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Colorado Environmental Health Association

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Annual Education Conference to Be Held September 19-22 51st AEC to be Largest Ever!

By Danica Harmon and Therese Pilonetti

The Colorado Environmental Health Association's Annual Education Conference will be held September 19-22 at the Vail Cascade Resort. The conference is being presented in partnership with the Environmental Protection Agency's Regional Children's Environmental Health Summit. The Colorado Public Health Association will also be hosting their conference at the Vail Cascade on September 18-20, 2006. The two-day Children's Environmental Health Summit is being held September 19 -21 with Wednesday as a plenary session joining CPHA and CEHA membership with other environmental health professionals and healthcare providers from around the region. The Summit will feature nationally recognized experts presenting on Environmental Health concerns, the affects of which are amplified in children.

On both Thursday and Friday, the conference will feature a record-breaking four concurrent educational tracks. Thursday will include the Children's Environmental Health Summit as well as presentations on Water Quality, On-site Wastewater Systems, Emergency Preparedness, Disaster Response, and Food Safety and Foodborne Illness Outbreaks. Friday's tracks will include Zoonotic Disease, General Environmental Health, On-site Wastewater Systems, and Emergency Preparedness. Exciting highlights include presentations on Katrina, the Rainbow Gathering, reproduction disorders in fish caused by endocrine disrupters, oil rig man camps, abandoned oil and gas wells, waste water reuse, tick paralysis in Estes Park, children's resident camps, South Platte water quality analysis, environmental public health legislation and much more!

The AEC Planning Committee is very excited to present a breakfast with the National Environmental Health Association on Thursday morning with Thomas R. Gonzales, R.E.H.S., former CEHA President and current NEHA Regional 3 Vice-President; James D. Dingman, M.S., R.E.H.S., D.A.A.S., former CEHA and NEHA President; and Richard F. Collins, R.S., M.S.E.H., D.A.A.S., current NEHA President (invited). The breakfast will be an opportunity to meet and learn from some of the most prominent National Environmental Health Association leaders about the work they do and insights they have to impart.

The Annual Awards Banquet will be held on Thursday evening at the Vail Cascade Resort, and it will feature a cash bar,

live music from New Shoes Band, and, of course, the prestigious CEHA Environmental Health accolades which are awarded each year. Please plan ahead if you wish to bring guests to the banquet as space will be limited. The banquet is one of the highlights of the AEC conference each year, so don't miss it!

As part of the pre-conference events, an 8-hour OSHA refresher course will be offered on Tuesday, September 19. Additionally, the REHS and CFSP exams will be offered on Tuesday as well. Please contact Laura VanWagenen at laura.vanwagenen@state.co.us or 303-692-3649 for more information. The Annual Business Luncheon will be Wednesday, and the Board will welcome its newly elected members. Take advantage of the many open Board positions and announce your candidacy today! See the article in this newsletter for more information.

Other highlights of the conference include the thrilling Annual Volleyball Tournament and the exciting Environmental Health Knowledge Bowl with a registration for the 2007 NEHA

Continued on Page 17

INSIDE THIS ISSUE

Letter from the President	2
Serving on CEHA's Board	3
CEHA to Cover Your Registration Fee	3
Tri-County Health Department	4
End of the Rainbow	5
Origins at the Ivory Cellar	6
ASTHO's Public Health Tracking Network	7
CSU's Aspen Grille	8
Creating an Environmental Health Legacy	9
In Search of Candidates for Vacant Board	9
Sustaining Members	10
President & President-Elect Attend NEHA AEC	13
Professional Generosity Reaps Benefits	15
NOWRA 2006 AEC in Denver	17
Prevention for Mass Illness at Children's Camps	17
Upcoming Events	18



LETTER FROM THE PRESIDENT THERESE PILONETTI

**President Pilonetti fears for the demise
of CEHA without your help! Read on...**

Since the last edition of Point Source, your Board of Directors has been hard at work planning trainings, identifying opportunities to collaborate with other associations, and recognizing and rewarding our members and future workforce with various scholarship opportunities and awards.

In recent months, CEHA has helped to sponsor the Colorado Professionals in Onsite Wastewater's (CPOW) Annual Education Conference attended by 130 participants. We have also vowed to be a sponsor for an Evening with John Fielder, an event to raise funds for the Regional Institute for Health and Environmental Leadership (RIHEL). This event was postponed earlier in the year, however we are committed to supporting it once it is rescheduled. Members of the Board of Directors selected two worthy environmental health science projects for awards at this year's State Science Fair and met with the Environmental Health Student's Association at Colorado State University. The Board also voiced our strong opposition to HR 4167, "The National Uniformity for Foods Act of 2005," to United States Senators considering the bill.

