



# CEHA POINT SOURCE

WINTER 2005

**Colorado Environmental Health Association**

www.cehaweb.com

## TO PASTEURIZE OR NOT TO PASTEURIZE: THE COLORADO STORY

*Submitted by Patti Klocker*

Public health protection based on historical, nationally known scientific fact does not always prevail. The public's right to choose may take precedence over the public's right to public health protection.

Historically, it has not been legal to sell raw milk for human consumption in Colorado. In 1995, a small dairy petitioned the Colorado Board of Health to approve the supplying of raw milk to consumers through cow share operations. As envisioned by the dairy, a consumer could purchase a cow "share" and in return, the dairy would supply the shareholder with raw milk. At that time, it was determined this type of operation did not constitute the sale of raw milk and therefore was outside the authority of regulation. Although this practice was not regulated, the Colorado Department of Public Health and Environment (CDPH&E) did not approve of the practice and recommended milk should not be consumed raw.

Recently, CDPH&E became aware of several items which gave reason to re-evaluate whether a cow share operation met the definition of the sale of raw milk. These items included a foodborne outbreak of *Campylobacter jejuni* associated with drinking un-pasteurized milk from a cow-leasing operation in Wisconsin; an incident in Colorado of a *Campylobacter jejuni* outbreak associated with the consumption of raw milk by a school wrestling team; numerous other documented foodborne outbreaks, not only in the United States but worldwide as a result of consuming raw milk; and continuous inquiries from the public requesting how they could start a cow-share/cow-leasing business for access to raw milk. In addition, since 1995 many nationally and internationally recognized health professional organizations have issued policy statements for the pasteurization of milk and against the consumption of raw milk and raw milk products.

In 2003, CDPH&E once again requested and received an informal opinion from the Office of the Attorney General stating the Department has the authority to prohibit the sale of raw milk through a cow share operation. Before any actions were taken, the Department met with many stakeholders who provided information indicating the consumption of raw milk

is beneficial to health. However, none of this information was current, credible, or scientifically recognized and peer reviewed.

On May 19, 2004 the Colorado Board of Health conducted a rulemaking hearing to amend the Colorado Grade A Pasteurized Milk and Fluid Milk Products Regulations. The proposed revision was to adopt the Grade A Pasteurized Milk Ordinance (PMO) 2003 and to include a definition of "sale/sold" which would clarify that cow-share/cow-leasing operations constitute the sale of raw milk.

The hearing lasted four and a half hours and was attended by approximately 300 people. The CDPH&E, Colorado Department of Agriculture, Federal Food and Drug Administration, local health agencies, veterinarians, pasteurized milk industry, and academia representatives testified in favor of pasteurization. Colorado and out-of-state dairies who have cow-share/cow-lease operations for the purpose of providing raw milk for consumption, dairies wanting to start these types of operations, and numerous consumers who drink raw milk testified in favor of allowing

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## LETTER FROM THE CEHA PRESIDENT

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Well here I am, the president of an organization with a membership of over 320 at last count. How did that happen? I was just hoping to get a little involved with CEHA, and the next thing I know, I am the President. In spite of the shock I'm in, I am very excited about my upcoming year as President.

Since I have been on the Board of Directors, I have been thinking of ways to improve this organization. After being appointed Treasurer, I made it a point to set up processes to improve the efficiency and make the position easier for those who would follow. My term was cut a little short, but I hope I was able to accomplish that to some degree. As President-Elect I was assigned the Membership Committee Chair. Our membership database had made great strides in previous years, thanks to Lyle. I worked to improve it by reducing repetitive data entry. The database has taken a year to build and it did reduce data entry required for AEC registration. This coming year it should pay off greatly with reduced data entry for membership renewals. Special thanks goes to Julie Weatherred for designing the database and tweaking it throughout the year.

As President, I hope to continue to improve the budget process for the Treasurer and continue to improve the membership database so that it will be functional for years to come. This coming year it is my goal to improve communication with the all of the members. We have 2 great tools to communicate with the membership in the newsletters and the website; there is room for improvement in both. It is my hope that the Board of Directors can come up with some changes that will be useful and noticeable to you as a member and ultimately allow you to feel more connected to the organization.

Speaking of being connected, the Board is in the process of developing a survey to mail to all members soon to get your opinion on how things should run within our organization. Please take the time to fill the survey out and return it.

Membership weighs heavily on my mind. How can we make it more beneficial to become a member? I see and feel the benefits myself, but cannot put them into words as well as Tom Gonzales and Mark McMillan have in an article in this very newsletter. Are we tapped out at our current 320 members? Working for the State Health Department, I see potential members walk by me in the halls and contact local health department staff on a daily basis. Why aren't all environmental health workers members of CEHA? Do we have anything to offer them? Can we develop specific trainings or other opportunities to attract them? Are they in other organizations that suit them better? I hope to answer these questions and act on them in the coming year.

