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Top: Participants and vendors at 2009 SRSC

Bottom: Pat McDaniel handing out raffle ticket prizes at LABS June Dinner Meeting – Looking sharp, Pat!



2009 Southern Regional Safety Conference (SRSC)

By Marjorie Boone, CWEA Southern Regional Safety Conference-Chair



June 4th, 2009, Carson – The Annual Southern Regional Safety Conference (SRSC) hosted by the Los Angeles Basin Section (LABS), is the kind of event where CWEA declares “We care for our members” and many, many agencies responded by sending employees - despite the economic times. It was an amazing turnout - attendees traveling from across this great State. We had several people from many different vocations, including operators, collections workers, managers, directors, vendors and so on – who came together to share their dedication for compliance and employee safety.

The 2009 SRSC resoundingly strengthened this traditional safety event by offering a full range of solid technical content. As we talked with attendees, a theme emerged: they overwhelmingly got what they came for – a technical transfer of knowledge and interaction with fellow safety professionals, field personnel and managers with similar issues. Pat Carnahan of the Orange County Sanitation District was our lucky winner that got to take home the X-Box 360 door prize!



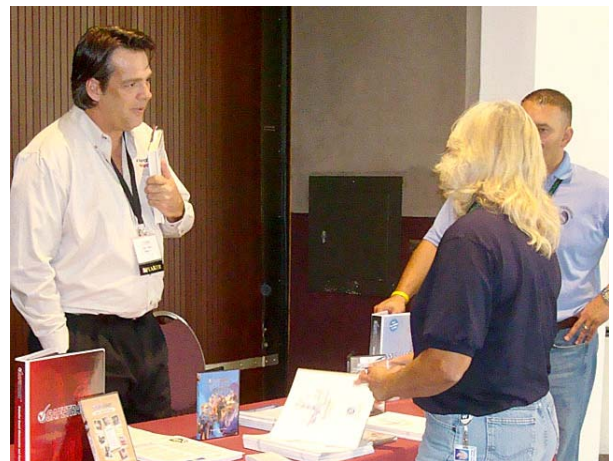
The General Sessions



The general sessions included: “Traffic Control” by Sandra Valle of Traffic Management, Inc. and “Heat Illness” by Cari Elofson of JoshuaCasey. A dramatic and memorable presentation was given by Keith Henderson of JoshuaCasey (shown on left) regarding fall protection – “What is Competent Person”.

Long-time CWEA Safety presenter Steve Laren presented "Hazardous Energy Control Procedures" about lock-out/tag out procedures and the keynote speech

of the evening was "behavioral safety" presented by John Kevin Cobb of Safestart (shown on right) - joining us all the way from Ontario, Canada. The conference committee aimed to find new and updated topics, and, as expected, participants were happy to be part of the process and get firsthand information.



The Technical Sessions

The most popular session was the certification class on confined space presented by Tim Page-Bottorff (shown on right). He provided an outstanding program for over half the attendees!



According to many people, one presenter really stole the show - Mr. Monod De Frodeville of CalOSHA (shown on left) delivered an outstanding lecture on "CAL-OSHA is here, WHAT NOW?" He reviewed employer rights and helped close the GAP between OSHA and YOU the employer – there's simply one goal for both - getting the workforce home safely to their families.



Exhibitors

Last but certainly not least a special thank you to the great support of our vendors without whom we couldn't



have put on this great event: California Environmental Controls, CAVCOM; D&D Engineering; Inc.; Haaker Equipment Co.; JoshuaCasey Corporate Training; JWC Environmental; SANCON Engineering; Sewer Lock and West Coast Safety Supply. Exhibitors and the committee kindly donated

over 20 door prizes – including shirts, restaurant gift certificates and a cordless drill donated by Sewer Lock! For more pictures go to: <http://sewerleaks.com/?p=850>.



Final Thoughts

The CWEA Safety Conference Committee included Steve Laren-Past Chair, Tim Page-Bottorff-Chair and Marjorie Boone-1st year Director, and we would like to thank the LABS host committee that made this a wonderful experience including Patrick Griffith, Alec Mackie, Wendy Wert and Ian Mackenzie. We also thank CWEA headquarters for their support.

Thank you to all our speakers who graciously volunteered their time and expertise. Their presentations are on the LABS website at www.labs of cwea.com/presentations.

Here's to our next big Southern safety get-together - SRSC-2010! Sunny San Diego here we come!

Marjorie Boone is a 2nd year Director for SARBS, CWEA's 1st Year Director Safety Executive Committee and Chief Executive Officer of JoshuaCasey Corporate Training.

