



WSEHA Newsletter

WASHINGTON STATE ENVIRONMENTAL HEALTH ASSOCIATION

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December 2015

MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT

The holidays are always the perfect time of year to begin to look back at the calendar and reminisce about what has happened throughout the year. Luckily, looking back at some of the more difficult times becomes a little easier as the weeks and months have passed by. Each crisis that impacts Environmental Public Health seems to be all-encompassing and daunting while we are in the middle of it. Somehow, we make it through the ordeal knowing the break may be short-lived. Unfortunately, it usually is. Dealing with outbreaks, potential lawsuits, irate business owners, and angry homeowners takes a toll on the best of us. The overall good feelings of the holidays, the thoughts of the possibilities of the new year, and the sense of accomplishment from what we did this year, all combine to make this time of year a good time to look at all the great work we have done.



As an organization, Washington State Environmental Health Association (WSEHA) has been busy. First and foremost, we are excited to welcome Dayna Katula as the Executive Secretary of WSEHA. If you have had any interaction with WSEHA during the last year, chances are you have worked with Dayna and have come away very pleased. Dayna comes to us with very high praises from all levels of the Kitsap Public Health District, and we quickly learned why. Be sure to read Dayna's articles in this newsletter.

Our two trainings went very well, both in overall attendance as well as in feedback from participants and presenters. My primary objective as WSEHA President remains building and strengthening partnerships. The trainings are a great part of that. Presenters came from local health, state health, Ecology, state government, and private industry to present on issues that can potentially impact the way we are able to provide services. Topics varied greatly; everything from onsite sewage dangers to air quality... Your basic day in environmental health.

We are also excited to welcome new Board members to WSEHA. The Eastern Region has had a high degree of turnover in the last 3 years. However, Chris Skidmore from Whitman County has agreed to step in and is excited to be a part of the Association. Be sure to read more about Chris in this issue of the newsletter. Also, long-time member Mike Vinatieri

Continued on Page 8

NEHA UPDATE – November 2015

This NEHA update shares information with you about many activities and resources the National Environmental Health Association has initiated to support and assist environmental health professionals.

Like the WSEHA website, the NEHA website has been redesigned. Hopefully, the NEHA site is easier to navigate to be your source for on-line continuing education and credential building.

Consider attending the 2016 AEC in San Antonio. The conference will start in the afternoon of June 13 and end early afternoon on June 16. It is being designed to increase more networking through less formal social gatherings.

Ned Therien, RS



More NEHA updates on page 3

WSEHA Office Location and Contact Information

1088 Puget Drive East Port Orchard, WA 98366
Website: www.wseha.org
Phone 414.688.2491, Fax 360.989.3997
Executive Secretary:
Dayna Katula
dayna@wseha.org

WSEHA Board of Directors

President - Michael Baker
509.397.6280
MichaelB@co.whitman.wa.us

President Elect - Vacant

Immediate Past President - Kay Massong
360.867.2571
kmassong@hotmail.com

Secretary - Ross Lytle
360.337.5677
Ross.Lytle@kitsappublichealth.org

Treasurer - Jesse Smith
360.414.5599 x6442
smithj@co.cowlitz.wa.us

Central Regional Vice President - James Rivard
509.457.7123
jriv461@ecy.wa.gov

Eastern Regional Vice President - Chris Skidmore
Chris.Skidmore@co.whitman.wa.us

Northwest Regional Vice President - Vacant

Olympic Regional Vice President - Jodie Holdcroft
360.337.5629
Jodie.Holdcroft@kitsappublichealth.org

Southwest Regional Vice President - Jeremy Simmons
Jeremy.simmons@doh.wa.gov

WSEHA Committee Chairs

International Health Committee - Ross Lytle
360.337.5677
Ross.Lytle@kitsappublichealth.org

Nominations and Awards Committee—Joe Graham
360.236.3305
Joe.Graham@doh.wa.gov

Publications Committee—Megan McNelly
360.875.9356
mmcnelly@co.pacific.wa.us

INSIDE THIS ISSUE:

President's Message	1
NEHA Update	2
Introduction to Chris Skidmore	4
2015 Educational Seminar Summary	5
WSEHA Website—Redesigned	6
Introduction to Dayna Katula	7
Introduction to Jeremy Simmons	7
Remembering Jim Matsuyama	9

Next Newsletter Deadline: March 18, 2016

The Washington State Environmental Health Association Newsletter is the official publication of WSEHA. Membership in WSEHA includes a subscription to the newsletter. Manuscripts for publication must be type-written and submitted via e-mail to dayna@wseha.org, or on a computer disk mailed to WSEHA at the address above. Membership in WSEHA is not required for acceptance of articles in the newsletter.

