposited by the glacial rivers flowing in this area; sand that has weathered from the sandstone bedrock; and sand that may have been blown right off of the glaciers. And some think sands are all the same!

**Bedrock:** The sedimentary bedrock found in this region has long been the subject of interest to many wastewater professionals with treatment and acceptance of septic tank effluent questions. These rocks are connected to drinking water aquifers and supply flows to both the Mississippi and Saint Croix Rivers. We will want to make sure we not only can consistently identify these transitions, but design, inspect and install wastewater treatment systems that protect all property owners and all of our Minnesota waters as well! ■



## ARE YOU FORGETTING SOMETHING?

We take precautions to protect ourselves and the ones we love in many aspects of life...



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## Know Your Soils: System Success Depends on It

### Advanced Treatment for Lots with Fine-Textured Soil

*Southern Minnesota-based Feser Environmental prefers units that are easy to install and maintain*

By Ted J. Rulseh, Onsite Installer  
May 11, 2023

Soils in southern Minnesota tend to be loams and clay-loams. "Glaciers that sat for thousands of years really did a good job of compacting our soils," observes Stacey Feser, owner of Feser Environmental based in Le Sueur.

"We don't have the best water movement through these soils. There are a lot of mound systems here just because our soils have finer texture." Sometimes conditions call for aerobic treatment units. That includes small lots where an ATU cleans septic tank effluent well enough to justify a reduction in drainfield size or the separation distance between the drainfield and groundwater. It also includes systems, such as for restaurants, that treat high-strength wastewater.

For residential ATUs, Feser opts for the Delta ECOPOD from Infiltrator Water Technologies. She prefers the units for their ease of maintenance — major components are readily accessible from the manhole. "If there are any issues with blowers, valves or anything like that, it's handy getting in there to fix things," Feser says.

The ECOPOD units offer a simple design for ease of installation and low maintenance, while effectively removing nitrogen, BOD and TSS. Residential units can treat 500 to 1,500 gpd. All are tested under NSF/ANSI 40 and 245 and exceed Class I effluent quality requirements.

The systems include an intra-tank bioreactor that can be inserted into an average-sized onsite treatment tank or vault, round or rectangular. They use a fixed-film process that is stable, reliable and robust. Units can be customized for single-home projects, cluster systems, and small to medium-sized commercial applications.

The systems run quietly, and low sludge production minimizes sludge pumpout frequency and cost. Remote monitoring



*Feser Environmental's Stacey Feser examines cored soil samples in evaluating a Le Center county Minnesota septic system install.*

systems are available. All units are manufactured to fit local installation requirements. They can be constructed in concrete, fiberglass or plastic tanks.

For high-strength wastewater applications, Feser has used Nibbler systems from Aqua Test. The full line of Nibbler systems is designed to address a wide range of waste strengths, from residential to commercial applications. Units can reduce incoming waste strength by 80-90%.

Systems are flexible to fit into multiple layouts, existing or proposed, and can be directly installed in locally available tanks. Units are scalable to enable expansion for growing commercial establishments. Installation typically takes two to four hours. Maintenance is minimal with an available self-cleaning feature.

System packages arrive complete with a rock enclosure that provides a natural look for the blower. They require a 110-volt outlet supplying 2.0 amps, the equivalent of two 110-watt light bulbs. FOG and BOD5 reductions are guaranteed. Besides suiting new installations, Nibbler units can be used to recover existing systems that are failing. ■

*This article was first posted as an Online Exclusive May 11, 2023 in the Onsite Installer magazine, published by COLE Publishing Inc., [www.onsiteinstaller.com](http://www.onsiteinstaller.com). It is reprinted by permission.*



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## Build a Quality Workforce with Strategic Hiring

### Time to Put Out the “Help Wanted” Sign Again?

**Follow these tips to reach quality candidates in a competitive job market for the trades**

**By Jim Kneiszel, Onsite Installer**  
**April 2023**

Every spring I think about one constant obstacle faced by onsite system installers: Finding new workers to either replace someone who's resigned or retired, or to build a new crew to answer growing demand for their services.

