

## TOM GROVES

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## February 2009 e-News

### Welcome to the new NOWRA e-News

NOWRA is pleased to roll out our new look for member communication, and the first NOWRA e-News.

Each month NOWRA will update you with news and events of interest to you.

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### This Month's Focus

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The 18<sup>th</sup> Annual Technical Education Conference & Expo is this month's focus. Viewed by many as the premier show in the onsite and decentralized industry, the Annual Conference is the best way to learn what is going on in the industry.

Beyond the educational opportunities and the Expo, bringing professionals from around the country and world together at the same time gives you the opportunity to renew friendships, develop new ones, and gather critically needed information for your business and your career.

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### Annual Conference Taking Shape

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### Septic Locator

NOWRA's Septic Locator will connect you with a wastewater professional in your area and our membership list.

[Begin Here!](#)

### Conferences



[18th Annual NOWRA  
Technical Conference & Expo  
April 6 - 9, 2009  
Milwaukee, WI](#)

Scheduled for April 6-9 in Milwaukee, Wland being locally hosted by the **Wisconsin Onsite Water Recycling Association (WOWRA)** the conference promises to offer important information that will directly benefit you and your company in these troubled times.

Exhibitors continue to sign-up for the Expo, adding to the broad range of opportunities available at the show to catch-up on the latest equipment, research, techniques and tips.

To learn more and to register, please visit [http://www.nowra.org/annual\\_conference.html](http://www.nowra.org/annual_conference.html)

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#### CIDWT to Conduct Last of 4 Pilot Training Events

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The **Consortium of Institutes for Decentralized Wastewater Treatment (CIDWT)** is working cooperatively with NOWRA and NEHA to establish and communicate a set of minimum guidelines for the installation of onsite wastewater treatment systems. The curriculum is designed to support installer credentialing programs such as the NEHA Certified Installer of Onsite Wastewater Treatment Systems (COWTS) credential.

In cooperation with Missouri Small Flows, CIDWT will conduct the last of the **National Installer Curriculum 4<sup>th</sup> Pilot Training Events** in Liberty, Missouri on March 5 & 6, 2009.

For information on registering for this valuable training, visit <http://www.mosmallflows.org/> and click on "Seminars and Training".

**Note: The NEHA COWTS exam will be administered on Saturday, March 7, 2009, the day following the training. For information on this exam, contact: Carol Newlin or Heidi Shaw at NEHA, 303-756-9090.**

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#### News from the States

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The Washington On-Site Sewage Association (WOSSA) is changing public perceptions about our industry through a weekly talk radio program called, "Septic Solutions". The show helps system users understand the importance of ongoing maintenance. To quote John Thomas, Executive Director for WOSSA, "We've been a part of the green movement before it was cool, people need to know that."

The Septic Solutions show can be heard live on the web, Sundays at noon (Pacific) at <http://www.kvi.com/home/ondemand/4906711.html>

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#### NOWRA Signs MOU with EPA

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You recently received a Press Release announcing the resigning of the MOU with EPA and other organization. To view the Press Release, visit <http://www.nowra.org/newsrelease/NOWRAJoinsEPA12.11.08.pdf>

The MOU or Memorandum of Understanding sets forth the cooperative efforts between the U.S. EPA and several partner organizations regarding decentralized wastewater management. As noted in a recent EPA press release, "...the objectives of this MOU are to:

- Strengthen external partnerships.
- Improve decentralized wastewater treatment system performance through improved practitioner competency, management practices, *research* and technology transfer.
- Improve accountability, control, and oversight through enhanced state, tribal and local program implementation.
- Improve local decision making through improved public awareness, education programs, and information materials.
- Support the principles outlined in the *Voluntary Management Guidelines and Management Handbook for Decentralized Systems* developed by EPA's Office of Wastewater Management."

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#### Andrew Gunia Wins Roe-D-Hoe Grand Prize

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If you think that the Installer Academy in Las Vegas was all work and no play, think again! The **4<sup>th</sup> Annual Roe-D-Hoe** event proved to be great fun and a real test of skills. Attendees from around the country pitted their backhoe skills against each other in a series of tests on equipment to determine once and for all (at least this year) who the best of the best was. First place, and a check for \$1,000 went to Andrew Gunia from Washington State. Andrew was the 2008 WOSSA State Roe-D-Hoe champion and he came to Las Vegas on their behalf to compete. 2<sup>nd</sup> place honors went to Mark Ritter of Minnesota and Brett Schwarz of Washington State placed 3<sup>rd</sup>. Congratulations to all who competed. You provided a great bit of entertainment for all to watch. Many thanks to the Roe-D-Hoe sponsors, Stonebridge Environmental and Bobcat.