LABS June Dinner Meeting: Water for People – The Rwanda Story

By Wendy Wert and Mary Lee

On June 18, 2009 the Los Angeles Basin Section (LABS) of the California Water Environment Association (CWEA) hosted a dinner and training meeting at the Monterey Hills restaurant in Monterey Park. At the event Dr. Helene Baribeau, Country Coordinator with Water For People (WFP) delivered an inspired presentation on *Meeting the Critical Needs for Water and Sanitation Improvements / Third-World Communities – The Rwanda Story*. Although Rwanda has cast behind the dark days of the 1994 genocide, it still struggles to provide basic services for its 10 million citizens. In Rwanda, roughly 40% of the population lacks adequate sanitation. This challenges the integrity of the water supply and degrades the quality of life. WFP, a humanitarian non-profit organization committed to helping communities in need of safe drinking water, improved sanitation, and basic hygiene services is active in Rwanda.



Erika DeHollan, Basil Hewitt, and Alec Mackie (lt), Attendees with featured Speaker Helene Baribeau (ctr), Pat McDaniel presenting Blue Planet Foundation award to Megan Patterson (rt).

In June of 2008 Dr. Baribeau, a renowned water quality expert, relocated to Rwanda's capital City of Kigali to organize humanitarian efforts on behalf of WFP. Helene began with a brief introduction to the nation. Rwanda is a small (10,170 miles²) mountainous nation located in central Africa. Since gaining independence on July 1, 1962 Rwanda has experienced political unrest. The 10 million inhabitants represent one of the lowest percent urbanized populations (19%) combined with the highest population density in the world (829/mile²). Rwanda has high infant (86 deaths/1,000 live births) and children under 5 years of age (157 deaths / 1,000 live births) mortality rates. Rwanda is a poor nation with 57% of the population below the poverty level and 37% below the extreme poverty line. Waterborne diseases due to poor sanitation are responsible for 80% of the deaths. Water consumption is less than 2 gallons per person per day as compared to Los Angeles where average water usage is 100 gallons per person per day. Rwanda has abundant water resources with an average annual rainfall of about 79 inches (15 inches in Los Angeles).

Helene reviewed the status of humanitarian efforts in Rwanda in light of the United Nations Millennium Development Goals. For example, Vision 2020 commits water to all Rwandans by 2020 (85% by 2015). Current statistics indicate that 76% of the urban population has access to water and 68% in rural areas, however, these percentages overestimate true coverage. In Addition, Vision 2020 set a goal of sanitation to all Rwandans by 2020. Currently, 85% of the population has access to sanitation facilities, but only 45% of these meet hygienic conditions and there is some concern that these statistics do not capture actual conditions. For example, facilities may have been constructed but not properly maintained.



Africa with Rwanda shown in red (lt) Featured Speaker Dr. Helene Baribeau (ctr lt), Rwanda with the Rulindo and Kicukiro Disticts where WFP work is underway shown in red (ctr rt) Rwandan children (rt)

Helene explained that after the genocide of 1994, humanitarian organizations descended on Rwanda in a valiant effort to provide relief, however, much of the work was not coordinated through local entities and as a result may not have been sustainable. Currently, the Ministry of Natural Resources (MINIRENA) works with non-governmental organizations (NGOs) to coordinate humanitarian work and ensure that the improvement projects selected are supported by the local people, rely on local resources, and are therefore sustainable.

The WFP Rwanda program began a scoping study that was the result of coordination with multiple partners, communities, and local governments. The scoping study was accepted in June 2007 and registered in April 2008. In country work began in July 2008 in two districts (Rulindo and Kicukiro). Each district is further divided into sectors. The Rulindo District is comprised of the Cyinzuzi, Ntarabana, Burega, and Buyoga sectors. The Kicukiro District is comprised of the Gahanga, Masaka, Kanombe, and Kigarama sectors. Rwanda's governmental structure differs from the US in that the bulk of power is maintained in the decentralized local sectors. Therefore, once the community selects projects implementation can begin. WFP work in Rwanda involved the following steps: first a hydraulic plan was completed for each district (Rulindo and Kicukiro), next strategies were identified to address water and sanitation challenges, a needs and priority assessment was completed, a life cycle cost of the technologies was conducted, partners were identified and the work began. Helene emphasized the need for open communication and reporting throughout all phases of these projects. 2009 WFP projects that came out of this process include: Ecological toilets in schools (Rulindo District, Cyinzuzi Sector – partner Rwanda Environment Care), Extension of a water system into 4 villages (Rulindo District, Cyinzuzi Sector – partner COFORWA), Ecological toilets in schools (Kicukiro District, Kanombe Sector – partner Rwanda Environment Care), Extension of a water system into 13 villages (Kicukiro District, Kanombe Sector – partner Electrogaz).

