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July 2011 e-News

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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 the request to join our mailing list.

**New!** NOWRA Member Benefit -- Discount Equipment Financing

NOWRA has partnered with Wells Fargo to provide NOWRA members with discounts on interest rates and document fees on loans for vehicle and equipment purchases greater than $50,000. **Details**

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**New!** Restaurant Do's and Don't's

NOWRA's Technical Practices Committee has developed a detailed list of recommendations for restaurants which have wastewater treated by an onsite wastewater treatment system. Download the document here.
**2011 NOWRA Elections -- Call for nominations**

Interested in serving on NOWRA's Board of Directors? NOWRA is accepting nominations for five open seats on its board for the 2011 - 2014 term. The categories are: Academic/Researcher, Supplier/Vendor, Service Provider, Compliance Monitor/Regulator, and Site Evaluator/Soil Scientist/Engineer. All NOWRA members in good standing are eligible to serve. However, you must submit your candidate application no later than August 12, 2011 in order to have your application considered. [Details.](#)

**NOWRA approves new affiliate dues structure**

At its meeting in June, the NOWRA Board of Directors approved recommendations made by the Dues Task Force on a new structure for membership dues paid by NOWRA's affiliates. The board's action was the culmination of a seven month process by the Task Force to review the current dues structure and suggest improvements.

Beginning with the 2012 billing year, NOWRA affiliates will have two options for how they are billed. With the first option, the affiliate pays a $500 affiliate fee and $35 per member for each individual member. With the second option, the affiliate pays a $2,500 affiliate fee and $25 per member for each individual member. The first option will generally be more favorable financially for smaller affiliate organizations; the second option offers a greater financial benefit to larger affiliates.

One goal of this effort was to make sure that NOWRA's affiliates were fully engaged in this process. The Task Force was chaired by NOWRA Past President Tom Groves, and members included three representatives from NOWRA's affiliates (Janet Murray, MSO; Doug Bird, IOWWA; and Nancy Mayer, MOWPA), three NOWRA board members (Groves, Greg Graves and Bob Mayer). A seventh person, Ann Gryphan of WOWRA, also participated in the Task Force until she resigned to take a new job. In addition, all affiliates were provided with an opportunity to review and comment on all of the options being considered before the Task Force made its final recommendation to the board.

NOWRA affiliates will be contacted later in the year to determine which dues billing option they prefer.

**New! Two distance education presentations you can watch now**

NOWRA recently partnered with [WasteWater Education 501(c)3](#) to co-sponsor two fascinating presentations.

The first examined the Otter Tail Water Management District, a small regional program in Western Minnesota which is an excellent example of an affordable and effective program for managing both individual and cluster onsite wastewater
systems. The second presentation looked in depth at Enterprise Cascadia’s Hood Canal Septic Loan program. The program provides a straightforward way for low and middle income homeowners to secure grants or loans to repair or replace failing septic systems.

To watch either presentation, click here:

NOWRA Annual Conference/OWS Summit recap

Another successful NOWRA Annual Conference is in the books. This year’s event was held in conjunction with NEHA and SORA and was called the Onsite Wastewater Systems Summit. Roughly 200 onsite wastewater professionals participated in the event, which was held in Columbus, OH June 17-20. Two dozen technical sessions offered a wide range of topics for professionals from all corners of the industry and more than 30 companies participated in the Wastewater Alley section of the exhibition. NOWRA also held its Annual Business meeting as part of this event, and you can view the presentation here. We would also like to extend thanks to our BBP partners who sponsored portions of the conference: Bord na Mona/Anua (opening reception), Bio-Microbics and Wieser Concrete (NOWRA Annual Business Meeting), and ADS (field trip). Thanks also to TrackAssist-Online for donating the grand prize for Onsite Jeopardy. Watch the NOWRA home page for more conference details shortly.

Plan to attend NOWRA’s 2012 Annual Conference!