Finally, I want to let you know what the Association has been up to since the AEC. For those of you who were unable to make it to the conference, we have had some new additions to the Board. Our President-Elect is Therese Pilonetti-Hall, our new Secretary is Danica Harmon (replacing Lori Siedelman), the Northeast Representative is Phil Brewer (replacing Kim Meyer-Lee), the Environmental Health Directors' Representative is Jeff Zayach (replacing Dr. Jim Dale) and returning for a second term is Doug Jatcko as our Industry Representative. Our newly elected Metro Representative is Chris Erzinger.

The CEHA Board members have been very busy negotiating contracts for the 2005 AEC in Estes Park, organizing the next newsletter, tallying the income from the 2004 AEC, and planning the budget for the coming year. As always, if you have comments, complaints, praise, would like to help out on one of our committees, or anything else you can think of, give me a call or email at 303-692-3633 or [pklug@cehaweb.com](mailto:pklug@cehaweb.com).

Regards,

Paul A. Klug  
CEHA President



## New Board Members

Jeff Zayach is currently finishing his Masters of Science in Management with an Organizational Leadership Emphasis. He received an Advanced Leadership Certificate from the Regional Institute of Health and Environmental Leadership in 1999 and graduated with a Bachelor of Science degree in Wildlife Management from Utah State University. Following college, Jeff worked part-time for the U.S. Forest Service and the Idaho Fish and Game Department as a Fisheries Technician. He began working with Boulder County Public Health in 1990 and has since worked his way through all of the Environmental Health Programs as an Environmental Health Specialist. In 1996, Jeff was promoted to Air Quality, Solid Waste, Hazardous Waste and Pollution Prevention Program Coordinator, and in 2000 he became the Environmental Health Division Manager. Jeff has established, staffed, and supported local community advisory boards and task forces and has significant experience with community involvement.

Jeff currently is an Executive Board member for the Colorado Association of Local Public Health Leaders, is past President of the Colorado Directors of Environmental Health, was a member of the Governor's Interagency Advisory Group on Hazardous Materials, and has served on several local planning boards.

As a Board member for the Colorado Environmental Health Association (CEHA), Jeff hopes to enhance collaboration and communication between CEHA and other local public health leaders in the State of Colorado and to increase CEHA membership.

Danica Harmon graduated from Kalamazoo College in Kalamazoo, Michigan with a Bachelor of Arts degree in Biology in 2000. She has worked for the Denver Department of Environmental Health since May 2002 as an environmental protection specialist for the retail food inspection program. During her time with Denver, Danica has focused much of her energy on the outdoor/special event inspection program. She has also organized the food safety track and designed brochures and binders as a volunteer on CEHA's Annual Education Conference committee for the past two years. In her spare time, Danica enjoys competitive trail and road running on the Front Range and in the mountains.

As a board member, Danica hopes to continue some involvement with the AEC and strengthen ties between CEHA and local industry. She also looks forward to helping CEHA continue the trend of increased membership and student involvement.

Phil Brewer has been with the Weld County Department of Public Health and Environment for eight years. He has spent four years in hazardous waste and recycling programs and four years as the stationary sources air and CFC inspector and open burning permit authority. He investigates all Weld County complaints involving air. He is also a logistics planner for the WCDPHE local emergency response team.

For the City of Greeley, Phil is one of five commissioners appointed to the Air Quality and Natural Resources Commission, a quasi-judicial board formed about ten years ago to deal with odor emission problems in Greeley. The Commission has expanded to deal with weeds, noise, recycling, and mobile sources of emissions.

Prior to working for WCDPHE, Phil was employed in clinical analytical work in hospital and private laboratories. He specialized in clinical chemistry and hematology.

Phil received a Bachelor of Arts degree from Drake University, and a Masters of Arts degree from the University of Northern Colorado with emphasis in Physiology and Biochemistry.

Christopher Erzinger co-founded Ecology Action of Colorado in 1969, a grass roots environmental organization, and at the same time served on Governor Love's Council on the Environment from 1969-1971 working with industry to find workable solutions to reduce and eliminate any impact their operations might have on the environment. While working on the Governor's Council on the Environment, Chris helped organize the first Earth Day celebration held at Denver's Currihan Hall in April of 1970.

Chris currently serves at the Colorado Department of Public Health & Environment as the Regulatory liaison to the Howard Hughes Medical Institute (HHMI) and the Colorado Association of Academic and Research Laboratories (CAARL), which are tasked with evaluating the Hazardous Waste Regulations as they pertain to academic research and education at both the federal and state levels. Chris also serves on Denver's Local Emergency Planning Commission (LEPC) and is on the Metro Wastewater Reclamation District Board of Directors. He has been a mediator and trainer for the State Employee's Mediation Program (SEMP) for over 11 years, which directly supports his graduate studies in Alternative Dispute Resolution (ADR) at the University of Denver. Chris is also certified at the Masters Level for the Certified Hazardous Materials Manager (CHMM) designation.

