



Air & Waste Management Association - Pacific Northwest International Section Electronic Newsletter #3, August 2003

Special Interest Articles:

- What's Happening at A&WMA
- Welcome to new leaders.
- Education and Outreach Committee Earning an "A"

Highlights Inside:

President's Message	2
Welcome New Leaders	3
Education/Outreach	4
What's Happening	5
Fall Conference Info	6
Vancouver Island Chapter	8
Editorial	9

"The Future of Environmental Leadership in the Pacific Northwest"

43rd Annual PNWIS/A&WMA Conference

September 23-26, 2003

[Alyeska Resort](#) in Girdwood, Alaska

The annual conference is held with the location rotating throughout the Section's geographic region. This is the first time since 1976 for this exciting event to be presented in Alaska. Don't wait another quarter century for this wonderful opportunity; the glaciers are receding fast. Come and enjoy our entire autumn season (all 4 days of it) and experience the

arctic air ... and waste!

Alaska Airlines has agreed to give 10% fare reductions for travel from any Alaska Airlines or Horizon Air city to the PNWIS 2003 conference in Anchorage, Alaska (ANC). If we can get the ticket numbers, they will also give us a free flight for every 40 tickets purchased. We will use the free flight(s) to bring non-profit speakers and/or students to the conference.

Traveler Instructions

Applicable travel dates: September 18 through September 30, 2003. Travelers get the lowest available rate plus a 10% discount

See the PNWIS web site at www.pnwis.org for additional information

Idaho Chapter Reactivates – Submitted by Zack Klotovich

The Idaho Chapter held its first meeting in several years on May 29th in Boise, Idaho. Turnout was strong with over 20 attendees from diverse fields. Attendees included employees of private industry, a public utility, consultants, attorneys, a

regional planning agency, and a regulatory agency. Thanks to Kim Marcus for attending the meeting and energizing the group with his ideas for Chapter functions. Kim emphasized that it takes people being active to make PNWIS work and

the basis of the organization is as teachers - teachers to one another about new regulations, technologies, strategies, etc., and as teachers to future scientists, regulators, and consultants. And, of course, to have fun while doing it.

[Continued on page 4](#)

Newsletter Sponsorship... PNWIS is looking for sponsors of this newsletter. If you would like to be a sponsor and have your company logo displayed in the newsletter, please contact Chris Robins by e-mail at crobins@crd.bc.ca. Be sure to ask about the introductory special price.

President's Message- Submitted by Kim Marcus, PNWIS President

This last year has been one of the most fun and satisfying years that I can remember in PNWIS. The PNWIS Presidency shifted for Melissa McAfee to me in May, and what a wonderful legacy she has transferred. The overwhelming success of the Tacoma conference and other specialty conferences has given us the ability to carry on our educational mandate. And that is how I look at PNWIS – we educate each other through our technical programs, we have become involved in our communities through our teacher education programs (ERGS); and we reach out to colleges, universities, and elementary and secondary schools through student chapters, member involvement in their learning institutions, and through our government, industry, and consulting member companies. All of these activities have significant benefits.

“ . . . We educate each other through our technical programs, we have become involved in our communities through our teacher education program and we reach out to colleges, universities and schools. “

Benefits include:

- Professional training and information exchange,
- Networking opportunities,
- Recognition by your peers and by your employers and fellow employees
- Satisfaction with giving back to the community,
- We encourage and provide tools to the next generations of scientist, agency staff, and policy makers, and
- We have fun.

Other significant activities that need to be recognized include:

- A reactivation/reinvigoration of both the Idaho and BC/Yukon Chapters,
- Active and vital chapters in Montana, Alaska, Vancouver Island, Washington, and Oregon,
- A surge in the web-based training through an increase in the number of programs offered and in the diversity of the subject matter,
- A wonderful board of directors that brings together active and energetic people who have been involved for literally decades with those who have joined AWMA in the last year.

The future holds a number of opportunities to reap the benefits of PNWIS. From the upcoming annual conference in Anchorage Alaska at the Alyeska Resort from September 23-26, 2003 to Specialty conferences, to local Chapter meetings, to National AWMA sponsored events. I would encourage each of you to visit our web site (www.pnwis.org) and link to the many other sites for additional information. I would also encourage each of you to participate on a committee and in your community.

