Congratulations, Randy Durant!

2011 John Nordin Outstanding Sanitarian Award

The following is the touching nomination letter that David Compton wrote to nominate Randy Durant for the John Nordin Outstanding Sanitarian Award:

Please accept into nomination for the John P. Nordin Outstanding Sanitarian Award Randy Durant. I believe that Randy far and away has demonstrated the qualities necessary to achieve this award over the span of his forty year career in both public health and private industry. I met Randy in 1974 at the [at that time] Olympic Health District in Port Townsend where he was the sole sanitarian. I was impressed with his ability to balance the pressures created by developers to obtain on-site sewage disposal permits with the need to conduct routine inspections of food service establishments, well and water system development, and such programs as school safety. Randy was able to accomplish this with ease and good humor, while at the same time able to meet the requirement to protect public health. He also found the time to serve as a WSEHA vice-president for the Olympic Region.

Randy went on to become the Director of Environmental Health in 1978 when Jefferson County formed its own health department. During this time he planned and directed the Environmental Health programs in the newly formed department and established procedures and routines in effect today.

Continued on Page 6...

WSEHA honors Samuel Irving Reed for his service to the people of Washington State, his commitment to Environmental Health and his Legacy – this organization. For all of Samuel’s contributions, WSEHA is truly thankful.
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 kerri@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.
President's Message

By Geoffrey Crofoot
WSEHA President
May 11, 2012

Members and Friends of the Washington State Environmental Health Association (WSEHA):

For years now, I've been writing cajoling and encouraging messages, some with subtle and some with not-so-subtle requests for membership involvement. It is with sadness that I recognize over the years, few have headed the call. So today, I write to you directly in plain talk. WSEHA Needs You to Volunteer or It will Cease to Exist.

So, how did we come to this seemingly drastic statement? A little background: The economy was projected to be bad and became worse. Budgets were tight and have become tighter. Institutions ask you to do more with less, for less money and in less time. There are fewer of us due to layoffs and plain retirement. Those who are left are likely tired at the end of the day yet still have families, community responsibilities, a social life, or perhaps second jobs - all of which WSEHA competes with for volunteer time. I get it, less time, money and energy equals less involvement.

WSEHA recognized decreasing membership as early as 2006 preceding the move to hosting Joint Conferences - which was an attempt at boosting membership and involvement. In hindsight, the move ultimately failed and likely disenfranchised more Environmental Health people than it attracted. In response, WSEHA attempted smaller, affordable, local trainings across the state. However, multiple unique offerings at different sites, several times a year is a sustainable feat that requires a dedicated, full time, paid staff and reasonable competition. The reality is that the WSEHA board is comprised of unpaid volunteers (except our executive secretary) who have full time Environmental Health jobs. WSEHA competes with organizations offering free on-line resources, agencies which host free trainings, and agency-heads who insist on no-cost education with no travel. Finally, the Board, currently hovering around 5-6 members has become the volunteer pool for everything that WSEHA does. The result: the Board is tired and a little used up which simply means fewer and fewer WSEHA hosted educational opportunities.

I tell you this so you'll understand how WSEHA came to following position. WSEHA must fill the following positions too: President Elect, Immediate Past President (which should be filled by me and would result in the need for a current President), Northwest Regional Vice President, Educational Committee Chair, Awards Committee Chair, Publications Committee Chair, Finance Committee Chair and Membership Committee Chair. We have recently filled the vacant Secretary’s seat – thanks to Ross Lytle for your continuing service. We are going to need a Treasurer within the next six months. Steve Garrett, our current treasurer, retired some time ago from a long career in Environmental Health and has soldiered on with WSEHA. Steve’s good work simply can’t continue forever. Thanks Steve. Your service is truly invaluable. Finally, in addition to the specific positions that need to be filled, WSEHA needs General Involvement in the form of people who have energy to contribute towards helping out on a committee or developing a presentation for a potential future Environmental Health Annual Education Conference.

WSEHA recognizes that the organization still offers something that no other agency or website can; Professional Community. After the rough road the organization traveled in the preceding years, WSEHA further recognizes that the best way to build our community is to meet at an Annual Education Conference (AEC) for Environmental Health Professionals put on by Environmental Health Professionals.

WSEHA has tentative plans to host an AEC in the spring of 2013 or 2014. Planning an AEC requires two principal elements: Financial support and volunteers. WSEHA has financial resources, which can be successfully directed to this challenge. What remains is the keen and immediate need for involvement. Without the aforementioned board positions and committee chairs filled, WSEHA simply cannot go on as 1) an organization and 2) an organization planning an AEC.

So, I challenge you to consider this message, pass it along to co-workers, become a member, renew your membership and volunteer for a Board Position or the Chair of a committee. I challenge you to do this within a month of the date of this message. Finally, I challenge you knowing that failure to act will likely mean an end to the Washington State Environmental Health Association.

