

Merry Christmas & Happy New Year!!

Test yourself! I thought that a little “quiz” would be just the thing to see how environmentally alert we are at this season of the year. I will have other questions in later editions of the newsletter related to our concern for the environment. I will admit that I missed a few answers, including these two. I’m only including two today since they are the only ones directly associated with the holidays.

1. Household waste in the U.S. generally increases by how much over the holidays?
 - a. 50 thousand tons
 - b. 100 thousand tons
 - c. 1 million tons
 - d. 10 million tons
2. What percent of batteries are sold during the holidays? (**Answers** are at the end of the Newsletter!!)
 - a. 25
 - b. 40
 - c. 55
 - d. 70

Notes from the Editor

Justice Manning

Brian has been so busy recently that his article will be missing from this issue of the newsletter. I do want to take this opportunity, on behalf of you the members, to thank him for his leadership during this year. His dedication to the Southern Section has been consistent over the past 4 years at least. Our incoming Section Chair beginning January 1, 2008, will be Dwight Wylie, representing MS. As you know the State who has the Chair has the responsibility for hosting the Section Annual Meeting during his/her tenure. Our next Annual Meeting will be **August 4 - 6, 2008** at the **Beau Rivage in Biloxi, MS**. Further details will be forthcoming. Mark your calendar!

Lots of things have occurred at the Section and the International level since the last issue of the newsletter was delivered to your inbox. I will try to summarize the highlights. The first activity is the Association Centennial Anniversary Annual meeting held at headquarters in Pittsburgh. You may not be aware that your Board voted to

contribute \$5,000 to this anniversary meeting in response to a challenge from the Florida Section to all other sections. Only the Allegheny Mountain Section matched our contribution on its own; Florida did not. The only other section to meet the **Level Two** sponsorship criteria was the Atlantic States Section with the assistance of its three chapters. You may view all sponsors of this meeting on the Association URL: http://www.awma.org/about/centennial%20page/centennial_sponsors.html. Now for some news from the meeting. You likely have seen some articles in the *Journal* or the *EM*. The following is my perspective from attending some of the sessions, including the business meeting on the first day.

The business meeting was a report on the positive turn around in the Association’s financial health in spite of its continuing loss of members. This was due to more successful Specialty Conferences last year. More emphasis is being placed on recruiting young professionals (those 35

and under) into the Association. Thus, the Board of Directors changed a long-held policy of not allowing student members to vote and to hold office; they now can. The Association's bylaws at all levels will need to be revised to reflect this change. The Association has set a goal of increasing membership by 1000 during this next year. The Keynote presentations were excellent, with Lester Lave and Charles Bunch presenting on Tuesday morning. Former EPA Administrator and former New Jersey governor, Christine Todd Whitman, presented on Thursday morning. Dr. Lave emphasized that pollution control costs were less than 2% of the GDP in the 1980s and that is still the case today. He felt that a \$3 floor is needed on gasoline to give alternative fuel makers an assured market. Prior to making this point he stated that ethanol from corn is not a viable goal for the reduction of carbon, which is the source of greenhouse gases. If the government insists on ethanol, even though it results in about a 35% penalty on mileage, that it should be made from switchgrass rather than corn.

Mr. Bunch, CEO of PPG, represented his industry well. First of all he said that the Energy Security and Climate Change "train" will continue; we may as well "get on board." He did caveat the Global Climate Change picture with the need for an awareness that it is more than a "temperature" problem, viz. availability of energy at a reasonable price is part of the problem. An interesting fact of his presentation is that the meeting location, the David L. Lawrence Convention Center in Pittsburgh, is the largest LEED (Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design) certified building in the world. He emphasized the need for the government to develop a comprehensive energy policy prior to developing a climate change policy. Mr. Bunch suggested that the National Association of Manufacturers had outlined an excellent policy, available on their web site.

On Thursday, Ms. Whitman continued the theme that the long-range environmental problem is global climate change. However, the most immediate problem appears to be an adequate supply of drinking water. Gov. Whitman was a polished speaker and at ease with technical information. She was not shy about admitting areas where she lacked expertise, or knowledge.

One of the highlights of conference for me was the review of the history of the National Ambient Air Quality Standards, *Will the Circle Be Unbroken: A History of the U.S. National Ambient Air Quality Standards*, as presented in the Critical Review Session by John Bachmann, a former office mate of mine. Of course, he rose to a somewhat higher position in the EPA than I did! An example of the reason for that was his review of the history of Clean Air in the U. S. through about a five-minute song as his Introduction. Some of you may have heard it, or seen it while it was posted on the web for a while after the conference: quite innovative and accurate. John's paper appeared in the June issue of the *Journal*, which all of you have access to on the web site after logging in. <http://secure.awma.org/journal/critical/Default.asp>.

The next big activity for the Section was the Annual Meeting in St. Simons Island, GA in August. The presentations of those topics are on the Section web site for your use and benefit, even if you were unable to attend the meeting. <http://www.ss-awma.org/events.php>. What is not on the web site are the photos that I took, after forgetting to take any the whole first day. I have included a few of them here.



Three attendees from the AL Chapter (Larry, Debra, Gerald)



Brian Queen, Outgoing Section Chair, at his new Company's booth (Test America)

NOTE: The above photo, as well as the next few following, is to acknowledge and to THANK our Exhibitors at the Annual Meeting in August. Remember them as you have a need for their services. (In case my best effort to ID persons has been fruitless, please forgive me and send a correction so that I can have the correct information. Thanks.)