Read on to see what's happened and what's coming soon. And we look forward to seeing you.

Regards,
Kim Marcus

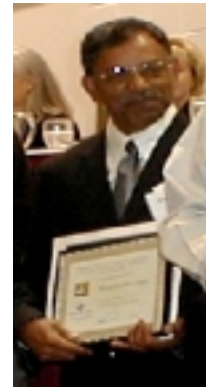
Welcome Kumar, Maggie, and Beverly! - Submitted by Melissa McAfee, "Outgoing" President

Three new terms have just been filled by some of the most capable leaders among our membership. We welcome Kumar, Maggie, and Beverly!

Kumar Ganesan President-Elect

A professor and head of the environmental engineering department at Montana Tech, Kumar is well-prepared to serve as our Vice-President. Next year he will serve as our President. Many of us remember the tremendous experience we had at the Big Sky, Montana annual PNWIS conference that Kumar

recently chaired two years ago, in a setting of snow-capped mountains and lodge-warming fireplaces. After the conference Kumar continued to work to inspire the creation of three Montana subchapters to create a consistent presence for Montana members. We look forward to more greatness working under the leadership of Kumar.



Margaret Corbin, Director Position #1 (2 years)

If you wondered where we got those wonderful natural gas shuttles to and from the Tacoma Glass museum, or who arranged the Port of Tacoma tour, or who rallied many of the Tacoma sponsors to come join us at the conference, look no further than Maggie Corbin. Maggie has served on the PNWIS Board as Secretary and Chair of the Puget Sound

Chapter. She is a consistent leader to chair technical programs and events. She has a passion to generously support PNWIS education projects. The Board will reap from her wisdom and energy to lead us into another successful 2 years. Congratulations are in order to Maggie for another great feat: a baby girl is due in August! Congratulations, Maggie!



Beverly Williams, Director Position #2 (2 years)

Beverly has chaired the Education and Outreach Committee for over a decade and served on the Board as the Alaska Chair. She is currently the Co-General Chair for the upcoming September 2003 PNWIS Annual Conference. Many of you may remember Beverly at the Tacoma Conference when she was

feeling a bit like a moose. If only her regulated sources could have seen her with her chocolate brown fur and antlers proudly adorned. She was even dancing too! We are certainly used to seeing Beverly wear a number of different hats. Beverly is enthusiastic and committed to expanding the scope of environmental education so that future generations will

make responsible decisions related to the environment. She will serve the Board well with her years of experience and wisdom. Thank you to Beverly for your great leadership to ensure a wonderful experience at the 2003 Alaska Annual Conference!

Welcome (continued)



Left to right Martha Moore, PNWIS Treasurer, AWMA President, Daniel O. Schmid, Q.E.P, and Bev Williams, PNWIS Director and Education and Outreach Committee Chair

Education and Outreach Committee Earning an "A"

The A&WMA Education and Outreach Committee has been working on two primary goals: educational outreach for the Pacific Northwest International Section and implementation of the Environmental Resource Guide (ERG) curricula.

This past year, the committee, led by Beverly Williams of Alaska Department of Environmental Conservation and Laura Curley of Northwest Air Pollution Authority, has provided teacher and student training and

outreach in Oregon, Washington, and Alaska. Teacher training has focused on Non-Point Sources (NPS) and the Air Quality ERGs. Training programs reached up to 40 teachers and, through a partnership with the Lane Regional Air Pollution Authority, every fourth grader in Lane County...approximately 600!

"We're going gangbusters on the air side, but need to get more action on the NPS training," said Williams. Williams has also developed partnerships to provide training through local institutions, including Washington State University and the University of Alaska at Anchorage.

[Continued on Page 5](#)

Idaho Chapter – continued from Page 1

The PNWIS Board was also represented by Angela Hansen, Kris Hansen, and Dave Einolf. It was great to hear from people that have experience at the Chapter and Section levels.

Thanks also to Jay Willenberg who tracked down a copy of the existing Idaho Chapter by-laws. The by-laws arrived in the mail just hours before the meeting.

