

The official publication of the National Onsite  
Wastewater Recycling Association

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Puts Collaboration to  
the Test in NJ  
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# THE Onsite Journal

Premier Issue  
Summer 2013

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## on the cover

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**WELCOME** to the first edition of the all new *Onsite Journal (OSJ)*! To paraphrase Yogi Berra, if this seems like déjà vu all over again, you are correct. NOWRA suspended publication of *OSJ* several years ago when the national economic downturn hit the onsite industry (and NOWRA's finances) hard. For roughly a year after, NOWRA decided it could no longer afford to publish *OSJ* and COLE publishing generously agreed to produce the magazine as an insert within *Onsite Installer* magazine. After COLE informed NOWRA that it was not able to continue publishing *OSJ*, the NOWRA Board reluctantly suspended publishing the magazine.

Enter Matrix Group Publishing, Inc. The company approached NOWRA earlier this year with a proposal to produce the *Onsite Journal* on NOWRA's behalf and this issue is proof of their ability to do so. For the near-term, *OSJ* will be produced twice per year. If response continues to be positive, we hope to be able to increase frequency to at least quarterly.

A special thanks to the many companies who chose to advertise in the inaugural issue.

Without your commitment to this publication and to NOWRA, the new *OSJ* would not have been possible. Thanks also to Dr. Randy Miles of the University of Missouri, who agreed to serve as editorial director for the magazine.

The re-birth of the *Onsite Journal* coincides well with NOWRA's continued efforts to better serve the needs of its diverse membership. For 2013, NOWRA set some ambitious goals and is well on track to meeting all of them. I've taken the liberty of listing those goals in the following bullets, along with a progress report (in italics) on where we are with accomplishing them. ►► 6

A special thanks to the many companies who chose to advertise in the inaugural issue. Without your commitment to this publication and to NOWRA, the new *OSJ* would not have been possible.

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1. Produce a printed *Onsite Journal* by September, 2013. *Done.* This is the first issue of what will be a twice-yearly magazine.
2. Co-host (with WEF) Large Onsite Systems conference at WEFTEC in October. *On track.* A special one-day workshop titled, "Does Size Matter? The Case for Scalable Decentralized Wastewater Management" will take place October 6 at WEFTEC. The goal will be to help utility managers and engineers better understand the

- economic case for decentralized wastewater treatment. A "big pipe" is not always the best solution!
3. Hold NOWRA Annual Conference in Nashville in November. *On track.* See the article on page 10 in this issue or visit the NOWRA website for all of the details about what promises to be NOWRA's best Annual Conference in years.
4. Conduct Pumper Show training in February. *Done.* The folks at the Pumper Show like NOWRA's training so well,

we will be doing even more training at the 2014 event.

5. Hold three Installer Academy face-to-face training classes throughout the year. *Done.* NOWRA has held four events so far, with additional trainings scheduled prior to the end of the year.
6. Have four Roe-D-Hoe® events at the state level and identify a new Roe-D-Hoe® Committee Chairperson. *Done.* With Jessi Wood as the new committee chair, the Roe-D-Hoe® continues to grow in popularity. Minnesota, Iowa, Kansas, Missouri, Virginia, Delaware and Idaho held (or are scheduled to hold) sanctioned Roe-D-Hoe® events this year.
7. Develop an Advanced Onsite System Design Training curriculum and offer at least one training by 12/31. *On track.* NOWRA has been working with MOWPA (Maryland) to develop this curriculum, with a training session likely taking place in that state in late Fall.
8. Recruit two more State Affiliates by December 31. *Done.* FOWA (Florida) and OWAI (Idaho) both joined NOWRA officially this year. More states may join before the end of the year.
9. Make all NOWRA products and services available online by April 30, 2013 (research, publications, Septic Locator, Conferences, Installer Academy catalog). *Done.* NOWRA's new website went live in February and all of these items are online. Watch for a new Septic Locator website soon!
10. Update/upgrade membership recruitment materials (brochure for individual memberships; packet for Affiliates;) by December 31. *On track.* These promotional materials are being developed.
11. Develop an awards program. *On track.* We expect to have an awards program developed before year-end.

As you can see, lots of great things are happening at NOWRA. If you are not a member, you should consider joining—or encourage your state organization to do so!

### Tom Fritts

President

National Onsite Wastewater Recycling Association

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# NOWRA's Installer Academy

## Puts Collaboration to the Test in New Jersey

By Paul Adair

**THE** National Onsite Wastewater Recycling Association (NOWRA) is the only national organization devoted to the education and training of all onsite industry professionals. The NOWRA Installer Academy grew from this devotion and was established to ensure that quality training programs are available for all industry professionals; regardless of group affiliation.

