

NEHA NEWS

Earth Day Twitter Chat

Climate change is one of the greatest threats to global health we currently face. It harms health by decreasing the quality of the air we breathe, increasing our exposure to more frequent and intense extreme weather events, increasing extremes of precipitation including flooding and drought, expanding the geographic distribution and number of disease-carrying vectors, and exacerbating health inequities. Around the world, these impacts increase the risk of chronic and infectious diseases, harm mental health and well-being, threaten the safety and security of communities, trigger food insecurity, and place a disproportionate burden on our most vulnerable populations. These populations include children, people of color, older adults, people with disabilities, and people living in low-income and poorly resourced communities.

The Earth Day Network's theme for Earth Day 2021 is "Restore Our Earth" and focuses on local communities that are disproportionately affected by climate change. The National Environmental Health Association (NEHA) recognizes the role of environmental health in addressing racism as an environmental health issue (<https://www.neha.org/NEHA-Racism-Position-Statement>) and is committed to addressing justice, equity, diversity, and inclusion.

In promotion of Earth Day, NEHA will host a Climate Justice Twitter Chat on April 22, 2021. This event will initiate conversations about how climate impacts health and address the reality of communities being disproportionately affected by climate change. To join the conversation, visit @nehaorg on Twitter or search the #EarthDayChat hashtag.

NEHA Staff Profiles

As part of tradition, NEHA features new staff members in the *Journal* around the time of their 1-year anniversary. These profiles give you an opportunity to get to know the NEHA staff better and to learn more about the great programs and activities going on in your association. This month we are pleased to introduce you to two NEHA staff members. Contact information for all NEHA staff can be found on page 38.

**Doug Farquhar**

I am an attorney with 30 years of experience working with policy makers on environmental health issues. I direct Government Affairs at NEHA, providing guidance on federal, state, and local governmental policies to our members and funders. I also work with policy makers, sharing policies that have been adopted by the NEHA Board of Directors.

I joined NEHA in April 2020 but have been involved with NEHA for many years. I have presented on environmental health policy at many NEHA Annual Educational Conference (AEC) & Exhibitions, including those held in Anchorage, Alaska; Atlanta,

Georgia; Atlantic City, New Jersey; and Albuquerque, New Mexico—to just name the cities beginning with A. The NEHA past presidents asked about developing a government affairs program at the 2008 AEC in Tucson, Arizona.

I received my law degree from the University of Denver (DU) and undergraduate degree from the University of Texas in Austin. I am an adjunct professor in the DU Graduate School of Environmental Policy and Management and an affiliate professor at the University of Washington School of Public Health.

I received the NEHA Sabbatical in 2010, spending 3 weeks in the UK. Staying at the Mad Hatter Inn, I got to visit the many boroughs of London and meet their environmental health directors. I also golfed St. Andrews. If you ever want to read my report, I'll be glad to share that with you.

Prior to coming to NEHA, I directed the environmental health program for the National Conference of State Legislatures. I also worked in the Texas House of Representatives and for Colorado Congressman Daniel Schaefer in Washington, DC.

I've climbed every 14er (i.e., a mountain peak over 14,000 ft) in Colorado, Mt. Rainier in Washington, and many peaks in California where I climbed with staff from the San Diego Environmental Health Department. My wife and I are empty nesters. Our daughter lives in Fort Collins, Colorado, preparing for graduate school and our son does laboratory wastewater work for Full Sail Brewing Company in Hood River, Oregon.

**Jaelyn Miller**

I joined NEHA as editor/copywriter in the Entrepreneurial Zone department in April 2020, right as pandemic office closures were taking place, with the goal of giving NEHA a distinguishable, unifying voice while creating and editing content for course resources, marketing materials, and social media. I have a strategic communications degree

from Ohio State. Prior to my role at NEHA, I worked as a freelance content creator for various clients, including The DoSeum (a STEM-focused children's museum in San Antonio, Texas), *FITT Magazine*, and Salesforce. In my early career, I worked as a music journalist for *Fashion Meets Music*, a magazine out of Columbus, Ohio, for which I interviewed and profiled artists including Awolnation, Betty Who, Børns, O.A.R., and more.

I have discovered through my content management journey that I feel most fulfilled when communicating the story and voice of an organization that both aligns with my personal values and serves the common good—one that I can be proud to promote. NEHA is, indeed, such an organization. During my first year in this position, I have really enjoyed creating and editing material that has a clear purpose and application, working with enormously talented and passionate individuals, and being a part of a team that is genuinely

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dedicated to making a lasting, positive impact on the environmental health community. I hope to continue evolving with NEHA by discovering creative, impactful ways to expand our reach.

Having lived in several different cities—Charlotte, North Carolina; Youngstown and Columbus, Ohio; Austin, Texas; and now, Denver, Colorado—I have always felt the unshakable urge to explore and experience. Since moving here in October 2019,

Colorado has kept my adventurous spirit well-fed. I love just about anything outdoors (hiking, rollerblading, swimming, nature photography), and as a self-proclaimed “music consumer,” I have never turned down a concert or live music event. In fact, when COVID-19 is finally behind us, I’m fairly certain that is the first place you’ll find me. 🎧

Did You Know?

You can stay in the loop every day with NEHA’s social media. Find NEHA on

- Facebook: www.facebook.com/NEHA.org
- Twitter: <https://twitter.com/nehaorg>
- LinkedIn: www.linkedin.com/company/national-environmental-health-association

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you can connect with an employee to assist you whether they are in the office or not.

Execution: We strive to provide our members what they need when they need it. We were challenged by COVID-19 to produce training materials and remote learning in Spanish. It is what our Puerto Rican colleagues needed, and as I type these words, those products are almost ready for prime time. We have streamlined and modernized our accounting systems and share our audited financial statements so that membership can trust that the resources they and other sponsors entrust to us are professionally and ethically managed.

This train of thought now brings me full circle to Istanbul.

One sunny day we purchased a sightseeing boat tour that brought us from the Eminonu Pier in Kadıköy to Anadolu Kavağı, a small fishing village at the northern edge of the Bosphorus. We slowly and methodically hiked up the steep incline to ruins at the top of the hill that provided a panoramic view of the Baltic and surrounding area. I was mesmerized. History. Politics. Religion. Global commerce. The focal points of humanity seemed to amalgamate before my eyes, united by a simple waterway blessed by deep waters. The ties that bind.

The way our organization lives by its values bind us beyond a credentialing arrangement,



Homes along the Bosphorus. Photo courtesy of David Dyjack.

a membership benefit, or mission statement. What we do and how we conduct ourselves in honoring you and our profession reveal our true corporate self. The forces that would deliberately or incidentally serve to cleave us from our values are abundant and often seductively present themselves masquerading as opportunity, a new partnership, or access to influence.

The image of the many homes constructed along the Bosphorus directly on the shores of the strait reveal an inordinate amount of trust the occupants have in their instincts

and knowledge of the tides, storms, and other natural events that might otherwise undermine their foundations. That trust must have been built over centuries of experience and observation. We aim to build the same trust with you as you observe our values in action. We aim to be the professional warmth of the sun during the coldest of winter days. 🐻

Dave

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