



## Arizona Onsite Wastewater Recycling Association

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Dedicated to the Education of the Onsite Wastewater Industry and the Public

## First Flush

Volume 1, Issue 3

September to December 2008

### 2008 Onsite Wastewater Educational Conference

Those who attended the 2008 conference in Flagstaff this year encountered great weather, informative educational sessions and interesting exhibitors. The conference was held at a new location this year. The Radisson Woodland Hotel hosted us and provided great value and terrific service.

The conference started with cocktails with the exhibitors Thursday evening. It was prime opportunity to learn more about the products available to our industry and begin getting to know the folks with whom the next two days would be spent.

Friday's educational sessions included planning for subdivisions, updated testing and certification procedures from NSF, onsite wastewater system design and ADEQ rules, and ended with a energetic round table discussion about the onsite industry locally and nationwide.

Friday ended with the ever popular BBQ dinner held this year at Coconino County Ft. Tuthill Fairgrounds. The BBQ dinner was accompanied by a horseshoe throwing contest, live music, good people and a raffle fundraiser.

Saturday's sessions covered the future of the NAU Onsite Wastewater Demonstration Project, Linear Loading Analysis and Gray Water Reuse. Following lunch were tours of an active gray water system at a residence in Flagstaff and a tour of the NAU Onsite Wastewater Demonstration Park.

Thanks to all who made this conference possible-especially those who attended. The conference was a success from all perspectives. The conference was an excellent continuing education opportunity, a great chance to meet fellow practitioners and form contacts with members representing all facets of our industry and made AzOWRA a little bit of money to further the organization's educational and operational goals.



### Industry Calendar of Events

#### December 8-10, 2008

NOWRA Installer Academy  
Riviera Hotel  
Las Vegas, Nevada  
[www.NOWRA.org](http://www.NOWRA.org)

#### June 17-19, 2009

AzOWRA Educational  
Conference  
Radisson Woodlands Hotel  
1175 West Route 66  
Flagstaff, Arizona  
<http://www.azonsite.org/>

#### June 21-24, 2009

National Environmental Health  
Association Annual Education  
Conference and Exhibition  
Atlanta, Georgia  
<http://www.neha.org/>

### AzOWRA Meetings Calendar

#### September 12, 2008

AzOWRA Board Meeting  
Time and Place to be Determined

#### November 7, 2008

5:00 PM General Membership  
Dinner Meeting  
The Village at Market Street  
Condominium Clubhouse,  
20801 N 90th Place  
Scottsdale, AZ 85255  
Please RSVP to Ed Swanson at  
EKS\_HikesAZ@msn.com by  
October 31, 2008

#### June 17-19, 2009

AzOWRA Educational  
Conference  
Radisson Woodlands Hotel  
1175 West Route 66  
Flagstaff, Arizona  
<http://www.azonsite.org/>

To remove your name from our mailing list, please [click here](#).

Questions or comments? E-mail us at [suzanne.ehrlich@co.yavapai.az.us](mailto:suzanne.ehrlich@co.yavapai.az.us)



## **Member Profile– Lowell Fagen**

Lowell Fagen is a Realtor Associate with Red Arrow Real Estate in Prescott. He has been the listing and/or selling agent for nearly 400 property transactions involving septic and alternative systems. Lowell served seven years as an appointed member of the Arizona Department of Environmental Quality (ADEQ) State Advisory Committee for onsite systems (OWAC). He continues to work with ADEQ on issues related to the real estate community.

In 2007, Lowell collaborated with Edwin Swanson of ADEQ in developing a new continuing education course for real estate agents. It is the first and only course ever approved by the Arizona Department of Real Estate (ADRE) that is specific to agents' responsibilities in implementing ADEQ's Inspection/Transfer of Ownership rule for onsite systems. Fagen and Swanson have presented this course at various venues including the Southwest Onsite Wastewater Conference and the AzOWRA Onsite Educational Conference.

Lowell has authored numerous articles relating to ADEQ rule and the real estate agent's role in transaction procedures. He has also been involved in other real estate activities including being a member of and contributor to Workgroups for the Arizona Association of Realtors in the development and revision of contracts and addendums and has served as a member of various professionalism committees appointed by past and current Commissioners of the Arizona Department of Real Estate.



## **Get to Know... AzOWRA Contractors**

The *Get to Know...* column is new to the newsletter. AzOWRA members are involved in many onsite activities. *Get to Know* will spotlight a different group of our membership each edition. This month the focus is on contractors. Looking to make contact with a contractor interested in onsite wastewater issues and who is a committed professional? The following members are contractors doing work in Arizona:

**Bishop Construction LLC**  
**Red Hawk Construction LLC**  
**Miotto Construction**  
**Oldcastle Precast, Inc**  
**ANR Pro Contractors LLC**

Email Lou Brown at [azowraloub@gmail.com](mailto:azowraloub@gmail.com) to make contact with any of our membership.

## **Onsite Wastewater Demonstration Project**

Several years ago an onsite wastewater demonstration site was created on a portion of land at Northern Arizona University (NAU). This site was designed to test different onsite wastewater treatment technologies using real effluent from real homes-most test sites use sewage diverted from a municipal sewage stream which has different characteristics than household sewage. The demonstration site did not have a funding source and was subsequently mothballed.

