

The Waterway

A publication by the Southeast Texas Chapter of the American Water Works Association

Meeting Notice August 24, 2006

Special points of interest:

- August 24, 2006
- 11:00 a.m.
- Golden Island Buffet
901 North Shepherd
Houston, TX 77008
- \$20 per person for AWWA members if confirmed by 8/17/06.
- \$25 per person after 8/17/06
- \$25 per person for non-AWWA members
- \$10 per person if a government employee and confirmed by 8/17/06

The August meeting of the Southeast Texas Chapter of the TAWWA will be held Thursday, August 24, 2006. The meeting will be held at the Golden Island Buffet Restaurant, 901 North Shepherd Houston TX. 77008 .

The meeting will begin at 11:00 am, with lunch at 11:30 am and the featured speaker at 11:50 am.

The cost for the luncheon is \$20 per person, if confirmed by August 17, 2006 and an AWWA member; \$25 per person for AWWA members after August 17, 2006.

The cost for non-AWWA members is \$25 per person. The cost for government employee is \$10 per person.

Please RSVP by sending an e-mail with your first and last name, organization (for name tag), to Marilyn Christian at mchristian@harriscountyhealth.com. Alternately, you may call in your RSVP to Marilyn Christian at 713-439-6260. No-shows will be invoiced for their lunch.



This chapter is a forum where members of the Southeast Texas Chapter of AWWA meet to discuss water resources topics. It is a 501c(3) exempt organization. Meetings are held bi-monthly and are open to both AWWA members and non-members.

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August Program Topic: Prevention of Zebra Mussels on WTP Intakes

Dennis McMillin, Western States District Manager for Johnson Screens North America, will speak on the Prevention of Zebra Mussels in North American for our August luncheon meeting. Zebra mussels are becoming an issue on water treatment plant intake screens and piping in the Texas area. Dennis' presentation will focus on where the zebra mussels come from, what they do

to water treatment process, and how to prevent them.

Dennis has received his Bachelor of Science Degree in Agricultural Services and Development from Tarleton State University, Stephenville, Texas. He has worked for the Texas Department of Agriculture before joining in Johnson Screens.

In addition to oversee sales and marketing for Johnson Screens water process products, Dennis works closely with engineering consulting firms and State regulatory agencies, actively involved in development of "fish friendly" screening technology and fish diversion methods.

“Moving Forward by Asserting Yourself”

Edward Tadlock
President: Southeast Chapter TAWWA

To be effective, you must be assertive. Assertiveness is the force that moves an idea from being a thought in your mind to becoming a product or experience. It is the key to getting results.

Assertiveness builds self-confidence and the admiration and respect of others. Passiveness results in a loss of respect from both self and others. The passive person tends to turn feelings inward and experiences anxiety, guilt, and depression. Aggressiveness builds enemies who are intent on getting even or aloneness as others avoid you.

Assertiveness lets you stand up for your rights without violating the rights of others. These rights include basic issues such as the right to refuse a request without feeling guilty or selfish, the right to make reasonable requests of

others, the right to express yourself, the right to a fair deal, and the right to make mistakes.

Be flexible in your responses to situations. Every situation does not require an assertive response. Consider who is involved, the importance of the issue, and your knowledge of the situation. Then choose a response that lets you come out ahead. Remember, the goal is to achieve results, not to get your way or prove that you are boss.

Reference: “Stepping up to Supervisor”; by Marion E. Hayes

Young Professionals Update

Chris Varnon, P.E.

We are gathering on the second Wednesday of every month to meet and greet and enjoy some libations. Location will be determined on a month to month basis, so keep your eyes peeled for email updates.

Any and all young professionals (in age, in career experience, or in heart) are encouraged to come out and mingle in a relaxed social setting. If you have colleagues that are young professionals, regardless of whether or not they are members of TAWWA, if they are water professionals or utility employees, please encourage them to come out and join us.

If you have any questions, need directions, want to recommend a location, or whatever, please contact Chris Varnon at varnonck@cdm.com or 713-423-7300. Hope to see some of you there!

Groundwater Conversion Forum

David Scholler, P.E.

