

Notes from the Editor

Justice Manning

Well, if you missed this year's Annual Meeting in Biloxi last month, you missed quite a program planned and implemented by the **Mississippi Chapter**. Job well done, MS. Thank you!! You also missed a tremendous opportunity to network with many of your colleagues. This meeting had one of the largest attendances of any in my latest 11-year history with the Section, about 200. Those in attendance were able to view services of 25 exhibitors, the largest number of exhibitors in my recent history with the Section. **Exhibitors** are extremely important to the financial health of a meeting, and we extend a great BIG **"Thank You"** to each of them. They will be listed later. Photographs of the first 10 – 12 will be included in this issue of the newsletter and the rest will be in the next issue because of the large number. They will be listed alphabetically each time.

You may see the presentation slides of those authors who provided them on our web site, www.ss-awma.org, by clicking on a link under the 2007 Annual Meeting section of the Home page. This meeting had something that was new for me also, a session on Ethics training. Of course, this was based on MS requirements but since much of ethics is common sense set to law, one can easily transfer information learned to their own state, or other state where they may be working. As usual, the papers were interesting and timely. We appreciate representatives from each of the four states in our Section area taking the time to be with us and to make presentations regarding the status of activities in the State government regarding air and waste issues. That

is always a high light each year. To them we say **"Thank You!"**

Another thing of which you can be proud is that the Southern Section awarded three **scholarships** of \$1,500 each. A committee of four selected two MS State students and one from GA Tech, all graduate students, which was one of our criteria, to whom the scholarships were awarded. Unfortunately, we had only six applicants, none from AL or TN. We hope to be more proactive in the getting the word out next year. In addition, the MS Chapter awarded three \$1,500 scholarships while the AL Chapter awarded five \$1,000 scholarships, some to undergraduates. The GA Chapter plans to award two scholarships at their Fall Meeting in October. They have 13 applicants.

The food at the Beau Rivage was excellent (can you believe steak for lunch?) and both sit-down luncheons had excellent presentations to cap them off. The first was by the A&WMA International President, Dr. C. V. Mathai, who joined us from AZ. The second was by Trudy Fisher, Executive Director of the MS Dept. of Environmental Quality (MDEQ). Dr. Mathai gave a fine presentation on the benefits of membership in the A&WMA (see slides on web site). Ms. Fisher presented an excellent talk, which we hope to publish in a future issue.

Exhibitors at our Annual Meeting were:

Advanced Environmental Consultants, Inc.
Air Liquide
Airgas
Allied Energy Corporation
Argus Analytical, Inc.
E. Roberts Alley & Associates, Inc.
Eco-Systems, Inc.
EMS, Inc.
Entec Services, Inc.
Environics Inc.
ERM-SE, Inc.
Focus Environmental Inc.

Indigo Technologies
LA Ash, Inc.
M & C Products
Micro-Methods, Inc.
Plastic Fusion Fabricators, Inc.
PPM Consultants, Inc.
RMT
Sanders Engineering & Analytical Services, Inc.
Spectrum Systems, Inc.
STI CEMS Services
Trinity Consultants
United States Environmental Services

Veolia Environmental Service - Tech Solutions LLC

To each of these participants we extend a very cordial thank you and hope that you will be interested in exhibiting in TN next year, probably in Chattanooga. The date has not been set but if you are interested and will notify me, I shall see that you obtain the information when it is available. Past experience has indicated that normally we don't have as much space as we did in Biloxi. Therefore, early notification of intent to participate as an exhibitor will be even more important. The Beau Rivage was very cooperative in providing an excellent opportunity for interaction among exhibitors and attendees. Photos of the first 13 exhibitors are shown below, except one that I failed to photograph.



Brinda Willis



Scott Biggs



Vince Schladen

Ellen LeBoeuf



Herb Jernigan & Barbara Lyons

Unfortunately, I failed to take a photo of the EMS, Inc. booth. I apologize!