Please contact WSEHA’s office by phone at (360) 738-8946 or via email by simply clicking this link. If by June 30, 2012 there are multiple people interested in the same position(s) then an election will be conducted. In the absence of competing candidates, volunteers for the various positions will be appointed by the Board.

Sincerely,

Geoffrey Crofoot, WSEHA President
Dear Ms. Wagner,

I have just received my father's issue of the WSEHA Newsletter. My father was a founding member of the WSEHA and I believe, held every office in the organization. He devoted his career to Public Health and felt strongly about the importance of a healthy environment as well as the importance of the association of like minded professionals for the promotion of the profession and unity of purpose.

I must inform you of this death this past year and have attached his obituary for your reference.

Thank you for your attention and continuing his life's work.

Sincerely,
Barbara Waske

The last of a line of Samuel Irving Reeds dating from before the American Revolution was born In Gold Bar WA to Samuel Irving Reed and Maude Adele Treadwell and moved to Leavenworth, Wenatchee, Bremerton and Seattle before settling in Olympia. Sam graduated from Ballard HS '36, Univ. Of Wash. BS'40 and Univ. of Cal. Berkeley MPH '56. He married Shirley Joy Cobb of Seattle. Professional life began as a microbiologist for Arden Farms. As a Registered Sanitarian, Sam served as Director of Sanitation for the Bremerton-Kitsap County Health Dept, Head of the Health Education Division of the Washington State Health Dept, Clinical Instructor of Preventive Medicine and Affiliate Associate Professor of Environmental Public Health at the University of Washington, Director of the Pesticide Research Program at Washington State University, and retired as Chief of Environment Health for the Washington State Department of Social and Health Services. In these positions beginning in the 1940s he began the cleanup of Puget Sound in Dyes Inlet and was responsible for creating much of the health and sanitation legislation and regulations which make our state clean and healthy today. He was awarded a Presidential Citation and the prestigious Walter S. Mangold National Award. In retirement Sam served on the Nuclear Waste Advisory Council and taught a popular Current Issues class at the Olympia Senior Center. Sam is highly respected by his colleagues and students for his encyclopedic knowledge, collaborative leadership, innovative thinking, integrity, shared wisdom and advocacy for the promotion of women to administrative positions.

After camping and hiking the mountains of Washington as a Boy Scout and adult, Sam and Shirley began 40 years of sailing the waters of the Northwest from Budd Inlet to Desolation Sound aboard the “Joy”; all the while in spite of weekly sailings, accumulating less than 100 hours on the engine. Sam’s final months were spent at Aegis-Shoreline where he and Shirley spent what can best be described as a second honeymoon.

Sam is survived by his wife of 70 years, Shirley; his daughter, Barbara (Mike) Waske of Seattle, son, Nathan (Mary Anne) Reed of Bellingham, grandsons, Michael (Elisa) Waske of Washington DC, Marlon (Sara) Waske of Seattle, Michael and Colin Reed of Gold Bar and new great granddaughter Zoe Waske in Washington DC.

A note from Kerri Wagner: Sam Reed was the first Vice President of WSEHA in 1946 (Ed Hochsprung was President). He served as WSEHA Director in 1955 and again in 1958. WSEHA membership numbers are in chronological order with the first being the first member of the Association. The next person who joins WSEHA will have a member number of #01527. Sam Reed’s WSEHA number was #00001.
SEHA has been up to a lot since the last newsletter! To end Winter Quarter, we hosted an Environmental Health career panel. Geoffrey Crofoot was one of our speakers, along with Wayne Turnberg from the Department of Health and Martin Rose from Rose Environmental. Attendance was great, and students gained valuable insight into future potential career paths. Thanks again, Geoffrey! This quarter we hosted a screening of Gasland, a documentary that details the human health and environmental consequences of hydraulic fracturing. Currently, we are in the process of planning for next year.

*Pictured are SEHA members Anna Fretheim, Anh Tran, and Momoka Nakamura.*

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**Current Job Postings on our Website**

Click on the link (for the PDF version) for more information.

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<th>Closing Date</th>
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<td>Environmental Health Specialist</td>
<td>Tacoma-Pierce County Health Department</td>
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<td>May 18, 2012</td>
<td>Environmental Health Specialist</td>
<td>Walla Walla County Public Health Department</td>
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<td>Quality Assurance Manager, Global Retail Store QA</td>
<td>Starbucks Coffee Company</td>
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He left the public arena in 1987 to work with the ARAMARK Corporation at Boeing in Seattle as a District Sanitarian and Risk Manager with responsibilities in Quality Assurance. During this time he developed and provided technical and operational support for the food safety and risk management program at 70-110 locations operated by over 600 ARAMARK staff. The facilities under his care achieved a 99% average inspection score from the 3 jurisdictional health departments that served the Boeing faculties. During this time, he became proud of the fact that he was the face of Public Health to all parties, including Boeing, ARAMARK, and his employees, never losing sight of the importance that public health plays in food safety.

