



AEC...Customize Your Learning Experience

Blue skies, pristine beaches, and a gentle Mediterranean climate describe the backdrop for the 76th NEHA Annual Educational Conference (AEC) & Exhibition in San Diego, California! The 2012 AEC took place June 28–30. It was confirmed that attendees enjoyed San Diego as a conference destination when at the President's Banquet, NEHA's Executive Director Nelson Fabian mentioned that he had been told over and over that all NEHA AECs should be held in San Diego, and the crowd roared with applause!

But it wasn't only the destination of San Diego that drew approximately 1,100 attendees—an increase from the prior year—it was also the draw of all the training and educational sessions, opportunities to network, and the motivational and inspirational teachings from keynote speaker and senior futurist, Thomas Frey. (Check out Frey's regular *Journal* column on page 46 to get an idea of the intriguing and thought-provoking nature of his keynote address). The different facets of the conference—training, education, networking, policy involvement, advancement, and motivation and inspiration—enabled attendees to customize their own learning experiences. From the multitude of environmental health topics to the different learning environments of the Lectures and Learning Labs to the option to attend in-person or virtually, the 2012 AEC offered a fresh, progressive, and modern approach to training and education.

Over a year of planning goes into each AEC. This year's planning committee continued to build upon the multifaceted structure of the event, building upon prior successes and evolving to continue to meet the needs of the environmental health professionals in attendance. The AEC is truly one of NEHA's crowning programs that supports and fur-



thers NEHA's mission to advance the environmental health and protection profession for the purpose of providing a healthful environment for all.

The following pages provide a summary of the different facets that made up this year's

extraordinary AEC. While text and photos fail to fully represent the amazing atmosphere and broad scope of the AEC, they do highlight just how much goes on, how energized people feel, and how special this event is to NEHA and to those in attendance.

Greening of the AEC

2nd Annual Volunteer Community Event



For a second year, NEHA organized a community volunteer event at the 2012 AEC to support NEHA's sustainable efforts, reduce its carbon footprint, and give back to the AEC host city. Seventeen participants worked with Park Ranger Carole to clear 80 yards of brush in San Diego's beautiful and historic Balboa Park that will be reused as mulch. Volunteers got to enjoy the outdoors, great camaraderie with their fellow NEHA volunteers, and giving back to the community. Ralph's Supermarket donated \$25 in gift certificates and all volunteers received a NEHA water bottle. Upholding the principles of sustainability, volunteers also walked, rode the bus, took the trolley, or carpooled with a hybrid car to and from the event. Thank you to all of the volunteers for their hard work! Below is a list of volunteers.

Darryl Booth	Jenny Murphy
Sara Brown	Elisabeth Otto
Siân Buckley	Briana Overman
Carol Dellapenna	Elaine Overman
Sara Griffith	Stephanie Peugh
Margo Jones	Joyce Tuttle
Liz Kavanah	Ken Walters
Tony Lewis	Suzi Youssef

Green Initiatives at the AEC

NEHA continues to improve its efforts in greening the AEC:

- All items from the conference recycled at the hotel were weighed and NEHA **recycled over 211 pounds**. NEHA will use this information to improve its sustainability efforts in the future.
- Online registration and e-mail communications with attendees increased.
- A \$10 surcharge was automatically assessed on hard copy registrations and was donated to TerraPass (www.terra-pass.com) to offset the carbon emissions that resulted from paper waste. Also, attendees were encouraged to donate to TerraPass.
- A volunteer community event was held to offset the event's carbon footprint.
- Eco-friendly name badge ribbons were used.
- Staff and volunteers involved in the on-site registration desk were made aware of environmental policies.
- The number of hard-copy brochures sent to potential attendees was reduced by implementing an online promotional strategy, which helped cut waste produced by printing and mailing hard copies.
- The production of the conference CD was eliminated by offering these resources through the Virtual AEC instead.
- Program guides were printed locally to reduce shipping and handling.
- The "greening" of the exhibit hall was improved by creating awareness and providing training to exhibitors about ways they can help reduce waste of many forms.
- The number of cars rented by conference attendees was reduced by promoting the various alternative transportation modes offered by the City of San Diego.

- Leftover food was donated to a local charitable food distributor and to the hotel employee cafeteria.
- Food waste was composted.
- A percentage of food was prepared for all meals as vegetarian or vegan.
- Condiments were served in bulk containers whenever possible.
- Car rental companies that have green initiatives in place and opportunities for attendees to purchase carbon offsets were recommended.
- Airlines that have green initiatives in place and opportunities for attendees to purchase carbon offsets were recommended.

Host Hotel Green Initiatives

- Received the San Diego Excellence in Energy Award from the Center for Sustainable Energy.
- Certified by the Clean Marinas California Program.
- Uses energy efficient lights throughout the facility.
- Uses low-flow water fixtures.
- Purchases local food whenever possible.
- Adheres to a comprehensive recycling program.
- Provides all meeting rooms with filter water coolers.
- Composts leftover food.
- Purchases 100% recycled and biodegradable carryout bags, cups, and lids.
- Adjusts thermostats and turns of lights in vacant rooms.



National Environmental Health Association (NEHA) Annual Educational Conference (AEC) & Exhibition

Save the Dates Washington, DC ♦ July 9–11, 2013

Start planning your attendance to the NEHA AEC.

For preliminary information and pricing visit neha2013aec.org.