This space is reserved for them. If they will send a photo of their booth to me I will print it in the next edition of the newsletter.



Toni Jones

Fallon Lockley



Snapper Armstrong (Alley) & Craig Wood (ESC)



Mary Lou Colombaro & Ed Higgins



Dwight Wylie, Section Chair



Scott Sanderson



Scott Unruh, Lynn Beane & Tommy Lotz, Jr.



Jeff Kitchens & Ross Blair



Ingrid Chippendale, Tom Busmann, & C. V. Mathai



Jimmy Smith

Tommy Stewart

Additional Pictures of the Meeting

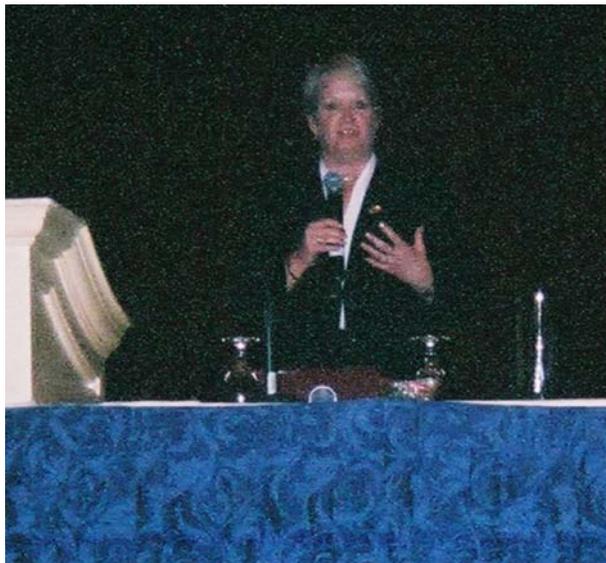
Many excellent papers were presented. You may see the slide presentations at the Section web site. Plus, if a particular topic is of interest beyond what you can see on the web site, we probably could put you in touch with the author if you contact me. At this time I am going to include a few of the highlights from my perspective, one of which was the presentation of a plaque to Jimmy Palmer from the Southern Section thanking him for his



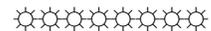
support for pollution control in Region 4 of EPA. He has been Regional Administrator during both Democratic and Republican administrations, as many of you who deal with EPA probably know. The two panels below are pictures of Mr. Palmer receiving his plaque and holding his plaque; shown with presenter Dwight Wylie, Section Chair and host for this year's meeting.



Amy Whitten had an excellent presentation on changes in the work place and their effect on the ability of a company achieving its goals. These changes result primarily from the attitude that modern workers bring to the work place.



Amy Whitten



Dr. Mathai gave an excellent presentation at the first luncheon on the benefits of membership in the Air & Waste Management Association (A&WMA). His presentation is on the web site also.



Dr. Mathai receiving a memento of appreciation from Section Chair, Dwight Wylie

Scholarship Awards

Recipients of the scholarship awards from the Section were Kris Lightsey, Ph. D. student in Civil and Environmental engineering at MS State; Amy Parker, Ph.D. student in Chemical Engineering at MS State; and Allison Riggieri, Ph.D. student in Public Policy with emphasis on air pollution and green house gas effects from transportation options at GA Tech. Each of the students received \$1,500. In addition, Mr. Lightsey and Ms. Parker received a like amount from the MS Chapter, so they left with \$3,000 in scholarship awards. The other recipient of the MS Chapter scholarship for \$1,500 was Shannon Wilson, a University of MS graduate student in Environmental Engineering at the Master's level. Her advisor will be Dr. Christiane Surbeck. Following are some photographs of the recipients.



MS Chapter Winners
Kris Lightsey, Amy Parker, &
Shannon Wilson



Section Winners
Kris Lightsey, Amy Parker, & Allison Riggieri



MS Chapter Winners with Sponsors:
Cristiana Surbeck, Ph. D., Pleas McNeel, P.E. &
Dallas Baker, P.E.



