



72nd Annual Educational Conference & Exhibition in Tucson a Huge Success

From June 22 to June 25, 2008, over 1,200 environmental health and protection professionals converged on Tucson, Arizona, for NEHA's 72nd Annual Educational Conference (AEC) & Exhibition. Attendees were able to take in the beauty and luxury of the resort surroundings while attending four packed days of education and networking opportunities.

Amidst the stunning backdrop of Tucson, an atmosphere of education was present. The new Learning Laboratory sessions enabled attendees to obtain education in a hands-on, interactive, and innovative format. Also offered was the traditional Lecture Hall where attendees received information from top-quality speakers on relevant topics. Attendees were able to choose the education they needed from 177 different educational sessions, 250 presenters, 83 exhibitors, and seven pre-conference workshops.

And let's not forget the networking and camaraderie that was present throughout and at events like the Exhibition, the UL-sponsored event, the Networking Luncheon, Dessert Under the Stars, and the Presidents Banquet.

The final attendee list is now posted at www.neha.org. Also, numerous presentations not included on the conference CD have been posted on NEHA's Web site. The password to access these is located in the list section of the conference CD given to attendees at registration.

Not able to attend the conference but want to get some education? The conference CD can be purchased for just \$20 members/\$30 nonmembers. You can even earn one hour of continuing education for viewing the CD to apply towards your NEHA credential. You can order the CD online at NEHA's Store.

NEHA wishes to thank everyone who attended and contributed to the overall success of the 2008 AEC & Exhibition. We hope to see you next year in Atlanta, Georgia, June 21-24!

Keynote Session

Who Are We and Who Do We Want to Be?

This special keynote was developed because NEHA firmly believes that this discussion is long overdue for the environmental health (EH) profession. Conference attendees were actively engaged in a discussion moderated

by Rob Blake, NEHA president and chief, Environmental Health Services Branch, Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC). Panel members included

- Michelle Chuk, National Association of City and County Health Officials (NACCHO);
- David Ludwig, Maricopa County in Phoenix, Arizona;
- Scott Holmes, Lincoln-Lancaster Health Department in Nebraska;
- Dr. Stan Meiburg, Deputy Regional Administrator, Environmental Protection Agency Region 4 and U.S. EPA liaison to CDC;
- Justin Malan, Consultant and California Conference of EH Directors; and
- Dr. Lisa Conti, Florida Department of Health.

Environmental health is the lynchpin of future integrated public health systems, President Blake proposed as he framed the discussion points for the panel and audience. EH professionals should be involved at every point of public health protection. The committee Blake created to address the issue of marketing the invisible profession found that the settings for EH practice are so varied and the programs offered are so different that it is difficult to market "environmental health" as a single product. To better define the profession so that it can be more effectively marketed to students, politicians, and the general public, Blake felt that it was necessary to include as many federal, state, local, and tribal environmental health professionals as possible in the definition process.

Blake also proposed a model in the structure of Nebraska's Lincoln-Lancaster environmental health division that incorporates environmental protection programs and enjoys a deep level of community support.

Michelle Chuk described the unsurprising results of a brief survey of local EH directors. Some EH departments operated within public health departments and some operated separately. All directors noted that collaboration was essential. Chuk challenged NACCHO, the Association of State and Territorial Health Officials (ASTHO), and NEHA to do a better job of working together to make sure that all local professionals have the tools and resources to improve the health of communities.

David Ludwig described the challenges within Maricopa County, which encompasses four million people in the Phoenix metropolitan area. Ludwig talked about the importance of being at the table when planning for the needs of a population expansion. He asked whether EH can afford not to be linked to public health.

Tucson, Arizona



The presentation of colors by the Davis Monthan Base Honor Guard at the Opening Ceremony.



President Rob Blake welcomes everyone to the conference.



Bringing in the unique heritage of the Tucson region, the conference opened up with a traditional Native American Hoop Dance performed by the Yellow Bird Dancers.

EH has what it takes to be successful, Scott Holmes asserted. Great leaders are in NEHA; A great strategy is in the *Environmental Health Playbook*, the CDC revitalization guide; and our great people can tap into the wisdom found in the joint NCEH/APHA competency project.

Stan Meiburg discussed how to best provide EH services given the diversity as well as many commonalities found within the federal, state, and local agencies. Because a “top down” structure does not exist and institutions are slow to change in response to world events, Meiburg felt that collaboration is the only hope for EH. No one has all the tools to do the things they need to do; therefore, people must depend on partnerships to get the job done.

“It is time to expand the scope of EH,” Justin Malan asserted as he itemized his main points: EH can’t afford to have an “us vs. them” attitude; EH as a profession is being left behind as emerging issues are being taken on by other agencies; what matters is what is done at the end of the day, not whether EH is the leader; vision and leadership are essential; and the profession will become deprofessionalized if the focus is too much on the minutiae. Malan urged attendees to put the passion back in the profession, because it is a noble profession.

No templates exist, according to Lisa Conti. Departments are put together by funding and political pressures. Conti used PACE EH and smart growth as metaphors for how we can get from there to here—e.g., how does one get to a grocery store without using a car in the typical urban sprawl neighborhoods? To solve the problem it is necessary to redesign processes, break down barriers, and bring in multiple partners that have common goals.

Several people spoke during the brief discussion period after the presentations.

Michele Samarya-Timm urged attendees to open this discussion to the full aspects of EH, which include academia and industry. She stressed that marketing EH is not something that is specific to a small cadre of volunteers but an activity for everyone who has a vested interest in EH.

Continued professional education is essential for a wider vision, according to Steve Konkel. The profession must become problem solvers using higher-level thinking skills.

Meiburg noted that EH is well suited for what is called the convening function, gathering people together from different groups to solve a problem.

“We don’t have a budget” is no longer a legitimate argument because it lacks imagination and a lack of will, asserted an attendee who heard the presentations as a call for courage.

Chuk urged people who are not represented by local agencies to contact her so their knowledge and views can be incorporated into the discussion.

Ludwig saw the biggest challenge at the local level as not reinventing the wheel. He reminded attendees a national association exists where people can share knowledge.

“Define the outcomes that you want to see rather than focusing on defining what you do,” urged Holmes. An attendee agreed and urged other attendees to define what citizens are entitled to have. This shifts the focus from “What do we provide?” to “What needs to be done and who will make this happen?” “What if we all thought that everything that we do has an impact?” asked Conti.

President Blake closed the stimulating but brief discussion and urged attendees to use the mechanisms set up by NEHA to continue the conversation: focus groups, open dialogues, the blog on neha.org, and the leadership group in the learning laboratory.

Association Business

At the AEC & Exhibition, important business meetings of all kinds take place. Three of the most important for NEHA are the Board of Directors meeting, the Affiliate Council, and the General Assembly. The summaries below present highlights from each of these meetings.

Board of Directors Meeting Highlights

Rob Blake presided over the Saturday meeting as NEHA president. (At the end of the 2008 AEC & Exhibition, CAPT Rick Collins, NEHA President 2006-2007 and Regional Vice President Brian Collins rotated off the board; Rob Blake became the immediate past president; and Dick Pantages became president for 2008-2009. Mel Knight joined the board in the role of second vice president and Sandra Long joined the board as a Regional Vice President.)

- Yolanda Sindé, executive director, Association of Environmental Health Academic Programs (AEHAP) and the Environmental Health Accreditation Council (EHAC), provided a report on behalf of the academic side of environmental health. She reported an upswing in student enrollment in environmental health programs over the previous year. Ms. Sindé expressed appreciation for NEHA’s support over the past year and indicated that she was excited about continuing a working relationship with NEHA.
- Executive Director Fabian touched on the results of the spring mail ballot, in which NEHA members overwhelmingly approved the proposed changes to the Articles of Incorporation and Bylaws. The changes led to the creation of the Presidents Affiliate Council that replaces the Council of Delegates.
- NEHA is proud to have been invited to a 50-State Food and Drug Administration

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Awards & Honors

The awards ceremony kicked off to a fast start as the audience was treated to a special and enormously energetic hoop dance performance that was played out by a local Native American family. All in all, twelve different presenters combined to recognize over 73 different environmental health professionals and students for outstanding work in our field of practice, making this year's awards ceremony one of NEHA's most memorable.