TRAINING *and* EDUCATION

The educational lineup at this year's AEC was outstanding in terms of both quantity and quality. Quantity-wise, 137 educational sessions covering 18 different areas of environmental health, three credential courses and exams, four preconference workshops, two poster sessions, and two off-site field trips were offered. Quality-wise, cutting-edge infrastructure including the Virtual AEC, incorporating return on investment (ROI) principles, and new educational tracks were integrated into the overall structure of the conference. With so much information packed into three days, as one attendee stated, "Society is ever changing and this conference provides so many new ways to combat the challenges those changes present to the environmental health field." Another attendee stated, "This conference and exhibition provide a great opportunity to learn new skills and enhance existing skills to improve environmental health services within the community."

NEHA's AEC again implemented ROI principles into the education and training structure. ROI principles work to ensure that attendees can return to their workplaces with the ability to more than pay for their trip to the conference by using what they learned at the event. NEHA's AEC planning committee identified objectives that the 2012 conference aimed to meet. Examples of these objectives included providing education and training that are relevant to attendees' jobs and ensuring attendees met at least five new colleagues in environmental health to contact for professional suggestions or sharing of best practices. For a complete listing of all the ROI objectives the 2012 AEC was designed to meet, please visit www.neha2012aec.org/roi.html.

The Lecture and more interactive Learning Lab sessions constituted the main structure of educational activities at the conference again this year. Outstanding speakers from a vast array of disciplines in environmental health presented on pertinent emerging topics. In the Lecture sessions, presentations on the Food Safety Modernization Act, all-hazards preparedness, and the keynote presentation drew large numbers of attendees. Likewise, the raw milk presentation, body art, and drop-in Learning Lab sessions also proved quite popular. One attendee wrote, "Working at a small health department, I have always attended conferences at the state level. These conferences always prove to be dull and



An expert panel provided a lively discussion on the programs and tools being created to help respond to food safety disasters.

not very insightful. This cannot be said about the NEHA conference. Every presentation I attended was very informative and entertaining. By far the best conference I have attended. Very nice selection of presenters." Another attendee stated that hearing "...a mother talk about why she gave her son raw milk, listening to her talk about her experience, and what happened as his disease progressed empowered me to become more vocal in my state about the real dangers of raw milk." In addition, by using roundtable discussions and hands-on activities in the Learning Lab sessions, attendees gained practical hands-on experience that can be used in their daily work.

The four preconference workshops equipped attendees with valuable training in guidance on NSF plan review, commercial ventilation, food-borne illness response strategies, and emergency response. Some of NEHA's well-reputed credentialing courses and exams, including the Certified Professional of Food Safety (CP-FS) and Registered Environmental Health Specialist/Registered Sanitarian (REHS/RS), were also offered.

Other organizations that worked synergistically with NEHA to produce stellar educational content for the conference include the Association of Environmental Health Academic Programs, the Association of Pool and Spa Professionals, NSF International, the State Onsite Regulators Association, the California Onsite Wastewater Association, and the Uniformed Services Environmental Health Association.

Environmental Health Topics Covered

- Children's environmental health;
- emerging environmental health issues;



Session rooms were packed with attentive attendees eager to learn from the 137 educational sessions offered at the AEC.

- environmental health impact assessments;
- food protection and defense;
- general environmental health;
- hazardous materials and toxic substances;
- healthy homes and communities;
- informatics, leadership, and management;
- injury prevention and occupational health;
- international environmental health;
- onsite wastewater systems;
- pathogens and outbreaks;
- recreational waters;
- sustainability and climate change;
- technology and environmental health;
- terrorism and all-hazards preparedness;
- uniformed services;
- vector control and zoonotic diseases; and
- water quality.

NEHA's Technical Advisors

- Ambient Air—Scott Holmes, REHS/RS;
- Children's Environmental Health—M.L. Tanner, HHS;
- Disaster/Emergency Response—Vince Radke, MPH, REHS, CP-FS, DAAS;
- Drinking Water—Robert Warner, CP-FS;
- Emerging Pathogens—Lois Maisel, RN, CP-FS;
- Environmental Justice—Sheila D. Pressley, PhD, REHS/RS;
- Food (including Safety and Defense)—John A. Marcello, REHS, CP-FS;
- General—Eric Pessell, REHS;
- Hazardous Materials/Toxic Substances—Priscilla Oliver, PhD;
- Healthy Homes and Healthy Communities—Sandra Whitehead, MPA;
- Indoor Air—Thomas H. Hatfield, DrPH, REHS, DAAS;

- Injury Prevention—CDR Donald B. Williams, REHS, MPH, DAAS;
- Institutions/Schools—Angelo Bellomo, REHS;
- International—Sylvanus Thompson, PhD, CPHI (Canada);
- Land Use Planning/Design—Steve Konkell, PhD;
- Legal—Bill Marler, JD;
- Management Policy (including Leadership)—Val F. Siebal, REHS/RS, NMT;
- Meteorology/Weather/Global Climate Change—James Speckhart, MS;
- Occupational Health/Safety—Donald Gary Brown, DrPH, CIH, RS;
- Pools/Spas—Colleen Maitoza, REHS;
- Radiation/Radon—R. William Field, PhD, MS;
- Recreational Environmental Health—Tracynda Davis, MPH;
- Risk Assessment—Sharron LaFollette, PhD;
- Sustainability—Tom R. Gonzales, MPH, REHS, and Mark McMillan, MS;
- Technology (including Computers, Software, GIS, and Management Applications)—Darryl Booth, MBA;
- Terrorism/All-Hazards Preparedness—Louis Dooley, RS, MS-EH;
- Vector Control—Zia Siddiqi, PhD;
- Wastewater—Craig Gilbertson, RS;
- Water Pollution Control/Water Quality—Sharon Smith, RS; and
- Workforce Development—Ron de Burger, CPH, CPHI (Canada).