"One of our past presidents, and good friend, Raymond Peat coined the name Installer Academy in 2005 when he created an event for the installer portion of our membership," says NOWRA President, Tom Fritts. "It was where installers could go once a year to attend a national conference and talk with manufacturers with the emphasis placed on the contractor working in the field."

And although attendance was fair and NOWRA was receiving a number of applicants each year it was held, the program was discontinued as the association was getting just enough installers seeking training to simply break even.

"It just didn't meet the needs of our membership as well as other approaches," says Eric Casey, Executive Director of NOWRA. "And ultimately, what emerged was a reconfigured concept of the Installer Academy."

The NOWRA Installer Academy differs from its earlier incarnation in the way which it is delivered and the breadth of its course offerings. Instead of hosting a national conference and inviting members to attend, the Installer Academy goes to where it is needed. In many cases, a group will hire NOWRA to provide professional industry training for a flat fee, or—as in the recent case of New Jersey—promoting a course directly to industry professionals who need training.

NOWRA's Installer Academy curriculum currently offers eight courses: Installer training, the Basics of Onsite Wastewater, the NOWRA A to Z program, Hydraulics, Troubleshooting, Earthen Structures, High Strength Wastewater, and Choosing the Correct System to fit the Site.

"These other programs would be appropriate training programs for any installer to have," says Casey. "They will enable you to meet any continuing education requirements for a state license, certification, and the national Certified Installer ►► **page 8**

*Learning the basic biology of wastewater and how soils can change and treat effluent can be taught at the Installer Academy.*



*Understanding how to read a pump curve, create a systems curve and determine friction loss in a pressure system can also be covered at the Installer Academy.*



of Onsite Wastewater Treatment Systems (CIOWTS) credential.

It was in New Jersey that the quality of the NOWRA Installer Academy would be put to the test, in terms of logistics, commitment and capability.

In 2012, New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection (DEP) mandated that all installers in the state needed to obtain the advanced level of the CIOWTS credential. This credential is offered and managed by the National Environmental Health Association (NEHA). Unfortunately, New Jersey did not have any organization in the state that was geared up and ready to provide the training necessary to meet the certification requirements.

"New Jersey decided to adopt the national certification in order to raise the level of professionalism of installers in the state. This approach saved both time and money as compared to developing their own certification program," says Casey. "But when the New Jersey DEP instituted these new rules, I believe they thought that the industry of New Jersey would simply step up and start to provide training. However, they realized a little later in the game that, without

some sort of organization to represent the state's onsite industry, it was going to be more difficult that they thought it would be to get their people trained and certified."

NEHA recognized the problem and reached out to NOWRA towards the end of the year. NOWRA immediately stepped up to offer its Installer training course once it was determined that the three separate organizations could effectively and efficiently collaborate on a project of this magnitude.

"In this particular case we decided that there was a large need in New Jersey and we were willing to take the risk to go forward," says Casey. "So, rather than contract with a organization or facility, we went out to the industry and said, 'For a couple hundred bucks, you can come and get training to help you pass the exam.'"

Three training sessions over the first two quarters of 2013 were set-up to serve the onsite/decentralized industry of New Jersey. NOWRA provided the training, NEHA administered the test and the New Jersey DEP helped to get the word out.

"From all three party's perspectives, we got along quite well," says Casey. "The New Jersey DEP was the organization that

set up this requirement and they obviously had an interest in making sure that people were able to comply with the rules that they instituted. They had supported us in a number of ways and actually came out to participate in the training sessions, making themselves available to answer any of the installers' questions."

The challenges inherent in having three large organizations such as NOWRA, NEHA and the New Jersey DEP work in unison cannot be understated; especially when you consider the very quick logistical turnaround required to get all the pieces in place; information, training and testing.

"The fact that we did come together and put together several successful training sessions speaks not only towards the experience and dedication of all three organizations, but also towards our common desire to increase the professionalism in the industry," says Casey before laughing. "Going forward, however, I hope that we don't ever have to do it in such a frenetic way ever again."

Having time to look back and reflect on what worked and what didn't work with the New Jersey training sessions, NOWRA has



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been able to find a number of takeaways that will serve them well in the future when planning additional programs.

"We learned through the progression of this that we all could have been served better if we had only started the process earlier than we did," says Casey. "And between NEHA and NOWRA, we learned a lot about how we need better communicate to individuals and ensure, from a logistics perspective, that we both are working towards the goal of providing our industry the education and certification they need."