The awards ceremony was memorable this year for several reasons. Apart from the fact that the ceremony moved at a nice and fast pace, there were many surprises, memorable moments, and touching events. One of the surprises involved Dr. John Barry receiving the *Journal* Editor's Award. John was unaware that he was this year's recipient. The award was presented to an astonished John only after he had read a dummy script on behalf of a fictitious award winner. The audience then gave John a loud and heartfelt ovation for his wonderful work as the technical editor of the *Journal*.

NEHA's executive director was also caught by surprise when incoming NEHA President Dick Pantages arose unannounced to present Nelson Fabian with a special award from the board of directors on the occasion of his 25th anniversary as NEHA's executive director.

Walter S. Mangold Award

Dr. John M. Barry

NEHA's highest honor, the Walter S. Mangold Award—given for outstanding contributions to the advancement of the environmental health profession—was bestowed this year upon the very deserving Dr. John Barry. Please see the accompanying story on page 80, which details Dr. Barry's contributions to the profession.

Certificates of Merit

Certificates of Merit are awarded to affiliate members who make exemplary contributions to the profession of environmental health. Each affiliate sets its own criteria for recognition, so recipients do not need to be NEHA members. For 2008, the following winners were announced:

- Alabama—*Lemuel Burell*,
- Arizona—*Marlene Gaither*,
- Alaska—*Rachel Goldberger*,
- California—*George Nakamura*,
- Illinois—*Glen Filip*,
- Louisiana—*Marian Aguillard*,
- Massachusetts—*Gary D. Perlman*,
- Michigan—*Patrick Donovan*,

- Minnesota—*Lori Green*,
- Missouri—*Jerry Brown*,
- National Capital Area—*Shannon McKeon*,
- Nebraska—*Douglas A. Clark*,
- New Jersey—*Harriett Zivin*,
- Ohio—*Matt Johnson*,
- South Carolina—*Dorothy Soranno*,
- Texas—*Patrick Buzbee*,
- Uniformed Services—*CAPT (Ret.) Thomas E. Crow*,
- Virginia—*Charles Shepherd*,
- Wisconsin—*Mary Myszka*, and
- Wyoming—*Stephanie Malcolm*.

Affiliates may submit their nominees at any time for Certificate of Merit awards to be announced next June in Atlanta, Georgia.

A. Harry Bliss Editor's Award

Dr. John M. Barry

Dr. A. Harry Bliss was the *Journal* editor in 1969, the year this award was first presented. When he retired, the award was named after him to honor his 40 years of involvement in *Journal* production. NEHA often gives the annual Harry Bliss Editor's Award to outstanding writers and columnists, but the award may also go to individuals who, through the *Journal of Environmental Health*, advance the cause and interests of the association.

This year, we are proud to announce that the 2008 recipient of the Harry Bliss Award is Dr. John M. Barry, technical editor for the *Journal of Environmental Health*. Dr. Barry has been an unparalleled asset to the *Journal* program. In addition, he has provided years of service to both NEHA and the profession in a variety of capacities. He was the 1993–1994 NEHA president, and prior to his retirement, he served as the director and then the deputy director of the environmental protection program for Mecklenburg County, North Carolina. For the past 10 years, NEHA has benefited from his expertise as the technical editor of the *Journal*. It is largely through John's role as technical editor that we have been able to provide such vital information and such a useful resource to all of you.

As *Journal* department staff member Alicia Green, who has worked closely with Dr. Barry for the past four and a half years, said, "John approaches his role as technical editor with dedication, professionalism, intelligence, and humor. He is truly a credit to this profession. We are very fortunate to have his vision and collaboration as we move forward as an association and a field." As NEHA Executive Director Nelson Fabian said, "Few

people have given to NEHA and to our profession as much as John has. His example honors the spirit of Harry Bliss. It also gives today's workforce proof of what is possible." Congratulations, John, you are very deserving of this recognition!

NEHA/AAS Scholarship Awards

NEHA supports students in many ways. One way involves financial tuition support through a special scholarship program that is cosponsored by NEHA and the American Academy of Sanitarians (AAS). This year, NEHA Past President and Scholarship Committee Chair James Balsamo presented the following scholarships on behalf of the scholarship committee:

- \$2,000 Graduate Scholarship to Kara M. Koehn from Duke University, who is majoring in environmental health and toxicology,
- \$1,000 Undergraduate Scholarship to Kristina E. Maurer from Eastern Kentucky University, who anticipates receiving a B.P.H. degree in May 2009 with a major in environmental health sciences,
- \$1,000 Undergraduate Scholarship to Michael Hani Romani from California State University, Fresno, who anticipates receiving his degree in environmental health sciences in 2010, and
- \$1,000 Undergraduate Scholarship to Lauren E. Schuster from Eastern Kentucky University, who is majoring in environmental health sciences.

Walter F. Snyder Award

CAPT Craig Shepherd

NSF International and NEHA honored CAPT Craig Shepherd with the 2008 Walter F. Snyder Award. The award is given in honor of NSF's cofounder and first executive director, and it recognizes outstanding contributions to public health and the environment. Please see the accompanying story on page 81, which details CAPT Shepherd's contributions to the profession.

Sabbatical Exchange Award

M.L. Tanner

NEHA offers a wide-ranging opportunity for professional growth and the exchange of valuable information on the international level through its longtime Sabbatical Exchange Program. The recipient of this award may go either to England, in cooperation with the Chartered Institute of Environmental Health, or to Canada, in cooperation with the Canadian

Institute of Public Health Inspectors. Underwriters Laboratories (UL) currently sponsors the sabbatical.

The award jury this year decided that the sabbatical award should be given to M.L. Tanner, environmental health manager from the Bureau of Environmental Health in the South Carolina Department of Health and Environmental Control. Tanner will soon be studying in England for four weeks with a primary focus on healthy housing. Anyone interested in applying for the award should contact Genny Pfeufer at (303) 756-9090, extension 302, or gpfeufer@neha.org.

Excellence in Sustainability Award

City of Plano

This newly created award, reflecting NEHA's commitment to the promotion and practice of sustainability, was presented to the City of Plano for its outstanding "Live Green in Plano" program. NEHA Sustainability Committee Chair Tom Gonzales and Jim Dingman of Underwriters Laboratories, Inc. (UL) presented the award to Nancy Nevil, director of sustainability and environmental services for the city of Plano. UL generously sponsored a plaque and a \$500 honorarium. The city of Plano graciously donated the \$500 honorarium to NEHA's Scholarship Fund.

Student Research Presentations

Every year, the Association of Environmental Health Academic Programs (AEHAP) and CDC's National Center for Environmental Health (NCEH) sponsor and financially support undergraduate and graduate student research presentations. Thanks to a generous donation from NCEH, eight students and their faculty mentors had the opportunity to present their research at the AEC & Exhibition. Each student participant received a \$500 award, a plaque, and a stipend of up to \$1,000 to cover travel and research expenses. Presenting the student research awards were Captain Michael Herring of the U.S. Public Health Service/CDC/NCEH and Dr. Dale Stephenson of Boise State University.

The following undergraduates were honored for their research presentations: *Valerie Scola* and *Lucy Loftus* from Illinois State University, *Leah Arnold* from Boise State University, and *Michaela Hall* from Western Carolina University. The following graduate students were honored for their research presentations: *Amanda Grantham* from East Carolina University, *Benjamin R. Wischmeier*



Dr. Carolyn Harvey shows her excitement and surprise as she receives the Past Presidents Award.



The future promise of environmental health — some of the Student Research Presentation winners proudly pose with their plaques.

from University of Washington, *Leslie Leggett* from University of Washington, and *Kelly Stumbaugh* from University of Washington. Each student gave a 20-minute presentation on his or her research on Monday morning, June 23. For more information about these scholarship awards, visit aehap.org and follow the link to "Student Resources."