Opinions expressed in articles published in the WSEHA newsletter should not be accepted necessarily as statements of policy or opinions of WSEHA.

Want to join WSEHA? For information and membership applications, visit:

<http://www.wseha.org/#!membership/c1ulz>

NEHA UPDATE—NOVEMBER 2015

Ned Therien, NEHA Region I VP

2015 NEHA AEC Resources

The National Environmental Health Association thanks all of our fantastic attendees, presenters, and exhibitors for making the 2015 Annual Educational Conference & Exhibition such a success. Use the NEHA website to view the 2015 AEC [wrap-up video](#) and [photo gallery](#). NEHA has received requests from those unable to attend the AEC for Dr. Dyjack's [keynote presentation](#). His vision for charting a new course for the organization and the environmental health profession earned him a standing ovation at the AEC! Many of the 2015 AEC educational sessions may be viewed for additional continuing education credits. They are free to attendees, and available for purchase: Members \$99/ Nonmembers \$215.

NEHA and HUD Partnering for 2016 Conference

NEHA and HUD's Office of Lead Hazard Control and Healthy Homes (OLHCHH) are excited to announce that in 2016, the NEHA AEC and HUD's Healthy Homes Conference will be held jointly in San Antonio, Texas, June 13–16, on the River Walk. We welcome strengthening the healthy homes dimension of our conference and think this will bring great opportunities for additional connections between NEHA members and HUD grantees.

2016 Conference Website Is Now Online

The official NEHA 2016 AEC and HUD's Healthy Homes Conference website is now online. New this year, the conference webpages are part of NEHA's newly redesigned website. To view the latest information about the 2016 AEC, please visit neha.org/aec. Please [visit our website](#) to also view registration options and prices. Register soon to take advantage of early pricing.

Affiliate Engagement

Recognizing the many shared goals and objectives NEHA affiliates have in common with NEHA, NEHA has created a new committee to strengthen its affiliates. During the next year members of the Affiliate Engagement Committee will be communicating with affiliate officers and taking actions to provide affiliates with the resources and training that they can use to enhance their organization. The NEHA Affiliate Engagement Committee has surveyed affiliate presidents to better understand affiliate training and resource needs, and is using the information to plan NEHA AEC sessions for affiliate offers.

NEHA Is Increasing Advocacy

There has always been a need and expectation that NEHA would serve as a voice for environmental health professionals on policy, regulatory and legislative issues confronting this profession. With the growth of NEHA and the ever-increasing complexity of environmental health issues, the NEHA Board of Directors made a commitment to establish a Government Affairs program. The program will identify and research issues. In close cooperation with NEHA's board, the Government Affairs program serves as the mechanism for NEHA to take positions on policy and legislative issues. Furthermore, it establishes and maintains the critical relationships with federal agencies, other non-governmental organizations (NGOs) and the many coalitions, initiatives and work groups that carry out this important work.

NEHA Position Papers

One of the National Environmental Health Association's responsibilities is to speak up on issues of concern to our members, and one way of doing this involves adopting positions. By publishing these positions, we strive to keep you informed about where we stand as an association on issues critical to environmental health. If you and/or your colleagues have the opportunity to advance any of these positions, we encourage you to do so. Position papers can be accessed using the NEHA website.

Continued on page 4

INTRODUCING.....CHRIS SKIDMORE, REGIONAL VP



My name is Chris Skidmore and I have been working as an Environmental Health Specialist with Whitman County. I was born in Walla Walla and grew up in the small town of Dayton, WA. After high school I attended Washington State University where I graduated with a Bachelors of Science in Molecular Genetics. Upon graduating I took a plant research position in the Institute of Biological Chemistry at WSU where I worked for 7 years. After that I took a job as an analytical chemist for an environmental lab in Moscow, ID for 4 years. For nearly the last two years I have been working for Whitman County Environmental Health. I work in all environmental programs but my main emphasis is on Water Recreation, Drinking Water, Solid Waste, and Food. When I'm not working I enjoy spending time outdoors camping, disc golfing, rafting, and fishing.