New Jersey DEP was pleased with the outcome of the process and that they had an organization in NOWRA that was willing to take on this endeavor, providing the training that was needed for the installers' certification. Not all training organizations were as forthcoming in their assistance to the state.

"There are several groups out there in the industry that could have provided training," says Casey. "But NOWRA was the only group that stepped up to help New Jersey installers. We could have refused, saying it was too risky; instead we simply said that we would just find a way to make this work."

NEHA's CLOWTS certification is rigorous and the exam is challenging. This is especially true in the case of New Jersey, where the state was requiring an advanced level of certification as opposed to the more basic level.

"I think that many installers were pleased with the training but I am not sure that all of the installers fully understood how challenging the exam would be," says Casey. "The passing rate was not as high as we would have liked it to have been and the installers may have been taken aback by how rigorous this test was."

Another complicating factor was that the national certification exam covered many installation techniques and practices that are not commonly used in New Jersey and many of these training concepts were new to some of the installers.

This challenge of the steep learning curve became quickly evident after the first training session, prompting NOWRA to adjust the delivery of subsequent training sessions to help improve the passing rate of the industry's installers.

"Once we received feedback from the people in the room, we retooled our training to focus more on the areas that were less

commonly performed in New Jersey," says Casey. "We found ourselves spending more time on the things that the installers were less familiar with."

The other issue that faced the training of the onsite/decentralized industry of New Jersey was centered around the amount of time allotted to the sessions; there was perhaps just too much information given in too short a time. Normally this is not a problem but it requires the individuals in the training session to do some work outside the program.

"We found that really none of the installers in the industry were willing to take a week off to take any type of training," says Casey. "So, the standard is now that we try to cram five days of knowledge into two days of training. If an installer hasn't done their homework before the session, their chances of passing a challenging exam such as this will be a lot less."

For more information on NOWRA's Installer Academy, go to [www.nowra.org/content.asp?contentid=58](http://www.nowra.org/content.asp?contentid=58).

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Photo courtesy of the Nashville Convention & Visitors Bureau.

# Welcome to

NOWRA's Annual Conference features a field trip, technical sessions and plenty of opportunities to network with colleagues from across the nation.

By Darla Read

## Something for Everyone!

With 30 concurrent education sessions, there is something for everyone in the onsite wastewater industry. There are topics related to management, innovation, nutrient removal, effluent sewer design and much more. Conference highlights include:

- A dialog on Standards of Practice for onsite system design. NOWRA has developed an advanced design training curriculum and would like input on how to move forward in establishing a national standard of practice for design, similar to those for installation and O&M.
- Continued discussion from this summer's National Environmental Health (NEHA) Conference regarding how technology reciprocity in the Chesapeake Bay states may impact the entire onsite industry. Participants will hear how the EPA guidance for technology reciprocity within the Chesapeake Bay watershed may become the template for watersheds across the country.
- A look at how the lack of federal funding hurts the industry and discussion about what can be done to change the unfair situation. The onsite industry represents 25 percent of the nation's wastewater infrastructure, yet receives almost no federal support, while public sewer systems receive federal dollars.

For a complete list of sessions and speakers, visit [www.nowra.org](http://www.nowra.org).

**HIGH** strength waste water treatment—an important but infrequently covered topic—will be a major focus at this year's National Onsite Wastewater Recycling Association's 22<sup>nd</sup> annual conference.

"Design and Technology: Moving Forward Nationally" will be from November 17<sup>th</sup> to the 20<sup>th</sup> in Nashville, Tennessee, and it will provide a venue for onsite wastewater professionals to discuss and identify new opportunities and ideas around onsite management, the newest and latest technologies, what is being done to treat waste, and performance.

Craig Gilbertson, conference committee chair, says one of the main highlights of this year's conference will be looking at what the host region does well. Tennessee is one of the leaders in large decentralized systems. It is managed by private entities, government and home owners," he explains.

Eric Casey, Executive Director of NOWRA, says while the conference is mostly national, the event tends to draw from the local area, and that's why they are pleased the agenda includes the top onsite industry regulators from the state.

"There will be a lot of interest in the Division of Water Resources reorganization," he notes. "Everyone who deals with it has new lines of communication and authority (with the Division). It's their first opportunity to learn about regulatory restructuring—and that's a big draw."

Tom Fritts, President of NOWRA, is very happy to see the annual conference return to

its regular spot in the fall. He says the goal is to keep it that time of year.