New England in early Spring will be the setting for NOWRA’s 2012 Annual Conference. The 2012 event will be co-hosted by NOWRA’s New England affiliate, the Yankee Onsite Wastewater Association and will also serve as the 4th Northeast Onsite Wastewater Short Course. Final details are still being settled, but the conference will be held in late March or early April with the most likely location being Providence, RI. As soon as dates and location are finalized, NOWRA will provide you with "save the date" information.

Would your affiliate like to host an official NOWRA Roe-D-Hoe® event?

Hosting a Roe-D-Hoe® event for your affiliate is a great way to increase registration at your event and to let your members compete for bragging rights for the best backhoe skills in your state! While some states currently host events to let their attendees show off their backhoe skills, only officially sanctioned NOWRA Roe-D-Hoe® events allow the winner to automatically advance to the finals of the National Backhoe Roe-D-Hoe®, which will be held at the 2012 Pumper Show, February 27-March 1 in Indianapolis, IN. For details on how NOWRA can help you host an official Roe-D-Hoe® event, contact NOWRA HQ.

Think you have the skills to be a National NOWRA Backhoe Roe-D-Hoe® finalist? Visit NOWRA’s official YouTube page to watch the 2011 finals, won by IOWWA champion
NOWRA Training at the 2012 Pumper Show

As we have done in the past, NOWRA will offer a full day training program for installers at the 2012 Pumper Show. Well-known and respected trainers Sara Heger and Tom Fritts will again conduct the training sessions, which will be held February 27 in Indianapolis. For a list of topics they plan to cover, click here.

NOWRA's Monthly column in "Onsite Installer" magazine

Have you been following NOWRA's monthly column in "Onsite Installer" magazine? You can see the current column by clicking here.

NOWRA Business Benefit Program supporters receive NOWRA partner badges for their exhibit booths

As you travel to local trade shows in the coming months, chances are you will see the NOWRA logo proudly displayed in the booths of many of our BBP partners. NOWRA is currently distributing badges to its partners and the first time they are likely to debut is at the Florida Onsite Wastewater Association Annual Conference in Daytona Beach in early August.

Your opinion matters! What would you like to see?

NOWRA has begun exploring how to best address what it sees as an unmet need within the onsite/decentralized wastewater industry. While there are numerous resources and education programs for residential onsite system installation, management and maintenance, there are far fewer sources of information and education focusing on larger onsite and decentralized systems -- everything from large commercial treatment facilities to cluster systems to systems serving small communities. It would seem that the potential opportunities for our industry in this segment of the wastewater treatment market are substantial. Right now, however, there are many roadblocks keeping our share of this market from growing more rapidly: regulatory issues, a lack of awareness about onsite systems (and especially their potential economic advantages), few standards for the industry to follow, and a complicated planning and decision-making environment.

NOWRA believes that it can play a role in providing education to serve this market segment and help it grow. We would like your thoughts about how we might want to proceed. All comments are welcome of course, but of particular value would be
responses which address the following:

- What kind of educational programs would best meet your needs as a wastewater industry practitioner?
- What are the top one or two subject/issue areas for which you would like more information?
- If NOWRA were to create educational programs targeted at educating the people involved in planning decisions involving wastewater treatment, which groups would be most important to reach? Why?

Send your thoughts to NOWRA Executive Director Eric Casey (wecasey@comcast.net)

Make a Difference! Participate on a NOWRA Committee!

NOWRA is looking for a few good men (and women!) to serve on its committees. Can we count on you to step up? In addition to expertise in a particular area, enthusiasm and a willingness to help NOWRA are the most important characteristics we look for in committee members. Visit our NOWRA Committees page

Thanks to our 2011 BBP Sponsors!

NOWRA greatly appreciates the support of those companies which have committed to be a sponsor of NOWRA activities during 2011. Our current 2011 Gold Partners are shown at right. For a full list of our BBP partner sponsors, click here.

NEW REVISED Homeowner Folder now available for download or order!

Also a great time to reorder your supply!

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 groups throughout the U.S. and Canada.