The situation is kind of like the classic 1993 Bill Murray movie, *Groundhog Day*, isn't it? You know the story about weatherman Phil Conners who is trapped in Punxsutawney, Pennsylvania, home of another Phil, the famous groundhog who every year predicts when winter will end. Caught in a time loop, the weatherman wakes up every morning only to realize it's *Groundhog Day* again and he's powerless to turn the calendar forward.

In the world of installers — or just about any skilled trade — you are Phil Conners, and every day you wake up facing the same frustrating challenge: finding new helpers. And just like *Groundhog Day*, the problem comes around every year at the end of winter. So how can you break through this constant short-staffing issue and build the business the way you've always wanted to?

Nobody says it's going to be easy, but overcoming small-business challenges seldom is. But let's see if we can make some suggestions to help you reach your goal to serve more customers in the upcoming busy season.

#### THE PROBLEM

First, it's always good to know what you're up against. We already know there is a graying of the installer workforce. You've probably seen this in your ranks. Your most seasoned technicians and machine operators are in their 50s and 60s and the end of the career is in sight for them. Or you've already lost a few of those valued employees and you're feeling the pinch — both in losing their expertise and strong work ethic.

According to the construction workforce staffing website [www.skillwork.com](http://www.skillwork.com), there would be a need for a projected 1 million new construction-related workers if building trends continue to grow. It noted that in 2021, construction spending was set to increase to \$1.45 trillion.

A recent Milwaukee Tool report noted that three out of four tradespeople viewed the labor shortage as a problem. It noted that the U.S. Chamber of Commerce said 88% of contractors were having moderate to high levels of difficulty hiring skilled workers. That report gave a familiar explanation to explain the shortage. It noted that since 1980, college enrollments are up by more than 60%, partly owing to a lack of respect for the skilled trades and a misconception that college offers a path to higher pay.



The financial and pay issues have been widely reported.

Those who go the university route sometimes wind up in careers making more money, but the four-year degrees create an average student debt of about \$30,000 and an average base pay of about \$45,000 upon graduation. But as Milwaukee Tool reported, the average pay for traditional trades is \$50,000 and up with less time spent in the classroom and less student debt accrued.

#### TOUT THE INDUSTRY

Based on the growing demand for wastewater services and the limitless career opportunities, installers have a good story to tell. It's up to us as an industry to make sure that message is received by the quality candidates you want to reach. Following up on some research of my own, here are some suggested strategies for recruiting new installers into the fold:

#### Keep it in the family

Draw upon your existing team to find that next great crew. Get your workers involved in the recruiting process, helping create job descriptions, lists of skills and traits they would like to see in job candidates. Start an employee referral program. This means offering your employees a bonus of some type if they bring in a friend or family member to apply for a job. For example, you might offer a \$200 reward to any employee who refers a candidate who is hired and successfully completes six months of service. Sometimes the best networking will be through the workers who have been doing a good job for you all along.

#### Boost your benefits

The best way to find new workers might be by making the job and your company more attractive for workers. Raise wages above what is being paid for other similar jobs in your area. Add health and life insurance coverage or improve on the coverages you currently offer. Think outside the box to offer fringe benefits that would make your company stand out from other jobs in the trades. Things like clothing allowances, new work boots every year, quarterly bonuses or profit sharing for top performers and the like will show you value employees and build your reputation as a generous employer.

#### Find some flexibility

Especially for younger workers, free time can be even a bigger motivator than money. People with young families and priorities in personal pursuits crave a flexible work schedule. And just because free time is important to them doesn't mean they would not be great workers for you. Many younger workers, the millennials and Generation Z, are able to manage their priorities and deliver for both their families and their employers. Installers

**Help Wanted?, Continued on Page 11**



## The Benefits of MOWA Membership: Online Courses

### Need quick answers on your timeline? Check out MOWA's online courses



Through a partnership with NOWRA, the Minnesota Onsite Wastewater Association has been able to offer online courses for wastewater professionals at an affordable per credit cost. These classes are offered at a discount exclusively to MOWA members. **The courses have not been approved by MPCA as applicable to Continuing Education requirements.**

Classes are charged per credit hour. You can purchase classes individually or bundle them together. Individual course cost is \$25 per credit hour for MOWA members. Non-MOWA members per course cost is \$40 per credit hour. Most courses are about one hour in length.

