



2026 CONFERENCE AGENDA



Sunday, October 25, 2026

Start	Finish	
8:00 AM	11:00 AM	NOWRA Board of Directors Meeting, Lakehouse
12:00 PM	5:30 PM	Registration Open, Registration Desk
12:00 PM	5:00 PM	Emerging Professionals Scholarship Cornhole Tournament, Lakehouse - Optional
12:00 PM	5:00 PM	Exhibitor Move-In, Legacy Ballroom
6:00 PM	8:00 PM	Welcome Reception, TBD

Monday Morning, October 26, 2026

7:00 AM	5:00 PM	Registration Open, TBD
7:15 AM	8:00 AM	BOG/Government Relations Committee, TBD
7:00 AM	8:00 AM	Light Continental Breakfast in Exhibit Hall
7:00 AM	6:00 PM	Exhibit Hall, Legacy Ballroom

Opening General Session 1

Room		Westminster III & IV
8:00 AM	8:20 AM	Conference Welcome Colorado Political Welcome (tent) President, CPOW; President, NAWT; President, SORA; and Chris LeClair, President, NOWRA
8:20 AM	9:10 AM	<i>An International Perspective on Onsite Systems - Dr. Yurie Shirakawa, Japan</i>
9:10 AM	10:00 AM	<i>Next Steps in Onsite Wastewater Research Findings - Dr. Bryan Brooks, Baylor University</i>
10:00 AM	10:30 AM	Break in Exhibit Hall
10:30 AM	11:00 AM	US EPA Update - Andrew Sawyers (invited)
11:00 AM	11:30 AM	Status of Advocacy/Lobbying Efforts on Behalf of Onsite and Decentralized Wastewater, Tim Perrin and Marissa Campbell, The Southern Group
11:30 AM	12:00 PM	NOWRA Announcements and Setting the Stage, Chris LeClair, NOWRA President

2026 MEGA-CONFERENCE AGENDA

Monday Afternoon, October 26, 2026

12:00 PM	1:30 PM	Lunch Provided, TBD Poster Presentations					
12:00 PM	1:30 PM	Backhoe Roe-D-Hoe, Patio					
12:00 PM	1:30 PM	State Affiliate Leader Meeting, TBD					
12:00 PM	1:30 PM	Committee Meeting, TBD					
Track Topic		Cesspools	Microbial	Workforce	State	NAWT 1	Vendor Training
Track Number		1	2	3	4	5	Vendor A
Room		WB I	WB II	Meadowbrook	Cotton Creek	Standley	TBD
Start	Finish						
1:30 PM	2:15 PM	Subtractive Geographic Analysis for Determining Possible Cesspool Locations in Rural and Semi-Rural Communities Robyn Moreno	Performance and Feasibility of Tidal-Flow Constructed Wetlands for Decentralized Wastewater Treatment Deeptanil Pal	Surfing the Silver Tsunami with Work 4 Water: Elevating Hawai'i's Wastewater Workforce from Ridge to Reef Gabby Saba	State Panel 1 Tammy Trantham	You Got Through Year 1....Now What? Kim Turner	1:30 - 1:50 PM: VT A1 ++++ 1:55 - 2:15 PM: VT A2
2:15 PM	3:00 PM	Identifying Onsite Solutions for a Remote Community in Hawai'i: a Community-Centered Approach to Navigating a Complex Wastewater Challenge Kim Falinski	Assessing Microbial Indicator Transport in Onsite Wastewater Mound Systems Jeldane Joseph	Lead to Attract, Retain, and Inspire: Creating a Culture Where People Want to Stay and Thrive David Suson	State Panel 2: Development & History of CPOW Education Program Kate Carney	From Technician to CEO: The 16 Year Breakthrough That Built a Multi-Million Dollar Service Company Jason Birdsong	2:15 - 2:35 PM: VT A3 ++++ 2:40 - 3:00 PM: VT A4
3:00 PM	3:45 PM	Break in Exhibit Hall, Poster Presentations Backhoe Roe-D-Hoe, Patio					
3:45 PM	4:30 PM	What's SEP? An Effective Tool to Help Finance Cesspool Conversions Stuart Coleman	Modular Biofilters with Iron-mediated Nitrogen Removal for Onsite Wastewater Treatment Zhiyue Wang	Conflict to Compliance: Streamlining Final Inspections in South Carolina's OSWW Program Michael Hayes	New NOWRA Educational Resources Sara Heger	OWTS Inspection Process for Regulators Kate Carney	3:45 - 4:05 PM: VT A5 ++++ 4:10 - 4:30 PM: VT A6
4:30 PM	6:00 PM	Reception in Exhibit Hall featuring EP Cornhole Tournament Finals & Backhoe Roe-D-Hoe Poster Presentations					
6:30 PM	9:30 PM	OPTIONAL: Off-Site Social Event to TBD - Preregistration Required Bus Transportation Provided					