NEHA UPDATE

Continued from page 3

Advance Your Career with a NEHA Credential

Receive the recognition you deserve for your expertise by earning one of the environmental health credentials offered by the National Environmental Health Association. Founded in 1937 by practitioners who wanted to establish a standard of excellence for the profession, that standard has come to be known as the Registered Environmental Health Specialist or Registered Sanitarian (REHS/RS) credential. Since that time, NEHA has developed additional credentials that evidence mastery of specialized knowledge. NEHA is striving to make the credentialing process as convenient as possible. Interested in maintaining your **RET**, **RHSP** and **RHSS** credentials? Please contact the Credentialing Department at (303) 756-9090 ext. 310, or email credentialing@neha.org

The **Registered Environmental Health Specialist/Registered Sanitarian (REHS/RS) Credential** is the premiere NEHA credential. It is available to a wide range of environmental health professionals. Individuals holding the REHS/RS credential show competency in environmental health issues, direct and train personnel to respond to routine or emergency environmental health situations, and frequently provide education to their communities on environmental health concerns.

The **Certified in Comprehensive Food Safety (CCFS) Credential** is NEHA's newest credential. The Food Safety Modernization Act (FSMA) has recast the food safety landscape, including the role of the food safety professional. An individual who earns the CCFS credential will demonstrate expertise in how to assure food is safe for consumers throughout the entire food supply chain from farm to fork.

The **Certified Professional - Food Safety (CP-FS) Credential** is for food safety professionals and is designed for individuals within the public and private sectors whose primary responsibility is the protection and safety of food. The exam for this prestigious credential integrates food microbiology, HACCP principles and regulatory requirements into questions that test problem solving skills and knowledge.

The **Healthy Homes Specialist (HHS) Credential** signifies the professional direction, achievement and the knowledge to carry out functions and duties of a technical nature in a responsible manner. The HHS exam tests your understanding of the connection between health and housing, enabling you to take a holistic approach to identify and resolve problems that threaten the health and well-being of residents and was developed in partnership with the National Center for Healthy Housing (NCHH).

The **Certified Installers of Onsite Wastewater Treatment Systems (CIOWTS) Credential** was developed through a cooperative agreement with the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (USEPA), and various partner groups to develop a national credential to certify installers of onsite wastewater treatment systems. The credential covers all forms of installation and will be offered at both a basic and advanced levels.

Continued on page 9

EASTSIDE/WESTSIDE EDUCATIONAL SEMINARS

Dayna Katula, Executive Secretary

This year, in lieu of an Annual Education Conference, WSEHA offered two 2-day seminars- one in Ephrata, Washington on August 13-14, 2015, and the other in Tacoma, Washington on September 29-30, 2015. It was the mission of Michael Baker, WSEHA's President, to make sure that low-cost continuing education units were available to Environmental Health professionals around the state, relevant topics in Washington State were addressed, and a welcoming environment for networking was established.

Overall, the seminars were a success! Over 70 people attended the seminars, where they heard 23 speakers present on 12 different topics. Speakers offered a wide-range of topics, from words of wisdom, to emerging Environmental Health issues, to the current state of our resources. Thank you SO much to all of our speakers, who spent much time and energy in preparing, commuting to *both* of the seminars, and delivering great presentations:



Leadership panel at the Tacoma seminar

- Michelle Andrews, *Department of Ecology*
- Michael Baker, *Whitman County Health Department*
- Modinat Ogun, *Tacoma-Pierce County Health Department*
- Darrell Rodgers, *Public Health Seattle and King County*
- Matt Schanz, *Northeast Tri County Health District*
- Jennine Griffo, *Washington State Auditor's Office*
- John Wolpers, *Whatcom County Health Department*
- Ginny Stern, *Washington State Department of Health*
- John Thomas, *Washington On-site Sewage Association*
- Ron Wohrle, *Washington State Department of Health*
- Jared Keefer, *Jefferson County Public Health*
- Holly Myers, *Kittitas County Public Health Department*
- Stephen Baker, *Department of Health*
- Wayne Clifford, *Department of Health*
- Todd Phillips, *Grant County Health District*
- Mary Harrington, *Department of Ecology*
- John Cleary, *Department of Ecology*
- Jeff Ketchel, *Snohomish Health District*
- Faith Taylor-Eldred, *Pacific County*
- Matt Kadlec, *Department of Ecology*
- Chuck Harman, *Clark County Public Health*
- Joe Laxson, *Clark County Public Health*
- Madeline Wall, *Department of Ecology*

WSEHA would also like to extend a warm thank you to the Grant County Public Works Department and the Tacoma-Pierce County Health Department (TPCHD) for the use of their facility. We specifically want to highlight the efforts of Andy Comstock and Rachel Knight of TPCHD for their very generous assistance in making sure that the Westside seminar was a success!