"Years ago, it was always a fall event," he explains. "Then it changed to spring or different times, and we lost the image of our fall event."

In the past, organizers were trying to work around the schedules of installers, but Fritts says eventually people recognized that installers weren't the total audience and that many different industry professionals wanted to attend and were interested in the conference.

Another topic of discussion illustrates just that, as organizers believe nearly everyone attending the conference will be drawn to a talk on technology reciprocity, says Gilbertson.

"Because there are no national standards, individual states do what is best but don't necessarily talk to bordering states." He says that means manufacturers and regulators end up spending a lot of time and money getting approvals, so the question is, "Can we make it more streamlined and build off the work that was done a few years ago in New England and what the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) is currently looking to do for the Chesapeake Bay states," Gilbertson points out.

Casey agrees there needs to be a discussion about why consistency in product approval across jurisdictions is necessary.

"In some ways, it's redundant and stifles innovation in industry," he says, noting "the expense and cost of seeking approvals can amount to hundreds of thousands of dollars for



# Nashville, Y'all!

a manufacturer seeking to introduce a new product."

He says manufacturers, engineers, designers, installers and regulators will all be interested in that discussion.

This year's conference will also feature a day-long trek. The field trip to decentralized and commercial systems in the Nashville region will provide an excellent overview of how these systems are designed and installed. Several technical sessions will also examine aspects of community treatment in the state.

Sara Heger, education chair for the conference, is particularly excited about this element.

"With commercial and community scale decentralized systems, waste characteristics can be more challenging, so professionals and manufacturers are designing significantly differently," she says, noting system designers and regulators will likely learn a lot from this portion of the conference.

On the field trip, participants will discuss decentralized cluster systems with a variety of management types in place-owners, government and private industry; different technologies for high strength waste solutions; residential systems; and Tennessee field trip partners are also working to obtain permissions and clearances to visit one or more decentralized clusters in their construction phase.

What Heger also likes about NOWRA's annual conference is the opportunity it provides researchers like her who are working with grants.

"This is the only annual conduit where I can disseminate research and outreach projects," she says. "I've been in the industry for 15 years and this is the one place where I get to network with people across the United States."

Fritts agrees. "Our conference is a valuable place for contractors to come and learn new techniques but I also think it's a valuable place for industry to present professional and academic papers." ●

.....  
For more complete details about the conference, visit NOWRA's website at [www.nowra.org](http://www.nowra.org).

There is definitely enough at NOWRA's 22<sup>nd</sup> annual conference to keep you busy but if you find the time, make sure to check out the sites of Nashville! By far the biggest attraction is music, given that it is home to the Country Music Hall of Fame, the Grand Ole Opry, Ryman Auditorium and the Johnny Cash Museum to just name a few. However, you can find pretty much any kind of music and entertainment in the dozens of clubs and music venues in the heart of downtown where there is an array of shops, bars and restaurants.

You could also visit the Hermitage and Parthenon, old plantations and museums.

For more ideas for your visit to Nashville, or Music City as it's affectionately called, check out [www.visitmusiccity.com](http://www.visitmusiccity.com). There you will find more things to do, as well as information on hotels, discounts and deals.

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# NOWRA Resolves to Become a Force in Washington

The squeaky wheel gets the grease so NOWRA is gearing up to make some noise at Capital Hill.

"The more people we have in this country, the more challenging the water and wastewater infrastructure is going to become. So we need to present a single voice, and if we are not going to identify and focus on our issues, letting everybody know what we know, then we are just going to be shut out."

Bob Himschoot, Chair of the Government Relations Committee, NOWRA

**THERE** are many reasons why an organization such as National Onsite Wastewater Recycling Association (NOWRA) would actively seek to increase their visible presence amongst regulatory bodies and policy makers. Often the industry's directives are overshadowed by larger and better-organized interest groups when it comes to securing support from the local, state and national governments.

Prior to his Waterloo, Napoleon Bonaparte said that, "Ten people who speak make more noise than ten thousand who are silent." With that in mind, it is clearly time for the membership of NOWRA to start speaking out and making themselves heard.

Currently, NOWRA would not be considered an influential force in Washington and have only really just begun the process by endorsing the concept of moving forward with their lobbying efforts. Lobbying is not an inexpensive venture and NOWRA is taking it slow, learning to walk before they run, and ensuring that their membership is up to speed with what it is that they are trying to do.