Conversion from a dependence on groundwater to alternative water sources has been on going in the Houston area for over twenty years. The City of Houston began their surface water transmission program in the mid 1980s. The North Harris County Regional Water Authority was created in 1999 and the West Harris County Regional Water Authority was created in 2001. The task of both authorities is to facilitate the conversion from groundwater dependence to using surface water.

A forum has been tentatively scheduled for November 2, 2006 to present an update on groundwater conversion and the lessons learned during the conversion process. Those invited to participate include Mr. Jeff Taylor, Deputy Director, Public Utilities, City of Houston; Mr. Jimmie Schindewolf, General Manager, North Harris County Regional Water Authority; and Dan Sallee, Board President, West Harris County Regional Water Authority. Mark your calendar. You will be notified of the time and place of this event. Don't miss it.



Southeast Texas Water for People Fundraising Initiative

Water professionals from Houston and surrounding areas have come together to champion the cause of Water for People. Every 15 seconds, a child under the age of five dies needlessly from a water-related illness. 2 out of every 5 people in our world have no access to adequate sanitation. Recognizing the bountiful resources of clean drinking water and readily available sanitation services that we enjoy in the United States and the enormous disadvantages that must be overcome in communities around the world who do not enjoy these basic resources, the Southeast Texas water community has set its first goal of raising **\$10,000 for Water for People by April of 2007.**

This modest amount will enable Water for People to fund an entire project that will help a struggling community provide basic water, sanitation, and hygiene to its population. To achieve this objective, we are asking for the support of local individuals, businesses, and various organizations wishing to participate in making this fundamental difference in people's quality of life. You can help with your donations as well as participation in various fund raising activities.

So that we can track our progress, please contact Chris Varnon of CDM (varnonck@cdm.com) to make a donation, find out how else you can assist in this regional fundraising initiative, or schedule someone to come to your business or organization to give a presentation on Water for People and our Southwest Texas initiative. You can also visit www.waterforpeople.org to find

Water For People helps people in developing countries improve their quality of life by supporting locally sustainable drinking water, sanitation, health and hygiene.

Our vision is a world where all people have access to safe drinking water and sanitation; a world where no one suffers or dies from a water or sanitation-related disease.



Save the Date! Upcoming Events

SE TAWWA Chapter Meeting

August 24, 2006, 11:30am

Third World Aquatic Health Conference

Austin, TX

September 19-21, 2006

By: National Swimming Pool Foundation

21st Annual Water Reuse Symposium

September 10-13, 2006

Hollywood, California

By: American Water Works Association

<http://www.awwa.org/conferences/watereuse/>

2006 Water Security Conference

September 10-12, 2006

Washington, DC

By: American Water Works Association

<http://www.awwa.org/conferences/congress/>

AWWA Seminar: Principles of Desalting Brackish and Sea Water

October 5-6, 2006

Houston, Texas

[http://www.awwa.org/education/seminars/index.cfm?](http://www.awwa.org/education/seminars/index.cfm?SemID=49)

[SemID=49](http://www.awwa.org/education/seminars/index.cfm?SemID=49)

WEFTEC 79th Annual Conference

October 21-25, 2006

Dallas, Texas

[http://www.environmental-expert.com/events/weftec/](http://www.environmental-expert.com/events/weftec/weftec.htm)

[weftec.htm](http://www.environmental-expert.com/events/weftec/weftec.htm)



**TREASURER'S
REPORT**
Greg Lentz, P.E.

AS OF JUNE 8, 2006, THE
SOUTHEAST CHAPTER'S

SE TAWWA Chapter Meeting

October 26, 2006, 11:30am

Water Quality Conference and Exposition

November 5-9, 2006

Denver, Colorado

By: American Water Works Association

<http://www.awwa.org/conferences/wqtc/>

Ground Water Expo

By: National Ground Water Association

December 5-8, 2006

Las Vegas, Nevada

<http://www.ngwa.org/>

2007 Customer Service Conference and Expo

March 4-7, 2007

Austin, TX

By: American Water Works Association

Deadline for Call for Papers Submissions—June 26, 2006

<http://www.awwa.org/conferences/customer/call/>

2007 AWWA/WEF Information Management and Technology Conference and Expo

March 4-7, 2007

Austin, TX

Deadline for Call for Papers Submissions—June 26, 2006

<http://www.awwa.org/conferences/imtech/call/>

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2005

Executive Committee Roster

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713-862-8206

Jessie Li, Ph.D., P.E. – Vice President

City of Houston
713-842-4001

Jennifer Elms, P.E. - Secretary

Edminster Hinshaw Russ & Associates
713-784-4500

Greg Lentz, P.E. – Treasurer

R G Miller
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COMMITTEE CHAIRS

Corporate Sponsorship – Gary Rabalais, P.E.