The Chapter decided to hold meetings at 6 p.m. on the fourth Thursday of the month (very few people voted for breakfast meetings.) There was much interest expressed for organizing lunchtime speakers and schoolchild education programs. The goal for the next meeting is to accept nominations for, and hopefully elect, Chapter board members.

What's Happening at A&WMA - Submitted by Scott Freeburn

As most of you know, A&WMA is a large and diverse organization, and I cannot include here the myriad activities carried out by staff and the many contributing members. I will focus on the areas that have been garnering the attention of the Board of Directors with the bold hope that it will indicate something about the future direction of the Association. Suffice it to say that the work of many help to keep the Association vital and relevant if somewhat leaner and more efficient than in the past.

Strategic Directions

A principal focus for the Board is the setting of the strategic direction for the Association. These efforts are to assure that the Association is able to provide what members will need in future years. These lengthy contemplations are distilled here, I hope without disservice, to a few sentences on driving forces, delivery methods, and financial vitality.

Energy and transportation development were recognized as driving forces for many of our environmental issues for perhaps the next two decades. Members will continue to need support in these areas. Besides technical programs related to these drivers, the Board is supporting the publication of fundamental references to address each area.

Meetings and conventions for the purpose of exchanging technical information are experiencing

declining attendance. Reasons for the decline may be complex since such meetings serve different purposes for different attendees, but such gatherings have become a relatively expensive way to effectively deliver information. The Association has pursued alternative ways to meet the needs of members that cannot travel to its meetings. The Association's Web casts have been one response to this predicament. Information on topical subjects can be delivered at low cost to your office or a location near you. The Association also is working to bring on-line library to its members. Association papers and other publications will be deliverable at very low cost.

Meetings have been a traditional way to raise funds for the support of Association activities, just as they are for PNWIS. In a period of flat business economics and decreasing regulatory activity, meeting attendance and overall membership have been declining. For the A&WMA, the reduction in income has meant elimination of non-core functions and much less flexibility in how we approach the challenges of change, whether forced or voluntary. Delivery of the services we seek from the Association depends on its continued financial survival. Thus much of the Board's strategic efforts deal with maintaining predictable sources of income and a balance of services that, on the whole, can pay their way. Task forces on meetings and membership have worked for the last years to generate ideas for improving participation and benefit to the member. Many of these will be implemented

[Continued on Page 6](#)

Education and Outreach Committee – continued from Page 4

"We're consistently handing out ERGs through the WSU training."

The Education and Outreach Committee also contributed to the latest revision of "Air Quality and You – Interactive Educational Presentation" CD along with several Washington state air agencies. The committee distributed a copy of the CD to all the northwest chapters of A&WMA. The Alaska Chapter is also giving ERG lessons to students in the classroom.

Future committee goals include more involvement at the local chapter level and finding new outreach projects.

The criteria for outreach projects are:

- 50/50 matching funds (preferred)
- Benefits A&WMA/PNWIS mission
- Initiatives must have an air or waste focus
- Underserved areas are preferred

If you are interested in helping with local involvement, have an idea for a new outreach project, or would like a copy of the "Air Quality and You" interactive educational CD, please contact Bev Williams at (907) 269-7574.

PNWIS Fall Specialty Conference on Greenhouse Gas Inventories November 13, 2003 at the Top of the Market in the historic Pike Place Market in Seattle, Washington

PNWIS will be hosting a one-day conference on developing a bottom-up Greenhouse Gas emissions inventory and emission reduction plans for plant sites, utilities, whole companies and complex organizations such as municipal governments. The presentations will feature how-to tutorials with detailed discussion of developing supporting data, emissions factors, reporting formats and confirmation audits. The discussions of action plans will focus on Pacific Northwest industries. The conference will also feature a discussion of emissions credits trading.

What's Happening – Continued from Page 5

over time. Because of continuing change in the technological, business, and regulatory environments that affect the Association, the Board recognizes that bigger and perhaps fundamental modifications to A&WMA may be ahead. The Board is strongly focused on being able to fulfill the Association's mission in future years.