Virtual AEC

NEHA was pleased to again offer the Virtual AEC to attendees and to those who were not able to make it to the AEC in San Diego. With current budget cuts and demanding workloads NEHA understands that it is difficult for some environmental health professionals to get the approval and support to attend events like the AEC. The Virtual AEC provided those individuals with the opportunity to share in the AEC experience right from their office or home desks.

Over 30 educational sessions were recorded live during the AEC in San Diego and virtual attendees were able to view the sessions as they happened and ask questions of the speakers almost as if they were sitting right there in the rooms. Additionally, virtual attendees were able to connect with AEC attendees, speakers, and exhibitors through networking tools available in the Virtual AEC. The Virtual AEC also provided attendees with access to speaker handouts and other materials and the opportunity to earn continuing education credits.

The Virtual AEC was available to those who attended the conference in San Diego—free of charge—as a valuable part of their registration package. Before even getting to San Diego, attendees were able to build their own schedules of training, networking, and advancement opportunities to take advantage of while at the AEC. The Virtual AEC also offered attendees greater flexibility to attend more sessions (and learn more) by being able to access the recorded sessions after the conference at their own convenience. Plus, attendees can go back and continue to review recorded sessions as many times as they would like for a year!

Although the 2012 AEC has ended in San Diego, the Virtual AEC continues to provide access to valuable educational content and networking opportunities. If you were not able to attend in San Diego and have not done so yet, you too can have access to these items by registering for the Virtual AEC. Visit neha2012aec.org to **register today!**

Grants, Partners, and Sponsors

Grants

- » U.S. Food and Drug Administration

Partners

- » Centers for Disease Control and Prevention
- » U.S. Food and Drug Administration
- » The Association of Pool and Spa Professionals
- » Uniformed Services Environmental Health Association
- » State Onsite Regulators Alliance and Captains of Industry
- » California Onsite Wastewater Association

Sponsors

Tier I

- » UL

Tier II

- » Decade Software Company, LLC
- » MindLeaders
- » NSF International
- » Prometric

Tier III

- » American Public University
- » National Restaurant Association

Tier IV

- » U.S. Food and Drug Administration Food Defense Oversight Team
- » Orkin

Tier V

- » HealthSpace USA, Inc.
- » Living Machine Systems
- » Mycometer, Inc.
- » San Jamar
- » Sweeps Software, Inc.

Honorable Mention

- » American Academy of Sanitarians
- » Center for Environmental Research & Technology, Inc.

POLICY INVOLVEMENT

Board of Directors Meeting Highlights

NEHA's board of directors meets four times a year. One meeting is always held at the AEC. Highlights from this year's board meeting include the following.

1. Executive Director Nelson Fabian explained the process for selecting an individual to fill the now-vacant Region 8 vice president position. NEHA will mail a letter to all NEHA members of that region (Delaware; Maryland; Pennsylvania; Virginia; Washington, DC; West Virginia; and members of the U.S. armed forces residing outside the U.S.). Each NEHA member will be invited to prepare nominations material on their behalf. By the time of the board's October meeting, an appointment will be made. The term of the appointment will run through June 2015.

2. AEC guests: The AEC board meeting is the only meeting in which guests are allowed to speak to the board about various topics. This year, the board welcomed guests from the National Association of County and City Health Officials (NACCHO) and NSF.

David Dyjack from NACCHO shared with the board that while water quality is an important issue from an environmental health perspective, water *quantity* is an emerging concern. He gave the example of how the Colorado River passes through seven states and Mexico before it dries out in the Sea of Cortez. Dr. Dyjack also indicated that the key message he wished to convey on behalf of NACCHO and its executive director is that NACCHO seeks to work with NEHA on multiple projects.

Stan Hazan of NSF and Dick Rabbideau, chairman of the NSF board, addressed the NEHA board of directors. Mr. Rabbideau stated that his principal message from the perspective of his board was the desire to continue and expand the relationship that NSF has with NEHA. Mr. Hazan explained that NSF has over 1,200 employees with offices in 20 countries. He added the NSF's mission for quality public health is the primary reason why NSF is so invested in NEHA, since NEHA is a natural partner in that mission. He added that NSF continues to develop standards and



NEHA's leadership provided Town Hall Assembly attendees with a status of the association. Attendees were also able to take the floor to ask questions of or make comments to NEHA's leadership.

more in the area of food safety, which is an important aspect of NEHA's future.

3. AEC & Exhibition Topics

- a. Executive Director Fabian reported that the 2012 AEC in San Diego was the best attended AEC in four years.

- b. Executive Director Fabian indicated that the board's selection of Las Vegas for the NEHA 2014 AEC was well received in Vilnius, Lithuania, by the International Federation of Environmental Health (IFEH) members. NEHA will host the IFEH Congress at the 2014 AEC and expects over 200 attendees from around the world.

- c. Executive Director Fabian informed board members about the separate Center for Priority Based Budgeting (CPBB) conference occurring at the Omni Hotel. While a much smaller conference than the AEC, the CPBB conference focused on local government decision makers and financial planners. He added that CPBB has worked out arrangements to develop two apps that will be supported only by the CPBB's platform. He explained that the International City/County Management Association has been so impressed with CPBB that it has offered to cosponsor an event in Washington, DC, at the 2013 AEC.

4. The board reviewed the work of a subcommittee chaired by Regional Vice President (RVP) John Steward. The subcommittee collaborated to develop updated definitions of environmental health and environmental health professional. RVP Steward asked board members to submit their feedback to him and he plans to hold additional meetings with the subcommittee. RVP Steward indicated that he would

present a finalized set of definitions to the board at its October meeting for approval.

5. Report on IFEH Vilnius, Lithuania, meeting: President Mel Knight explained how impressed he was by the IFEH conference participants and the level of commitment to IFEH that was evident. Executive Director Fabian explained that the most interesting aspect of the trip was to learn how environmental health in other countries is being impacted by the global economic situation.