2026 MEGA-CONFERENCE AGENDA

Tuesday Morning, October 27, 2026

7:00 AM	8:00 AM	Light Continental Breakfast in Exhibit Hall					
7:00 AM	1:00 PM	Exhibit Hall Open, Legacy Ballroom					
7:00 AM	4:30 PM	Registration Open, TBD					
Track Topic		International/National	Soil	Education & Testing	Technical	NAWT 2/Emerging	Vendor Training
Track Number		6	7	8	9	10	Vendor B
Room		WB I	WB II	Meadowbrook	Cotton Creek	Standley	TBD
Start	Finish						
8:00 AM	8:45 AM	O & M Case Study in Japan and in Asian Countries Yurie Shirakawa	Efficacy of a Calcium Additive in Sodified Vertisol Soil from the Alabama Black Belt Alistair Bebbington	In Development: New Regulatory Professional Training Course Alison Blodig	Methodology for Quantitative Cumulative Effects Assessment of Onsite Wastewater Systems Bryer Manwell	Challenges of Short Term Rentals (STR) Serviced by OWTS and How to Manage Them Bill Tatro	8:00 - 8:20 AM: VT B1 ++++ 8:25 - 8:45 AM: VT B2
8:45 AM	9:30 AM	EPA's Decentralized Wastewater Program Update Heidi Faller	Best Practice Treament Designs and Installations for Sodic Soils Ben Kele	Training the Regulatory Workforce Anne Powell	High Strength Wastewater: Design, Results, and Lessons Learned Sheryl Ervin	NAWT From Crisis to Capacity : A Case Study in Building a Private Septage Disposal System Jon Jouvenaux	8:45 - 9:05 AM: VT B3 ++++ 9:10 - 9:30 AM: VT B4
9:30 AM	10:15 AM	Closing America's Wastewater Gap Initiative Update Micael Mezzacapo	Peak Challenges with Practical Solutions: Higher Level Treatment on a Steep Rocky Mountain Site Julie Gustavson	Real Estate Professionals as a Key Audience for Onsite Wastewater Education Brooklyne Wassel	Troubleshooting Treatment Processes for Optimum Dissolved Oxygen Concentrations Bruce Lesikar	NAWT Septage Jason Birdsong	9:30 - 9:50 AM: VT B5 ++++ 9:55 - 10:15 AM: VT B6
10:15 AM	10:45 AM	Break and Poster Presentations in Exhibit Hall Backhoe Roe-D-Hoe, Patio					
10:45 AM	11:30 AM	Challenges and Opportunities with Rural and Off-Grid Onsite System Joelle Wirth	Coupling Laboratory Experiments with In Situ Investigations for the Recognition of a New On Site Sanitation Technique Case of the Optimized Vertical Sand Filter Abdelkade Lakel	Evaluation of Negative Health Outcomes Associated with Soil Auger Use by Environmental Professionals Charles Humphrey	Pre-Backfill Digital Twin Documentation for Maintenance and Inspection Lucas Grein	What Should Be Key Learning Outcomes for Universities Preparing Students to Become Onsite Professionals? - Junko	10:45 - 11:05 AM: VT B7 ++++ 11:10 - 11:30 AM: VT B8
11:30 AM	12:15 PM	Closing the Wastewater Access Gap Forever: A National Roadmap to Bring Water and Sanitation to Every Community in the United States Kablr Thatte	Quantifying Soil Suitability and Affordability of Septic Systems using Alabama State-Specific Analysis Rebecca Etter	Reviewing Proprietary Aerobic Treatment Units Testing Data During NSF Standard 40 Tests John Blount	Improving Permitting Efficiency with GPS/GIS: South Carolina's Selection and Deployment of a Statewide Solution Brad Poston	Panel Discussion: Emerging Professionals in the Onsite Industry Jonathan Kaiser	11:30 - 11:50 AM: VT B9 ++++ 11:55 - 12:15 PM: VT B10