Along with all of these activities, we continue to plan one-day training sessions. On July 11, CEHA partnered with RIHEL and the Southwest Center for Public Health Preparedness to bring "Environmental Public Health Leadership – Ethical Decision Making in Environmental Public Health" to Denver. As a participant, I found this course extremely valuable and full of pertinent and practical information. In early August, CEHA partnered with the Colorado Department of Public Health and Environment to offer a one-day Non-Community Ground Water training on the Western Slope. This summer we are also planning a one-day training on child care facilities, also on the Western Slope. Additionally, CEHA is offering a limited number of scholarships to members for the upcoming one-day workshop, Beyond Brochures by Doug McKenzie-Mohr. Check cehaweb.com for more information on both of these opportunities.

CEHA was able to send Danica Harmon, President Elect and myself to this year's National Environmental Health Association Annual Education Conference in beautiful San Antonio, Texas. We were able to participate in the many affiliate presidents' meetings and attend various educational and networking sessions. The conference offered a wide array of topics from workforce development to swimming pool chemistry and provided an excellent opportunity to meet our counterparts from across the country.

Our most prestigious acknowledgments of outstanding members, the Milton M. Miller and the Environmental Achievement awards, will be presented at this year's Annual Education Conference banquet in Vail on September 21, 2006. Nominations along with the Selection Criteria Form are due by August 5, 2006. Send your nomination to Carmen Vandebark, Nomination Committee Chair at P.O. Box 460726, Glendale, CO 80246 or to carmen.vandebark@cehaweb.com.

In order to continue providing timely educational opportunities, sponsorships, awards and other member benefits the Colorado Environmental Health Association needs your assistance. The association will have at least four new Board of Directors positions vacant by the end of September. Any member in good standing for at least a year can fill the Southeast, Western Slope, and Metro Representative positions. Servings in these positions, you will represent your quadrant of the state on the Board of Directors. The President Elect position will also be open in September. In order to run for the President Elect, one must be a member in good standing and have served on the Board of Directors for one year. Please send your intent to run and a brief biography (200 words or less) by August 22nd to carmen.vandebark@cehaweb.com.

This year's Annual Education Conference is shaping up to be very exciting. As you may have heard, we will be partnering with the Colorado Public Health Association and US EPA Region 8's Children's Environmental Health Summit for a full week of environmental public health education September 18 through 22. This year's agenda will include presentations regarding drinking water, wastewater, food safety, foodborne and vectorborne disease outbreaks, legislative issues, and all-hazards preparedness. We are planning to offer an 8 hour OSHA refresher course, NEHA's Registered Environmental Health Specialist and Certified Food Safety Professional credential exams, National Incident Management Systems training, a presentation from the 2005 NEHA Crumline Award winner, as well as presentations on the recent Rainbow Gathering in Routt County and much, much more. Conference registration for two and a half days of environmental health course work and networking is only \$145. Lodging at the spectacular Vail Cascade is only \$99 a night. Brochures and conference registration information will soon be posted on our website. I hope to see all of you in Vail this September!

Therese Pilonetti, CEHA President



Serving on CEHA's Board an Excellent Opportunity for Career Development

By Danica Harmon, Denver Dept. of Environmental Health

As I look forward to beginning my third year serving on CEHA's Board of Directors, I am faintly bewildered that my CEHA involvement has taken on such a life of its own. My volunteering with CEHA began at the start of 2003 when I helped organize that year's Annual Education Conference in Steamboat Springs. At the time I attended my first AEC Planning Committee meeting, I had been with the Denver Department of Environmental Health for less than a year. I felt nervous and slightly sheepish walking into that first meeting at Tri-County's Northglenn office; after all, what on Earth was I presuming to contribute to the organization? I was new to the field of Environmental Health, and my only training was in retail food and swimming pools. I half thought that I would be asked not to come back after that first meeting when the organizers discovered how little knowledge and expertise I had to offer.

I couldn't have been more off the mark. The organizers were thrilled to have new volunteers, and I quickly became involved as a co-chair of the Food Track. The things I had been worried about—not having enough knowledge, expertise, or contacts to be a benefit to the organization—turned out to be moot points. I received plenty of guidance from the other members of the Planning Committee. It was my first of many experiences working cooperatively on a team to provide valuable services for the members of CEHA.

I would be lying if I said that volunteering for CEHA has taken no time or effort. I have contributed many long hours

to the organization, and as I look forward to becoming President this September, I know that I will have to work very hard in the coming year to serve CEHA's growing membership. But in spite of the time and energy I have contributed to the organization, I believe that I have gained far from my involvement than I have given.

One of the most valuable things I have gained from my involvement is the opportunity to network. I have met and worked with many leaders in the field of Environmental Public Health across Colorado. I have had the opportunity to develop skills that I otherwise would not have had the chance to use, including organizational, leadership, and networking skills. My CEHA involvement has made me more valuable as an Environmental Health Professional, and perhaps most importantly, I feel good at the end of the day about the cause to which I am contributing.