Helen Baribeau's presentation brought water conservation awareness to those fortunate individuals who have access to safe and clean water at a turn of their faucets. Statistics show that nearly 2.5 billion people in the world have no access to sanitized water source and the number is on a rise due to change in climate. Although Rwanda receives heavy rainfall each year, poor water management hinders the residents from retaining and reusing the rainwater, especially during dry periods. One of the goals of the WFP is to construct water catch basins for the residents in poor rural areas. Additionally, simple constructions such as hand washing stations, showers, and toilets can prevent waterborne disease and improve general health

conditions of the Rwanda residents. Currently, the urine-feces separators are being implemented in various schools. Both urine and feces can be used as fertilizers after proper treatment. The new technology is introduced to students first for both education and public outreach purposes. The kids need to understand the importance of sanitation and proper disposal of human wastes. Ultimately, the kids can relay the information to their parents and eventually install the new toilet system in their communities and villages.



Starting from left: Rwandan children; Ecological toilet design option; Rwandan villagers.

For more information about Dr. Baribeau's experience or more about Water For People, please visit the Water For People website at <http://www.waterforpeoplela.com/>.

Call for Abstracts

CWEA Pretreatment, Pollution Prevention,
and Storm Water Annual Conference
March 1-3, 2010
Long Beach, CA

Please submit short abstract (less than 200 words) and bio on one of the following topics:

- Pretreatment Programs
- Pollution Prevention Programs
- Storm Water Programs
- Emerging Issues in Pretreatment and Pollution Prevention
- Public Education and Outreach
- Leadership
- Doing More With Less
- Water Reuse
- Local Limits
- Salinity Management
- Pesticides and Water Quality

Abstracts and bios should be submitted to Preeti Ghuman, Conference Program Chair, at pghuman@lacsdc.org by **July 20, 2009**.

HEADS UP!



CWEA's Online Registration & Renewal Will Be Offline During June 24-July 2.

As part of CWEA's ongoing efforts to improve service, CWEA will be upgrading their online conference registration, member application and renewal, and certificate renewal systems.

These services will be offline until Thursday, July 2, 2009 at 5:00 PM. All other website services will be available during this time.



Los ANGELES BASIN SECTION
DINNER & TRAINING MEETING
PROUD BIRD RESTAURANT
THURSDAY, JULY 23, 2009
MIXER-6:00PM DINNER-6:30PM

Guest Speaker: Dr. Sherwin Gormly
Water Process Research & Development
Engineer for NASA's Ames Research Center

Topic: Advanced Water Recycling & Wastewater to
Energy Technology Research At NASA

Dr. Gormly will discuss advanced water recycling and wastewater conversion to energy developments at NASA's Ames Research Center. Of particular interest to LABS members will be his discussion of NASA's membrane-based water recycling process, which is capable of converting wastewater to meet drinking water standards, as well as information about wastewater processes capable of generating power and alternative fuels created using wastewater.

Dr. Gormly has spent the last several years in grant funded research and development work in advanced environmental/life support system related water process technologies currently undergoing development for possible use during long duration space missions. These systems use a variety of well known water treatment process concepts including adsorption, membrane separation, and aqueous phase catalytic oxidation, but apply new materials and/or unique system architectures.



Dinner Menu:

Meals include one of the following entrees:

- ☞ Chicken Marsala*
- ☞ Fresh Roasted King Salmon*
- ☞ Pasta da Vinci (vegetarian)*

Reservations:

RSVP By MONDAY, July 20

RSVP (with one menu choice from above) to
Pat McDaniel by e-mail (preferred method)
at pmcdaniel@biocope.com
or by
phone @ (214) 244-8692

Event Cost: (pay at door)

Members: \$30
Non-members: \$35
Students & Retirees: \$15



Handicap Accommodations Available



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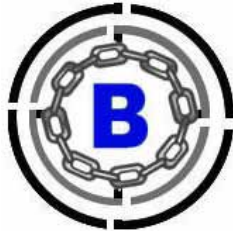
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SPECIAL EVENTS CALENDAR

July 16th
Dedication and Tour of LACSD's Bixy
Marshland; Carson
<http://www.lacsd.org/civica/filebank/blobdload.asp?BlobID=4402>

July 23th
LABS July Dinner Meeting; El Segundo
pmcdaniel@biocope.com

July 26th
Blue Planet Run Runs the San Francisco
Marathon; San Francisco
Jessica@blueplanetrun.org

July 29th
Rate-Setting in Tough Times; WEF
Webcast
<http://www.wef.org/ConferencesTraining/Wefcasts/RateSettinginToughTimes/>

August 22nd
Past Presidents Picnic; Long Beach Sailing
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