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Tuesday Afternoon, October 27, 2026

12:15 PM	1:30 PM	Lunch Provided, TBD, Poster Presentations in Exhibit Hall Backhoe Roe-D-Hoe Finals, Patio					
12:15 PM	1:30 PM	Committee Meeting, TBD					
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1:30 PM	6:00 PM	Exhibitor Move-Out					
Track Topic		Looking Ahead	O&M	General Design	Technology	Financial	Vendor Training
Track Number		11	12	13	14	15	Vendor C
Room		WB I	WB II	Meadowbrook	Cotton Creek	Standley	TBD
Start	Finish						
1:30 PM	2:15 PM	ICC 825 and the Future of Onsite Wastewater Treatment: Global Collaboration and Public Health Impact Shaun May	Best Practices for Wastewater Management in Community Developments Alex Sundberg	Honu Hub - An Adaptive Decentralized Wastewater Infrastructure Solution (ADWIS) for Island Communities Robert Bair	Designing Advanced Treatment Systems to Perform at High Elevations Kevin Sherman	Asset Management as a Business Approach to OWTS Service Bruce Lesikar	1:30 - 1:50 PM: VT C1 ++++ 1:55 - 2:15 PM: VT C2
2:15 PM	3:00 PM	Are We There Yet? Vermont's Experience with Time of Travel for Siting Onsite Wastewater Systems Bruce Douglas	Picking Up The Pieces - Restoring a Failed Small Community Wastewater System John Buchanan	Design Considerations for RV Parks and Campgrounds Gary Macconnell	Utilizing Technology to Modernize a Septic Program Scott Morris	From Google to AI: How Homeowners Are Choosing and Communicating with Septic Contractors Scott Andreasen	2:15 - 2:35 PM: VT C3 ++++ 2:40 - 3:00 PM: VT C4
3:00 PM	3:15 PM	Break, TBD					
3:15 PM	4:00 PM	Virginia Septic and Well Assistance Program: Rural Roots and Healthy Futures Nicole Sandberg	Installation of Resilient Electrical Systems Bruce Lesikar	Septic Tanks - Bigger is Better! Sara Heger	Liquid Only Sewer: Protecting the World's Water Through Scaleable Wastewater Infrastructure Forrest Kunz	Helping Business Owners Protect Their Legacy & Exit Successfully Katherine Ramirez	3:15 - 3:35 PM: VT C5 ++++ 3:40 - 4:00 PM: VT C6
4:00 PM	4:45 PM	A Blueprint for Watershed Resource Protection Through Community Scale Integrated Infrastructure Management Matthew Dowling	From Sample to Report: Making Sense of Wastewater Data Brenda Faz-Cresie	Snow & Rain: Design Differences Between On-Site Systems in the Icy Cold and West Tropics Ben Kele	UPC Compliant Solid Waste Interceptor as a Septic Alternative James Roberts	10-Year Anniversary Statewide OSS Loan Program: Successes and Lessons Learned Tamara Cowles	4:00 - 4:20 PM: VT C7 ++++ 4:25 - 4:45 PM: VT C8
5:00 PM	6:30 PM	NOWRA Annual Business Meeting & Reception, TBD					
6:30 PM	8:30 PM	SORA Reception (<i>invitation only</i>), TBD					
		Regular Mega-Conference Concludes					

2026 MEGA-CONFERENCE AGENDA

Wednesday, October 28, 2026

7:00 AM	8:15 AM	Registration, TBD Light Continental Breakfast, TBD		
Track Topic		Field Trip #1	Field Trip #2	Vac Truck Training
Room				<i>TBD</i>
8:30 AM	5:00 PM	Optional Field Trip 1 Boarding at 8:15 AM Box Lunch Provided	Optional Field Trip 2 Boarding at 8:15 AM Box Lunch Provided	NAWT Sponsored Vac Truck classroom training and parking lot visit. Approx. 40 attendees Classroom style



Conference Concludes - See you next year in Columbus, Georgia!
October 17 - 20, 2027