I would urge each of our members, particularly members interested in further developing their careers, professional skills, and expertise, to consider volunteering for the organization. Anyone who has been a CEHA member in good standing for at least a year is eligible to run for a Board position. For newer members who do not meet this requirement or for those who would like to try out volunteering before making such a large commitment, the Planning Committee for the 2007 Annual Education Conference will welcome any new volunteers.

CEHA Wants to Cover Your Registration Fee to Beyond Brochures Training!

Most of us value the environment and know we should recycle more, water our lawns less, walk, bike and use mass transit more to reduce our ecological footprint. But making the decision to take these steps on a regular basis is not always convenient or our top priority. In fact, research demonstrates that simply providing information to the public usually has little or no effect on what we do. A one-day workshop, Beyond Brochures by Doug McKenzie-Mohr, will focus on a new approach – community-based social marketing. This approach has emerged as an effective alternative for delivering programs to change behavior. The workshop will be offered twice in Denver

on September 6 and September 7. The Colorado Environmental Health Association Board of Directors believes this course is an excellent training opportunity for our members and will benefit the citizens of Colorado. **CEHA will cover the \$100 registration fee for a limited number of CEHA members in good standing.** More information and registration can be accessed through www.npscolorado.com. To apply for a scholarship from CEHA please send your name, agency, phone, email and course date preference to [Therese Pilonetti at Therese.Pilonetti@cehaweb.com](mailto:Therese.Pilonetti@cehaweb.com) before August 7.



Tri-County Health Department Does More Than Just Review a Development Plan

By Karen Roof, EnviroHealth Consulting

Are you involved in land use planning? Do you review applications for development? In Colorado, as in many other states, local public health agencies (LPHAs) do provide these services. When local planning departments want to know the public health impacts of a proposed project, they generally refer the development application to the LPHA's environmental health (EH) division. Typically, local EH officials limit their comments to regulatory requirements for air and water quality, waste and wastewater management, and sanitation. It is essential for LPHAs to identify these requirements for preventing human exposures to environmental hazards. However, LPHAs are also tasked with preventing chronic illnesses (e.g., heart disease, diabetes) and promoting healthy behaviors such as physically active lifestyles. EH specialists have the opportunity to identify not only case-specific regulations to protect public health, but also non-regulatory approaches to promote health through planning and development activities. To advocate for public health in its broadest sense, LPHAs should also recommend the inclusion of public health policies in community master plans for land use, transportation and open space, trails and parks systems, and strategies to implement these policies in local codes and standards. In this way, LPHA input can educate planning professionals and policy makers about potential health impacts and benefits of land use choices, and improve the quality of land use decision-making.

Background

Tri-County Health Department (TCHD), a district health department serving over a million residents in three counties of the Denver area, has offered development review services to its jurisdictions for several decades. Each year TCHD receives as many as 200-300 land use referrals from its jurisdictions. The agency provides comments on mandatory issues; i.e., those regulated under public health laws, and discretionary issues, those that may protect or enhance public health, but are not subject to regulatory requirements. Discretionary comments make up the bulk of TCHD's input. This is due to the fact that there are few laws that specifically protect public health as it relates to land use, though historically zoning and subdivision regulations emerged to deal with nuisance issues, outbreak of infectious disease and public health risks associated with industrial hazards (ICMA 2000). Additionally, in 1926 the US Supreme Court, in *Village of Euclid vs. Ambler Realty Co.*, cited public health protection as one of the basic responsibilities of local government, thus legitimizing local authority to restrict or control land-use impacts through zoning. The Euclid case

recognizes that planning is also about protecting public health and promoting safety and general welfare. This history suggests a legal basis for TCHD's and other LPHAs' addressing non-regulated yet health-related development issues.

In recent years TCHD has expanded the scope of its Land Use Program to better address evolving environmental conditions and public health challenges. Emerging public health risks and environmental conditions associated with the rapid growth occurring in TCHD's service area necessitated a more comprehensive and methodical review of all environmental health issues. Failure to consider these issues in land use decisions could result in a variety of negative public health impacts. For example, development of contaminated sites could allow human exposure to pollutants through water or indoor air. Incompatible siting or phasing of uses could create noise and odor nuisances. Recent research informs us that the built environment can encourage or discourage physical activity, a critical public health challenge because physical inactivity is a risk factor for many debilitating and fatal chronic diseases (e.g., heart disease, diabetes, certain cancers). Studies also show that the way we design and build our communities influences traffic and pedestrian safety and can increase or reduce mobility, access to services, level of stress, and social equity. Thus, an effective public health land use program must address the overall community planning process, not just potential health-related impacts of discrete projects. TCHD believes that this approach – comprehensive engagement in the planning process – should be the model for a LPHA's involvement in the planning profession.