Governance

The requested changes to the by-laws of the organization were approved at the 2003 Annual Convention and Exhibition. This means the Board of Directors will take on a new configuration with the hope that it can be more responsive and better able to meet Association needs. Rather than the 15-person Board composed of approximately five Association members each from the Government, Industry and Other categories, a new structure was proposed and adopted by the membership. There will continue to be representation of both the regulated and regulatory communities elected by the membership. The three council chairs (Technical, Education, and Sections and Chapters) will join the Board as voting members. Finally, the Board may self-select up to three additional members, from inside or outside the Association, to augment the Board's skill set and diversity of experience. The upper limit of Board size will be 15 members but may be as small as 12 depending on the number of appointments. During transition, Board membership will start at 18 and diminish as current Board members complete their terms.

Finances

After a few years of struggle, the financial status of the organization is far less precarious and far more predictable. Executive Director Scheer is fully focused

on avoiding deficit spending and building the Association's reserve fund. An independent review of the Association's spending plans by Treasurer Doug Bisset and the Board's Finance Committee has helped to assure steady progress. The Board was very pleased to be able to repay, two years early, the loans received from the Sections and Chapters. In the near term, the great challenge to Association finances is the drop in the membership total and the reduced attendance at meetings, both of which are trends among the traditional professional societies. The Board continues to seek methods to reverse this trend.

2003 Annual Convention and Exhibition

The Annual Convention and Exhibition (ACE) was just completed in San Diego. On the whole, the meeting was a great success and a testament to the hard work and organization of the Pittsburgh staff and the San Diego Local Host Committee that undertook this Herculean task for the second time in five years. I heard many complementary comments regarding the program, facilities, and copious ancillary activities organized by the local hosts. (PNWIS last hosted the ACE in 1991, when are Canadian members put together a memorable program. We are due for another opportunity to support the ACE. Any local host volunteers out there?) Though total attendee and exhibitor counts were down somewhat, it is anticipated that the financial contribution to the Association will be slightly better than last year. Next year's local hosts have been up and running for more than a year already, so expect a good program in Indianapolis.

Vancouver Island Chapter

New Board Elected

Elections are complete for the 2003/04 board of the Vancouver Island Chapter. The positions were filled as follows:

Chair	Dr. Paul West, University of Victoria (Chair Elect 2002/2003)
Chair Elect	Warren McCormick, Ministry of Water Land and Air Protection
Treasurer	Tim Stemp, Quantum Environmental Group
Secretary	Gillian Carrigan, Sperling Hansen & Associates Inc.
Past Chair	Chris Robins, Capital Regional District

Three directors elected for a two year term:

Penny Harvey	Johns, Southward, Glazier, Walton & Margetts
Albert MacLeod	Earth Tech Canada Inc
Chris Houser	Ministry of Water Land and Air Protection

There are also three directors whose terms continue for another year:

Kamal Bhattacharya	Environmental Consultant
Warren Bell	Raincoast Resources Inc.
Andrea Mercer	Capital Regional District

Vancouver Island Chapter Hosts Spring Specialty Event

On Friday, May 23, 2003, the Chapter hosted a one day conference at the Victoria Conference Centre, ADAPTING TO CLIMATE CHANGE IN THE COASTAL PACIFIC NORTHWEST: *Challenges for ecosystems, communities, industries, and institutions*. Sponsored by BC Ministry of Water, Land and Air Protection and Canadian Climate Impacts and Adaptation Research Network.

There is evidence the coastal Pacific Northwest is starting to experience the early impacts of climate change. Climate change affects many physical and biological systems and is expected to have significant socio-economic impacts – both negative and positive. The conference was designed to address the past and projected future impacts of climate change, and the ways in which coastal communities and resource managers can prepare and adapt. Eighty-five attendees were treated to excellent talks by experts from the Pacific Northwest, and then participated in one of three concurrent discussion sessions on marine ecosystems and fisheries, community infrastructure – buildings and structures in low-lying coastal regions, drinking water quantity and quality and economic and social issues in resource-based communities. The proceedings of the conference will be posted to the PNWIS web site this fall.

Vancouver Island Chapter Hosts 7th Annual Student Paper Competition – submitted by Andrea Mercer

Each year, the Vancouver Island Chapter hosts a student paper competition at the local post secondary institutions; this year marks the 7th year for this well received event.