To learn more about the Installer Academy, visit, <http://www.nowra.org/academy.html>

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#### Septic Locator & You

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When the economy tightens, many companies incorrectly back off from advertising. In fact, it is more important than ever that your existing customers and new customers can easily and quickly find you.

The **NOWRA Septic Locator** is a *free benefit* of belonging to NOWRA and because people around the country frequently access it, it ranks high in search engine results. That means you have a highly ranked site on the web that allows you to advertise 24 hours a day, 7 days a week.

Anyone who has priced Yellow Page advertising knows that it is very expensive and it requires spending a lot to create an ad that will catch a client's attention.

If you have not set-up your profile in Septic Locator, do so today. It doesn't cost anything, and with customers increasingly using web-based searches for goods and services, you cannot afford to miss a chance to tell your story! <http://www.septiclocator.com/>

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#### Thank You to Our Business Benefit Partners!

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NOWRA thanks each Business Benefit Partner for their contribution to the industry and to NOWRA. Their support helps make NOWRA's work in support of the onsite and decentralized industry possible.

To see the list of 2009 partners, please visit <http://www.nowra.org/sponsors.html>

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#### Coming Soon

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Dick Otis, NOWRA Vice President and well-known engineer will be publishing a monthly article for this newsletter. Tentatively titled, "***I've Been Thinking...***", Dick will tackle new topics monthly and will invite readers into an open dialogue to further explore the topic. Stay tuned.

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#### Getting Involved in NOWRA - What's in it for Me?

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For most of us, membership in NOWRA provides us a periodic newsletter and the opportunity to attend an annual conference for networking, catching up with old friends and a chance to learn what is new in the industry. But, do you ever wonder; "Is this all there is?" If so, maybe it is time for you to join a committee!

The real "work" of any organization is done by its committees. This is certainly true of NOWRA! Many members volunteer their time and expertise to work on a broad range of issues that affect our industry, our affiliates, our businesses, our practices, our regulations, and the public we serve. It is rewarding work and offers opportunities to make a difference in our industry. The committees are also the stepping stones to becoming involved in the governance of NOWRA through the Board of Directors and its officers. Being involved is a way to become an industry

leader!

We invite you to become a member of one or more of our committees and/or task forces. We have 12 committees and 4 task forces. They have much to do but are committed to getting it all done. They need your ideas, your expertise, your management skills, your hard work; all those things that you do everyday! In return, you will have the benefit of working with other dedicated members to advance our industry.

Most committees meet once a month via conference calls that may take 1 to 2 hours each. Committee members are expected to assist in completing tasks associated with projects undertaken by the committee. The total time commitment is variable and can be adjusted to accommodate a member's availability.

Interested? Go to <http://www.nowra.org/committees.html> or email a committee or task force chair and ask them how you could help. Help us make things happen!

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#### Tom Groves Becomes NOWRA's President

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Tom recently took the helm of NOWRA for 2008 & 2009.

Tom is Division Director of the Wastewater and Onsite Programs for NEIWPCC, a quasi-government, congressionally authorized not-for-profit interstate agency in Lowell, MA. Prior to NEIWPCC, Tom worked in the private sector for a local Land Survey/Engineering firm as a project manager for residential and commercial developments. He has a B.S. in Civil Engineering from the University of Massachusetts at Lowell, and is presently pursuing his M.B.A. He and his wife Corey live in Chelmsford, MA.

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#### New Board of Directors Seated

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At the recent Board of Directors meeting in Las Vegas, the newest members of the board were welcomed and sworn in. To learn more about the Board, please visit <http://www.nowra.org/board.html>

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#### We'd Like to Hear from You.

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If there is a topic or item of interest that you would like us to include, please drop a line to us at [mike\\_stoll@msn.com](mailto:mike_stoll@msn.com)

### 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 headquarters are located in Santa Cruz, California, with constituent local groups throughout the U.S. and Canada.

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The articles in this newsletter are the opinion of the National Onsite Wastewater Recycling Association (NOWRA)