



WEFTEC 2011 is officially over and planning has begun for next year in New Orleans. This year the Water Environment Federation's 84th annual technical exhibition and conference was held on October 15 – 19th, 2011 at the Los Angeles Convention Center in Los Angeles, California. WEFTEC 2011 boasted over 16,000 attendees from more than 70 different countries. There were 923 exhibiting companies that spanned 284,150 ft<sup>2</sup> of exhibition booth space. The conference provided attendees with a superior technical program that included 114 technical sessions and 27 pre-conference workshops. This totaled more than 800 presentations and posters.

In addition to the 27 pre-conference workshops and active committee meetings offered on Saturday and Sunday, the Student and Young Professionals Committee (S&YP) hosted their fourth annual community service project "Walkway to Wetlands" on Saturday, which helped to revitalize a former industrial area and provided a grand entrance to a Los Angeles wetlands project located directly across the street from a new high school. The project included planting 37 trees along the perimeter of a constructed wetland in a neighborhood just south of the Los Angeles Convention Center.

WEFTEC 2011 was officially kicked off on Monday during the Opening General Session in the Concourse Hall at 8:30AM. Attendees were welcomed to the conference by WEF President Jeanette Brown, who then introduced Technical Keynote Address speakers Dr. Rita Colwell, who specializes in waterborne diseases and was the 2010 Stockholm Water Prize Laureate, and Doc Hendley, who runs a nonprofit organization, Wine to Water, focused on providing clean water to needy people around the world. Immediately following the Opening General Session, WEFTEC attendees were offered a dedicated exhibition time from 9:30AM to 1:30PM, allowing for quality visits with exhibitors.

On Tuesday, October 18th, Jeanette Brown ceremoniously "passed the gavel" of Federation leadership to incoming president Matt Bond and inducted the 2011-2012 WEF Officers and Board of Trustees. In addition, on Tuesday evening the inaugural class of WEF Fellows was recognized in the Hall of Honor. The WEF Fellow Recognition Program recognizes professional achievements, stature, and contributions of WEF members' accomplishments in professional segments served by WEF. *"WEF takes a great deal of pride in the vast knowledge base of our members and in honor of that, felt it was very important to provide a distinguished recognition program"* said WEF President Jeanette Brown. *"We are very pleased to celebrate not only the personal achievements of this year's Fellows but also the invaluable role WEF has as a leading water quality organization."*



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Ohio's own James Tony Parrott, of The Metropolitan Sewer District of Greater Cincinnati was an honored member of the inaugural class of WEF Fellows. WEF will begin accepting nominations for the 2012 candidates starting November 1, 2011.

WEF also rolled out a new messaging campaign during WEFTEC 2011 that will raise awareness about the value and importance of water, water-related issues, and the work that water professionals do every day to provide these vital services. WATER'S WORTH IT, will use various keywords to define what the "it" means, better illustrating the connection between water and our actions, attitudes and the things we value most. For example, "My Effort, WATER'S WORTH IT" evokes a personal responsibility while "Your Effort" serves as a call to action and "Our Effort" represents a shared commitment to sustainable water management. The WATER'S WORTH IT tagline can be used on its own, in support of an existing program or brand, or coupled with a simple keyword and artwork to alter the impact and reach. The versatility of the campaign means that materials can be customized to reach any audience, in any location, about any issue. The full campaign will be rolled out on World Water Day, March 22, 2012 so be on the lookout for materials that can easily be adapted to community programs in your area or to promote your facility's involvement in keeping Ohio's waterways clean.

#### **House of Delegates (HOD) Business**

Many ongoing projects were discussed at the 2010/2011 and 2011/2012 HOD Meetings on Saturday, October 15, 2011 at WEFTEC in Los Angeles. There were three workgroups that have been active since WEFTEC 2010 and the following reports were made by those group leaders:

**HOD Representation Report** – This group investigated whether or not our member associations (MA's) felt there was a need to have an increased number of HOD representatives from those MA's that have higher than average membership numbers. After a survey was given to MA's with over a 71% return rate it was determined that no change was needed to the number of HOD members for each state and no recommendation for change was submitted to the Board of Trustees (BOT) for a vote.

