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October 2010 e-News

From the NOWRA Marketing Committee - *Thank you to all who contributed stories and ideas. This member communication belongs to each of us, so keep the news and ideas coming.*

People Caring About Water

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Help NOWRA spread the word!

*If you know of anyone not receiving the NOWRA e-News,
please forward this on and have them request to join our mailing list.*

Notes from NOWRA HQ

- **We hope you are planning to join us in St. Louis for our upcoming NOWRA's 2010 Annual Conference** (see next news item), but if you are not, please be aware that the NOWRA offices will be closed the week of October 25-29 during the conference. If you need to reach NOWRA for something urgent, please call Executive Director Eric Casey at 571-242-2571.
- **NOWRA was well-represented at the WEFTEC Conference in New Orleans.** President Tom Groves presented at one of the technical sessions, Vice President Dick Otis moderated a technical session and Eric Casey staffed the exhibit booth, which was part of the EPA MOU Group's 'Wastewater Alley' section in the exhibit hall. In addition, Business Benefit Program partners

NOWRA's Septic Local
connect you with a was
professional in your area
membership list

2010 GOLD BUSINESS I MEMBERS:

Bio-Microbics, Inc.
913-422-0707
<http://www.biomicrobics.com>

Bord na Mona
336-547-9338
<http://www.bnm-us.com>

Infiltrator Systems, Inc.
860-577-7106
<http://www.infiltratorsystem.com>

Onsite Installer
800-994-7990
<http://www.onsiteinstaller.com>

Bio-Microbics, Bord na Mona, Advanced Drainage Systems, Geoflow, Waterloo Biofilter, Delta Environmental, SJE Rhombus, and Xerxes Corp. all had booth space in the massive trade show hall.

- **NOWRA Secretary Treasurer Greg Graves represented the association at the VOWRA Annual Conference**, which was held during the first week of October. Thanks to all the great people at VOWRA for the hospitality and for making Greg feel so welcome.
- **Eric Casey presented the keynote address at the DOWRA Annual Conference**, which was held last week. DOWRA President Jim Williams said he believed that more than 250 people participated in the conference. Many thanks for the opportunity to update members on what NOWRA has been doing on their behalf.

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There is still time to register for the 2010 NOWRA Annual Conference, October 25-28!

If you're still considering attending [NOWRA's 2010 Annual Conference](#) at the Millennium Hotel in St. Louis, please know that you can register at the conference. In fact, to ensure that you have the opportunity to take advantage of the excellent educational program, you can register at the early bird rate at the conference!

The theme of this year's conference, "*Surface Discharge: Challenges and Solutions*," is a particularly acute issue in many of the Midwestern states that are within a day's drive of this conference. You will learn how EPA and state regulators are approaching this issue, about "general permits", about innovative solutions to solving surface discharge problems, and – if you're a contractor – about innovative treatment and sub-soil dispersal technologies. Plus, this is an outstanding chance for you to meet colleagues from around the country and make connections that will last far beyond the conclusion of the conference.

Conference Highlights:

[Opening General Session](#) – In this session you will gain a better understanding of the key challenges presented by surface discharge. EPA Regions 5 & 7 will offer their approach to addressing this issue. Plus, you will hear from regulators and legislators in several states and learn about their different approaches to addressing surface discharge issues in their states.

[Innovative Products and Solutions Track](#) – A full day and a half of education sessions will be devoted to in-depth looks at many new products and approaches for treating and dispersing wastewater in onsite systems

[Standards, Inspection and Enforcement](#) – Whether you're a regulator or someone who is regulated, this education track will provide you with valuable insights on key issues facing you.

[Contractors Track](#) – This full day workshop will help designers, installers and service providers better understand the wide range of alternative treatment and sub-soil dispersal technologies available. If most of your work currently involves installing or servicing surface discharging systems, this is information you will need to know, since surface discharging systems are becoming more difficult to install.

[Field Trip: Alternative Systems in Tough Soils](#) – This full day event (Thursday, October 28) will take you to five different locations and show you five different solutions to challenging site conditions. Note: separate fee required for this optional event.