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Correspondence (Newsletter) – Camille Sowell, P.E.

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Independent Consultant
281-304-8613

Young Professionals – Chris Varnon, P.E.

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713-423-7300

Sponsorship Provides Corporate Exposure Opportunities

Corporate sponsorship is a great way to get your company in front of our over 400-strong SE Chapter membership. Sponsorships are available for each of our SE Chapter meetings, as well as in our bi-monthly newsletters.

What are the sponsorship funds used for? Your contributions allow the SE Chapter to award college scholarships through TAWWA and cash prizes for science fair award recipients.

What are the sponsorship options?

\$200/Luncheon/Dinner Meeting: Corporate sponsors will be announced during the meeting and attending firm members will be publicly acknowledged. The Chapter will also acknowledge the meeting sponsors on a bulletin board at the registration table, and they may distribute brochures about their company. In addition, they will be able to place a quarter-page color ad about their company in our newsletter prior to the meeting they sponsor. Up to four sponsors per meeting.

\$100/Year Color Business Card: Your company's business card can appear in each of our bi-monthly newsletters for one calendar year (January through December) under the section entitled "Professional Services Directory." Prorated amounts for starting between these times can be arranged.

\$100/Newsletter Professional Job Position: A company/agency can place professional job position openings in the newsletter and on our website. The position will be published once in our bi-monthly newsletter and simultaneously on our website for that same two-month period.

If you are interested in being a Chapter sponsor, please contact Gary Rabalais, Corporate Sponsorship Chair, at 713-960-7428, or at grabalais@pirnie.com. Checks are made payable to *SE Chapter of TAWWA*.

AWWA Information

AWWA is the authoritative resource for knowledge, information, and advocacy to improve the quality and supply of drinking water in North America and beyond. AWWA is the largest organization of water professionals in the world. AWWA advances public health, safety and welfare by uniting the efforts of the full spectrum of the drinking water community. Through our collective strength we become better stewards of water for the greatest good of the people and the environment.

Founded in 1881, AWWA is the largest organization of water supply professionals in the world. Its more than 57,000 members represent the full spectrum of the drinking water community: treatment plant operators and managers, scientists, environmentalists, manufacturers, academicians, regulators, and others who hold genuine interest in water supply and public health. Membership includes more than 4,700 utilities that supply water to roughly 180 million people in North America.

ABOUT SE CHAPTER

If you're a member of the Southeast Texas Chapter of the Texas Section American Water Works Association, this is a great opportunity to meet and build relationships with your peers in the water community. If you're not a member, this is your opportunity to attend with other water professionals, share ideas and information, and see what AWWA has to offer. Luncheon or dinner meetings are held on a bi-monthly basis and are open to both AWWA members and non-members. It is a 501 (c) (3) exempt scientific/education organization.

Chapters of the Texas Section AWWA provide training and other opportunities to share information and ideas on *important issues and topics. The grassroots nature of Chapters gives the Texas Section AWWA the strength of nearly 3200 members statewide.*

Southeast Texas Chapter Website:

http://groups.yahoo.com/group/SE_CHAPTER_TAWWA/



Safe drinking water, basic health, hygiene education and sanitation facilities are nonexistent for impoverished people in the developing countries throughout the world. WHO/UNICEF estimates that the combination of these conditions results in 6,000 deaths everyday, mostly children.

In response, a dedicated handful of North American water professionals from the **American Water Works Association** established Water For People in 1991 and Water For People-Canada in 1995. They saw this as a natural extension of what their 57,000 members already do on a daily basis -- bring safe, sufficient drinking water to their own communities.

Water For People is an international nonprofit development organization committed to the long-term impact of increased access to safe drinking water and improved sanitation and health.