To sign up for online classes, go to [https://www.pathlms.com/nowra/sign\\_up](https://www.pathlms.com/nowra/sign_up) and click on the "Sign Up" link to create a username and password. Then you can purchase the classes that you want to take.

Courses are grouped---or bundled---under topics and specialties. You can purchase the entire bundle or individual courses. Users are encouraged to read the course descriptions carefully.

#### Installer Academy:

The 8.5 hour bundle includes eight courses that will provide a broad overview of installation for those new to the industry or can be used for continuing education. Cost for the entire 8 1/2 hr. training is \$200.00/member and \$320.00/non-member. A manual is available from Iowa State University. The videos for this training track were recorded at the 2018 WWETT show.

Courses and the number of hours it should take to complete each course are as follows:

- Introduction and Safety (1 hr.) -
- Planning (1 hr.)
- Soil and Site Evaluation Concepts (1 hr.)
- Distribution of Effluent (1 hr.)
- Piping & Tanks (1 hr.)
- Dosing Systems & Controls (1 hr.)
- Advanced Treatment (1 hr.)
- Soil Treatment (1 1/2 hrs.)

Each course consists of one presentation, two assessments and one certificate. Certification of completion of courses is available from NOWRA.

#### NOWRA Troubleshooting Module

This 9 course bundle was recorded at the 2019 NOWRA Mega-Conference and features 9 different industry experts. The entire module should take 10 hours to complete.

Bundle cost is \$250.00/member and \$400.00/non-member. Individual courses and their length are as follows:

- Troubleshooting: Flows (1 1/2 hrs.)

- Troubleshooting: Septic Tanks (1 1/2 hrs.)
- Troubleshooting: Pump & Controls (1 hr.)
- Troubleshooting: Microbiology (1 hr.)
- Troubleshooting: Media Filters (1 hr.)
- Troubleshooting: Soil Treatment Systems (1 hr.)
- Troubleshooting: ATUs (1 hr.)
- Troubleshooting: Drain Fields (1 hr.)
- Troubleshooting: Case Studies (1 hr.)

Each course consists of one presentation, two assessments and one certificate. Certification of completion of courses is available from NOWRA.

#### NOWRA Design of Decentralized Systems

NOWRA has developed 7 courses in the critical area of design of decentralized systems. These courses lay the groundwork for design and will be expanded over the next several years. This national training course with five different instructors includes various formats including video guided PowerPoint presentations, videos, technical documents, and internet links to associated materials.

Bundle cost is \$250.00/member and \$400.00 /non-member. Courses are as follows:

- NOWRA Design: Overview of Design (1 hr.)
- NOWRA Design: Septic Tanks (1 hr.)
- NOWRA Design: Aerobic Treatment Units (1 1/2 hrs.)
- NOWRA Design: Soil Properties (2 hrs.)
- NOWRA Design: Soil Water Movement (1 1/2 hrs.)
- NOWRA Design: Making Infiltrative Decisions (1 1/2 hrs.)
- NOWRA Design: Pressure Distribution (1 1/2 hrs.)

Each course consists of one presentation, two assessments and one certificate. Certification of completion of courses is available from NOWRA.

#### NOWRA Individual Course Topics

Courses listed below are special topics presented individually or at past conferences. These courses will only be available for a limited time! Cost is \$35 to \$50/member and \$60 to \$80/non-member depending on the course.

- NOWRA Mega: Tank Buoyancy & Watertight (2 hrs.)
- NOWRA Mega: COVID-19 (3 1/2 hrs.)
- NOWRA Mega: Research Updates (1 hr.)
- NOWRA Mega: Commercial Driving License & DOT (1 hr.)
- NOWRA Mega: Reuse (2 hrs.)
- NOWRA Mega: Alcohol & Beer Wastewater Treatment (2 hrs.)
- NOWRA Mega: Assessments & Solutions (2 hrs.)
- NOWRA Mega: Reinvented Toilets & Urine Diversion (2 hrs.)
- NOWRA Mega: Planning for Sustainability (1 hr.)