His communication background and regulatory knowledge have allowed him to represent CDPHE in over 30

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## **Registration, Education, and the Journal Remain NEHA's Top Core Services**

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The National Environmental Health Association was founded in 1937 when several "Sanitarians" met for the first time to lay the organization's ground work. These initial efforts lead to the creation of The National Association of Sanitarians as a non-governmental organization located in California. In considering the values and objectives most important to the organization, the founding members identified three primary objectives which would be their focal point. They included:

- Education – Providing an annual educational conference
- Journal – A bi-monthly journal/newsletter
- Registration – Creating a national registration for sanitarians

The Association began organizing an educational conference and began the difficult task of creating a national registration. Both the Annual Education Conference (AEC) and Registered Sanitarian exam began in 1937. The inaugural issue of the journal, entitled *The Sanitarian*, was published in June 1938.

Since 1937, NEHA has grown from a small organization of a few hundred members to a prestigious professional organization comprised of over 5,000 individuals nationwide. Today NEHA has a staff of 29 full-time employees responsible for administering grants, creating the bi-monthly journal, and organizing the country's largest annual Environmental Health conference. In spite of these changes to NEHA's budget and staff, the focus on the organization's charter services has remained the same.

In 2004, these same three core services—the Annual Education Conference, the monthly journal, and a national registration—are the top priority for your NEHA Board of Directors. In fact, President Balsomo has declared the REHS/RS exam his highest priority. The Board of Directors

believes the REHS/RS exam and study guide is due for review. NEHA Executive Director, Nelson Fabian, and the credentialing staff are hard at work looking for a testing partner that will fit NEHA's needs. Hopefully this testing partner will be able to provide NEHA with the tools and resources necessary to strengthen the exam and study guide.

The NEHA staff is also hard at work organizing the 69th AEC to be held June 26-29, 2005 in Providence, Rhode Island. This annual event draws over 1,200 Environmental Health and Protection Professionals from around the world! Today NEHA's education is much broader than just the AEC. For example, several of the Research and Development (grant) programs are educational based, including the highly successful Epi-Ready Training, the Onsite Wastewater Voluntary Management Guidelines Workshops in 2003, and Radon Resistance Training. NEHA continues to be the national leader in educating Environmental Health Professionals.

The Journal of Environmental Health, which is currently published 10 times each year, speaks for itself. With the addition of a full time Marketing Manager and Editor, I believe the Journal has become NEHA's jewel.

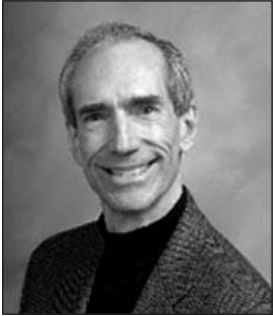
Although there have been many changes to the organization over the past 69 years, one thing that hasn't changed is NEHA's commitment to providing the three core services to its members. As always, if you have suggestions or would like to get involved in any way, please feel free to email me at [tgonzales@larimer.org](mailto:tgonzales@larimer.org)

Kindest Regards,

NEHA Region 3 Vice-President



## 2004 Milton M. Miller Award Recipient Kenneth D. Blehm, Ph.D



*Each year, CEHA honors one of its own members with the prestigious Milton M. Miller Award. This award is given to an outstanding Environmental Health Professional in the state of Colorado. Milton M. Miller was an environmental health pioneer who started his career in the 1930s. During the World War II era he developed the model inspection code for dairies and eventually created an environmental health program at what was then Denver University.*

*The Colorado Environmental Health Association is proud to present the 2004 Milton M. Miller Award to Kenneth D. Blehm, Associate Dean, Department of Environmental Health, Colorado State University.*

**K**enneth D. Blehm (Ken) has been practicing Environmental Health in Colorado since 1974 with a brief hiatus to Louisiana from 1977 to 1979. Ken graduated with a degree in Chemistry from the University of Northern Colorado in 1973, and given job market conditions, became a professional feedlot operator for Monfort of Colorado. After a year of operating a cattle city of 100,000 plus residents, he decided that the challenges and rewards of that career were not for him.

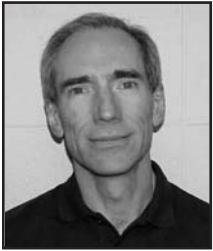
A job opening at the Larimer County Health Department was brought to Ken's attention by his older brother, Jerry. The classical job announcement for a Sanitarian I involving a college degree with at least 30 hours in the sciences caught Ken's eye. The rest, so to speak, is history. After two years as a sanitarian and after becoming a Registered Professional Sanitarian, Ken was searching for more science and investigation than he had found in inspections and regulatory enforcement.

In 1976, Ken began graduate school at Colorado State University full-time while continuing to work full-time at Larimer County. After one semester, he discovered that doing well on both fronts was beyond the hours available in the day. He was fortunate to be able to take advantage of an Environmental Protection Agency educational grant intended to develop scientific expertise in local health departments. In the summer of 1976, Ken relocated to Baton Rouge and began two years overseeing industrial hygiene programs for Kaiser Aluminum and Chemical Corporation's facilities that stretched from Mulberry, Florida to Wendover, Utah. By this time, Ken had discovered that the work day involved lots of time behind a desk. With his wife Barb, Ken returned to Colorado late in 1979 to work as a research associate at Colorado State University and as a teacher at Platte Valley High School.