(more photos on page 8)

WSEHA WEBSITE—REDESIGNED!



Dayna Katula, WSEHA Executive Secretary

The WSEHA website has been redesigned with you in mind! With a renewed focus on collaboration and education, the new website encourages YOU, the environmental health professional or student, to share the happenings going on in your world, upcoming events that you'd like to promote, stories that make Environmental Health fascinating- be it funny, embarrassing, ---sad, or just plain thought-provoking.

WSEHA wants to hear from you! Tell us what types of trainings/education that you'd like to see offered, what our Association can be doing better to improve your experience with us, how you can be swayed (read: candy?) into participating with us on committees or during planning of events, or any other type of feedback. We welcome volunteers that are willing to donate any amount of time or expertise- a little bit can go a long way!

We also want to feature your pictures doing EH stuff! If you have any good pictures that you're willing to share, please send them over to Dayna Katula at dayna@wseha.org or through the new website's Contact Us page. Let your colleagues see what cool things you're working on or how awesome your organization is! We are especially looking for Eastern Washington pictures or stories since we don't have many of those.

Lastly, we have a new online store! We're working on getting some good WSEHA merchandise, but in the meantime, feel free to donate your hard-earned money to help out your friendly neighborhood non-profit. We've also started to accept donated items to help support WSEHA- if you donate or purchase an item, you can specify if you'd like the funds to go to a particular purpose (e.g., scholarships, general WSEHA fund, tip to Dayna... just kidding, tips not accepted unless they're smiles). However, please be aware that if you access the online store or try to donate from your work computer, your organization's firewall may block the pages.

So please visit our new website at wseha.org. Let us know what you think!



INTRODUCING.....DAYNA KATULA, EXECUTIVE SECRETARY

Greetings! I am very excited to be WSEHA's next Executive Secretary, or, as Jodie Holdcroft so eloquently calls it, the next Cat Herder. Unpopular as it is, cat herding is one of my favorite things because it allows me to demonstrate my (often made fun of) desire to organize and coordinate with people.

I am also thrilled to have the job because it means that I can play a more active role within the Association and work with many people that I otherwise would not have the opportunity to meet. Speaking of which, if you see me out and about, please introduce yourself*. I'd love for you to tell me about the role you play in environmental health**!

About me- I have a BS in Environmental Science with a minor in Environmental Policy and Planning from Western Washington University. Currently, I am an Environmental Health Specialist with the Kitsap Public Health District. At KPHD, I am a Food Inspector and the coordinator of our Recreational Shellfish and Natural Swimming Beach Programs. Juggling a full-time EHS job with this new position will be a challenge, but I am definitely up for it (plus, I don't have much of a social life so it'll be okay).



Kerri has done a wonderful job over the past years, and everyone will surely miss her. She is leaving very big shoes to fill, and I am hopeful that I will grow into them!

* I'm terrible at remembering names. Please don't be offended. As a fair compromise, I won't be offended if you don't remember my name either.

**But I really hate awkward silences. To fill those conversational voids, let's both prepared with a joke or other conversational topic such as knitting, the Oxford Comma, The Big Bang Theory (Bazinga!), or pets.

INTRODUCING.....JEREMY SIMMONS, SW REGIONAL VP

Jeremy Simmons is a recent transplant from Colorado. He has a background in environmental science, environmental health and public health and has worked at the local and state level. Jeremy received a bachelor's degree in Environmental Science from the University of Colorado at Denver. Out of college he went into the environmental consulting field and worked on monitoring and remediation at contaminated sites across the country, environmental site assessments, and developing health, safety, and environmental training for the natural gas industry.

Then, he made the switch to government work. He worked for a time as a drinking water regulator at the Colorado Department of Public Health and Environment, managing several drinking water regulations across the state. From here he moved to the local level to develop a county environmental health department, as the environmental health officer, of a mountainous rural Colorado county called Rio Blanco County. Over several years he developed multiple programs and capacities of the agency including consumer protection, land use reviews, on-site wastewater regulation/permitting, limited water laboratory services, chemical/hazardous waste response, and an air quality monitoring, event warning, and educational program. Recognizing the value of associations, he also served in the Colorado Environmental Health Association, developing and delivering HAZWOPER training for environmental health workers, and with the Colorado Environmental Health Directors serving as vice-president and secretary.

Jeremy eventually moved into the public health director position at Rio Blanco County. In this role he lead the agency into long-term quality improvement planning and developed and instituted programs to ensure agency compliance with duties, contracts, and budgets.