6. Environmental health postage stamp: Guest Ben Gale explained the process required for the U.S. Postal Service to approve a new postage stamp. The board approved a resolution supporting the development of a national campaign to petition the Citizen's Stamp Advisory Committee of the U.S. Postal Service to develop, approve, and issue a commemorative stamp honoring the environmental health profession.

7. New NEHA awards: RVP David Ludwig provided additional details on the administration of the two new NEHA awards—the Environmental Innovation Award and the Education Contribution Award—inviting additional input from board members.

Town Hall Assembly

For a second year in a row, the Town Hall Assembly was well attended. Attendees were treated to breakfast, which was generously sponsored by the National Restaurant Association. NEHA President Mel Knight called the meeting to order and David Crownover from the National Restaurant Association provided a welcome. President Knight gave a report on the status of the association over the past year, which highlighted many of the activities NEHA has been engaged in, as well as future directions. NEHA's election process and results from the 2012 election were shared. Furthermore, nominations from the floor for second vice president were opened up and no nominations were given. The only candidate for the second vice president position is current RVP David Riggs. A special presentation from Managing Director Larry Marcum was given on the status of NEHA's grants, contracts, and government affairs program. The floor was then opened up to any member comments and President Knight closed the meeting by thanking all for attending.

NETWORKING

Exhibition

The exhibition is a key event held at the AEC each year because it provides a prime networking opportunity for professionals to connect with exhibitors who can provide the products, services, and knowledge needed for environmental health professionals and their organizations to continue to improve their programs and operations. This year's exhibition provided a lively, face-to-face interaction between attendees and nearly 80 exhibitors.

Winning is always fun, and this year we had some fun door prizes to give away during the exhibition. Jason Boothe was the winner of a waterproof camcorder, perfect for sightseeing in San Diego! Adrienne Palmer was the lucky winner of the Kindle e-Reader, generously donated by Decade Software Company, LLC. And Bjorn Listerud won a fantastic TomTom navigation device. Many thanks to our door prize sponsors for their generous contributions!



One-on-one time with exhibitors gave attendees an amazing opportunity to interact and learn about relevant products and services from nearly 80 different exhibitors.



The exhibition floor was packed with attendees excited to reconnect with old friends, meet new professionals, network, and survey all each exhibitor had to offer.

Silent Auction

This year's Silent Auction was another success! Sixty-one items made their way to the tables from our very generous NEHA members, affiliates, exhibitors, and sponsors. The \$2,880 that was raised from this event will go to NEHA's 2013 AEC speaker fund.

A sampling of this year's items includes the following.

- Swarovski crystalline pen with USB memory key
- U.S. flag flown over U.S. Capitol Building
- Gift cards for Munson's Chocolates, Cabela's, Best Buy, Taste of Chicago, and Fiesta de Reyes in Old Town San Diego
- Gift baskets from Alabama, California, Hawaii, Minnesota, Missouri, New Jersey, Oklahoma, Salcor Inc., StateFoodSafety.com, and Texas
- Grand Canyon and *Ranches of Colorado* books
- *100 Years, 100 Chefs, & 100 Recipes* cookbook and a Chef John Folse autographed Louisiana seafood cookbook
- Black and white framed scenic photograph
- Salem, Massachusetts, sweatshirts
- Famous environmental health "Top Ten" t-shirt

Perhaps the most interesting items were two sets of Queen Elizabeth's Diamond Jubilee plates, book, and miniature British flag.

NEHA and NEHA staff also donated Silent Auction items. In addition to donating NEHA shirts, a 2013 AEC registration and four hotel nights in Washington, DC, were donated, which ended up being the highest bid item. NEHA staff contributed an iHome Bluetooth keyboard case for iPad 2, beaded jewelry, and the famous NEHA Inspector Spock/Sam O'Day autographed red shirt. In addition, 16 pieces of fashion jewelry were donated by NEHA during a Silent Auction fundraiser held in the Denver office in April. NEHA received several free pieces when staff purchased jewelry from a catalog—and as a bonus, NEHA's board of directors contributed to the orders. Thanks again to NEHA's board! The total amount received from the Silent Auction for the jewelry was \$485.

NEHA thanks the generous donors and attendees who helped to make this year's Silent Auction a success!



A long table displayed the amazing items ready to be won in the Silent Auction.

Silent Auction Donators

NEHA Affiliates: Alabama, Arizona, California, Colorado, Connecticut, Hawaii, Illinois, Indiana, Iowa, Louisiana, Minnesota, Missouri, National Capitol Area, Nebraska, New Jersey, Oklahoma, Texas, and Wyoming

- | | |
|-----------------------------------|---------------------|
| Brian Collins | NSF International |
| Alicia Enriquez | Terry Osner |
| Fiesta de Reyes | Salcor Inc. |
| Keith Johnson | StateFoodSafety.com |
| Roy Kroeger | John Steward |
| Sandra Long | UL |
| David Ludwig | Shelly Wallingford |
| Rick Miklich | Alan Whyman |
| NEHA board of directors and staff | Peter Wright |