The institutions participating in this year's competition are Camosun College (Environmental Technology Program), and Royal Roads University (Bachelor of Science in Environmental Science). To accommodate the separate completion dates for these two institutions, two separate competitions are held each year, with the Camosun College competition taking place in June, and the Royal Roads competition taking place in August.

Continued next page

Student Paper Competition - continued

Students work in groups of 3 to 6 throughout the year on a major research project which culminates in the delivery of a technical paper. Students are required to present their findings in an oral presentation, which is, graded by their professors, and 'judged' by a panel of local AWMA Chapter members. A cash prize of \$400.00 is awarded by the Vancouver Island Chapter to the top group at each institution based on criteria such as technical content, professionalism, clarity, organization, presentation, visual aids and the ability to answer questions. This year's first place recipients presented their paper entitled "*Impacts of Impervious Surfaces on Three Local Watersheds*". The group, which consisted of Deanna Coleman, Jennifer Freshwater, and Alex Ragosnig, took home individual plaques honouring their achievement, and a cheque for \$400.00, courtesy of the Vancouver Island Chapter.

Part II of this year's competition for Royal Roads University is scheduled for Thursday, August 28th.



Winning Students

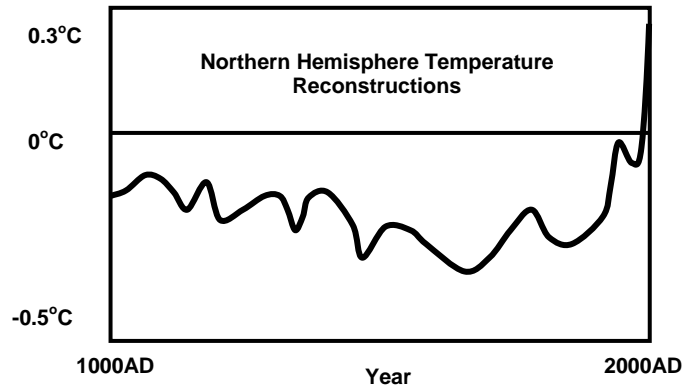
How to Keep your PNWIS Membership Up-to-date

PNWIS is here because of its members, but we need your help by keeping your membership dues current. First, a few clarifications: PNWIS membership is on a calendar year basis, but we'll accept your \$15 annual dues anytime during the year. If you attend the annual PNWIS conference in the fall, your annual dues are covered for the following calendar year. If you missed the conference, please take the time to submit your \$15 annual dues by visiting our website, www.pnwis.org, and printing and mailing the on-line membership form. Also, you can pay your dues when you attend one of our specialty workshops, which are typically held in the spring. And, for all you A&WMA members, thanks for your association support and remember, all A&WMA members are automatically members of PNWIS (please note that PNWIS only membership does not make you a member of [A&WMA International](#), or give you any of the associated benefits). By keeping your membership dues current, you will continue to be informed of PNWIS events and activities happening in the Pacific Northwest.

Editorial Comment

Kyoto – A Commentary

By Rick Lee



Canada signed the Kyoto Protocol, one of the most controversial and far-reaching international treaties, just before Christmas 2002. To some this was a most important step in slowing global warming and perhaps mitigating its far-reaching potentially negative effects; to others it was seen as an unwise step, hurting Canadian competitiveness unnecessarily. Unnecessarily because of the large number of countries representing the greatest proportion of the world's population that did not ratify the agreement. The fact that greenhouse gases concentrations will continue to increase despite the combined efforts of all the ratifying nations illustrates that Kyoto is only a first small step and its effects will not substantially alter the trends in the composition of the atmosphere.

CO₂ reductions by Canada will mostly come from reduced emissions within Canada or purchases of carbon credits from other countries. Reduction of fossil fuel burning should have the additional indirect effect of reducing local pollution levels. It will also encourage 'alternate' energy sources such as wind-generated electricity or greater use of hydro or solar energy, that is, if attitudes about landscape 'clutter' can be changed. These will make a small but significant change in how we obtain energy.