In May of 2015 Jeremy took the opportunity to move to Washington and take on the challenge of managing the Wastewater Management Section at the Washington Department of Health.

Jeremy is honored and excited to serve the Washington State Environmental Health Association as a member of the Board of Directors. He hopes to learn as much as possible from and contribute where he can to the WSEHA community.

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Continued from front page

has decided to step down as the Southwest Regional Vice President. While this is a huge loss to the Association, we are excited that Mike has agreed to stay on and serve as both a mentor for new Regional Vice President Jeremy Simmons as well as lend his expertise for the 2016 Annual Educational Conference. Be sure to give both Mike and Jeremy your support the next time you see them.

The biggest news for 2016 will be the Annual Educational Conference (AEC). The Board has unanimously agreed on Vancouver, Washington as the host site. We are excited that Bob Custard, the current National Environmental Health Association (NEHA) President has agreed to be an active part of the conference. Bob will be a main speaker, a presenter in one of the sessions, and also available to answer questions about NSF. As you saw in previous conferences, we will have tracks dedicated to the “traditional” roles of environmental health as well as some of the newer and emerging issues that we deal with in our profession. If you have an interest in presenting or have seen something that you feel should be shared, be sure to watch for our “Call for Proposals” that will be out any day now.

As I have done in the past, and will continue to do throughout my time with WSEHA, I end this message with a request: Become involved with the Washington State Environmental Health Association. As you can see, WSEHA is an active organization that strives to be a strong advocate for you. As a part of Washington State Environmental Health Association, you can build on your strengths, or developing new ones, as you serve your profession, your peers, and your communities. Whether you would like to volunteer for a specific event, serve on a committee, serve on the Board, or in another way that you envisioned, we can find a spot for you! Please feel free to contact me, your Regional Vice President, or our Executive Secretary Dayna Katula for additional information.

Thanks for reading.

~Michael Baker

EDUCATIONAL SEMINARS PHOTOS



Jeff Ketchel presenting in Ephrata



Modinat Ogun presenting in Tacoma



Matt Schanz and Chris Skidmore in Ephrata

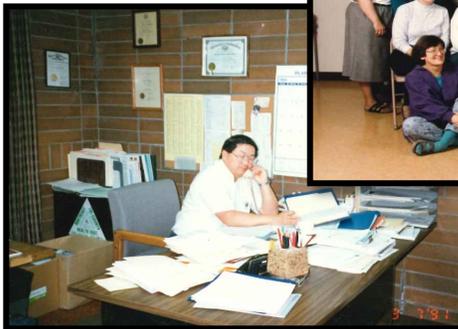
REMEMBERING JIM MATSUYAMA

Matt Schanz, EH Director, NE Tri County

Environmental Health in Washington lost a longtime friend and consummate professional when Jim Matsuyama passed away on July 28, 2015. He was “EH” to the core. He always would let you know that he was a proud graduate from the University of Washington in Environmental Health. He started his professional career in 1973 with Stevens County Health Department and then Northeast Tri County Health District where he worked until his retirement in 2011. Most of this time was spent as the Environmental Health Director. In Jim’s career he saw changes from the “old school” way of open dumps and straight pipes to the



emergence of public health laws and the increasing complexity of the profession. He was a trusted leader around the state who applied a practical common-sense approach mixed in with comic relief and kindness. A friend said it best—“When Jim was at the table, the outcome of an issue was always better.” Jim had a role in developing and guiding many of the programs we have now. He will be remembered as an adviser, colleague, and friend to many of us throughout the state.



NEHA UPDATE

Continued from page 4

The **Certified Environmental Health Technician (CEHT) Credential** is for individuals who are interested in field intensive environmental health activities such as testing, sampling, and inspections and who are required to provide information on safe environmental health practices to eliminate environmental health hazards. Individuals holding the CEHT provide technical support and assistance to a variety of professionals (environmental health specialists, health officers, sanitary engineers, etc.) and often coordinate sanitation and environmental health activities with state and local public health units.

Join NEHA and be part of an organization that fosters cooperation and understanding among environmental health professionals. Receive 10 issues of the **Journal of Environmental Health** (JEH) and find out why subscribers from some 53 countries around the world go to the Journal to stay current on the latest technological, legal, and research-based advancements in environmental health. NEHA credentials signify a level of expertise and competency based on education and experience that is nationally recognized. NEHA members receive discounts on credential exam and renewal fees, have access to free NEHA e-Learning sessions, and receive discounts for the NEHA AEC, the premiere environmental health education conference where you can network and learn with the best in your field.