Exhibitors

AbTech Industries, Inc.
www.abtechindustries.com

Advanced Drainage Systems, Inc.
www.ads-pipe.com

American Academy of Sanitarians
www.sanitarians.org

American Public University
www.studyatapu.com/NEHA

Anua
www.anua-us.com

Association of Environmental Health Academic Programs
www.aehap.org

Association of Professional Piercers
www.safepiercing.org

Atlantic Mills – ITW
www.atlanticmills.com

Bio-Microbics
www.biomicrobics.com

California Conference of Directors of Environmental Health
www.ccdeh.com

California Environmental Health Association 2013 AES
www.ceha.org

California Onsite Wastewater Association
www.cowa.org

CAMBRO
www.cambro.com

CDC NCEH/ATSDR
www.cdc.gov

CDP, Inc
www.cdpehs.com

Chicopee
www.chicopeeproducts.com

Clarke
www.clarke.com

Columbia Southern University

Cooper-Atkins Corporation
www.cooper-atkins.com

Decade Software Company, LLC
www.decadesoftware.com

DeltaTRAK
www.deltatruk.com

Department of Veteran Affairs

Dynasil Products
www.dynasilproducts.com

Eljen Corporation
www.eljen.com

Environment One Corporation
www.eone.com

FastTrackGov
www.mitchellhumphrey.com

FDA/Center for Food Safety and Applied Nutrition
www.fda.hhs.gov

First Water Systems, Inc.
www.firstwaterinc.com

F.R. Mahony & Associates, Inc.
www.frmahony.com

Garrison Enterprises, Inc.
www.garrisonenterprises.com

Glo Germ Company
www.glogerm.com

Global Food Protection Institute
www.gfpi.org

HealthSpace USA, Inc.
www.healthspace.com

iGov Data Solutions
www.igovdata.com

Intertek
www.intertek.com

Jet, Inc.
www.jetincorp.com

Lamotte Company
www.lamotte.com

Living Machine Systems
www.livingmachines.com

LongJump
www.longjump.com

MindLeaders
www.mindleaders.com

Mycometer, Inc.
www.mycometer.com

NACCHO Advanced Practice Centers
www.apc.naccho.org

National Center for Biomedical Research and Training (NCBRT)
www.ncbrt.lsu.edu

National Environmental Health Association
www.neha.org

National Everclean Services
www.evercleanservices.com

National Library of Medicine
www.nlm.nih.gov

National Pasteurized Eggs, Inc.
www.safeeggs.com

National Swimming Pool Foundation
www.nspf.org

NSF International
www.nsf.org

OnlineRME
www.onlinerme.com

Ozark River Portable Sinks
www.ozarkriver.com

Palintest
www.palintestusa.com

Paster Training, Inc.
www.pastertraining.com

PICS, Inc.
www.picsauditing.com

Presby Environmental, Inc.
www.presbyenvironmental.com

Prometric
www.prometric.com

RGF Environmental Group
www.rgfairpurification.com

RMSYS, Inc.
www.rmsyscontrols.com

Salcor, Inc.

San Jamar Chef Revival
www.sjcr.com

ServSafe
www.restaurant.org

StateFoodSafety.com™
www.StateFoodSafety.com

State Onsite Regulators Alliance and Captains of Industry®
www.nesc.wvu.edu/sora

Sure Aqua Corporation
www.sureaqua.com

Sweeps Software, Inc.
www.sweepsoftware.com

The University of Findlay
www.findlay.edu

ThermoWorks, Inc.
www.thermoworks.com

TrackAssist-Online
www.yaharasoftware.com

UL
www.ul.com

U.S. EPA, Indoor Environments

U.S. EPA, Memorandum of Understanding Coalition

U.S. EPA, Office of Wastewater Management

U.S. Navy Recruiting Command
www.navy.com

USDA Food Safety and Inspection Service
www.fsis.usda.gov

National Environmental Health Association (NEHA) Annual Educational Conference (AEC) & Exhibition

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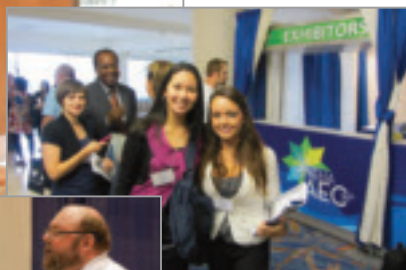
Connect with environmental health professionals needing your products and services: exhibit, sponsor, and/or advertise at the NEHA 2013 AEC & Exhibition.



NETWORKING



The President's Banquet closed the AEC with the traditional passing of NEHA's presidency from Mel Knight (left) to Brian Collins (right).



The AEC was packed with many opportunities to network with fellow attendees—be it at the Ice Breaker, Networking Luncheon, Exhibition, Student Mentoring Program, the various meetings and focus groups, or in the hotel hallways!



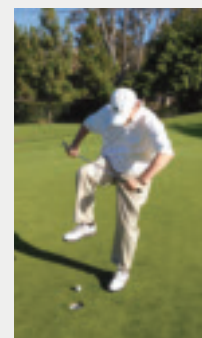
Annual UL Event



At the Annual UL Event, attendees explored a floating city at sea and relived nearly 50 years of world history aboard the longest-serving Navy aircraft carrier of the 20th century while visiting the USS Midway Museum. The event featured an enjoyable tour of the historic aircraft carrier, a delicious catered dinner on the hangar deck, and other entertaining features such as private access to the flight deck, which made for some breathtaking views of the sun setting over the ocean!



Golf Tournament Highlights



The beautiful golf course at Riverwalk Golf Club was the venue for this year's Golf Tournament. Formerly known as the Stardust Country Club, the course entertained a myriad of golf's legends while hosting the PGA tour during the '50s and '60s. Six attendees took on the challenge of this course that featured undulating fairways, waterfalls, and well-protected bent grass greens.

NEHA 2012 AEC photos by Spencer Cross, Nelson Fabian, and Roy Kroeger.

MOTIVATION *and* INSPIRATION

Keynote

NEHA's selection of the keynote speaker is always intentional. This year, NEHA sought out an individual to explore what the future world of work—and a profession like environmental health—would look like. NEHA was pleased to have Thomas Frey, Google's top-rated futurist and author of *Communicating with the Future: How Re-engineering Intentions Will Alter the Master Code of Our Future*, as the 2012 keynote speaker.