After a year and a half as a research scientist, Ken was off to the Medical Center of the University of Oklahoma, pursuing a doctoral degree in Industrial Hygiene. A combination of fortuitous factors and a somewhat egomaniacal drive allowed Ken to complete the doctoral degree in just over 20 months and return to Colorado State University as a research scientist. An interesting sidelight of Ken's new credential was the offer of a contract from the Pan American Health Organization to teach a group of Caribbean nation health inspectors-in-training at the University of the West Indies in Kingston, Jamaica. Gaining a first hand perspective on the international practice of Environmental Health was a valuable learning experience for someone who had never previously practiced outside of the United States.

Ken returned with his doctorate as a research scientist at Colorado State University and secured a faculty position within the next year in Industrial Hygiene and Environmental Health. Ken's teaching career began with a focus on graduate education and industrial hygiene. At that time, he was asked by the retiring head of the Department of Environmental Health, Eldon Savage, to take over some undergraduate classes; he accepted and decided shortly thereafter that he had died and gone to heaven. Ken believes that the challenge and fun of meeting, training, directing and then watching the development of young folks as they discover Environmental Health is truly the best job he could have.

Ken has been a proponent for a high quality education that develops competent practitioners since the first day of his career as a faculty member. He has redesigned and augmented graduate and undergraduate curricula at Colorado State University in an effort to keep it useful and relevant. He is currently a full professor in the Department of Environmental and Radiological Health Sciences where he teaches air pollution, industrial hygiene and hazardous waste topics to undergraduates. He is Associate Dean for all undergraduate programs in the College of Veterinary Medicine and Biomedical Sciences.



## ***Origins at the Ivory Cellar***

Kenneth Blehm, Colorado State University

### **Environmental and Public Health: How do we set our priorities for programming?**

I have to start this column with a couple of underlying assumptions that I hold to be true:

- We have a limited amount of funding that we can invest in environmental health programming.
- The goal of environmental health is to protect the vitality of POPULATIONS over INDIVIDUALS.
- Thus, our programming should be directed at positively impacting the largest number of persons in areas that have widespread impact across significant portions of our population.

A corollary assumption is that if we are going to achieve these outcomes then we must direct ourselves at high probability events – namely we must address those things that we are likely to encounter again and again over those things that we may encounter in only rare circumstances.

With these assumptions in mind, I then pose the question as to why we have directed our environmental health energies in the way that we have for some particular programming.

Case 1: How much time and effort has been directed at emergency responder capability at your agency? Are you now better equipped to defeat the ‘invading Hun’ should he arrive? If you are the unfortunate community to receive the weaponized infectious agent, are you in a quantifiably better position as an individual to identify and forestall this event than you were before? How have you improved the quality of life or the vitality of your population? Have you addressed the high probability event?

Case 2: How much time and effort has been directed at West Nile surveillance, mosquito, or larvicide efforts in the last two years? With the announcement of the scaling back of these efforts for next year in many counties, what long term good for the population has been done? How much disease has been prevented that would not have been prevented through the use of repellants and behaviors that individuals could control without the aforementioned efforts? How have you improved the quality of life or the vitality of your population? Have you addressed the high probability event?

Case 3: How much time and effort has been directed at basic food service establishment inspection in the last year? How much of this effort has been directed at facility or equipment deficiencies rather than behaviors? How many of

those facilities or how much of that equipment has been changed as a result of your efforts? What quantifiable improvement in the vitality of the population have you addressed? Have you addressed the high probability event and have you made long term improvements in the food service industry or to the dining public?

Now let us take some time to examine another set of data that I obtained from two information sources: the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (NIOSH) and the Department of Labor (OSHA). In 2001, 135 million persons were employed in the U.S. (48 percent of 281 million persons) with projections that 168 million persons (56 percent of 300 million persons) would be employed by 2010. By 2010, 48 percent of all women and 52 percent of all men in the United States would be working in an occupation or job – and this assumes that more men and women may be working in jobs that are not accurately counted by our current mechanisms.

In calendar year 2003, 14 persons were killed and 15,000 were injured every 24 hours from those industries and jobs from which we have data. During the time period of 2001-2004, the most common occupational injury reported was repetitive motion trauma– a malady that is often, if not predominantly, solved or mitigated through work place design modification and worker behavior changes.

During the time period of 1992-2001, using the resources available and largely with the cooperation of employers and businesses (because it benefited them directly), the overall rate of lost time work incidents was reduced by 32 percent. The available public sector resources to aid businesses and private or public sector employers in this type of pursuit pales in comparison to the number of environmental health professionals we have working in the public sector for other areas of environmental health.

So my question becomes this: If we have a situation (going to work) that impacts 50 percent of the population; if that situation causes the number of deaths and injuries daily that have been reported; if that situation can be demonstrably improved in a number of cases with the application of the same kind of outreach efforts that are available through

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## Public Health Measures Used to Maximize Resources

*By Jeff Lawrence and Therese Pilonetti-Hall,  
CPD Program Managers*

The Consumer Protection Division (CPD) continually monitors work processes and identifies methods to enhance efficiencies within all program areas. Recently, CPD moved two additional programs, Retail Food and Child Care, to a risk-based inspection methodology. While the methodologies for calculating inspectional frequencies differ for these two programs, the desired results are the same: more efficient processes that appropriately direct resources toward higher risk establishments so that greater public health protection can be achieved.