"We are an educated industry in terms of the technical aspects of it," says Bob Himschoot, President of Crews Environmental and Chair of the Government Relations Committee for NOWRA. "But what many of our members have a problem doing is explaining our industry to the law-makers; the ones that make the big decisions on wastewater. We need to do a much better job of spelling it out, so we are first educating our membership on the issues just to make sure we can better communicate the message."

This is best accomplished by becoming familiar with the way policy is derived and more comfortable interacting with the policy-makers. To be successful in promoting their mandate, NOWRA needs to better build relationships with the people on the 'inside' and, with that introduction point, start building more legislative awareness of the onsite/decentralized industry.

"You have to make yourself available as a local expert to your planners and you need to be respected in your industry," says Himschoot. "Only then can you build on that respect and become involved with the politics. You must become involved with that guy who makes decisions so that he can get to see your side of the issue and then promote your perspective in a fair and balanced manner."

NOWRA does not have to look far to make a case for becoming more aggressive in its pursuit of a lobbying presence. One of the more blatant examples of the industry's lack of traction in regards to funding is a portion of the EPA's Clean Water Act—known as the State Revolving Fund (SRF)—which awards more than \$5.5 billion of assistance funding through various loan and grant programs. From this, however, decentralized, onsite and individual systems receive only \$9.1 million.

When you consider that almost a third of the country is served by some type of individual or decentralized septic system, it is shocking that less than 2/10 of one percent of the total funding available goes to the onsite/decentralized industry.

"We are not being equally served by this fund," says Himschoot. "This is the message we need to send to Congress but we have a lot of people within our industry who don't necessarily see this inequality as being their biggest concern, even though they





may understand that they are not getting fair treatment."

It is only with a fairer share of available federal funding that NOWRA can more effectively address the challenges facing today's onsite/decentralized industry; such as countering public misconceptions, resolving media bias for competing disciplines, improving professional training and development, maintenance of all onsite systems and expansion of the industry into more areas across the country. Additional funding would also be able to stabilize companies facing uncertain times during a difficult economy, increasing employment within the industry.

Because of this, it behooves the onsite/decentralized industry to better market

itself through the lobbying process. The industry has a wonderful story to tell and there are many benefits for jurisdictions to adopt their practices. However, as an organization, NOWRA needs to stay focused and remain positive and not be discouraged by the hard work that will need to be done moving forward.

"It takes awhile to make any idea work but you have to start somewhere," says Himschoot. "All it takes a small group to get started and then it just needs some groundswell. But if our membership refuses to understand this and is not willing to take this on as an additional task in running their business, then the policy makers will simply listen to the loudest voices."

NOWRA recognizes that there is no time like the present to commit to the lobbying process, knowing that the future will only make things more difficult should they remain inactive.

"The more people we have in this country, the more challenging the water and wastewater infrastructure is going to become," says Himschoot. "So we need to present a single voice, and if we are not going to identify and focus on our issues, letting everybody know what we know, then we are just going to be shut out."

Because of this, at its Annual Conference in Nashville this November, NOWRA will be further describing its strategy for better representing the industry before Congress. 🌍



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## Gene Bassett: An Icon in the Onsite Wastewater Industry

**GENE** Bassett has come to respect the simple things in the onsite wastewater industry, and as someone who has spent two-thirds of his life working in the industry, he has a lot of experience.

"I've come to appreciate how much the soil does. The soil is our saving grace for just about everything," says Bassett, who is currently serving his second term on the National Onsite Wastewater Recycling Association Board (NOWRA). When it comes to wastewater treatment, thinking about soil might seem simplistic, but Bassett points out "soil does its job"—and has been for hundreds of years—so that people can have clean drinking water.

Bassett got into the industry years ago. He owns a fair-sized ranch and has to repair the water lines, so he got into the line of work at a young age. Later, he began digging lines for water and utilities, and then contractors suggested he get into digging septic systems since he already had the equipment, like a backhoe.

So, Bassett got his license and got into the septic system business. As an installer on NOWRA'S Board, he provides a voice for 80 per cent of NOWRA's members who are contractors.

If Bassett could point to an area that needs more attention in the industry, it would be education, and he says that's where NOWRA comes in. He thinks those in the wastewater industry should attend NOWRA's annual conference

because, as an example, "You can find out what people are doing in New Hampshire, and you can use that in New Mexico," where Bassett lives and works.

Furthermore, Bassett says you need associations like NOWRA to help get the word out that systems are safe. NOWRA also works a lot with educators to prove that the systems are safe and cost-effective.

Bassett is part of a movement to require more education for installers and regulators.