Frey devoted a great deal of his presentation to depicting what the future is likely to look like. He gave context to his presentation by focusing on the dramatic explosion of both information and technology advances. It was against this background of overwhelming amounts of information and un-understandable advances in technology that he then directed his attention to the environmental health profession. He observed that our culture has long held the belief that we each have a personal responsibility to safeguard our lives and that we do that by checking things out before we buy them, eat them, use them, etc. This perspective fits nicely into the phrase we are all familiar with—"buyer beware."

In the world of today, however, it has become quite challenging for the lay public to draw out trustworthy facts from reams of contradictory information. This has made it increasingly difficult for the average person to exercise appropriate caution and make decisions that are in one's health interests. Therefore, professions like environmental health have become increasingly important as it is now being looked to as the trusted authority for informing and even protecting people in ways that they can no longer do themselves.

Frey's message spoke quite directly to the importance of environmental health in a future that is becoming more and more characterized by excessive information and technological advances that can be both helpful and harmful.

Awards & Honors

Walter S. Mangold Award

For only the sixth time since 1956, no one received NEHA's highest honor, the Walter S. Mangold Award, as no nominations were sub-



Senior Futurist Thomas Frey engaged attendees during the keynote session with his fascinating depiction of the future and the dramatic explosion of information and technology advances.

mitted. NEHA encourages all members to consider nominating an individual who exemplifies the dedication and commitment to environmental health and the profession that is honored through this award. Nomination information can be found at neha.org/about/awardinfo.html.

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 2012, the following winners were announced.

- Jamaica—Pauline Ellington
- Louisiana—Henry Graham
- Michigan—Alan Hauck, RS
- New Jersey—Paschal Nwako
- Uniformed Services—LCDR Katie Noonan Hubbard
- Wyoming—Stephanie Styvar

A. Harry Bliss Editor's Award

Thomas H. Hatfield, DrPH, REHS, DAAS

Dr. A. Harry Bliss was editor of the *Journal of Environmental Health* 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 this annual award to outstanding writers and columnists, but the award may also go to individuals who, through other significant contributions made to the

Journal, advance the cause and interests of both the association and the profession.

This year, NEHA is delighted to announce that the 2012 recipient of the A. Harry Bliss Award is Dr. Thomas H. Hatfield. Dr. Hatfield has been a long-time contributor to the *Journal* as an author and peer reviewer. He has been named the recipient of this award before. He is again being given this honor for the dedication and hard work he has shown this past year as one of the *Journal's* newly appointed technical editors. Dr. Hatfield selflessly volunteered his time last fall to assist the *Journal* in getting through a backlog of manuscripts and continues to serve in this capacity as part of the *Journal's* technical editor team. His reviews and publication decisions are based upon his vast expertise in the field of environmental health and science and are thoughtful and well reasoned. Dr. Hatfield is a professor and chair of the Department of Environmental and Occupational Health at California State University, Northridge. Dr. Hatfield's technical editor work has ensured that quality material that is relevant, diverse in topic, and purposeful appears in the *Journal*. Dr. Hatfield is truly deserving of this award, as he is a tremendous asset to the *Journal* department.

NEHA/AAS Scholarship Awards

NEHA supports students in many ways. One way involves financial tuition support through



NEHA President Mel Knight (right) presents Bryce Larsen (left) with the prestigious Crumbine Award. Larsen accepted the award on behalf of the Salt Lake Valley Health Department.



Colleen Maitoza accepts the Dr. Neil Lowry Award from Ken Jenke on behalf of the Sacramento County Environmental Management Department.



Dr. David Gilke (far left) and CAPT Michael Herring (far right) stand with the proud winners of the Student Research Presentation awards.

a special scholarship program that is cosponsored by NEHA and the American Academy of Sanitarians (AAS). A special scholarship committee chaired by NEHA Past President Jim Balsamo manages the scholarship program. The following scholarships were presented on behalf of the committee:

- \$2,000 graduate scholarship to Ryan A. Lester from the University of Kansas
- \$1,000 undergraduate scholarship to Jessica K. Roff from Ohio University
- \$1,000 undergraduate scholarship to Heather Noelle Schmidt from Dickinson State University
- \$1,000 undergraduate scholarship to Rosalie M. Peterson from Dickinson State University

Walter F. Snyder Award

Harry E. Grenawitzke, RS, MPH, DAAS

NSF International and NEHA honored Harry E. Grenawitzke with the 2012 Walter F. Snyder Award. This 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 70, which details Mr. Grenawitzke's career and contributions to the profession.

Sabbatical Exchange Award

Dhitinut Ratnapradipa, PhD, MCHES

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 Institutes of Environmental Health, or to Canada, in cooperation with the Canadian Institute of Public Health Inspectors. Underwriters Laboratories, Inc. (UL) currently sponsors the sabbatical.

The award jury this year decided that the sabbatical award should be given to Dhitinut

Ratnapradipa, assistant professor in the Department of Health Education and Recreation at Southern Illinois University. Dr. Ratnapradipa will be conducting his sabbatical in England. He will be studying environmental health impacts of climate change, focusing specifically on risk communication. He also hopes to give a series of lectures while there.

Excellence in Sustainability Award

Now in its fifth year, the Excellence in Sustainability Award, which reflects NEHA's commitment to the promotion and practice of sustainability, is drawing an outstanding list of applicants from across the county. This year, the sustainability committee has chosen an exemplary program that "shows the way" for communities across the country.