Samuel J. Crumrine Consumer Protection Award

County of Sacramento, Environmental Management Department

The Samuel J. Crumrine Award is a prestigious national award given annually to a local food protection agency that demonstrates excellence and continual improvement in a food protection program. The award is named in honor of Dr. Samuel J. Crumrine, a sanitarian-physician and public health pioneer who was renowned for his innovative methods of improving public health protection, and it is supported by the Conference for Food Protection in cooperation with American Academy of Sanitarians; the American Public Health Association; the Association of Food & Drug Officials; the Foodservice & Packaging Institute, Inc.; the International Association for Food Protection; the International Food Safety Council; the National Association of County and City Health Officials; NEHA; NSF; and UL.

The Crumrine jury was impressed with the county of Sacramento's implementation of the nation's first color-coded placard program (with industry's involvement along every step of the way), external communications, particularly with the public about the placard program, their work force development strategy, training, and their multilingual inspection guidelines. For more information,

visit fpi.org to read Sacramento's winning application. Accepting the plaque was Val Siebal, environmental management department director of Sacramento County.

Past Presidents Award

Dr. Carolyn Harvey

Each year, the Past Presidents group, comprising former NEHA presidents, recognizes a NEHA member for outstanding achievement. Past President Jim Balsamo presented this year's award to Carolyn Harvey, Ph.D., from Eastern Kentucky University.

Presidential Citations

A Presidential Citation is a special award given to individuals who have made exemplary contributions to NEHA during the president's term of office. President Rob Blake presented presidential citations to Gary Hague, Michele Samarya-Timm, Jason Bashura, Chuck Lichon, Charles Otto, DeKalb County Board of Health, State of Georgia, and CDC's National Center for Environmental Health. Citations were also given to Dick Pantages, Tom Ward, and Jim Dingman at the NEHA board of directors meeting.

Davis Calvin Wagner Award

The Wagner Award and honorarium are given each year in recognition of outstanding professional work, accomplishments, and contributions to environmental and public health. The award is particularly meaningful since recipients are nominated and selected on the basis of recommendations from their peers in the profession. This award was not presented in 2008.

Awards & Honors

2008 Walter S. Mangold Award Recipient



John M. Barry, Ph.D.

The National Environmental Health Association (NEHA) is proud to present the 2008 Walter S. Mangold Award, its highest honor, to John M. Barry, Ph.D.

Environmental health professionals in his home state of North Carolina—and around the world—have looked to John as an instrumental leader of the field. His commitment to quality has been a core thread in his life, as

seen in his accomplishments as director of the Mecklenburg County Department of Environmental Protection, as deputy director of the Mecklenburg County Land Use and Environmental Services Agency, as an active participant and advocate for communities, and as technical editor of the *Journal of Environmental Health*.

People who have been inspired by his leadership say that John has always had the ability to see the big picture. Throughout his career, he has used his knowledge to develop innovative strategies for reducing or eliminating the impact of insults to the environment. In the international arena, he has shared his knowledge of environmental health and protection through Sister Cities International-sponsored trips to Poland, China, and Peru. Mayor Bogdan Zdrojewski of Wroclaw, Poland, recognized him with an award for his work with the city on a plan for a sustainable future.

While serving as director of the Mecklenburg County Department of Environmental Protection, where he spent the largest portion of his career, John restructured the department. In the 1980s, he was at the forefront of a movement to reduce the dependence of local agencies on tax revenue by implementing a revenue base of fee structures and grants. He also knew that the success of a county's environmental health programs is measured by their impact on the community. In an era before community assessments were common, John had the vision to create and present an annual report to the community. The report demonstrated the association between the health status of the community and Mecklenburg County's activities and programs. John's leadership went beyond geographic boundaries; he engaged in collaborative relationships with adjoining counties to address issues such as protecting the watershed, enforcing water quality standards, solid waste management and enforcing federal air quality standards.

In another collaboration with NEHA, John served as executive producer of a school science documentary called *Planet Earth—Save Me Now*. He has also published a number of professional papers that take an in-depth look at particular aspects of environmental health and was the author of a book on *Natural Vegetation of South Carolina*.

As a youngster growing up on a farm, John Barry developed a stewardship philosophy toward the environment. He originally aspired to become a veterinarian but changed his focus to field biology and received a bachelor of science degree at the University of South Carolina in 1966. A master of science degree from the University of South Carolina followed in 1968, and he earned a doctor of philosophy degree from the West Virginia University in 1971.

From 1972 through 1978, while teaching at the university level, he became interested and active in environmental research. He worked on projects with the South Carolina Department of Parks, Recreation and Tourism, the South Carolina Wildlife and Marine Resources Department, the National Park Service, and the National Aeronautics and Space Administration. His work included research on the natural vegetation areas in South Carolina, which led to a role as co-organizer of the South Carolina Conference on Endangered Species. He also sought out roles with the South Carolina Heritage Trust Program and the South Carolina Comprehensive Outdoor Recreation Plan.

In 1978, John became environmental coordinator for the largest and most complex county environmental health program in North Carolina, the Mecklenburg County Department of Environmental Protection. By 1984, he was director, and he remained in that position until 2003, when he assumed the role of deputy director of the Mecklenburg County Land Use and Environmental Services Agency.

John Barry has a long history with NEHA. He was introduced to the organization during the 1980s through his work in his affiliate association. In 1987, association members elected him to be regional vice president, and he began serving on the NEHA Board of Directors. During his tenure on the board, his enthusiasm for the organization and for environmental health inspired many in his region and raised the visibility of NEHA. His commitment and deep knowledge base naturally led him to the position of association president in 1993–1994. Under his leadership, NEHA continued to develop into a much more effective organization, and he worked within the organization to re-define the relationship between NEHA and its affiliates. It was during this time that the focus of the *Journal of Environmental Health* was restructured to be more relevant to the membership.

Although he retired in 2005, John has continued to be active in various state organizations and in NEHA. For the past decade, he has served as the technical editor of the *Journal of Environmental Health (JEH)*. His dedicated leadership, focused on quality and on expanding the scope of peer-reviewed articles, has contributed significantly to making *JEH* the highly respected and widely acclaimed publication it is today.

Steve Tackitt, R.S., M.P.H., D.A.A.S., writes of John: "He has never shied away from complex problems; rather he seeks to develop new solutions by researching the issue as well as seeking out the thoughts and input of others. Yet it was John who would visualize a new direction, a new solution, or a better standard."

Robert Galvan, Dr.PH, M.P.H., M.S., D.A.A.S., writes: "Dr. John Barry is a highly dedicated, conscientious, and meticulous individual who has toiled to make a difference in this world."

Don Willard, current director of Air Quality for the Mecklenburg County Land Use and Environmental Services Agency, writes: "John's tenure with environmental health left a legacy of firsts, which still continue to grow and receive national recognition."

Thus, it is a privilege and an honor for NEHA to present this award to John M. Barry, a man who exemplifies the philosophy, ethic, and dedication expressed through the life of the late Walter S. Mangold.

2008 Walter F. Snyder Award Recipient



CAPT Craig A. Shepherd

NSF International (NSF) and NEHA recently announced that CAPT Craig A. Shepherd, R.S., M.P.H., D.A.A.S., is the recipient of the 2008 Walter F. Snyder Award. CAPT Shepherd was presented the award at NEHA's 72nd Annual Educational Conference & Exhibition in Tucson, Arizona, June 22–25, 2008.

The award, given in honor of NSF's co-founder and first executive director, is presented annually to an individual who has made outstanding contributions to the advancement of environment health. CAPT Shepherd was recognized for the lasting impact he has made on environmental health over the course of his 30-year career as a U.S. Public Health Service Officer.

"CAPT Craig Shepherd is an outstanding leader who has served with distinction throughout his 30-year career in the United States Public Health Service," expressed Rear Admiral Steven K. Galson, M.D., M.P.H., Acting Surgeon General. "I was very pleased to hear Craig received the Walter F. Snyder Award. He defines our core values of leadership, service, excellence and integrity and has earned my utmost trust and confidence as the chief environmental health officer of the United States Public Health Service. His advice and counsel, leadership and direction, have advanced environmental health in this Nation. My thanks to the committee who chose him in recognition of his leadership on environmental health issues and my most hearty congratulations to CAPT Craig Shepherd—well done."