"We've got people putting septic systems in: you can go buy a license and if you can dig a hole, you can put in an onsite septic system," but there's much more to it than that, he says, "and the only way to get that is education."

Unfortunately, Bassett and others who want to make more education a requirement have been fighting with the State of New Mexico since 2005, and the State hasn't been willing to make it happen yet. Bassett says the education has been implemented in the regulations but the New Mexico Environment Department didn't want to implement it and therefore it hasn't come into law. Bassett says industry leaders will keep pushing for changes to education requirements, though.

Not only is Bassett instrumental in pushing for increased education, but he wrote most of New Mexico's onsite wastewater regulations, starting back in 1994. "It took decades of time and lots of work to change the regulations," says Bassett.

Bassett is highly respected in the industry. Randy Miles, who has served two terms on NOWRA's Board and is Director of the University of Missouri Smallflows Training/Research Center, says Bassett is one of the most accurate practitioners out there who is also very active in the industry and always asks questions.

"He's sincere, inquisitive and wants to find out about new technologies," says Miles, noting that all the while, Bassett could be at home making money but instead attends every national meeting, often traveling on his own expense.

"You see very few individuals who do that."

Miles also recalls a particular meeting in Cleveland, Ohio, where Bassett was part of a panel discussion on water softeners and gave a very good rendition on the influence of water softeners on onsite systems.

"He made some very objective, detailed observations, and I had great admiration for Gene because few installers could do that," says Miles.

A key regulation that Bassett was involved with, and which came into place as a result of his efforts, was the requirement to have access risers installed on all septic tanks, so people can service the systems above ground without having to dig things up.

Bassett says effluent filters are another significant change he has seen in the industry—it protects the drain field from lint, solids and whatever else people flush down.

But for Bassett, everything comes back to education. He says there are three types of people in the industry: people who want to move the industry forward, such as himself; manufacturers; and people who have been in the industry for decades who resist change.

"They say, 'I've been in the industry for 20 or 30 years: what can you teach me?' and that's the wrong attitude to have," says Bassett, who says he always learns something at the annual conference that he can take back and apply to his work. As well, Bassett is grateful to have met so many researchers who have done so much for the industry at this event. 🌍

For more information on NOWRA'S upcoming national conference, visit [www.nowra.org](http://www.nowra.org).



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## If you are a NOWRA state affiliate, you can contribute to this section of the magazine FREE OF CHARGE!

Email [ssavory@matrixgroupinc.net](mailto:ssavory@matrixgroupinc.net) for deadlines for the next issue.

### Colorado

On July 1, 2013, Regulation 43 went into effect in Colorado. This regulation is known as the "On-Site Wastewater Treatment System Regulation" and is the first major update to the on-site wastewater regulations in Colorado since the 1970s. The main emphasis of this re-write was a philosophical shift of moving to performance-based standards and focusing on "treatment" of the wastewater versus basic disposal. Subsequently, each individual county in the state has one year from the effective date to revise their own local codes, which must comply with the basic concepts set forth in Regulation 43.

This re-write, which was spearheaded by the Colorado Department of Public Health & Environment, sought input from various stakeholder groups in both the public and private sectors. Several members of the Colorado Professionals in Onsite Wastewater (CPOW) were instrumental in providing technical support.

The annual CPOW Educational Conference will be held January 16-17, 2014 in Lakewood, Colorado. Contact us at [www.cpow.net](http://www.cpow.net).

### Maryland

New legislation, policies and regulations are combining to totally alter the industry in Maryland. The Maryland legislature recently passed the "Sustainable Growth and Agriculture Preservation Act," which severely restricts the number of new onsite systems that can be installed. New state regulations require those new lots install Best Available Technology treatment systems. It also requires homeowners to have M&O contracts in perpetuity to ensure the systems are performing as expected.

These are costly and complex policies and there is a question about the economic viability of new individual onsite systems that have to effect no new nitrogen and phosphorous discharges from their wastewater and stormwater. If that is not achieved with onsite technology, the property owner will have to purchase "offsets" to arrive at zero discharges. All of this to comply with the EPA mandated "nitrogen and phosphorous diet" to help restore the Chesapeake Bay.

The Maryland Onsite Wastewater Professionals Association (MOWPA) is a non-political, non-profit entity for professionals and companies working in the onsite sewage

treatment and disposal industry. We hope to see you at the MOWPA Conference, November 6-7, 2013. The theme is "In The Ground View Of Onsite Best Available Technology Systems." Visit our website at [www.MOWPA.org](http://www.MOWPA.org).