Visit www.NOWRA2010.org for full conference details.

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NOWRA Board of Directors Voting Closes October 31!

If you haven't yet cast your ballot for in the 2010-2013 NOWRA Board Elections, you should plan to do so by the end of this month. This is your opportunity to have a voice in NOWRA's governance! There are five open seats on the NOWRA Board of Directors, and all members in good standing are eligible to cast a

ballot.

Here are the candidates for each open position as approved by the NOWRA Board of Directors:

- Academic/Researcher: Robert Rubin, Professor Emeritus, NC State University, Raleigh, NC
- Installer/Contractor: Eugene C. Bassett, E.C. Bassett Construction, Edgewood, NM
- Engineer/Designer: John Campbell, Big Fish Environmental, LLC, Charlevoix, MI; Michael Hines, Southeast Environmental Engineering, Knoxville, TN; and Philip Pedros, F.R. Mahoney Associates, Rockland, MA
- Service Provider: Tony Birrittieri, Peterson Resources, LLC, Fredonia, WI; and Eric Larson, Septic Check, Inc., Milaca, MN
- Supplier/Vendor: Kevin Jehl, Advanced Drainage Systems, Hilliard, OH; Craig Jowett, Waterloo Biofilter Systems, Rockwood, ON, Canada; Robert B. Mayer, American Manufacturing Co., Elkwood, VA

Each candidate has provided NOWRA with a statement that outlines their background and qualifications, along with their ideas regarding NOWRA's future direction and its priorities. You can find those candidate summaries [by clicking here](#). Once you have reviewed the candidate statements, [you can cast your ballot by visiting here](#).

Short of running for the board yourself, this is your best opportunity to have some influence over the issues you think NOWRA should be addressing. We encourage you to cast your vote while the polls are open!

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Waste Water Education organization offering online onsite wastewater education

In response for requests for affordable, accessible training – the Waste Water Education organization is offering a four-part series of day-long internet based courses covering all aspects of fabricating, installing and maintaining precast concrete tanks. WasteWater Education, a 501(c)3 based in NW MI, has spent many months developing an interactive web based platform for providing both public and professional education content highlighting the advantages of distributed/decentralized wastewater technology.

Coming up in November and December is the first round of online classes. Of particular interest is : The Anatomy of Quality Precast Concrete Septic Tanks - Four Part Series underwritten by Concrete Sealants, Inc. and presented by Sam Lines MBA. Sales / Safety Engineer, Lean Coordinator Concrete Sealants, Inc. and Instructor for National Precast Concrete Association.

- IEC-03a - Introduction to Precast Concrete: Is it cement or concrete? Why does it even make a difference?
- IEC-03b - Fabricating a Watertight Precast Concrete Septic Tank
- IEC-03c - Implementing a Formal Quality Management System in a Precast Plant
- IEC-03d - Microbial Induced Corrosion: Causes and Methods of Prevention

Also included will be classes on best practices for good installation given by current NOWRA Vice President Dr. Richard Otis P.E Ph.D., DEE. utilizing curriculum materials developed by CIDWT.

And: Build A Better Business: Part One- Basic Marketing Skills, Part Two - Why educating your customers matters. Dendra J. Best WasteWater Education Executive Director.

These courses are geared toward wastewater service providers, installers, public health officials and those requiring continuing education credits. By providing interactive web based training, anyone can attend regardless of where they live. All that is needed is an internet connection and a computer with sound, or a telephone. Online reservations and payment is now available.

Go to <http://www.wastewatereducation.org/payments.html>

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Free Webinars from EPA: Decentralized Wastewater Treatment System Design, Management, and Use Meets

A series of six one-hour webinars on individual and clustered (decentralized) wastewater system design, management, and use in protecting surface and ground waters is planned for November and early December 2010. The training sessions are open to consultants, design engineers, service professionals, and regulators at no cost through a university-based watershed management webinar program. The US Environmental Protection Agency, the Conservation Technology Information Center, and Purdue University are co-sponsoring the training to improve the level of understanding and knowledge on how conventional and high-performance treatment systems work, how they're designed and managed, and how to incorporate them into a wastewater management program. Webcasts will be held at 12 noon EST beginning on Tuesday, November 9th, and continue every Tuesday at noon until December 14th. Registration information and the full schedule is posted at <http://ctic.paqinteractive.com/resourcedisplay/384/>. For more information, contact: Angie Williams at williams@ctic.org.