Flanking winners: L: Dwight Wylie & Cris Surbeck; R: Pleas McNeel & Dr. Mark Bricka

Odds and Ends!

Many other interesting events occurred at the Annual Meeting. In addition to the scholarship awards; presentation of the plaque to Mr. Palmer, EPA Region 4 Administrator; and other fine presentations such as A&WMA President Dr. Mathai's and Ms. Fisher's luncheon addresses, the Section awarded a plaque to the A&WMA Outstanding Chapter in the four states. Georgia continued its dominance of this category for the third consecutive year. The last chapter to win Outstanding Chapter prior to GA was the W/M TN Chapter in 2004. Below is the GA Chapter Past Chair, Brian Queen, giving the Chapter update and then his receiving the award for GA as the Outstanding Chapter.



Brian Queen giving Chapter Update



Dwight Wylie having presented Outstanding Chapter plaque

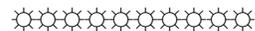
Of course, another highlight of each Annual Meeting is the Regulatory Updates from the various State and EPA representatives in both air and waste topics. This year was not exception. Following are a couple of photos from two of these presentations. The first is of the Waste Session on Wednesday afternoon, which met concurrently with the Air Regulatory Update.



Willie McKercher, MS DEQ, presenting while Gerald Hardy relaxes after having already made his presentation.



Lee Page presenting the Air Toxics situation in Region EPA 4, while Gary Rikard, Moderator observes.



Below is a group shot as the Section Chapter representatives await their turn to provide their respective chapter updates. The editor apologizes for the poor quality of the photo, but it is like so many of the others with a borrowed camera and not being a photographer.



From left to right: Bob Strickland, AL Chapter; Tom Busmann, E TN Chapter; Don Haynes, W/M TN Chapter; Pat Hedden, MS Chapter and host committee; Dwight Wylie, Section Chair; Pleas McNeel, Scholarship Committee and Section Board member; and Brian Queen

Is Organic Dry Cleaning Good for Anything?

A few months ago something new popped up in my neighborhood -- a dry cleaner that bills itself as organic. "Green" is all over the place these days, but I have to admit that an organic dry cleaner surprised me. Is it a consumer issue or a workplace safety problem or one involving environmental toxins? And what is it that these green ones do differently?

The issue here, I discovered, is the use of the chemical solvent perchloroethylene ("perc"). Perc -- the solvent used by at least 85% of dry cleaners today -- has been identified as a possible carcinogen. It was listed as an air pollutant in the Clean Air Act of 1990 and there has also been great concern about its role in groundwater contamination and hazardous waste disposal.

The Environmental Protection Agency has mandatory national regulations concerning use and disposal of perc including controlling emissions of it into the environment and its exposure to people living in residential buildings. In terms of worker exposure to perc, studies have found it has decreased up to 92% with improved equipment. And dry cleaning operators say they are much more careful with its use. However there seems to be another side to the story.

DRY CLEANERS DON'T COMPLY WITH REQUIREMENTS

Peter Sinsheimer, director of the Pollution Prevention Center at the Urban & Environmental Policy Institute at Occidental College in Los Angeles, works with dry cleaners in Southern California to affect better practices for the environment and the dry-cleaning workers. In contrast to industry-reported information, few dry cleaners have paid attention to the national regulations concerning perc and it continues to be an environmental problem because compliance rates are "miserably low." Many cleaning establishments are very small businesses, so the industry is extremely difficult to monitor, he said. Owners can't afford to adhere to complicated, confusing and expensive regulations -- and there simply aren't enough inspectors to follow through. California passed legislation outlawing perc dry cleaning completely by 2023. Massachusetts and New Jersey are considering similar laws as well.

BETTER OPTIONS

Funded in part by a grant from the EPA, Sinsheimer is helping dry cleaners in California implement a non-toxic process called "wet" cleaning. This is a gentle form of laundering that uses special mild detergents and sophisticated equipment -- including computerized controls and machinery for pressing and finishing --

and when done by trained and experienced professionals, is effective for many materials including cotton, wool, silk, leather and even suede, Sinsheimer said. In establishments now using this process, many workers say they no longer suffer the afternoon headaches they got daily when using perc.