Much discussion has revolved around whether the science of climate change is correct or not. As a climate institute, we are all too aware of the various points that have been raised. Sceptics point to weaknesses of the climate models or alternate theories such as solar output or orbital variations that might explain the observed global warming trends. The Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) points out the substantial body of research accumulated over decades and carried out by a large number of reputable scientists. But it takes only a short course in climatology to realize that we live at a time of optimum conditions – optimum for humans to thrive across the globe. Our collective population and standard of living have increased dramatically. From palaeoclimate records, we know this optimum climate will not continue indefinitely. Twenty thousand years ago we were in the depths of an ice-age which only ended about ten thousand years ago. Ice ages have occurred on roughly a hundred-thousand-year cycle for the last several million years so we are likely on a long slow slide into the next one. Human written historical records cover only the last few thousand years so we have little knowledge of how humans coped with even the last ice age, let alone the previous climate optimum. We know from other evidence that in no period in the last hundred thousand years has the climate been as warm as it is now and the rate of current warming is unprecedented. There is a risk that as the climate system enters this unknown territory that other even more dramatic shifts may take place. Can we afford to take such risks?

Mankind's perspective has been all too short, illustrated by the way we do business with a relatively short outlook. Often we launch a new chemical and over-harvest natural crops, wild-life and fish without knowing our limits and the ramifications. Irreparable damage has been done. So employing the precautionary principle is sensible.

Continued next page

Kyoto – A Commentary – **continued**

“Canada has a long-standing history of implementing the precautionary approach in science-based programs of health and safety, environmental protection and natural resources conservation.” ... “The precautionary approach/precautionary principle is distinctive within science-based risk management. It recognizes that the absence of full scientific certainty shall not be used as a reason to postpone decisions when faced with the threat of serious or irreversible harm.”¹ The signing of the Kyoto protocol is consistent with this approach.

No one disputes the fact that there remain many uncertainties in the current level of scientific understanding of climate processes, that there are a broad range of projected climate scenarios nor that implementing the current phase of Kyoto will make much difference in the physical world in the short term. Even with worldwide measures to respect the Kyoto agreement, levels of greenhouse gases will continue to rise and the climate will continue to warm. Much stronger measures than Kyoto will be required to stabilize greenhouse gases at non-climate-interfering levels. Kyoto is important because it begins the process of learning how to do that. Because of the lags built into the climate system dramatic warming will occur even if we stopped using all fossil fuels tomorrow. Therefore, it is inevitable that we will have to take substantial measures to adapt to significant climate warming in the next few decades and centuries as well as to learn how to satisfy human energy needs without massive levels of fossil-fuel burning.

¹ http://www.ec.gc.ca/econom/pp_e.htm

Spring Specialty Conference – **Submitted by Martha Moore**

The Oregon Chapter of PNWIS hosted a very successful Spring Specialty Conference – “A Crash Course in Stack Testing.” The one-day conference, attended by 50 people, was designed to give a solid overview of considerations in setting up a source test, the perspectives of the regulatory community for both procedures and results, and case studies from industry and attorneys that work with industry on potential pitfalls. Attendees commented that the information provided very useful, including presentations by Mike Eisele (Horizon Engineering) and Jim Guenthoer (AM-Test Air Quality) on setting up source tests to be successful, using the correct test methods, and providing useful results, as well as information from Paul Boys (EPA) and Mark Bailey (DEQ) on what they expect to see in a source test report. Critical considerations for how to present results were addressed by Tom Wood (Stoel Rives LLP). The conference was well supported by the following sponsors: Stoel Rives LLP, Horizon Engineering, Trinity Consultants, Thermo Environmental Instruments/Extech, Ltd., Am-Test Air Quality, CH2M HILL, and TW Environmental. Sponsorship allows PNWIS to continue to support our education outreach programs.

The Electronic Newsletter

This is the third edition of the electronic PNWIS Newsletter. The goal of the Board is to release it electronically to the membership every four months to let you know what's going on across our Section.

We are also interested in including articles from Members, Chapter Boards and others. Please submit your articles to Chris Robins by e-mail to crobins@crd.bc.ca; submissions will be reviewed by the PNWIS Newsletter Editorial Board made up of Terry Nyman and Angela Hansen.

Thanks to Dan Mahar for looking after distribution. Dan is also instrumental in maintaining the PNWIS web site at www.pnwis.org. Please take a few minutes to visit the site.