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NESC Publications Are Now Exclusively Online

The National Environmental Service Center has moved its printed publications—On Tap, Small Flows, and Pipeline—to an electronic-only format. As an environmental organization, they determined that it made sense to deliver information in as “green” a manner as possible. For the latest issue of their publications, as well as several years worth of back issues, visit the NESC website at www.nesc.wvu.edu. NESC also encourages professionals to sign up for their listservs to learn when new publications are posted and for other news. To sign up, visit www.nesc.wvu.edu/listserv/cfm.

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WEF Seeking Representative for EPA Decentralized MOU

The Water Environment Federation is seeking a WEF member to serve as the organization's volunteer representative to the EPA Decentralized MOU Partnership. This representative would represent WEF along with a WEF staff representative on the conference calls and perhaps in the face-to-face meetings held twice a year. The responsibilities of the volunteer representative would be to:

1. Participate on a monthly conference calls of 1.5 to 2 hours (full partnership every-other month, assigned workgroup call every other month).
2. If possible, participate in two face-to-face meetings each year, held in DC at EPA Headquarters, generally held in the summer and winter. Travel reimbursement is not available but a there is a call-in option for the face-to-face meetings.
3. As needed, report out on MOU activities to WEF's Small Communities Committee (and staff if staff are not present at meetings/calls) and provide input to WEF on MOU activities.

If you are a WEF member and are interested in being WEF's representative, send an email to Matt Ries (mrries@wef.org)

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Miscellaneous news from around the country

We've been trying to keep our ear to the ground about developments affecting onsite/decentralized

systems in the news media. Here are some recent items which may be of interest to you (note – the links were good as of the day the newsletter was sent out, but may have been changed or removed since then):
Florida: [Septic System Owners Must Get Inspections, Starting 2011](#)
California: [State Water Board Approves Septics Ban in Malibu](#)
Virginia: [No easy fix for failed septic tanks](#)
New York: [Legislator Romaine And Others Call For Stricter Septic Regulations](#)
Rhode Island: [DEM Fines Town Nearly \\$187K for Water Pollution](#)
Massachusetts: [Cape Cod and the CLF lawsuit \(video\)](#)
New York: [Water Scarcity a Bond Risk, Study Warns](#) (requires registration)

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Help Your Customers Help Themselves with NOWRA's Homeowners Folders

A new and updated version of the popular NOWRA Homeowner's Onsite System Guide and Record Keeping Folder is available.

The Homeowner Folder is the perfect place for your customers to keep and store all of their paperwork and documents related to their onsite system.

It's easy to store –fits in any standard file cabinet

It gives the homeowner a basic education about their septic system – what it is and how it works

It provides them with a list of do's and don'ts to help them preserve the life of their system

It includes a place for including all critical information specific to the homeowner's onsite system – permits, system description, an inventory of key components and dispersal methods.

Plus, it includes a place for you to include your contact information. You can download a PDF version of the homeowner's folder on the NOWRA web site, http://www.nowra.org/onsite_guide.html. Better still; download a copy of the order form from the website to order a quantity of these sturdy folders from NOWRA. Quantities up to 25 copies are just \$.75 each. Discounts apply to orders of more than 25. Order 100 or more copies of the folder and pay just \$.40 each! Shipping is extra.

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About NOWRA

The National Onsite Wastewater Recycling Association (NOWRA) is the largest organization within the U.S. dedicated solely to educating and representing members within the onsite and decentralized industry. NOWRA has Affiliates, with constituent local groups throughout the U.S. and Canada.

This e-mail was sent by:

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