AzOWRA has made reactivating the site a top goal of the organization. A steering committee made up of AzOWRA members and NAU personnel has been formed. They have worked out the details of a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) between the two organizations.



The site is being set up to accomplish two tasks: 1) to be a training facility for onsite wastewater treatment systems. The training curriculum has not been determined. It is hoped to include soil characterization training and system maintenance. 2) to be a for-fee, third-party test facility. Existing test facilities that manufacturers use to prove the effectiveness of developing technologies include but not limited to Massachusetts, Texas and North Carolina. These areas do not address the vastly different environment found in the West. This is a site that would focus on Arizona concerns but acknowledge that conditions found here can be similar to other western locals.

The site is now functioning in a limited capacity. The wastewater flow is sent to a sump to allow testing and evaluation of the flow and establish baseline data. There is currently a SeptiTech system on the site. It will be reset and put into service in the near future at which time the test facility will be online, treating and disposing sewage.

As 2009 comes into focus there is still a great deal of work to be accomplished. The existing equipment must be removed and sites prepared for paying customers. The existing dosing system will be completely overhauled this spring, thanks to SeptiTech, and by the time the 2009 AzOWRA Educational Conference is presented in June the third-party test facility will be prepared to accept the first five paying customers.

Support in the form of labor, equipment, funds for scholarships are all needed. If you would like to be involved in this project please contact Richard Sinclair at [richards@apewater.com](mailto:richards@apewater.com).



## **NOWRA's ONSITE Journal**

The next *ONSITE Journal*, NOWRA's quarterly publication, will have two articles from AzOWRA. Co-authored by Richard Sinclair, AzOWRA President, and Dr Paul Trotta of NAU's Engineering Department will be an article updating the onsite community about the progress being made at the NAU Onsite Wastewater Demonstration Project. The goal is to make the Demonstration Park a viable wastewater technology testing site. The other article is an affiliate update from AzOWRA and will let the rest of the onsite community know what AzOWRA is busy doing as an organization.

## **New ADEQ Septic Pumper Rules in the Works**

The Arizona Department of Environmental Quality (ADEQ) is in the process of updating the Integrated Solid Waste Rules. This process has been in the works for some time. Draft rules have been published and are open for comments. The primary area of interest of this rule making is for septic pumpers. The language is being updated to reflect comments that the counties have received over the years about the requirement of a minimum tank size and how hoses and other equipment are transported.

There is no longer a minimum tank size as previously required. The minimum used to be a 750 gallon tank on the truck. Hoses and other equipment were required to be transported and stored in covered and fly-tight enclosures. In the proposed rule this equipment is to be transported so that waste does not fall from them and with hoses capped when not in use.

For further information, please contact [Martha Seaman](mailto:Martha.Seaman@adeq.state.arizona.gov) at (602) 771-2221 or go to the ADEQ website:

## **General Membership Dinner Meeting**

The AzOWRA General Membership Dinner meeting is scheduled for November 7, 2008, at 5:00 PM. Schedule permitting Alan Gale, NOWRA Executive Director, hopes to be in town and attend. Please plan to come and meet Alan, visit with your fellows, discuss topics of interest and enjoy a great BBQ dinner some good drink. The dinner price will be \$25.00 per person and includes gratuity and some adult beverages (feel free to bring your own favorite) The meeting will be held at (Thank you, Ed):

The Village at Market Street Condominium Clubhouse  
20801 N 90th Place  
Scottsdale, AZ 85255

Please RSVP to Ed Swanson at  
[EKS\\_HikesAZ@msn.com](mailto:EKS_HikesAZ@msn.com) by October 31, 2008

## **Veronica Ehrlich Benefit Savings Account**

AzOWRA has set up an account to raise money for Veronica Ehrlich, the infant daughter of Suzanne Ehrlich, AzOWRA member and member of the Board. Veronica was born with Trisomy 18 (Edwards Syndrome) in February. Children with Edwards Syndrome do not usually live beyond their first birthday.



A raffle was held at the 2008 Educational Conference in Flagstaff to help pay medical expenses not covered by insurance. The raffle raised over \$700.00.

Donations from AzOWRA and our membership now total more than \$900.00. Suzanne and her family thank you all for your support and good wishes.

This is a continuing fundraising effort. Additional donations can be made to:

Veronica Ehrlich Benefit Account  
National Bank of Arizona  
Iron Spring Branch  
1055 E W Iron Springs Road  
Prescott, AZ 86305

## **Call for Papers-2009**

Planning for the 2009 Educational Conference is in full swing and the Conference Committee is seeking topic ideas and abstracts for presentation at the conference.

Please contact  
Suzanne Ehrlich at  
[suzanne.ehrlich@co.yavapai.az.us](mailto:suzanne.ehrlich@co.yavapai.az.us)  
Or 928-442-5409

## **Calling for any 2008 Conference Photos**

Did you bring your camera to the 2008 conference? Did you take any pictures? Would you like to share those pictures with the AzOWRA? The Conference Committee is calling for all pictures depicting anything and everything that happened at the conference this year.

Please send them via email to:  
[suzanne.ehrlich@co.yavapai.az.us](mailto:suzanne.ehrlich@co.yavapai.az.us)  
or to

Suzanne Ehrlich  
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Prescott, AZ 86301