Early in his career, CAPT Shepherd worked with the U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA) as a milk/food specialist assigned to the Baltimore District Office. While assigned, he supervised and monitored food preparation numerous times at the request of the U.S. Secret Service for President Reagan, Vice President Bush, and other national leaders.

He also served as Director of Environmental Health Services for the Nashville Area Indian Health Service. As Director, CAPT Shepherd was responsible for managing a comprehensive environmental health services program for 24 Indian tribes scattered from Maine to south Florida to eastern Texas.

"Not only has CAPT Craig Shepherd demonstrated outstanding leadership, but he has also advanced the profession through extensive contributions made in the development of the CDC/HUD *Healthy Housing Reference Manual* and regularly contributing environmental health updates to the CDC Web site," said Nelson Fabian, executive director of NEHA. "CAPT Shepherd is a strong advocate for the use of the ten essential environmental health services and has been at the forefront of advancing the environmental health profession, a core value of NEHA."



(Left to right) CDR Alan Parham, USPHS; CAPT Craig A. Shepherd, CDC; Kevan Lawlor, NSF; and Nelson Fabian, NEHA Executive Director.

CAPT Shepherd has been recognized on multiple emergency response and humanitarian missions. During the hurricane season of 2004 and 2005, CAPT Shepherd served as a team leader for more than 40 environmental health and engineering officers that provided assistance to state and local health departments. CAPT Shepherd was also recently selected by Surgeon General Richard H. Carmona as the chief environmental health officer of the United States Public Health Service, where he provides advice to the Surgeon General on environmental health issues impacting the country, and oversees 360 environmental health officers stationed in numerous federal agencies nationwide. He was awarded the Surgeon General's Exemplary Service Medal for his accomplishments and leadership aboard the USNS Comfort in 2007.

"CAPT Craig Shepherd's career achievements echo the principles of Walter F. Snyder and the mission of NSF International," said Kevan P. Lawlor, president and chief executive officer of NSF International. "His humanitarian efforts in Haiti in 1982 and his emergency response to the drought in Chuuk illustrate his commitment to environmental health at home and abroad. His extended service to U.S. hurricane victims in 2004 and 2005 demonstrates the highest level of professionalism in environmental health. These are only some of the characteristics that make him an ideal recipient of this year's Walter F. Snyder Award."

For more information about the Walter F. Snyder award, visit www.nsf.org.

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- (FDA) Meeting, in which top food safety experts from every state attended to review the FDA *Food Defense Plan*. High-level FDA officials will also be present. In addition to the invitation to all 50 states, FDA also invited three nonprofit organizations to send representatives to this meeting. The seven individuals who represented NEHA at this meeting included RVP Alicia Enriquez, RVP Keith Krinn, Immediate Past President Rick Collins, Brian Collins, Jason Bashura, David Ludwig, and Michele Samarya-Timm.
- In a report about the conference that was just beginning in Tucson, Executive Director Fabian noted that NEHA expected 600 full conference registrations and 1,500 total attendees. The exhibit event that included a nice diversity of exhibitors was sold out. Fabian noted that all records for sponsorships were broken.
 - Regarding the 2009 Atlanta AEC & Exhibition, NEHA is keeping a careful eye on how the grim economic situation might affect the conference. Executive Director Fabian noted that NEHA is in good shape. It has a great reputation and staff, but it does not have limitless resources. NEHA will keep watching for opportunities for creative change. NEHA is in the midst of the 2011 conference site selection; the final cities currently under review include Chicago, Baltimore, Columbus, and Washington, DC.
 - The board reviewed and is considering NEHA support for "One Health." The idea is that the animal and human worlds are closely intertwined and we need to work closely with veterinarians to look at human diseases. The board also discussed taking positions on diversity in the environmental health workforce and the pending legislation for the Military Environmental Responsibility Act.
 - The board discussed how public NEHA should make our credentialing records. Currently, NEHA requires individual authorization before releasing records. The board approved a motion to maintain the current policy.
 - The board was very impressed with the technical chair reports and would like to continue this tradition of receiving an annual report from them.
 - The board discussed misinformation on the Internet. It was noted that there is a great deal of misinformation on the Inter-

net, which can drastically impact the profession's ability to serve the community. NEHA will continue to do proactive marketing to manage its position in a positive way. NEHA pays for advertising on Google and has found that a few focused keywords work better than many words.

- Bob Vincent, who represented NEHA on the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (U.S. EPA) Safe Water Advisory Committee, requested guidance on how to vote on an issue later this week. The proposed U.S. EPA Drinking Water Chloroform rule changes offer many benefits with insignificant compromises. Changes are in sections 3 and 4: small water systems would be allowed to reduce their frequency of chloroform samples if there are several other safeguards in place and large water systems could reduce their samples with an added layer of protection. The rule must remain protective of public health or the U.S. EPA would not support it.
- Mary Jean Brown from the National Center for Environmental Health requested a representative for the healthy homes conference, particularly around manufactured homes construction practices for a conference in the middle of October.
- President-elect Dick Pantages presented a gift to President Rob Blake and expressed appreciation for his work and for being kept in the loop this year. President Rob Blake expressed appreciation to everyone in turn.

Affiliate Presidents Council Highlights

In this meeting, NEHA affiliate leaders have the opportunity to meet and talk with their colleagues from around the country, share their concerns, successes, and challenges and also learn a little bit more about NEHA and how the association works with its affiliates.

In addition to an information exchange among affiliate presidents, Executive Director Fabian provided a briefing about the state of the association. Fabian urged affiliates to use this information to help NEHA to become more of a resource for the environmental health profession by promoting NEHA (and membership in it) to the members of their respective affiliates.

- Fabian's report began with comments about the NEHA board meeting in December 2007, in which he expressed the view that "NEHA was in a good place." Despite the development of serious economic issues in our country and funding cutbacks

for the profession, Fabian continues to believe that indeed, NEHA is in a good place.

- Executive Director Fabian reported on the organization's health from several different standpoints, which are summarized here.
 1. **From the standpoint of finances:** Per the most recent auditor's report (for the fiscal year that ended September 30, 2007), NEHA now has an overall equity of \$966,000. Last year, NEHA was able to add \$51,557 to its equity. Fabian noted that of even greater significance is the fact that NEHA accomplished these financial milestones while still offering one of the *lowest rates* for membership dues, credentialing fees, and *Journal* subscriptions from a national professional society. Though the current fiscal year looks like it could be tighter, Fabian reported that NEHA is still expecting to end the year with another small surplus.
 2. **From the standpoint of image:** NEHA spends a lot of time studying the feedback that it receives. Our customer service feedback tends to be very good and we receive a surprising number of special notes where someone takes the time to single out a staff member for exceptional work. NEHA is also seeing good responses from the evaluation tools it uses, such as the AEC & Exhibition evaluations. What is perhaps most telling is that NEHA continues to receive increasing numbers of invitations for input, comments, and participation. We take that to mean that we are viewed as a credible organization with something important to say.
 3. **From the standpoint of expressing our views (position-taking):** Over the last several years, NEHA has taken more positions on issues and has entered into more coalitions than at any time in its 72-year history! As this has been a concern of our membership (i.e., they wanted to see NEHA more active in this realm), we are particularly pleased to be able to make this report.
 4. **From the standpoint of its professional staffing:** NEHA has assembled a talented and dedicated group of professionals who really do give the extra effort on behalf of the association and especially the people that we serve. We take our hiring policies very seriously and intentionally look for people who possess not just the skill set to work



A prestigious gathering of NEHA Past Presidents converged on Tucson. From left to right: Gary Coleman, Steve Tackitt, James Balsamo, Diane Eastman, CAPT Rick Collins, Harry Grenawitzke, Ward Duel, Tony Aiken, John Barry, Ron Grimes, Leonard Rice, George Morris, and Jim Dingman.

here but also the passion that we look for in NEHA employees.