The Division has developed and implemented the methodology to determine risk in retail food establishments. The protocol assigns a risk factor to an establishment based on four factors: foods served, operations, meal volume, and inspectional history. New established frequencies range from once every two years to three times a year. Additionally, in lieu of an on-site inspection, the investigator can substitute one of three intervention types: an on-site training, a formal Hazard Analysis Critical Control Point (HACCP) study, or a consultative review. These interventions can be utilized to focus on the compliance assistance needed by an individual establishment.

In 2004, inspections were conducted utilizing the traditional once or twice per year inspectional approach. In 2005 after implementing the risk-based protocol, a 14.2% reduction in inspections is anticipated. More importantly, resources are being re-allocated to establishments with the highest potential linked to foodborne illness. CPD has also redirected the resources saved to providing additional training for local health agency retail food inspectors.

The risk-based calculation for child care centers is determined by accessing the risk value for each facility based on three factors: 1) child's exposure or time in the center, 2) the age of children in care, and 3) the number of children in care. The children's exposure is broken into three risk indices: partial-day care, full-day care, and greater than 24-hour care. The risk index for age is weighted heavier than the other two indices. Therefore, age of children is considered the most significant measure of risk due to the needs and vulnerabilities of very young children. Before the implementation of risk assessment, all childcare facilities in CPD's direct service jurisdiction were inspected once a year. Applying risk assessment, one of the three risk-based inspectional frequencies is assigned to each childcare facility based on each facility's risk calculation and risk category. Facilities in the

highest risk category are inspected twice a year, moderate-risk facilities are inspected once a year, and low-risk facilities are inspected once every other year.

As a result of the risk analysis calculation, the total number of childcare inspections scheduled for the current year was similar to the total number that had been scheduled for previous years. However, regulatory resources are now directed proportionally to operations that have the greatest likelihood of having a detrimental impact upon the health of children attending their facility. This approach provides for more opportunity to identify deficiencies and greater resources to obtain compliance of critical issues which are linked to illness in children.

CPD worked collaboratively with Information Technology Services to design a feature in CPD's database that automatically recalculates the risk for each retail food establishment. This recalculation is completed annually. While not yet automated, the risk for childcare centers is also assessed annually and will soon be integrated into the database.

As a result of moving these programs to a risk-based approach, CPD resources have been refocused so that inspectional efforts result in improved measures. By basing these risk-based frequencies on the factors previously described, CPD can ensure that efforts are more effectively focused on reducing food borne illness risk factors in retail food establishments and increasing overall compliance rates in childcare facilities.

## The Changing Face of Point Source

As CEHA continues to grow and thrive, the Board strives to continually evaluate and make improvements to the Point Source newsletter. The Board is thrilled to see an increase in the Sustaining Members to an unprecedented 30 members. The support and enthusiasm of these Sustaining Members enables our organization to investigate new and innovative opportunities for our members. You will notice that in this quarter's newsletter, our format for recognizing Sustaining Members has changed. Instead of including a full-sized business card for each Sustaining Member, the Board has decided to include the logos for all Sustaining Members at the end of the newsletter. This change will allow the editors to provide readers with more quality articles without compromising recognition of our indispensable Sustaining Members. Please take the time to visit our Sustaining Members' websites; they can be accessed from [www.cehawe.com](http://www.cehawe.com).



## The Value of Membership

*By Tom Gonzales and Mark McMillan*

Recently at a local restaurant we were discussing the final dinner tab. It turns out that for just \$25 we got a solid deal: a great value, excellent service, and a very pleasant experience overall. Afterwards when we were comparing that dining experience to the benefits of CEHA, we realized they are very much the same; CEHA provides such a great benefit for a very limited amount of money. With that said, the CEHA Board of Directors begrudgingly decided to raise its annual membership dues from \$20 to \$25, and we would like to explain why.

The reason the CEHA Board decided to raise dues is several fold. First, CEHA is seeing increasing costs to run the organization. Costs of the Annual Education Conference (AEC) have skyrocketed in recent years (coffee is now running CEHA up to \$36/gallon and the cost for meals is over \$90 per person for the conference!) Second, the association recently picked up badly needed liability insurance. Finally, CEHA is seeing even more demand for legislative activities and other membership activities which constantly drain our treasury.

So, what will the \$25 cover? Well, good question. Most of the money collected from membership dues goes to underwrite the AEC, keeping our conference costs low while providing excellent educational opportunities. Money also goes towards supporting other trainings (e.g., one day trainings like the spectacular environmental epidemiology course and onsite wastewater training for the Western Slope), preparing the Point Source quarterly newsletter, purchasing plaques and certificates for CEHA award winners, and maintaining and expanding the CEHA website. These are just a few of the benefits. CEHA President Paul Klug has highlighted some others in his letter to the membership.