Another process that is also environmentally sound is CO₂ cleaning. It is compressed into a liquid for cleaning purposes. CO₂ cleaning doesn't add greenhouse gas to the environment, explains Sinsheimer... it merely recycles what already exists. The machines cost as much as \$50,000 -- three times what perc machines cost -- which may be one big reason why the method hasn't caught on big-time yet. Although it is both environmentally and health-friendly and the quality of cleaning is good, some dry cleaners report they are reluctant to invest that kind of money in a trend that hasn't yet proven itself to be a long-term success. (California has created an incentive fund for cleaners switching from perc to non-toxic cleaning methods.)

A third alternative is silicone-based cleaning, now available from just a few cleaners around the country (<http://www.greenearthcleaning.com/>). (NOTE: none in MS, some in TN; 2 towns in GA; and 3 in AL.) The method, more precisely called siloxane D5 or D5 cleaning, is patented and promoted by the GreenEarth Cleaning Company in Kansas City, Missouri. Reports are that the method cleans well, but a two-year animal study showed that D5 was possibly a tumor promoter, specifically of uterine tumors in rats. GreenEarth argues that the pathway that promotes tumors doesn't exist in humans. However, the EPA has posted a fact sheet on it and is in the process of evaluating data on risk -- and so its future remains somewhat up in the air.

Discouragingly, the most frequent form of "organic" cleaning solvent being offered today is by cleaners using a petroleum solvent called DF-2000, made by ExxonMobil. Its status as an organic compound is pretty much on par with perc's. Cleaning establishments using DF-2000 promote it as less environmentally damaging than perc, but others argue that this is primarily about effective marketing, rather than saving the environment. Although there is not a lot of evidence on DF-2000 in terms of safety, the EPA classifies this solvent as a neurotoxin and a skin and eye irritant for those working with it. We can expect to see much more DF-2000-based cleaning though, in part because suppliers of perc-based machines are now selling the ones for DF-2000 as well. Sinsheimer points out that having a familiar network in place to supply and repair the cleaning equipment makes the switch to DF-2000 easier than to the other types.

GREEN CLEANING FUTURE

As noted above, dry cleaners are often small businesses, typically operating with limited capital. This may explain why some companies seem so reluctant to take on the considerable expense required to offer wet or CO₂ cleaning. Still, given the growing national interest

in everything "green," it is likely that true health- and environmentally-friendly dry cleaning, such as what these types offer, will in time become as commonplace as organic chicken.

Source: Peter Sinsheimer, director of the Pollution Prevention Center at the Urban & Environmental Policy Institute at Occidental College, Los Angeles. This particular article was excerpted from BottomLine's *Daily Health News*. The technical reference is Sinsheimer, *et al*, *J. Air & Waste Manage. Assoc.* **57**:172-178.

Upcoming Webinars

(Click on Title for more details)

<u>Date</u>	<u>Event Type</u>	<u>Event Title</u>	<u>Event Location</u>
Sep 30, 2008	Webinar	Unintended Consequences: Ethical Considerations for Engineering Solutions	online
Oct 30, 2008	Webinar	Environmental Law: Air Litigation Update	online
Nov 13, 2008	Webinar	Urgent CAIR: Clean Air Interstate Rule Overturned - Now What?	online
Nov 18, 2008	Webinar	Air Quality Modeling - The Basics	online
Dec 11, 2008	Webinar	Revised National Ambient Air Quality Standards for Lead	online

Upcoming Conferences

(Click on the Title for details)

Nov 3 - 6, 2008	Conference	Symposium on Air Quality Measurement Methods and Technology	Chapel Hill, NC
Dec 2 - 3, 2008	Conference	33rd Annual EPA/A&WMA Information Exchange	Research Triangle Park, NC