5. From the standpoint of our funding support: NEHA currently derives around a million dollars in grant-funded work. What makes this accomplishment even more noteworthy, however, is that NEHA is maintaining and expanding its grant funding at a time when federal funding dollars are becoming scarcer and the competition over what is available is becoming more intense. Yet NEHA is coming out well.

We attribute this outcome to the quality of what we are producing. As one federal project officer put it, "If we want to fund someone to study something, we will fund organization X; if we want to fund someone to do something, we will fund NEHA!"

Also, Fabian noted that these grant-funded programs help us to do more with our affiliates. Many of the educational seminars and workshops that these grants support end up being jointly held events between NEHA and various NEHA affiliates.

6. From the standpoint of our membership: NEHA's membership stands today at just a little over 4,600. It is a bit discouraging that this number has hardly budged over the last ten years. In fact, if anything, it has slightly declined. One must keep in mind, however, that our core constituency has shrunk, as funding cuts year after year have resulted in the loss of many environmental health positions. To therefore keep our membership number constant when the actual pool of people that we typically draw from keeps shrinking means that we have penetrated even more deeply into the pool that remains.

In addition, in an era of the Internet and social networking products, most associations are under assault and most are seeing their numbers drop—some precipitously. That we are holding steady is therefore not seen as a major crisis. Nonetheless, this is an area where we hope to improve. We're pleased with our membership size and morale but we do plan to do more promoting in an effort to get these numbers up.

7. From the standpoint of our technological capability: NEHA invested over \$40,000 last year to upgrade and enhance both its software and hardware, with an emphasis on retooling our Web site. (Previous to that, we spent nearly \$100,000 about two years ago to revamp and upgrade our database and financial software and hardware.) We are looking to transform our Web site into a more interactive experience for both our members and visitors. We also want to facilitate more social networking. In addition, we are looking to improve our e-commerce capabilities. And in general, this investment enables us to stay up with where association software is heading.

8. From the standpoint of the quality of what we produce: NEHA has made significant improvements in just about every mainline product or service that we offer in the past several years. Our major credentialing exams and study materials have been updated. Our *Journal of Environmental Health* has continued to improve. We have made enormous improvements to our annual conference making it more Gen X- and Gen Y-friendly. We've even made it substantially more green. We have also launched new programs in contemporary areas like e-learning and podcasts.

Our Web site has been enhanced as has our e-News.

9. From the standpoint of our governance: NEHA continues to enjoy the fruits from having an engaged, intelligent, and dedicated board of directors governing NEHA. These people generously give of their time to study the issues affecting NEHA and our profession. They also come to board meetings fully prepared to enter into discussions with the single aim of making NEHA and our ability to serve this profession better and better and better. We do not suffer from a passive board; nor do we have a board that doesn't ask the tough questions.

10. From the standpoint of our relevance: In a fast-moving world, no criteria better assesses an organization's health than its relevance. And it is here that perhaps NEHA shines the brightest. NEHA has managed to find a way to operate that enshrines relevance. We have given ourselves permission to change on the turn of a dime so that if an issue is developing that we never planned to address but it is an important one, we can change direction and take that issue on. We now operate like this as a matter of course. This is one of the major reasons for why NEHA has strategic directions but not a strategic plan.

NEHA is well aware that the whole issue of sustainability has exploded onto the scene and that environmental health has a place within this issue. Beyond efforts that NEHA has made to become more green, we have also created a special committee on sustainability. One of this committee's first actions was to develop a special award that serves to give the environmental health community a way for recognizing model sustainability efforts. That award was presented for the first time at our AEC & Exhibition in Tucson.

Finally, it should be noted that NEHA quite literally threw the template for our annual conference away. Our board, together with staff, made the determination that for the future viability and health of NEHA, we had to do much more to be relevant to younger generations. After studying the profiles of Generations X and Y and then designing an AEC & Exhibition experience with them (as well as the boomers) in mind, NEHA offered more interactive and participatory sessions this year than ever before.

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EDUCATIONAL ACTIVITIES

One hundred and seventy-seven sessions in 21 environmental health technical sections; expert speakers from local, state, and federal agencies; academia; private industry; Lecture Hall and Learning Laboratory programs, seven pre-conference workshops; credential review courses and exams; poster session; student research presentations...all this makes up the educational content of the AEC & Exhibition. As one attendee wrote in an attendee survey submitted to NEHA, "If you can only attend one educational conference a year, this one gives you the most opportunity to pick from such a wide variety of areas of interest."

This year's conference offered attendees two different types of educational programs—the Lecture Hall and the Learning Laboratory. The Lecture Hall was home to the traditional lecture sessions that attendees have come to expect from NEHA. These sessions were relevant and interesting and covered the entire spectrum of environmental health. Attendees flocked to popular sessions on topics such as the impacts of climate change on environmental health, the local environmental health challenges in planning for Super Bowl XLII, food safety systems in China, developing sustainable communities, integrating healthy homes practices, rural onsite wastewater management, controlling norovirus, indoor air quality problems in homes, leadership development, and how to work with state policy makers and the media. As one attendee stated, the highlight of the conference was "the variety of topics to choose from."

The Learning Laboratory made its debut at the 2008 conference and was home to sessions that were hands-on, interactive, and innovative. From tabletop exercises to discussion sessions to innovative presentation formats, the Learning Laboratory provided attendees with different ways to gain the education they needed. One popular session was Inspector Idol, an interactive session put on by Garrison Enterprises. Attendees were taught how to work with reporters and had to face an on-camera interview, which was evaluated by a panel of experts. Another popular session was the Pecha Kucha presentation. From Japan, this unique presentation type challenged presenters to deliver their message in a 20-slides-with-just-20-seconds-per-slide format. The audience was captivated and entertained to see if the presenters could keep up and even walked away with some helpful information and a new training tool. One attendee commented



NEHA Technical Section Chairs—the hard working and dedicated people who made up the heart of the 2008 AEC & Exhibition's educational program.

that the Learning Laboratory "encouraged team effort, critical thinking, and analysis that resulted in an increased learning experience." Another attendee put it succinctly by saying, "The Learning Laboratory provided a different and effective learning experience. I went away with some very valuable tools."

Several other organizations provided further educational sessions at the conference—the Association of Pool and Spa Professionals (APSP), the Uniformed Services Environmental Health Association (USEHA), NEHA's Sustainability Committee, NSF International, and the American Academy of Sanitarians (AAS). NEHA thanks these organizations for their contributions.

In addition to the educational sessions offered during the conference, a vast array of preconference workshops and courses were held at the AEC & Exhibition. These workshops provided attendees with in-depth and focused education in areas such as guidance on moisture and mold, plan review, and food safety training. In conjunction with the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), NEHA was pleased to bring back to this year's conference the Epi-Ready Team Training workshop. In addition, the Environmental Health Services Branch of CDC's National Center for Environmental Health sponsored three workshops—Biology and Control of Insects and Rodents, Environmental Health Training in Emergency Response Train-the-Trainer, and Environmental Public Health Performance Standards.

As in past years, review courses and exams were held for the Certified Professional of Food Safety (C.P.-F.S) and Registered Environmental Health Specialist/Registered Sanitarian (R.E.H.S./R.S.) credentials. This year, NEHA also offer exams for two of its newer credentials, the Healthy Homes Specialist (H.H.S.) and Certified Installer of Onsite Wastewater Treatment Systems (C.I.O.W.T.S.) credentials.

A special thank-you goes to the over 250 speakers, trainers, and instructors, who inspired, shared, taught, and motivated. One attendee stated that the conference was a "wonderful opportunity to 're-charge' the batteries and meet new professionals. These contacts provide the best of 'best practices'."

Educational Topics

- ambient air quality,
- children's environmental health,
- drinking water quality,
- emerging pathogens,
- environmental health leadership development,
- environmental health research,
- environmental health tracking and informatics,
- food safety and protection,
- general environmental health,
- hazardous materials and toxic substances,
- indoor air quality,
- injury prevention/occupational health,
- institutions and schools environmental health,



Attendees learn through hands-on experience how to speak to the media in the popular Learning Laboratory session, "Inspector Idol."