Randy supported the planning and construction of 30 new Boeing cafeterias as they went thru the permitting process with jurisdictional health departments. As HACCP became the new standard in food service operations he went on to develop a HACCP program at the Boeing Co. As a vital part of program development, Randy trained managers and helped them become managers and trainers in turn. Part of this process included his role to provide SERVESAVE training.

With the Boeing Co’s expansion in 2000, Randy went on to become the National Account Sanitarian who provided food safety and risk management support to all sites nation-wide to assure contract compliance and governmental requirements between ARAMARK and the Boeing Company. His extensive background in both public health and industry helped him to become the main contact between ARAMARK and the health departments in many jurisdictions as Boeing expanded their facilities. He performed food safety and facility evaluation and development of food safety and risk management guidelines.

Randy came to the Snohomish Health District in 2002 as a EHS II, in of course the food program. He worked as a field sanitarian where his unique abilities quickly became obvious. His fellow employees understood they could talk with Randy regarding a situation or problem and be met with a clear and concise answer. His supervisor found that his management experience was just as helpful. Almost 5 years ago Randy was promoted to EHS III working as a senior in the food program. In that capacity he has shown again his dedication to public service, helping all of us put a fine point on our inspections, reminding us of what is important in protecting public health, while bringing an understanding of how industry operates.

Every day Randy works to advance the level of food protection in our community, providing support for his staff and peers, and doing so with grace and humor. And, even though he is a Cougar, it is with pride I nominate him for this deserved recognition.

Sincerely,

David Compton, R.S.
Snohomish Health District

Message from Geoffrey Crofoot: It is my distinct privilege to recognize Randy Durant of the Snohomish Health District as the 2011 recipient of the John Nordin Outstanding Sanitarian Award. Randy is an example for sanitarians in both private and public sector work. Randy’s career, which is really at least two careers, is defined by excellent service and commitment to the ideals of environmental health. I’m pleased to have Randy as a coworker and honored to have him representing all environmental health professionals in such an outstanding manner. Thank you Randy and thanks to motivated members who shepherded the nomination through the process.

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**NEHA’s AEC**

This year, the National Environmental Health Association will be holding their 76th Annual Educational Conference & Exhibition in San Diego on June 28 - 30. Training and educational sessions along with other NEHA 2012 AEC events are now being posted online. For more information, visit the website at [http://www.neha2012aec.org](http://www.neha2012aec.org).

NEHA’s 2013 AEC will be held July 9-11, 2013 in Washington, DC at the Hyatt Regency Crystal City at Reagan National Airport.
During the last week of April, the PBS affiliate in Seattle ran a four-episode series called *Designing Healthy Communities*. It was shown during the noon hour on four consecutive days. Few people probably caught it. That is too bad.

The series was written and narrated by Dr. Richard Jackson, currently a professor and the chair of Environmental Health Sciences at the Fielding School of Public Health, University of California, Los Angeles. Dr. Jackson was the keynote speaker at the 2006 WSEHA Annual Educational Conference in Vancouver. He spoke to us in Vancouver about the many concerns of environmental public health in the 21st century including chemical exposures, air pollution, asthma, climate change, the built environment, community walkability, and obesity.


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Fun Facts and Trivia...

Did you know?

- A shrimp’s heart is in its head.
- It is physically impossible for pigs to look up into the sky.
- Rats multiply so quickly that in 18 months, two rats could have over a million descendants.
- Wearing headphones for just an hour could increase the bacteria in your ear by 700 times.
- Like fingerprints, everyone’s tongue print is different.
- Rubber bands last longer when refrigerated.
- Almonds are a member of the peach family.
- There are only four words in the English language which end in “dous”: tremendous, horrendous, stupendous, and hazardous.
Changes in the WSEHA Board

Thank you **Bruce Scherling** for serving on the WSEHA Board of Directors over the years! Bruce served as President Elect in 2008, President in 2009, and Past President from 2010 - 2012. He resigned at the last WSEHA Board Meeting on May 3rd. He has stepped way from the public health field and is very busy in construction management. He is working on the scheduling and cost engineering of large projects and is the new elected president of the Cascade Chapter of AACE (Association for the Advancement of Cost Engineering). We wish you all the best, Bruce!

Welcome back **Ross Lytle**! Ross has recently rejoined the WSEHA Board of Directors as Secretary at our recent Board Meeting on May 3rd. Ross has previously served as WSEHA Secretary from 2004 to 2008. He continues to be the Chair of the International Health Committee, a position he has held for several years. Ross is an Environmental Health Specialist in the Food Program at Kitsap Public Health District. We are happy to have you back on the Board, Ross!

WSEHA Pool Conference

Thank you, **Rick Dawson**, for spearheading WSEHA’s Annual Swimming Pool and Spa Conference! This year, Rick stepped up to fill this role after learning the Washington State Department of Health would not be able to lead the conference this year. The Swimming Pool and Spa Conference was offered in Kennewick at the Benton-Franklin Health District Training Room on May 4th. Topics included swimming pool and spa chemistry, pool equipment operation, test kits, and risk management. A total of 68 people attended the conference.