**Member Benefit: Online Courses, Continued on Page 11**



**Member Benefit: Online Courses,** *Continued from Page 10*

NOWRA Mega: Wastewater Treatment Myths & Toilet Paper  
(1 1/2 hrs.)

NOWRA Mega: Nitrogen Balance (1 hr.)

Assessments, pre-tests and certification vary from course to course.

**NOWRA Overview A to Z Courses**

If you need to get up-to-speed fast, the Overview bundle is right for everyone from a brand new service technician to a seasoned local inspector. Participants will gain an understanding of:

1. how wastewater is treated with the varying contaminants and loadings; and
2. the differences between various onsite technologies

They will also recognize important site considerations and distribution methods along with management of wastewater for decentralized systems.

Bundle cost is \$200.00/member and \$320.00/non-member. This 8 hr. bundle includes three chapters:

Introduction to Onsite  
Wastewater (3 hrs.)

Soil Evaluation, Treatment &  
Dispersal (4 hrs.)

Operation & Maintenance (1 hr.)



**Yes, there is a course  
on toilet paper!**

**Questions?** Contact [mowaexec@gmail.com](mailto:mowaexec@gmail.com) ■

**Help Wanted?,** *Continued from Page 9*

traditionally are sun-up to sundown workers during the busy summer season, but there is a balance where you should be able to offer a flexible schedule to more workers and still be able to meet the needs of your customers.

**Use social channels**

To find fresh faces, you need to take your message where potential workers are hanging out. Promote your job openings through online recruiting sites like Indeed and Zip Recruiter, but also hit Facebook, Craigslist, TikTok or Instagram. If you're not familiar with the latest social media trends, don't be afraid to ask your staff for advice on where and how to generate a buzz for your business. Better yet, offer incentives for your crew to post videos demonstrating what they do for a living or talking about what a great place your company is to work. Always be on the lookout for ways to increase the exposure of your company to new people.

**Support career growth**

Always show that new employees can find advancement opportunities in your company. Look for ways to promote helpers to crew leader positions, and crew leaders to job supervisors. Offer to pay for continuing education, whether that's training through a state association or sending employees back to school to get a degree in soils or certification for operating a new piece of equipment or installing a new advanced treatment technology. Encourage and pay for your staff to attend your state's trade association conferences or the WWETT Show so they can see the vast potential of the industry.

**Seek women and minorities**

Although women and minorities make up more than half of the workforce, they do not necessarily gravitate to the wastewater industry in numbers to match. Write your job postings to be gender-neutral and encouraging to nontraditional workers. To reach people with diverse backgrounds, create posts in different languages. Offer language training programs for potential workers who are not fluent English speakers. After you hire your first woman technician, for instance, it should become easier to recruit a second, third and so on.

**Go back to school**

Look for ways to partner with a local high school or trade school to promote jobs in wastewater. Seek out teachers in the trades and offer to speak to classes or provide field trip opportunities where you can show the work you do. Think about offering a day of work experience or a paid internship for students who want to explore the field.

**BREAK THE CYCLE**

Just like weatherman Phil Connors eventually found his way beyond Groundhog Day, we need to get past the chronic worker shortage in the wastewater industry. Your company is depending on it. Your customers are depending on it. The world — with so many people utilizing decentralized wastewater treatment — depends on it. ■

*This article was first posted online as in the Editor's Notebook in April 2023 in the Onsite Installer magazine, published by COLE Publishing Inc., [www.onsiteinstaller.com](http://www.onsiteinstaller.com). It is reprinted by permission.*

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## 2023 Tony Ruppert Scholarship Contest Begins

### *The TRS Scholarship Fund perpetuates a legacy of professionalism*

Tony Ruppert was a leader in voicing the position of the wastewater and well water industries and expressing our role in protecting the environment.

He was a fierce advocate for MOSTCA— the Minnesota Onsite Sewage Treatment Contractors Association, which morphed into MOWA— and spent many, many hours at the Minnesota State Capitol representing our organization.

He was one of the “good’ol guys” and he liked a good argument.