Turns out too that \$25 is a deal when compared to other states' associations. California is \$59, Washington State is \$50, Montana is \$35, Oregon is \$35, and Texas is \$30. All of a sudden, \$25 seems fair to ask of each of us.

There's no question there are other great benefits from being a member; access to networking with hundreds of other professionals in Colorado and beyond, timely job announcements, and so much more. In fact, networking means access to over 300 members, the strongest membership in decades of our existence.

So is \$25 a fair cost for membership in such an amazing professional organization? The Board believes it is, and we hope you do too. Just like a dinner at your local restaurant, CEHA provides a great value, excellent service, and overall a very pleasant experience. Please continue to support CEHA in 2005 by renewing your dues. We look forward to seeing you in the new year.

Tom Gonzales is a senior environmental health specialist with the Larimer County Department of Health and Environment, a Past President of CEHA, and currently serves as Region 3 Vice President of the National Environmental Health Association.

Mark McMillan is an environmental health scientist with the Colorado Department of Public Health and Environment and serves as the Southeastern Representative to the CEHA Board of Directors.

## Onsite Wastewater Systems Program

NEHA is continuing to work with the United States Environmental Protection Agency (USEPA) and various partner groups to promote improved onsite wastewater systems management. In keeping with the recommendations of the USEPA Voluntary Management Guidelines, NEHA will be working with industry stakeholders and subject matter experts to develop a credential program for onsite wastewater system installers. The stakeholder group will consist of installation professionals, state and local regulators/inspectors, and OSWS training professionals.

To insure that the certification process results in a credential that will be accepted, used, and maintained by the onsite industry, NEHA will enlist the participation of stakeholder groups such as NOWRA, NAWT, NSFC, and SORA, among others. The expertise that these stakeholder groups can provide will be invaluable to the successful development of the credential.

If you are interested in participating in the development of this credential or would simply like to be informed of its progress, please contact Christl Pokorney at (303) 756-9090 ext. 305, or [cpokorney@neha.org](mailto:cpokorney@neha.org).



## Bringing Renewed Meaning to Environmental Health

By *Danica Harmon*

Environmental Health. There sure are some frustrating things about this field. I doubt that you're reeling to hear me say it; chances are you've probably thought the same thing to yourself from time to time. The non-compliant operators, the struggle to provide truly standardized regulation, the aggravation caused by trying to work within the political framework of a sometimes-ailing bureaucracy—it's just about enough to drive a gal crazy.

At some point, we've probably all flirted with the idea of leaving Environmental Health for more power, more glory, or a bigger paycheck. After all, there's hardly anything sexy about shuttling fecal samples to the lab or measuring the dimensions of leach fields. That said, I have absolutely no plans to leave the regulatory side of Environmental Health. Tempt me with corporate year-end bonuses and weekends uninterrupted by emergency pagers, bait me with cushy Business Class airfare and Marriott reward points. But I'm not going anywhere. Although Environmental Health may not compete with the material benefits of other fields, I believe that with determination and passion, you can benefit more from this profession than almost any other out there.

Stop for a minute to consider what it is that you want to accomplish in your career. What do you want people to remember about you at your retirement? What legacy do you wish to leave behind after you have served your time in this field? Personally, I hope to develop new skills, effect a positive change in the world around me, and gain a better understanding of our amazing Earth and its inhabitants. I imagine that most everyone reading this would also like to look back at their career and know that they did the best job they could. Each year during the Milton M. Miller Award ceremony at the Annual Education Conference, the accomplishments of others remind me of all that is possible in this field when it is approached with dedication, passion, and determination.

Like anything in life, you only get as much out of Environmental Health as you invest in it. If you wish, you can move nebulously through your career, fulfilling your responsibilities in a technical sense but not making any memorable contributions. In a culture of ever-increasing passivity, it's easy to lose sight of the fact that if you are not proactive, you may wake up one day on the brink of retirement and wonder whether anything you did in the past thirty years has made a difference in the world.

But by approaching Environmental Health from a creative and energetic standpoint, we can conjure unique solutions which take into account many different factors that affect a problem. We can forge partnerships more effectively, educate those around us, and learn from the people and challenges we encounter.

But how do we do this? How can we change our attitudes and approaches so that we are positively affecting the world and enriching our own lives at the same time? It's only by setting goals and investing energy that it's possible to ever feel the fulfillment of accomplishment. Admittedly, this isn't always easy. Sometimes when your head is clouded by the problems and stresses of everyday life, it's easier to just try to get through the work day and move distractedly through the motions of your work. But surely you've also had those wonderful days when you've approached your work energetically and positively and seen—and felt—a real difference in the world around you. It's difficult to maintain this thoughtful and enriched approach to our work. In order to keep a fresh perspective, you must continually be working within the framework of personal goals and visions for the future.