- onsite wastewater systems,
- solid waste,
- sustainability,
- swimming pools/recreational waters,
- terrorism and all-hazards preparedness,
- uniformed services,
- vector control and zoonotic diseases, and
- water pollution.

NEHA's Technical Section Chairs

NEHA extends a special thank-you to the 2007–2008 technical section chairs, who were instrumental in the development of the educational sessions at the AEC & Exhibition:

- Air/Land — **Terry Beebe, E.H.S., and Ron Tobler, E.H.S.;**
- Children's Environmental Health — **Don Herrington, R.S., and M.L. Tanner;**
- Drinking Water Quality/Water Pollution — **Robert Vincent, R.S., M.P.A.;**
- Emerging Pathogens/Vector Control and Zoonotic Diseases — **Mike Lester, R.S., M.P.A.;**
- Environmental Health Leadership Development — **Mel Knight, R.E.H.S., and Ken Sharp, R.E.H.S.;**
- Environmental Health Research — **R. Steven Konkel, Ph.D., A.I.C.P., F.R.I.P.H.;**
- Environmental Health Tracking and Informatics — **Greg Kearney, M.P.H., Dr.P.H., R.S.;**
- Food Safety and Protection — **George Nakamura, R.E.H.S., M.P.A., D.A.A.S.,**

and Michéle Samarya-Timm, M.A., R.E.H.S., C.H.E.S., D.A.A.S., H.O.;

- General Environmental Health — **Tracynda Davis, M.P.H., and David W. Pluymers, M.S.T.H.A., R.S.;**
- Hazardous Materials and Toxic Substances — **Priscilla Oliver, Ph.D., and Sheila Pressley, M.S., R.E.H.S.;**
- Injury Prevention/Occupational Health — **CDR Donald B. Williams, R.E.H.S., M.P.H., D.A.A.S.;**
- Institutions and Schools Environmental Health — **Terrance B. Gratton, Dr.P.H., D.A.A.S., R.S.;**
- Onsite Wastewater Systems — **Craig Gilbertson, R.S.;** and
- Terrorism and All-Hazards Preparedness — **Mike Allred, Ph.D., and Jason P. Bashura, M.P.H., R.S.**

Not Able to Attend the 2008 AEC & Exhibition?

You have several options if you could not attend the conference and need continuing education. You can purchase the conference CD online at www.neha.org. The CD contains almost 100 presentations from the conference, plus session abstracts and attendee, speaker, and exhibitor lists. Also, several sessions presented at the conference were taped and can be accessed in the near future for free, online at www.nehacert.org. Continuing education credit can be earned for viewing both products.



Anxiously waiting for the lecture and the learning to begin.



A hunger for current information on norovirus packed the room in the Lecture Hall.



Bob Custard guides attendees through an exercise on how to deal with "Pooches, Patios, Politics, and Public Health" in the Learning Laboratory.



Taking notes to refer back to — the educational sessions provided attendees with a wealth of useful information.

EXHIBITION



NEHA's Christine Hollenbeck demonstrates the food safety program at NEHA's Entrepreneurial Zone exhibition booth.



Mel Knight (left) gets a luggage tag from Jim Dingman (right) at UL's exhibition booth with President Rob Blake looking on. The exhibitors had a wealth of information, products and helpful give-aways to pass on to attendees.

On the evening of Sunday, June 22, the Exhibition & Grand Opening Party opened to a flood of attendees anxious to visit with exhibitors about products, services, and solutions for their environmental health needs. The 2008 exhibition featured nearly 100 exhibit booths with companies and organizations from industries including food safety and protection, onsite wastewater, children's environmental health, indoor air quality, government and more! In addition to our returning exhibitors, many new organizations exhibited for the first time, including representatives from the professional piercing and body art arena.

From TV interviews to jumping around for dollar bills in a plastic tube to gathering information and setting up future partnerships, attendees had plenty of opportunities to do business and to have some fun too!

Attendees responding to the conference survey shared some thoughts about the exhibition:

- *There was an excellent assortment of exhibitors with a diversity of specialties.*
- *[Exhibitors] are helpful and often introduce unique solutions to existing problems.*
- *Great exhibition that allows you to view multiple products and network with companies and peers.*
- *[The exhibition] allows an individual to view new products and resources that could provide value in dealing with daily tasks.*

The tradition of door-prize drawings continued with the support of several



Jamaica Wilson (left) and Maria Mayes (right) of Decade Software present a scholarship check to Victor Baldovinos, Director, South Padre Island Health Department, South Padre, Texas.

door-prize sponsors (see sponsor listing). Giveaways included a 22-inch high-definition television, a GPS device, and his and hers Tommy Bahama watches (the perfect giveaway to keep in line with the "resort wear" dress code for the conference).

In the spirit of the Learning Laboratory, this year the Exhibitor Education Forum (EEF) was offered for the first time. The EEF is where exhibitors became educators, and the roundtable format facilitated a more intimate exchange of information between exhibitors and attendees. Open dialogue allowed attendees and exhibi-

tors to address questions, concerns, and issues and to share experiences and knowledge. Exhibitors were able to demonstrate how they can be partners and provide full-service solutions, beyond products and services, to help environmental health departments do what they need to do. Additionally, one exhibitor was able to use the session to get feedback on a proposed new product for the swimming pool industry. Attendees provided input as to how this product may provide value when they inspect pools for compliance with the new safety act.



Bidding is up! Attendees wait to hear if they won any of the fabulous items available in the Silent Auction.



Bidding on the popular Wyoming EHA "You Know You Are a Health Inspector When..." T-shirt.



Vincent Radke, CDC, inspects a poster presentation in the Exhibition on Monday morning.



(Left to right) Decade Scholarship Jury President-elect Dick Pantages, Kim Clapper, JEH Content Editor, and Maria Mayes, Decade Software, present a scholarship check to Carey Panier, Bureau and Putnam County Health Department, Princeton, IL.



Exhibition Grand Prize Winner of an HD TV — LT Lawrence A. Sproul.

Silent Auction

One of the most popular events at the exhibition is the silent auction. This year was no different! A truly diverse collection of just under 100 items made their way to the tables via mail or hand delivery by our very generous NEHA members, affiliates, exhibitors, and sponsors.

A sampling of the items that loaded the tables included

- regional gift baskets,
- wine,
- sports and university memorabilia,
- amazing jewelry, including a Swarovski crystal necklace,
- collector's coins,
- NEHA apparel,
- a United States flag,
- gift certificates,
- original artwork, and
- Native American rugs and pottery.

Some of the fun items included

- an Orkin Man Bobblehead,
- a fireman potholder,
- Jelly Bellies, and
- a real crowd pleaser: the "You Know When You Are a Health Inspector" T-shirt (thanks Wyoming!).

Favorite high ticket items included

- a Garmin GPS (a big thanks to the Arizona affiliate),
- a conference registration package for the 2009 NEHA AEC & Exhibition in Atlanta,
- a 2010 IFEH World Congress certificate, and
- a 2008 CIPHI Conference Registration.

NEHA thanks our generous donors and attendees; the auction raised around \$3,500. Next year we have some exciting ideas in the works for the auction—so stay tuned.



Past NEHA President Ron Grimes and Stan Hazan share useful information with attendees in NSF's booth.



Attendees were able to stop by the MindLeaders booth to learn more about their exciting new partnership with NEHA.