Tony ALWAYS had a black briefcase on wheels that he pulled around, stocked with documentation related to legislative bills and research that he could draw on quickly when he was up to bat. You could hear Tony coming from the thump, thump of his rolling briefcase and his signature gait.

Tony was instrumental in getting the onsite wastewater organization and program of activities off the ground for onsite wastewater professionals.

To commemorate Tony Ruppert, the MOWA Board set up the Tony Ruppert Youth Scholarship Program. Every year, youth may apply for the scholarship that will be enrolled as a full-time student in post-secondary undergraduate education.

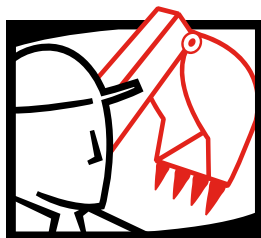
#### **Scholarship Rules 2023:**

1. Applicants must be enrolled as a full-time student in post-secondary undergraduate education during the 2022-23 school year.
2. Applicants must be no more than 26 years old as of June 1, 2023, and be a MOWA member, or a child, sibling, grandchild, or niece/nephew of a MOWA member.
3. Students may only win the scholarship once.
4. Students must complete an application, write an essay (template provided), and provide certification of the relationship to a MOWA member or member's employee.
5. Essay must cover the topic of “The Future of Wastewater”; minimum of 1500 words and a maximum of 2000 words.

Deadline to apply is September 15, 2023. Contact MOWA by email for the application and essay template.

Email: [mowaexec@gmail.com](mailto:mowaexec@gmail.com) ■

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# EXCAVATOR QUICK GUIDE

## Excavator Responsibilities - Know the Basics!

### Plan for Your Excavation

You are required to use white markings to define the entire area where excavation will occur, unless it can be shown it is not practical. Include a safety buffer when marking the area.

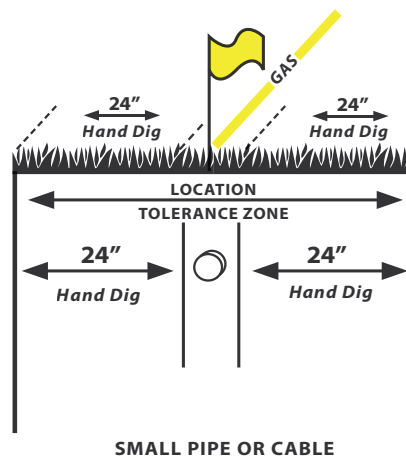
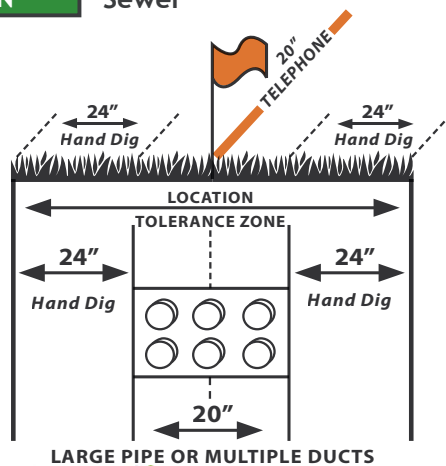
### Notify GSOC

All Minnesota excavators, including homeowners and farmers, are responsible for notifying GSOC of their proposed excavations so facility operators with underground facilities near the excavation site can be informed of pending excavation. Excavators are required to notify GSOC 48 hours in advance, excluding weekends and holidays, before beginning excavation.

The color of paint or flags identifies the type of underground facility

WHITE	Area of Proposed Excavation
PINK	Temporary Survey Markings
RED	Electric
YELLOW	Gas, Oil, Steam, Propane
ORANGE	Communication, CATV, Fiber
BLUE	Water
PURPLE	Reclaimed Water, Irrigation
GREEN	Sewer

- ▶ ALWAYS USE THE CORRECT WORK TYPE ON YOUR TICKET
- ▶ CHECK FOR ACCURACY OF THE INFORMATION ON YOUR TICKET
- ▶ ALWAYS CHECK THE STATUS OF YOUR TICKET BEFORE YOU EXCAVATE
- ▶ HAND DIG WITHIN THE TOLERANCE ZONE



Know what's below.  
811 before you dig.