The Atlanta Regional Commission's (ARC) Green Communities Program is the recipient of the 2012 NEHA Excellence in Sustainability Award. The ARC Green Communities Program is a technical assistance and voluntary certification program for jurisdictions in the ARC 10-county planning area. The program is intended to foster greater environmental stewardship in metro Atlanta by providing technical assistance to local governments and recognizing those communities that invest in programs leading to a more sustainable region. Since its official kickoff in 2009, 16 local governments in the region have been certified as Green Communities and are making great strides towards reducing their impact on the environment. In addition, several other state-level sustainability certification programs across the U.S. have been modeled after ARC's Green Communities program.

UL generously sponsored an award memento and a \$500 honorarium to the winners of this year's award.

Dr. Neil Lowry Memorial Award

The Dr. Neil Lowry Memorial Award honors and recognizes public health officials who

have made outstanding contributions to advance the public's healthy and safe use of recreational water. The award is given by the Association of Pool and Spa Professionals (APSP) in memory of Dr. Lowry, a long-time member of APSP, who influenced the pool and spa industry for over 25 years as a consultant to government and private industry. The award was presented to the Sacramento County Environmental Management Department. Colleen Maitoza, supervising environmental specialist, accepted the award for the department. The Sacramento County Environmental Management Department plans to use the award to provide more workshops for operators and service companies to continue reduction of major violations; create brochures and flyers to support their educational offerings; and develop and fund a survey to identify deficiencies in knowledge, and then tailor training based on results.

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, six students and their faculty mentors had the opportunity to present their research at the AEC.

Presenting the student research awards were CAPT Michael Herring of the U.S. Public Health Service/CDC/NCEH and Dr. David Gilkey from Colorado State University. Each student participant listed below received a \$500 award, a plaque, and a stipend of up to \$1,000 to cover travel and research expenses.

An Evaluative Study of Lead Exposure Sources

Thomas Powell, Undergraduate Student, West Chester University, West Chester, PA
Faculty Mentor: Dr. Charles V. Shorten, PE

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2012 Walter F. Snyder Award Recipient

Harry E. Grenawitzke, RS, MPH, DAAS

NSF International and NEHA presented the prestigious Walter F. Snyder Award to Harry E. Grenawitzke, RS, MPH, DAAS, at the 2012 AEC in San Diego. This award, given in honor of NSF International's cofounder and first executive director Walter F. Snyder, is presented annually in recognition of outstanding contributions to the advancement of environmental health.

Grenawitzke was honored for his more than 40 years of significant and lasting contributions to the fields of public and environmental health at the international, federal, state, and local levels. His expertise and commitment to environmental health led to important roles in several public health organizations, including NEHA, the Michigan Environmental Health Association (MEHA), the Canadian Institute of Public Health Inspectors, the American Academy of Sanitarians, and NSF International's Council of Public Health Consultants. His work in mentoring colleagues and developing innovative programs and standards that protect public health strengthened these organizations and led to lasting improvements in environmental health.

As an active member of NEHA and MEHA since the 1970s, Grenawitzke served as chairman of several committees and was elected president of NEHA in 1989. He was well known for his ability to develop cooperative agreements between international communities and U.S. environmental health professionals, organizing the first cooperative conferences with Canada and England.

Grenawitzke's personable and effective teaching and training skills have played a key role in his career. Starting in 1989, he became an adjunct professor at the University of Michigan School of Public Health. He also worked with university officials to develop the environmental health program at Central Michigan University.

In 1990, Grenawitzke joined public health and safety organization NSF International to manage its auditing and training programs. He served in many leadership roles at NSF, including vice president of Regulatory Affairs and Field Services, a role that truly utilized all of his passion for environmental and public health policy. He also served on the NSF International Council of Public Health Consultants, which advises NSF in the development of standards and environmental health programs.

Grenawitzke's expertise was often sought by international authorities. In 1988 and again in 1991, he joined a team of experts who viewed the

Chernobyl disaster area at the request of Russian officials. After the investigation, Grenawitzke consulted with Russian scientists regarding the environmental health impacts that resulted from the nuclear accident. In 1992–1993, he visited Mexico City to highlight the role harmonized standards could play in the North American Free Trade Agreement.

Since 2003, Grenawitzke has worked as a public health consultant and food safety trainer. He works closely with the U.S. Department of Justice to elevate standards and living conditions at U.S. correctional institutions. He also teaches courses on hazard analysis and critical control point (HACCP), safe quality food, internal auditing, and NSF/ANSI food equipment standards.

Kevan P. Lawlor, NSF International president and CEO, congratulates Grenawitzke on this well-deserved honor: "Harry Grenawitzke's career achievements reflect the principles expressed by Walter F. Snyder and the public health mission of NSF International. His work as a celebrated public health advocate, trainer, and consultant, as well as past work with local, federal, and international environmental health organizations, demonstrate his strong commitment to the promotion of public and environmental health. These accomplishments make him a very worthy recipient of the Walter F. Snyder Award."

Grenawitzke received the 2007 Davis Calvin Wagner Award from the American Academy of Sanitarians and the 2002 Walter S. Mangold Award from NEHA. With the addition of the Walter F. Snyder Award for achievement in the advancement of environmental health, he has earned the triple crown of environmental health awards.

"Harry Grenawitzke is a respected leader in both the public and private sectors of the environmental health field. He is also highly regarded and liked because he has mentored numerous environmental health professionals, helping them to realize their potential. His leadership in developing effective organizations and more responsive programs both in the field and in educational institutions has made his contributions to professional improvement enduring. Harry is an inspiring model of professionalism and for this he is deserving of the Walter F. Snyder Award," said Nelson Fabian, executive director and CEO of NEHA.