EXHIBITORS

Advanced Drainage Systems

www.ads-pipe.com

Alexeter Technologies

www.alexeter.com

American Academy of Sanitarians

www.sanitarians.org

Association of Environmental Health Academic Programs

www.aehap.org

Association of Professional Piercers

www.safepiercing.org

Association of Schools of Public Health

www.asph.org

Ayres Associates

www.ayresassociates.com

BeeSafe Systems

www.beesafesystems.com

Bio-Microbics Inc

www.biomicrobics.com

Bord na Móna

www.bnm-us.com

Cartable Solutions Industries

www.portablesinkcarts.com

ChemWatch NA

www.chemwatchna.com

Clearstream Wastewater Systems

www.clearstreamsystems.com

Columbia Southern University

www.columbiasouthern.edu

Cool Tube, Inc

www.cooltube.com

Cooper-Atkins Corp

www.cooper-atkins.com

CSA International

www.csa-international.org

Custom Data Processing

www.cdpehs.com

Decade Software

www.envisionconnect.com

Drain-Net

www.drain-net.com

East Carolina University

www.ecu.edu

Ecolab

www.ecolab.com

Eljen Corporation

www.eljen.com

Environmental Health Testing

www.nrfsp.com

Environmental Public Health Tracking**EPA, Indoor Environment Division**

www.epa.gov

EPA, Memorandum of Understanding

Coalition: EPA/OWM, CIDWT, NACo, NATaT, NAWT, NEHA, NOWRA, NESc, RCAP, WEF

www.neha.org/onsite

EPA, Office of Wastewater

www.epa.gov/owm/onsite

EPA, Office of Water

www.epa.gov/ow

FDA/Center for Food Safety and Applied Nutrition

www.cfsan.fda.gov

Food Handler, Inc

www.foodhandler.com

FoodSafety.com

www.foodsafety.com

Forensic Analytical Laboratories, Inc

[foresnica.com](http://www.foresnica.com)

Garrison Enterprises

www.garrisonenterprises.com

Geoflow, Inc

www.geoflow.com

Glo Germ Co

www.glogerm.com

HealthSpace USA, Inc

www.healthspace.com

Hoot Systems, LLC

www.hootsystems.com

Infiltrator Systems, Inc

www.infiltratorsystems.com

Intertek

www.intertek-etlsemko.com

Jet, Inc

www.jetincorp.com

Kairak

www.kairak.com

LaMotte Company

www.lamotte.com

Mars Air Doors

www.marsair.com

Michigan Center for Public Health

Preparedness

MindLeaders

www.mindleaders.com

National Association of County & City Health Officials

www.naccho.org

National Association of Local Boards of Health

www.nalboh.org

National Center for Healthy Housing

www.centerforhealthyhousing.org

National Environmental Health Association

www.neha.org

National Environmental Services Center

www.nesc.wvu.edu

National Library of Medicine

<http://sis.nlm.nih.gov>

National Pesticide Information Center

<http://npic.orst.edu>

National Restaurant Association Solutions

www.servsafe.org

National Swimming Pool Foundation

www.nspf.org

NCEH/ATSDR

www.cdc.gov

Nemco Food Equipment

www.nemcofoodequip.com

NSF International

www.nsf.org

Orkin Commercial Services

www.orkincommercial.com

Palintest

www.palintestusa.com

Panasonic Computer Solutions Company**Paster Training**

www.pastertraining.com

Pest West Environmental

www.pestwest.com

PolyJohn Enterprises

www.polyjohn.com

Portable Sanitation Association

www.pesai.org

Premier Food Safety

www.premierfoodsafety.com

Premier Tech Environment

www.premiertech.com

Public Health Foundation Enterprises

www.phfe.org

Same Day Distributing, Inc

www.same-day.com

San Jamar

www.sanjamar.com

Sani Sink

www.sanisink.com

SneezeGuard Solutions, Inc

www.sneezeguardsolutions.com

ThermoWorks, Inc

www.thermoworks.com

Tundra Specialties

www.etundra.com

Underwriters Laboratories, Inc

www.ul.com

University of Findlay

www.seem.findlay.edu

U.S. Navy Recruiting Command

www.navy.com

U.S. Public Health Service

www.usphs.gov

U.S. Public Health Service, EHOPAC

www.ehopac.org

USDA Food Safety and Inspection Service

www.fsis.usda.gov

Vac-Alert Industries

www.vac-alert.com

Waterloo Biofilter Systems, Inc

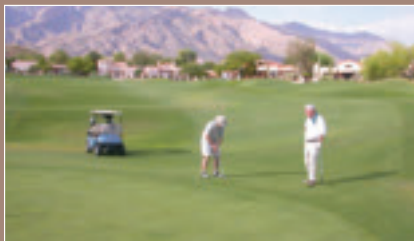
www.waterloo-biofilter.com

**NEHA AEC & EXHIBITION
ATLANTA, GEORGIA
JUNE 21–22, 2009**

To exhibit at the 2009 Atlanta AEC & Exhibition, June 21–22 (conference to be held June 21–24), please contact Jill Cruickshank at 303.756.9090, ext. 342, or at jcruickshank@neha.org.

NETWORKING and Social Events

The Tucson Golf Tournament



NEHA's 21st annual conference golf tournament was played this year at the beautiful Westin LaPoloma Country Club. *The official afternoon temperature reached 111 degrees!* Anyone who can play outdoors during the hottest part of the day (1:00 p.m.—6:00 p.m.) deserves mention, in NEHA's estimation. Our field of golfers this year included the following:

Team 1

Steve Claybrook
John Cotter
Edwin Fluette
Edwin's son

Team 2

Mark Garrison
Cameron Garrison
Chirag Bhatt

Team 3

Don Herrington
Larry Hawke
Nelson Fabian
Bill Vear

Team 4

John Barry
Pete Thornton
Steve Tackitt
Jim Balsamo

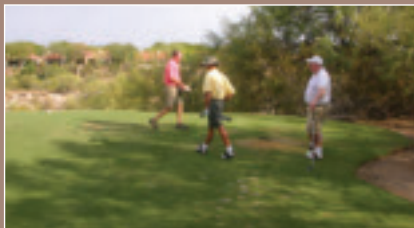
Team 5

Tony Aiken
Jeff Smith
John Steward
Steve Asay

In a best ball format, the tournament winners with an unbelievable score of 56 were Tony Aiken, Jeff Smith, John Steward, and Steve Asay. Despite the searing heat, this team racked up 13 birdies and two eagles. Suffice it to say that this team was hot — or perhaps hotter than the other hot teams!

Closest to the pin winners were Bill Vear and John Cotter.

Thanks to all for proving that nothing stops a NEHA golfer!



Cowboys and Can-Can Dancers treated the UL attendees to a great show!



No outlaw would dare ambush this stage coach while the NEHA staff is around. From left to right Kim Clapper, Jill Cruickshank, Christine Hollenbeck, Elizabeth Ostertag, Heidi Shaw, Kristen Ruby, Cindy Dimmitt, Christl Tate, Susan Jerles, Vanessa DeArman, and Genny Pfeufer.



Exclaiming over the great food (and the slightly lower temperature) at the UL Event.



Relaxing with friends at the Hilton El Conquistador before the Exhibition Grand Opening & Party.



NEHA attendees get the "red carpet" treatment as they make their way to the popular Networking Luncheon.



Swapping stories and making new friends at the Networking Luncheon.



Having fun with the relaxed conference dress code.



President-elect Dick Pantages and his wife Sandi compare notes with Gordon Coleman at the Ice Breaker Reception.



(Left to right) RVP Bette Packer, RVP Jim Dingman, Cheryl Dingman, and RVP Brian Collins share a meal at the UL Event.



Golfers: The Garrison Team.



The marketing of EH in motion — California EHA president Tracey Ford and Nelson Fabian showcase the official car of the Riverside County Department of Environmental Health.

NEHA 2008 AEC & EXHIBITION

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Final Comment

Executive Director Fabian noted that this report sounded very upbeat and positive and that it doesn't dwell much on the challenges that NEHA faces. He related that the last thing that NEHA wants to do is to settle and to become complacent. As for the challenges, some clouds are indeed on the horizon.

The reduction in bioterrorism and pandemic flu dollars, the impact of the housing crisis on tax revenues, the soaring climb in the price of oil, and the rise in travel costs that have followed have implications for future conferences. One impact is that many second-tier cities are losing flights as airlines focus on their most profitable routes. Already the NEHA board has taken this trend into account as they directed the staff to focus on the larger cities for our 2011 conference. Fabian reported that NEHA wants to be assured that the host city has adequate airlift and the most reasonable airfares possible. NEHA may see a downturn in attendance, however, because many in environmental health will find that the cost of travel to our annual conference isn't in their budgets.