When we are working towards meaningful goals, we no longer look at our daily activities as endless chores to do; we see them as part of the evolving pathway into a bright future. By approaching our duties with an end in mind, we are more likely to identify unique opportunities in the matrix of our everyday work. Take the time to consider your career and life goals, and start taking steps to complete those goals—right now! In other words (and I hope I'm not infringing on any trademarks), Just Do It! I certainly don't purport to have a unique message here, but it's one that I believe is very important for success in any form.

Setting and working towards goals in the field of Environmental Health can restore our confidence that our actions can make an indelible mark on the Earth and the people around us. It gives us ample opportunity to “make a difference” and to see the positive imprints of our actions on the people around us. Environmental Health is not always a sexy or outwardly rewarding job. But I like to think of working effectively in this profession as akin to silent heroism. Volunteering for the extra activities available in this field can result in some of the most rewarding experiences of your life. For example, by participating as a member of CEHA's Annual Education Conference planning committee, not only have I



## First Year of Supplemental Student Scholarship a Success

By Mark McMillan

Helping students get the training and support they need to become effective leaders in environmental health is one of the Colorado Environmental Health Association's (CEHA) primary goals. The CEHA Supplemental Student Scholarship was created in 2004 to supplement and support preexisting CEHA scholarships and the students to whom they are awarded. Through the generous support of CEHA members and the Board, several hundred dollars was raised through the fund in 2004. The Board would like to thank the following contributors for 2004:

- Kenneth Blehm . . . . . Colorado State University
- Daniel Collins . . . . . Tri-County Health Department
- Ken Conright . . . . . Tri-County Health Department
- Thomas Gonzales . . . . . Larimer County Department of Health and Environment
- Paul Klug . . . . . Colorado Department of Public Health and Environment
- Mark McMillan . . . . . Colorado Department of Public Health and Environment
- Kim Meyer-Lee . . . . . Larimer County Department of Health and Environment
- Hans Schenck . . . . . Bio-Septic Components, LLC
- Bruce Wilson . . . . . Tri-County Health Department

If your contribution to the Fund was overlooked or if you would like more information about supporting this Fund in 2005 and beyond, please contact Mark McMillan at (303) 692-3140. You may mail your support to the CEHA Student Scholarship Fund, P.O. Box 460726, Glendale, CO 80246 or look for information on your membership renewal form included in this newsletter.

## Partners in Education- A Success Story

By Therese Pilonetti-Hall

This year's CEHA and WEHA Annual Education Conference in Breckenndge was very well attended with more than 150 participants, 40 presenters and 25 exhibitors from Colorado, Wyoming, and beyond. The silent auction generated over \$2000 for CEHA and WEHA, more than \$1700 of which will go directly to CEHA's Tom Douville Scholarship for exemplary student interns in Environmental Health. Dan Collins of Tri-County Health Department emerged as the winner of the first annual EH Knowledge Bowl by demonstrating the breadth of his environmental public health knowledge. Dan won the grand prize, free registration to the National Environmental Health Association Conference in Providence, Rhode Island in June of 2005. The New Shoes Band rocked the house at the annual awards banquet, where Dr. Kenneth Blehm of Colorado State University was awarded the prestigious Milton M. Miller award. Kelli Gaines was awarded the Environmental Achievement award for her dedicated service to environmental health at Southeast Land and Environment.

The CEHA Board of Directors and planning committee would like to thank you for making this conference a success. We are already busy planning the next Annual Education Conference in beautiful Estes Park, Colorado in September 2005. Keep your eye on the CEHA newsletter and cehaweb.com for more information on this excellent training opportunity. To volunteer on the planning committee, contact Therese Pilonetti-Hall at 303-692-3642.

## Volleyball Tournament Dominated by New Victors

Due to inclement weather, the Fifth Annual CEHA Volleyball Tournament was held indoors at the Breckenridge Recreation Center. To accommodate the tournament, the CEHA Board generously covered the cost of the gymnasium, and a new but familiar champion was crowned. After an exciting game, the bragging rights and traveling "Wilson" trophy went to the Mountain Power IV team with players Kurt Dahl (Teller County Health Department), Carla Block (Pitkin County Health Department), Tim Petz (All Service Septic), and Eric Burns (Church and Associates). Congratulations!



## **To pasteurize or not to pasteurize:**

*Continued from Page 1*

the access of raw milk through a cow-share/cow-leasing operation.

Individuals in favor of raw milk consumption requested that the Colorado Board of Health adopt minimum requirements for regulating and inspecting these raw milk processes. CDPH&E provided strong testimony that the Department has authority to establish and enforce minimum standards to promote and protect public health. The Department emphasized that the minimum requirements that can assure milk is safe must include pasteurization.

The Colorado Board of Health voted to remove the definition of “sale/sold” which indicates they do not recognize the practice of operating a cow-share/cow-lease scenario as the sale of raw milk. The Board stated that people should have the freedom to choose whether they can consume milk that is raw.

In addition, the Colorado Board of Health suggested that the state legislative process might be appropriate for addressing this issue in the future.

## **Bringing Renewed Meaning**

*Continued from Page 7*

met wonderful people from all sides of the Environmental Health field, but I’ve also expanded my knowledge about many Environmental Health issues and have been honored to help organize a conference that is on par with our national affiliate organization’s conference.