08/09/2007

Zane Hood & Larry Spann @ PPM Booth



08/09/2007

Kim Jones at Spectrum Booth



08/09/2007

Dan Smith at the BAYCO booth
(Bayco has some fancy and useful lights)



8/09/2007

Les Engel with potential client at ERM Booth



Ed Higgins at the Environics Booth



09/2007

Trinity Consultants



Melissa Eller @ **SPL** Booth
Joan Sasine talking with Todd Beasley



Shelby Stringfellow at his Booth, **TTL**



Angela Koury talking with John Hawkins at **Veolia Environmental Services** Booth



Della Ridley and Melissa Eller at Registration Desk



Tim Oates at **Saiia Construction** booth



And what is this? (some door prize!)



Les Engel and Karen Dorman visiting with **International A&WMA President, Tony van der Vooren**



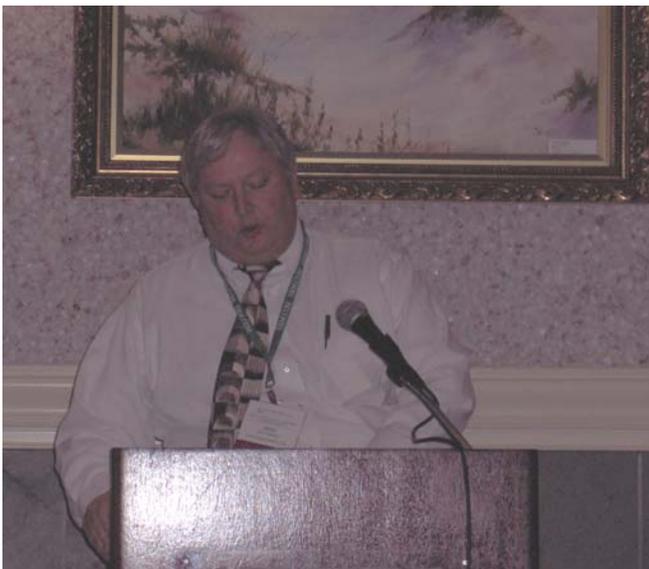
Jerry Banks, MS, telling attendees about Hurricane Katrina damage/disposal



Attendees from AL Chapter



Eric Flowers, TN, telling attendees about air and waste regulatory activity in TN



John Hawkins telling assembly about the ERG after lunch



Natural Wildlife at St. Simons

One major error on your editor's part: I failed to get a picture of the **Golder Associates** Booth. **I am sorry!** Their support is appreciated just as much as the other exhibitors. You may find services offered by them at their web site, <http://www.golder.com/>

Answers to the Quiz at the beginning of the newsletter:

1. The answer is **c** (1 million tons).

Over the holiday season, consumers flock to malls, department stores and outlets to search for that perfect gift, that one card that says it all, that tree to end all trees. But as we feast, give gifts, decorate and travel, we also consume lots of resources and generate lots of waste. A recent report noted that the amount of household garbage in the United States generally increases by 25 percent between Thanksgiving and New Year's Day, from 4 to 5 million tons.

2. The answer is **b** (40 per cent).

About 40 percent of all battery sales occur during the holiday season. Buy rechargeable batteries to accompany your electronic gifts, and consider giving a battery charger as well. Rechargeable batteries reduce the amount of potentially harmful materials thrown away, and can save money in the long run.

If you would like to explore these answers, go to the EPA web site, www.epa.gov.

Upcoming Audio + Web Conference

(Click on the link for more information)

| | |
|--------------|---|
| Jan 17, 2008 | Webinar (online) Environmental Deviation Reduction Strategies for Complex Manufacturing Facilities |
|--------------|---|

Upcoming Specialty Conferences

(Click on the link for more information)

| | |
|-------------------|--|
| Jan 20 - 24, 2008 | 15th Joint Conference on the Applications of Air Pollution Meteorology with A&WMA New Orleans, LA |
| Apr 2 – 3, 2008 | The Climate Policy Puzzle: Putting the Pieces Together Arlington, VA |

I'm still looking for persons willing to contribute news items/articles to the newsletter—**your** newsletter. What would you like to see here? Are you satisfied? If not, your editor is willing to accept an article or news item from you! Actually, your editor is willing to accept an article even if you are satisfied. Yes, you saw it correctly—**YOU!! can write an article!**

A final note of **thanks** to each one involved with the 2007 Southern Section Annual Meeting held in St. Simons Island, GA. The GA Chapter was very effective; attendance was up over Savannah. The **exhibitors** were cordial, cooperative, and very supportive of the Section activities. We thank each and every one of you! They were: **Bayco Products; EnviroNics; ERM Southeast; Golder Associates; PPM Consultants, Inc.; Saiia Construction, LLC; Spectrum Systems, Inc.; Southern Petroleum Labs (SPL); Test America (STL merger); Trinity Consultants; TTL, Inc.; and Veolia Environmental Services Technical Solutions.** Lastly, we want to thank the **attendees!** Without you our Annual Meetings would be unsuccessful. Remember, mark your calendar for **August 4 – 6, 2008** for Biloxi, MS at the Beau Rivage.