There are no easy answers for either the customer or for NEHA to the economic challenges which affect advertising revenues, exhibit sales, sponsorships, continuing education, and other purchases.

Executive Director Fabian also commented on the challenges to the fundamental viability of the association industry. Between the inexpensive, if not free, information that is now available on the Internet and the new forms of community building that are now available through popular social networking products, the very relevance of associations is being questioned in many quarters.

NEHA believes that these challenges can be overcome but not by maintaining the status quo, which is one of the reasons why NEHA was driven to make major changes in its 2008 AEC & Exhibition. In addition to changing the conference and to planned changes that NEHA wants to make to its other mainline program—the *Journal of Environmental Health*—Fabian commented on some rather creative and unorthodox steps NEHA is taking to remain relevant for the many people it serves. The most interesting and unusual of the changes NEHA has made has been the creation of what is called the Entrepreneurial Zone, or "EZ" for short. With this program, NEHA can experiment with new programs

that we believe both fit our mission and serve the needs of the EH professional. It explores business opportunities that have the potential for becoming profitable programs for the association, such as an online learning product for food safety trainers and consulting services to local EH programs.

By devoting some resources to experimentation, NEHA is hopeful that it can stay ahead of the curve by building and offering relevant products and services to the EH professional even as the world drastically changes around us and even redefines what an association is.

In sum, Executive Director Fabian reported

- NEHA is doing well and is being built to do well into the future,
- serious challenges appear to be looming in front of us, but
- NEHA is trying to understand these challenges and is working to find ways around them.

General Assembly

Outgoing President Rob Blake explained the threefold purpose of the meeting: to give NEHA members the opportunity to ask questions of the president and board, to hear firsthand about what is going on within your association, and to express your opinions and concerns directly to the president and the board.

President Blake began with a report that addressed NEHA's strategic priorities over the past year, in four broad categories: training and education, credentialing, advocacy, and NEHA organizational capacity:

Training and Education Activities

- NEHA expanded the NEHA-CERT program. Through this program NEHA is now able to offer more education via the web. NEHA has also opened up new programs that enable it to directly address current events in the field of environmental health. These programs include podcasts, blogs, and Radio NEHA.
- NEHA has also radically transformed its Annual Educational Conference & Exhibition this year to be more interactive and appealing to younger professionals. Blake reported that this conference was also the greenest conference that NEHA has ever been able to put on, using recycled materials for the conference lanyards and bags and holding the conference at hotels with green policies.

Credentialing

- NEHA has been working on developing online courses for R.E.H.S./R.S. and for

C.P.-F.S. credentials. Along with expanding the course catalog, NEHA has been working to increase the number of states that have reciprocal agreements for NEHA's R.E.H.S./R.S. credential.

- Given the importance of developing the professional workforce in the field of environmental health, the NEHA board has also been working to include credentialing as a part of discussions of accreditation and the environmental health performance standards.
- The other major credentialing activity addressed by NEHA during the past year has been the development and implementation of a new credential for healthy homes inspectors.

Advocacy Activities

- NEHA has been active in building and maintaining partnerships with many professional entities from both the public and the private sectors. The association has begun making a major effort to market environmental health as a profession to students, politicians, and the public. CDC, U.S. EPA, and ATSDR are also regularly featured in the *Journal of Environmental Health* as NEHA advocates for its goals within the field of public health.
- As a result of the partnerships NEHA has developed during the past year, NEHA has become more involved in issues of professional concern and has taken positions on many of them.

Organizational Capacity

President Blake reported that the past year has been very busy and that he has been privileged to serve as the NEHA president as the association has continued to expand its product line. NEHA has opened up a revolutionary program called the Entrepreneurial Zone that gives NEHA an institutional capability to conceptualize and pursue innovative new projects. NEHA has also developed a new association award, the Sustainability Award, which was presented for the first time during Sunday's awards session at the Tucson conference.

Elections

Mr. Blake explained that NEHA's articles of incorporation and bylaws allow for two ways that a member may be nominated for a NEHA office. A member may express interest in being nominated prior to the Annual Educational Conference & Exhibition by submitting the proper paperwork, or a member may be



Past President Pete "Carnac the Magnificent" Thornton roasting Nelson Fabian at his 25th Anniversary with NEHA celebration.



Nelson Fabian explains the new conference dress code to attendees.



Panel members of the Keynote Session: Michelle Chuk, David Ludwig, Scott Holmes, Dr. Stan Meiburg, Justin Malan, and Dr. Lisa Conti.

nominated from the floor at the General Assembly meeting. Blake invited any member who had filled out the proper paperwork to make a nomination. No nominations were made, however. The floor nomination process supplements the regular nomination process, which officially cleared one candidate to run in next year's election. The candidate running for second vice president is Brian Collins, environmental health director, in Plano, Texas.

Government Affairs and External Liaison Program

Larry Marcum, manager, Government Affairs, gave the attendees an update on NEHA's activities in this area.

NEHA endorsed the *Tobacco Control Act*, which at the time of the conference had passed the House or Representatives. Marcum explained that this is a very significant piece of public health legislation because this legislation authorizes the strongest regulation of tobacco in U.S. history. Additionally, it gives FDA authority to regulate the manufacturing and distribution of tobacco products. For example, it creates additional programs to target youth to discourage tobacco use and gives FDA additional authority to prevent sales to individuals under 18. It also gives FDA the right to set nicotine levels (even to set them at zero) and requires FDA approval of any new tobacco brand or product. The Senate is expected to pass the legislation. The White House has announced that Bush will veto the bill, but there is enough support to take up the bill in the new congress, where passage is expected along with approval by the new administration.

NEHA is continuing its support for passage of three significant public health bills before congress. They are as follows:

- *Coordinated Environmental Public Health Network Act*, a bill that will create a tracking network that will ultimately link environmental exposure data with community

health data and eventually with individual health outcomes;

- *Public Health Preparedness Workforce Development Act*, legislation that will provide both student loan (with loan forgiveness for working in under-served communities) and scholarship funds for students entering studies in public health (which includes environmental health); and
- *Healthy Communities Act*, legislation that requires for any federally funded project the development of a "public health impact statement," which includes specifically environmental health impact before the project may be completed.

NEHA is also monitoring policy position papers and proposed legislation in the area of environmental and health impacts of nanotechnology.

Marcum closed his report with comments on NEHA's support (along with 115 other NGOs) of the platform document *Vision for a Healthier America*. This is a strategy document that stresses the need for prevention and preparedness as key means of achieving the Healthy Places goals identified by CDC. It also establishes a blueprint to improve the capacity of local and state health departments to respond the community needs in the area of public and environmental health.

Conclusion

A thank-you goes to all of the 2008 AEC & Exhibition attendees—including speakers, exhibitors, and volunteers—for their dedication and commitment to the environmental and public health professions. We hope to see you next year at NEHA's AEC & Exhibition in Atlanta, Georgia, June 21–24, where, once again, your eyes will be opened and your soul recharged. As one attendee commented, "The highlights for me were meeting others in the field of EH, learning from them and sharing info about our respective programs." 🐾



M.L. Tanner, South Carolina, winner of the Sabbatical Exchange Award listens intently to the Keynote's important message.



Dion Lerman shares his IPM knowledge with an attendee in the Learning Laboratory's Speed Education session.



"Honestly, sheriff, you've got the wrong man!" President Rob Blake tries to break for it to get to the Opening Session.

NEHA 2008 AEC & EXHIBITION

Grants & Sponsors

NEHA received valuable financial support from the following organizations and gratefully acknowledges their contribution to the conference:

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- Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, National Center for Environmental Health
- U.S. Food and Drug Administration
- The Association of Pool and Spa Professionals
- Uniformed Services Environmental Health Association
- American Academy of Sanitarians

did you know

You can find Web resources for "Environmental Health Marketing to Community and Students" on the American Academy of Sanitarians Web page. Visit, www.sanitarians.org/resources-ehm.htm for additional information.

Coming soon, there will be an "Environmental Health Marketing" resources page at NEHA.org.