V2017

# EXCAVATOR QUICK GUIDE

## File Locate Requests by Phone

Emergency _____	866-640-3637
Twin Cities Metro _____	651-454-0002
Greater MN Area _____	800-252-1166
Nationally _____	811

## File Locate Requests Online

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

## Search for Tickets Online

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

## Visit our Website

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

## Contact Customer Support

By phone: 651-681-7326

By email: [customersupport@gopherstateonecall.org](mailto:customersupport@gopherstateonecall.org)

## Private Facilities

Some underground lines in your work area may not be utility owned. These are considered private facilities and will NOT be marked by public utility companies. Inspect your job site prior to entering a ticket for clues as to where private facilities may be buried. Investigate who may have installed them and determine if any records or maps exist. Suggest that the property owner hire a private utility locator. A list of private locators can be found at - <http://gopherstateonecall.org/private-facility-locators>



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







## 2023 MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION

Membership: ☐ Renewal ☐ New Member

- ☐ Individual Member \$240 (1 person)    
 ☐ Business Group /Government Unit \$340 (up to 5 people; \$100 /person after 5)    
 ☐ Student \$140 (1 person)    
 ☐ Life-time    
 ☐ Honorary

Note: Your MOWA Membership includes one NOWRA membership

**Memberships are based on calendar year - After July 1st, new members pay \$140-individual / \$190-business or gov't groups for remainder of 2022**

**Individual/Group Contact:** This person will be listed as the NOWRA member on the Septic Locator website. They will be listed first in all MOWA publications. Please print clearly.

1<sup>st</sup> Member \_\_\_\_\_ Company Name \_\_\_\_\_  
 Address \_\_\_\_\_ City/State/Zip \_\_\_\_\_  
 Title \_\_\_\_\_ Phone \_\_\_\_\_ Mobile/800# \_\_\_\_\_ Fax \_\_\_\_\_  
 Email \_\_\_\_\_ Website \_\_\_\_\_ County \_\_\_\_\_

Circle the counties you work in: Needed for Directory and website.

Statewide..... 88	Clay ..... 14	Hubbard ..... 29	Marshall ..... 44	Pipestone ..... 59	Steele ..... 74
Aitkin ..... 1	Clearwater ..... 15	Isanti ..... 30	Martin ..... 45	Polk ..... 60	Stevens ..... 75
Anoka ..... 2	Cook ..... 16	Itasca ..... 31	McLeod ..... 46	Pope ..... 61	Swift ..... 76
Becker ..... 3	Cottonwood ..... 17	Jackson ..... 32	Meeker ..... 47	Ramsey ..... 62	Todd ..... 77
Beltrami ..... 4	Crow Wing ..... 18	Kanabec ..... 33	Mille Lacs ..... 48	Red Lake ..... 63	Traverse ..... 78
Benton ..... 5	Dakota ..... 19	Kandiyohi ..... 34	Morrison ..... 49	Redwood ..... 64	Wabasha ..... 79
Big Stone ..... 6	Dodge ..... 20	Kittson ..... 35	Mower ..... 50	Renville ..... 65	Wadena ..... 80
Blue Earth ..... 7	Douglas ..... 21	Koochiching ..... 36	Murray ..... 51	Rice ..... 66	Waseca ..... 81
Brown ..... 8	Faribault ..... 22	Lac qui Parle Lake ..... 37	Nicollet ..... 52	Rock ..... 67	Washington ..... 82
Carlton ..... 9	Fillmore ..... 23	Lake ..... 38	Nobles ..... 53	Roseau ..... 68	Watsonwan ..... 83
Carver ..... 10	Freeborn ..... 24	Lake of the Woods ..... 39	Norman ..... 54	Scott ..... 69	Wilkin ..... 84
Cass ..... 11	Goodhue ..... 25	Le Sueur ..... 40	Olmsted ..... 55	Sherburne ..... 70	Winona ..... 85
Chippewa ..... 12	Grant ..... 26	Lincoln ..... 41	Otter Tail ..... 56	Sibley ..... 71	Wright ..... 86
Chisago ..... 13	Hennepin ..... 27	Lyon ..... 42	Pennington ..... 57	St. Louis ..... 72	Yellow Medicine ..... 87
	Houston ..... 28	Mahnomen ..... 43	Pine ..... 58	Stearns ..... 73	