**Operator Outreach Report and Recommendations** – This has been an ongoing active workgroup and it will continue to move forward as a workgroup in 2011/2012 (lead by Dianne Sumego in the upcoming year). It was recommended by this group that a web

page be made available on [www.wef.org](http://www.wef.org) that provides MA leaders controlled access to listings of MA operator related training. It was also recommended that WEF provide tools and tips to MA's on how to organize regional training events for operators. It is believed that these efforts in addition with the recommendations from the Operator Summit held in Alexandria, VA by WEF in June 2011 will assist in a collective effort to further operations, maintenance, and collection related professional growth opportunities.

**WEF/MA Committee Relationship Report** – This workgroup, chaired by Kim Riddell, worked on ways to improve the relationship and communication between WEF and MA committees. The group recommended to support the efforts being undertaken by the Committee Leadership Council (CLC) of WEF by developing a translation matrix (list of corresponding like committees on the MA vs. WEF levels), implementing a Corresponding Member list that can be utilized by WEF committees to communicate with MA committee leaders, and develop a MA Leader training module on how to utilize the reports available on the MA resource web page as well as how to find information on committee activity at the WEF level and how to encourage communication links between the two groups. In addition, this group reviewed the MA resource web page and provided WEF staff with suggestions on how to make it more useful and easier to navigate for MA leaders.

There are five workgroups the HOD members may participate in during 2011/2012. Those groups met on Saturday afternoon and their missions are as follows:

**Delegate at Large Workgroup** – They will work to redefine the role of the WEF Delegate at Large position and who they represent.

**Best Management Practices (BMPs) for Partnerships** – This group will look to develop guidelines on how to work with other groups including the “How, Why, Who and When” of partnering between MAs, committees and other external groups.

**MA to MA Relationships** – This group will look at ways to develop a mechanism to share information between MA's on things that they do well so that we can learn from each others' successes and failures.

**Operator Outreach** – This group, led by Dianne Sumego, will continue on with the recommendations of the previous workgroup and identify ways to develop a repository of MA training mechanisms, development of a guidance and protocols on how to partner between MAs and do it well, and develop strategies

for WEF to assist in the development of improved MA operator training programs.

**Strategic Planning Implementation** – This group will work on how to engage all of the members of the HOD in the strategic plan implementation process which will begin in early 2012.

**Ohio's Operations Challenge Teams**

Congratulations to the City of Bowling Green and the Northwest District Office of the Ohio EPA Operations Challenge Teams!

OWEA fielded two Operations Challenge Teams – the Bowling Green Wastewater Rangers and the OEPA Regulators who both competed in Division II at the national Operations Challenge Competition in Los Angeles. The two-day event was held on Monday, October 17th and Tuesday, October 18th, 2011 at the LA Convention Center with the teams competing in five areas – laboratory, process control, safety, maintenance and collections. The Rangers placed 15th in Division II with the Regulators placing 17th out of 27 teams.

The Regulators also took home a trophy for Third Place in Division II in Process Control. In addition, several of our members assist annually in judging the national event and a special “thank you” goes out to them for their time as well. Thank you to our sponsors who again made it possible for OWEA to support the travel of both teams to this national event – without your support this would not be possible. Congratulations to both teams for all of your hard work, preparation and dedication!

**Congrats to:**

Mark Livengood, OWEA Past President, who was nominated and elected to serve as OWEA's newest HOD member. His dedicated service to OWEA and WEF will be a benefit to our membership and we expect great things from him!

**Special Thank You to Phil Anderson**

OWEA Past President, Phil Anderson, has represented OWEA very well as our delegate to WEF over the past three years. Phil has been on the OWEA Executive Committee for the past 10 years and served 5 years prior to that as a member of the NWOWEA Executive Committee. Phil has served as committee chair on several OWEA committees and was an active member of several WEF HOD workgroups during his time as a Delegate. Phil - it was a pleasure serving with you. Thank you so much for your hard work and dedication to this organization!



NWDO-OEPA “Regulators” and Bowling Green’s “Wastewater Rangers”



The Regulators take 3rd Place in the Process Control Event

See more Operations Challenge photos on page 30