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Carbon Monoxide Exposures Associated With the Operation of Recreational Watercraft

Megan Smith, Undergraduate Student, Boise State University, Boise, ID

Faculty Mentor: Dr. Dale Stephenson

Biomethane Production From Corn Stover

Kevin Carling, Undergraduate Student, Illinois State University, Normal, IL

Faculty Mentors: Dr. Guang Jin and Dr. Tom Bierma

Measuring Occurrence of Iodinated Disinfection Byproducts (I-DBPs) in Treated Drinking Water

Nazila Shakibaei, Undergraduate Student, University of Washington, Seattle, WA

Faculty Mentor: Dr. Gretchen Onstad

Determining the Efficacy of an Emerging Water Quality Indicator

Christopher Payne Ray, Graduate Student, Eastern Kentucky University, Corbin, KY

Faculty Mentor: Dr. Gary Brown

Developmental Phytotoxicity of Silver and Zinc Oxide Nanoparticles to the Crop Plants

Lok Pokhrel, Graduate Student, East Tennessee State University, Johnson City, TN

Faculty Mentor: Dr. Phillip Scheuerman

Samuel J. Crumrine Consumer Protection Award

Salt Lake Valley Health Department, Salt Lake City, Utah

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. It is supported by the Conference for Food Protection in cooperation with the 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 National Association of County and City Health Officials; the National Restaurant Association Solutions; NEHA; NSF; and UL.

The award selection jury was impressed with Salt Lake Valley Health Department's work as a pioneer in FDA's Voluntary National Retail Food Regulatory Program Standards, its close collaboration with academia, and state-of-the-art Web site showing inspections, ratings, and the ability to compare establishments. The award-winning application can be found online at fpi.org. Bryce C. Larsen,

manager of the Bureau of Food Protection, accepted the plaque on behalf of Salt Lake Valley Health Department.

Past Presidents Award

Each year, the Past Presidents group, comprised of former NEHA presidents, identifies a hero for the profession who accomplishes much on behalf of environmental health, but who does a lot of work behind the scenes. This year, the presidents identified two, long-time NEHA members and friends who made enormous contributions to our field of practice. They were happy to publicly recognize Joe E. Beck, RS, DAAS, from Eastern Kentucky University, and CAPT Charles S. Otto, III, MPA, RS, CP-FS, from CDC's NCEH.

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 Mel Knight presented Presidential Citations to the following individuals.

- | | |
|-----------------|-----------------|
| Debbie Bankston | Martin Kalis |
| Angelo Bellomo | Diane Knight |
| Darryl Booth | Melanie Knight |
| Brian Collins | Mark McMillan |
| Bob Custard | Pam Muse |
| Nelson Fabian | Terry Osner |
| Tom Gonzales | Liz Pozzebon |
| Tom Hatfield | Vince Radke |
| Michael Herring | Henroy Scarlett |
| Scott Holmes | |

Decade Scholarship Awards

Each year, Decade Software Company gives away scholarships to environmental health professionals who might not otherwise be able to attend the AEC. This year, 56 individuals from 43 different health departments applied for 15 Decade Software scholarships. A panel of Decade Software executives along with executives and elected officials of NEHA scored the short-essay responses of the applicants. The essay provided an opportunity for applicants to express their innovative ideas for the industry. Fifteen applicants receive a \$700 scholarship. This year's scholarship winners are listed below.

- | | |
|----------------|------------------|
| Kerry Abdullah | Kelly McCoy |
| Judinea Ablang | Paschal Nwako |
| Wayne Fox | Ruchi Pancholy |
| Jillian Gibbs | Morgan Riley |
| Donald Hwang | Amber Sturdivant |
| Andrea Jordan | Marie Woodin |
| Matthew Krenz | Denise Wright |
| Teresa Lee | |

NEHA Scholarship Awards

NEHA provided 21 full conference registration scholarships to attend the AEC. These scholarships were available to NEHA members working within the field of environmental health. Besides meeting basic qualifications, applicants were asked to explain why they were in need of these scholarships, as well as how they would benefit from attending the AEC. Congratulations to the scholarship recipients listed below.

- | | |
|--------------------------|-------------------------|
| Christina Baghdikian | Misty Joy |
| Veronica Becerra | Eric Khambatta |
| Loree Boyanton | Bilal Korin |
| Eric Bradley | Valerie Lane |
| Everette Brooks, III | Leslie (Les) Miyashiro |
| Jodi Brounstein | Michelle Rhone |
| Patricia Bygrave-Johnson | Art Sheyko |
| Norbert Campbell | Antoinette Stetzenmeyer |
| Steven Hall | Christine Sylvis |
| Evelyn Hoban | Robert Uhrick |
| Kristina Holtz | |

Student AEC Travel Scholarship Fund Recipients and Donors

NEHA received donations through its Student AEC Travel Scholarship Fund to provide five students with travel stipends to attend the AEC. Over \$1,600 was donated this year to this fund. Congratulations to the recipients and thank you to all of the donors!

Scholarship Recipients

- | | |
|-----------------|-----------------|
| Iris Davies | Ruth Fran Slone |
| Iris Quinn | Allison Yee |
| Nicholas Sexton | |

Scholarship Donors

- | | |
|---------------------------------|-------------------|
| American Academy of Sanitarians | |
| American Public University | |
| Griffith's Safety Group | Valerie Lane |
| John E. Hiramoto | Robert Lynch |
| Richard Jager | Lisa C. McCormick |
| Terri Khoury | NEHA Staff |
| Mel Knight | Kristen Ruby |
| Keith L. Krinn | Robert Uhrick |



NEHA President Mel Knight (left) and Decade Software Company President Kevin Delaney (right) award an AEC attendee with one of the Decade Scholarships that afforded 15 applicants the opportunity to attend the AEC.