**Information:** (Check all that apply)

- ☐ Installer   ☐ Pumper   ☐ Designer   ☐ Inspector   ☐ Gov't Regulator   ☐ Educator   ☐ Service Provider   ☐ Student  
☐ Soil Scientist   ☐ Professional Engineer   ☐ Manufacturer   ☐ Operator/Maintenance   ☐ Supplier   ☐ Other: \_\_\_\_\_

### Additional Business/Government Members:

2<sup>nd</sup> Member \_\_\_\_\_ Title \_\_\_\_\_ County \_\_\_\_\_  
 Address \_\_\_\_\_ City/State/Zip \_\_\_\_\_  
 Phone \_\_\_\_\_ Mobile/800# \_\_\_\_\_ Fax \_\_\_\_\_ Email \_\_\_\_\_  
 3<sup>rd</sup> Member \_\_\_\_\_ Title \_\_\_\_\_ County \_\_\_\_\_  
 Address \_\_\_\_\_ City/State/Zip \_\_\_\_\_  
 Phone \_\_\_\_\_ Mobile/800# \_\_\_\_\_ Fax \_\_\_\_\_ Email \_\_\_\_\_

(Please list additional business/government group members on separate sheet with complete contact information.)

**Publications:** Would you prefer receiving 'Little Digger' newsletters via ... ☐ Regular Mail   ☐ Electronically  
 We currently send one publication per address to business/government groups. Contact the MOWA office if you'd like additional copies.

**Additional NOWRA Memberships:** MOWA membership fees include one NOWRA membership per company/organization. List names of members who want additional NOWRA memberships here: Cost - \$40 per person.

2) \_\_\_\_\_ 3) \_\_\_\_\_ 4) \_\_\_\_\_ 5) \_\_\_\_\_

### Payment:

MOWA Membership \$ \_\_\_\_\_ + Add'l NOWRA Memberships = Amount: \$ \_\_\_\_\_  
☐ Check enclosed (Payable to MOWA)   ☐ VISA   ☐ MasterCard  
 Card Number: \_\_\_\_\_ CVV: \_\_\_\_\_ Expiration Date: \_\_\_\_\_ Cardholder Name: \_\_\_\_\_  
 Signature: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

**MOWA, 11468 Marketplace Dr. N, Ste 600-PMB392, Champlin, MN 55316 Phone: 612.361.9629**

NOTE: Dues payable to MOWA are not deductible as a charitable contribution but may be deductible as an ordinary and necessary business expense.

MOWA estimates that 10% of your MOWA dues are used for governmental affairs issues and therefore are not deductible.

**MISSION: Promoting professionalism in the onsite wastewater industry**



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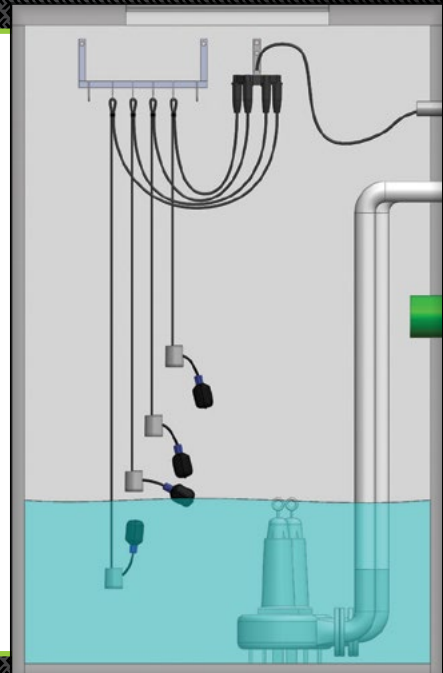
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- Mounts directly in riser
- Great for new and retrofit applications
- Easy maintenance



US Patent No.  
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