By taking advantage of the daily opportunities we have to enrich the meaning of our professional actions, we leave a subtle but significant change in our wake. It should be our goal as Environmental Health professionals to turn every situation we encounter into a positive and meaningful experience that will leave a beneficial imprint on the people and the Earth around us. And as regulators and public servants, it is our responsibility to maximize our efficacy through such tools as education and active involvement.

As the year winds down, I challenge you to look to the coming year and set professional and personal goals for yourself. Go out of your way to be a proactive member of this field, and you will be amazed at how rewarding the job becomes. Whether it be increasing your involvement with CEHA, making greater efforts to educate those you regulate, or just approaching your professional responsibilities with renewed energy and imagination, you will surely reap the rewards of those extra efforts.

What we do today, right now, will have an accumulated effect on all of our tomorrows.

— Alexandra Stoddard

## **New Board Members**

*Continued from Page 3*

television, radio, and print media interviews, and he regularly speaks at Universities and Colleges on various environmental topics. Chris also received several Division and Department awards including the Governor’s STAR award for the 2002-2003 State Employee of the Year, a selection from over 60,000 state employees. Of special note is that his compliance experience has resulted in the assessment of over \$3 million in penalties and cases that have established state and federal case law for environmental penalty assessments and clean-ups.

With over twenty years of business experience as well as over fifteen years as an environmental regulator, educator and advocate, Chris will certainly bring a unique perspective to CEHA’s Board of Directors.

## **Priorities for programming?**

*Continued from Page 6*

departments of environmental health; and if the employers are willing to undertake partnerships with you to improve their situations (32 percent reduction in lost time cases with meager available resources over 10 years), then why are we, as environmental health professionals, not doing this?

Why do we not all have active occupational health programs in our agencies? Why are we not actively engaging an issue that impacts 50 percent of our population at least 5 days out of 7? Are we so deep into the forest that we cannot recognize the tree that seems to be blocking our view of high priority programming; programming that provides the greatest benefit to the vitality of our population while impacting the greatest number of people with a high probability of long-term continued improvement?

To be fair, I have to disclose that I hold professional credentials as an industrial hygienist, right along with my credentials as a hazardous materials responder, an asbestos ‘buster,’ an environmental health specialist (back when we were sanitarians) who did a fair amount of consumer protection programming, and a hazardous waste specialist. I also work for a college that has landed over \$10 million dollars in vector-borne and infectious disease research grants in the last two years and which has become one of seven national diagnostic laboratories to identify biohazard threats through infectious agent deployment directed at food sources/supplies or traceable to zoonotic agents.

Even from that perspective, I still ask the questions: How do we set our priorities for programming? Why do we do what we do? Should we be doing other things?

As always, I welcome your comments or feedback at Ken.Blehm@colostate.edu.



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## CEHA MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION 2005

### Classes of membership

**Active:** Any person who is employed in any environmental health field, any registered environmental health specialist or any individual with a general interest in the objectives of CEHA is eligible to become an active member . . . . . **\$25**

**Student:** Any full time college or university student working toward a degree with an interest in the association and its objectives is eligible for student membership . . . . . **\$10**

**Life:** Any person who is an active member for at least one year is eligible for life membership. A life member pays a prescribed membership fee which will entitle them to all the rights of membership for life without paying any further dues. A life member shall receive a certificate recognizing their life membership . . . . . **\$250**

**Retired:** Any person who has been an active member of CEHA for five or more consecutive years, and who has retired is eligible for retired membership . . . . . **\$0**

**Sustaining:** Any business, company, corporation or association of such firms with a general interest in CEHA and its objectives, and which has a desire to contribute to its success shall be eligible for sustaining membership. . . . . **\$225**

Please complete the bottom portion of this form and return with payment to:

**Colorado Environmental Health Association  
P.O. Box 460726  
Glendale, CO 80246**

*Thank you for your interest in being a CEHA member. Membership will assure that you receive the CEHA Point Source Newsletter; membership registration rate to all CEHA training and CEHABroadcast email messages with timely information. If you have any questions concerning membership, please contact Paul Klug at (303) 692-3633.*

Name \_\_\_\_\_ Title \_\_\_\_\_

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|-----------------------------------------|----------------------------------|-------------------------------------|-------|
| <input type="checkbox"/> New Membership | <input type="checkbox"/> Renewal | <input type="checkbox"/> Active     | \$25  |
|                                         |                                  | <input type="checkbox"/> Student    | \$10  |
|                                         |                                  | <input type="checkbox"/> Life       | \$250 |
|                                         |                                  | <input type="checkbox"/> Retired    | \$0   |
|                                         |                                  | <input type="checkbox"/> Sustaining | \$225 |

I would like to make a tax deductible contribution to the CEHA Scholarship fund \$ \_\_\_\_\_

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## COLORADO ENVIRONMENTAL HEALTH ASSOCIATION



*Our Mission:*  
"To promote environmental health as a profession which strives for continual  
improvement in environmental health quality and the growth of individual  
professionalism."