### Massachusetts

The Massachusetts Association of Onsite Wastewater Professionals (MAOWP) is a NOWRA affiliate offering wastewater professionals from all sectors the ability to interact and advance the status of the onsite wastewater industry. We utilize the New England Water Environment Association for clerical support and have a current membership of 94.

You might recall that we existed previously as the Yankee Onsite Wastewater Association (YOWA)—a six-state affiliate chapter of NOWRA. YOWA hosted a number of major education sessions, including last year's NOWRA conference in Providence, Rhode Island. The group has since decided to focus our efforts solely in Massachusetts so we can provide high-quality information, training sessions and advocacy for proper onsite wastewater system design, construction and operation. We remain an affiliate of NOWRA.

We just completed a successful training class in Bridgewater on various non-traditional (I/A) technologies in use in Massachusetts, with 43 people in attendance from a range of professions. Please visit [www.maowp.org](http://www.maowp.org) to learn more and obtain a membership application.

### Michigan

The Michigan Onsite Wastewater Recycling Association (MOWRA) is busy helping to plan the 63rd Annual Onsite Wastewater Conference and Exhibition, to be held January 7-9, 2014. This conference is the major educational event for the onsite industry in Michigan each year, and is expected to again attract between 400 and 500 attendees. MOWRA is joined by the Michigan Septic Tank Association, the Michigan Environmental Health Association, Michigan State University (MSU), The Michigan Department of Environmental Quality, and the Michigan Water Environment Association on the planning committee, which meets throughout the year to work on this event. This year's conference will again be held at the Kellogg Education and Conference Center on the MSU campus in E. Lansing, Michigan.

Contact Larry Stephens, P.E., MOWRA President, at [scscons@yahoo.com](mailto:scscons@yahoo.com) or (517) 339-8692 if you would like more detailed information.

As opportunities present themselves, MOWRA is encouraging Michigan to begin work on a recycling/reuse strategy. Since Michigan is blessed with an abundance of fresh water, it is expected that the driver for reuse in Michigan will likely be energy savings, rather than water conservation.

### Minnesota


The premier event of the Minnesota Onsite Wastewater Association is the annual Convention and Expo. The next one is scheduled for the end of January 2014 in Duluth at the Duluth Exhibit and Exposition Center. Sponsors and/or exhibitors are welcome and they always report it is a great show. Find more details at [www.mowa-mn.org](http://www.mowa-mn.org). We hope to see you there!

Our summer event was held in July and was attended by 70 people. It was a great day that featured continuing education, product demonstrations and renewing some old acquaintances. Attendees were hosted by Plaisted Companies at their Elk River site, educated by the University of Minnesota, and saw some exhibitor demos. Chairman Shane Steinbrecher created a very successful and educational day.

We want to wish the very best of success for the new NOWRA magazine. It is important to keep communicating and we know this is a priority for NOWRA, so good luck!

### Missouri

The Missouri Smallflows Organization (MSO) is gearing up for fall seminars and is planning the 18th Annual Conference and Trade Show for 2014. It is January 21-22 at the Boone County Fairgrounds in Columbia, Missouri. A Pre-Conference seminar is being planned for January 20 at Bradford Farms, with a topic of Site Management and Installation taught by Dr. Randy Miles. The conference agenda is being finalized and will be posted to the MSO website, [www.mosmallflows.org](http://www.mosmallflows.org).

Fall seminars will be throughout the state of Missouri, including topics of operations and maintenance. Visit the MSO website to see classes in your area. 

# Join NOWRA: Reap the Benefits

## WHY NOWRA?

- NOWRA is the largest organization within the U.S. **dedicated to educating and representing members** within the onsite and decentralized industry.
- **All segments of the industry are represented on NOWRA's Board of Directors** that provide broad perspectives to promote and sustain our industry and service to the public.
- NOWRA provides **a national forum** to address the challenges facing our industry.
- As the national educational resource and clearinghouse for onsite and decentralized systems and promoter of best management practices, **NOWRA plays a lead role in state and federal legislative initiatives** to protect water sources, human health, and the environment.
- **NOWRA creates new market and business opportunities for its members** through conferences and networking events, while increasing the awareness about how onsite systems protect public health and the environment.

## WHY JOIN?

**Septic Locator:** Every NOWRA member receives a free listing on the Septic Locator, the only national, searchable directory of providers of onsite wastewater management services.

**Installer Academy:** NOWRA has established the Installer Academy as the national educational entity for the decentralized wastewater industry to ensure that quality training programs are available for all industry practitioners.

**Resource Library:** NOWRA's Resource Library is intended to be a one-stop portal to help you identify critical information online, which can help you manage your business. It consists of published industry research, how-to manuals, regulations, archived training materials...and more.

**Annual Conference:** NOWRA's Annual Conference & Expo brings together industry leaders from around the country.

**Newsletter:** NOWRA E-News is delivered directly to your email inbox and consists of the latest news on national and regional developments affecting our industry.

**Leadership:** NOWRA provides all members with opportunities to have a voice in its affairs. Whether you express that by voting in NOWRA's Board of Directors elections, participating in the Annual Meeting, commenting on proposals, volunteering your time on a committee or task force, or simply sharing your views with a board member, NOWRA welcomes and encourages your involvement in our activities.

**Affiliate Support:** NOWRA works to support its state organizations in a variety of ways: training discounts, Roe-D-Hoe® support, meetings with state leaders, data/web services and much more.

**Roe-D-Hoe®:** Held annually at the Pumper Show, this competition is intended to showcase the skills of contractors and the equipment they operate through a series of timed exercises contestants must perform on a backhoe. NOWRA also sanctions a number of state Roe-D-Hoe® competitions around the country; the state winners are automatically grandfathered into the national finals where they compete against the winner of the open competition held during the Pumper Show.

**Errors and Omissions Insurance for Designers and Inspectors:** NOWRA has endorsed Alteris' SeptiCover Errors & Omissions coverage for designers and inspectors of septic systems. Alteris has been involved in the septic system industry for more than a decade and their SeptiCover E&O package offers extremely affordable premiums for members providing design and or inspection services.

**Equipment Loan Discounts:** NOWRA has partnered with Wells Fargo to provide members with discounts on interest rates and document fees for equipment purchases in excess of \$50,000. This membership benefit is unique for NOWRA members—no other onsite association is able to offer this discount to its members.

**Office Supplies Discounts:** NOWRA has teamed with Office Depot to bring your business a better office supply solution.







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| Student     | \$ 35             |

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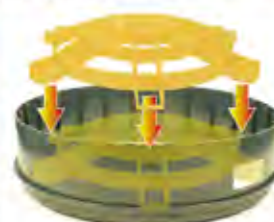
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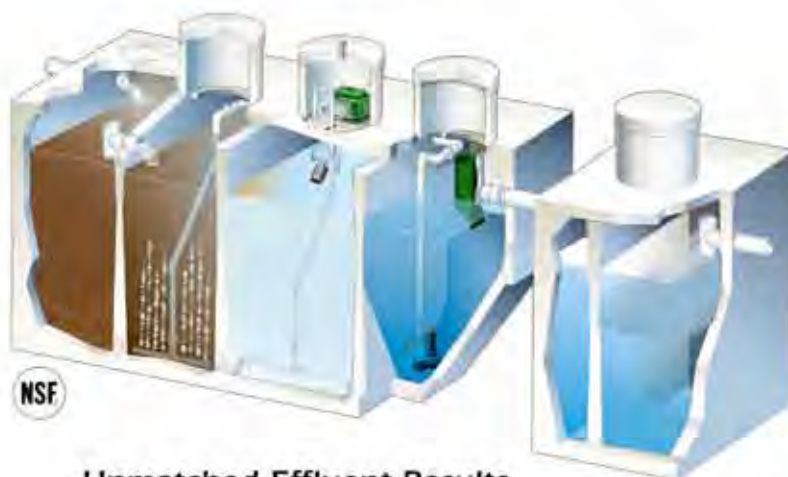


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2 mg/L TSS

8 mg/L TN

- ◆ NSF/ANSI Standards 40 and 245 Certified
- ◆ Routine service needed only once every 12 months
- ◆ Revolutionary in design
- ◆ Innovative Hydro-Kinetic<sup>®</sup> filtration technology
- ◆ Unparalleled in performance
- ◆ Cleanest, most consistent effluent quality available

To learn more about Hydro-Kinetic<sup>®</sup> or our other award-winning products, please contact us:

**(419)668-4471** or **1-800-NORWECO**

**[www.hydro-kinetic.com](http://www.hydro-kinetic.com)** or **[www.norweco.com](http://www.norweco.com)**

## SINGULAIR GREEN<sup>®</sup>

- ◆ Treats up to 600 GPD
- ◆ NSF/ANSI Standards 40 and 245 Certified
- ◆ Easily installed
- ◆ Durable, watertight, HDPE tank
- ◆ Single tank convenience
- ◆ Energy efficient operation
- ◆ Outstanding treatment quality