The Program

The goal of TCHD's Land Use Program is to routinely include environmental public health principles in local planning and development activities. Key principles include 1) protecting against environmental hazards, 2) preventing the spread of disease, 3) preventing illness and injury, and 4) encouraging healthy behaviors. TCHD's model for involvement in the planning process is simple: Land use decisions require the balancing of varied interests, and public health should be among the interests considered. LPHAs should be at the table to promote and protect public health when individual development applications are referred to them for comment, and perhaps more importantly, when land-use policies, codes and master plans are being revised or formulated. This increases the likelihood that public health considerations will be applied consistently and on a community-wide basis.

Recognizing this need, TCHD initiated an effort to become



End of the Rainbow: Officials assess impact of gathering

By Mike Lawrence

Reprinted with permission from the Steamboat Pilot, 7/9/06

STEAMBOAT SPRINGS — You can tell the Rainbow cars by the dust.

As a steady stream of vehicles rolls south this weekend on Routt County Road 129 — a road lined Friday afternoon with many more law enforcement officers than people thumbing for rides — it's easy to tell which vehicles are coming from the Rainbow Family of Living Light gathering near Big Red Park, about 35 miles north of Steamboat Springs.

They are the vehicles with a coat of red-yellow dust, dirty windshields, and tires caked in grime that sporadic, monsoon rains can't wash off. In many cases, drivers and passengers — after days, if not weeks, of camping — are as dirty as the cars.

U.S. Forest Service officials estimate that at the gathering's July 4 peak, more than 3,100 vehicles were parked in the area, translating to a crowd of more than 15,000 campers. The Rainbow gathering is a weeklong, annual counterculture festival that concluded Friday.

The gathering included many remarkable feats — a theatrical stage built like a pirate ship, including a 35-foot mast; communal kitchens that served the masses nearly around the clock with pizzas, fruits and salads, among other choices; the

bringing together of people of all ages and backgrounds from across the country and around the world; and a giant, communal prayer circle on the morning of July 4.

But perhaps most remarkable about the Rainbow gathering is what did not happen.

There were no wildfires. There was no cataclysmic disaster. There was no evidence of hazardous waste, said Mike Zopf, county director of environmental health. There was no drastic effect on local tourism — Steamboat was the state's top destination for the July 4 holiday weekend, and the town was crowded again this weekend.

Although the effects of the Rainbow gathering certainly have been felt, especially by law enforcement agencies and the Yampa Valley Medical Center, county officials agreed Friday that it could have been much worse.

"We could have, at any moment, had any other incident going on in this county," said Chuck Vale, director of the Routt County Department of Emergency Management. "We got through this whole thing without a secondary incident — especially wildfires. We could have had multiple wildfires going on at once."

Joel Cochran is a regional field manager for the state Department of Local Affairs's Emergency Management Division. Since June 27, he facilitated daily meetings of national, regional and local officials to manage all aspects of the Rainbow gathering. "This was a successful incident," Joel Cochran told the team Friday during its last meeting.

The success also must be credited to Rainbow participants, who appeared to take significant steps throughout the gathering to maximize safety and minimize their effect on the Routt National Forest. As vehicles left the gathering Friday, drivers were encouraged to take one or two bags of trash from the waist-high mound at the exit. Little trash could be found at vacated campsites in the gathering area. Rainbow volunteers closely monitored fire pits throughout the event.

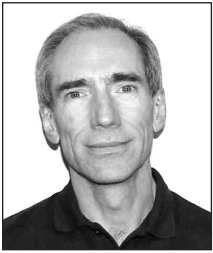
However, their presence will leave some marks on the forest. Forest Service spokeswoman Denise Ottaviano said Rainbow gatherers created between 40 and 50 miles of new walking trails in the gathering area.

A 36-year-old New Mexico woman who said her legal name is Prairie Rose reflected Friday on what she liked about her 10th Rainbow gathering.

"Just ... everything," said Rose, a registered nurse. "The community, the acceptance, the safety — just watching everyone pitch in to make it all happen."



Nadine Harrach of Routt County Health Department enters the Rainbow Family Gathering where federal, state and local public health officials provided public health education and disease prevention strategies to over 20 thousand participants. (CDPHE photo)



Origins at the Ivory Cellar

Kenneth Blehm, Colorado State University

Emergency Response: Who, What, Where, When and mostly WHY?

In a previous column I questioned how we set environmental health priorities and postulated that we must focus on protecting POPULATIONS against HIGH IMPACT events with a LIKELY PROBABILITY of occurrence. The question of emergency response plays directly into that conversation.

What should the role of the local health agency be? Does that depend on the nature of the emergency? Does it not also depend upon your likelihood of an affirmative outcome and your availability? I do not see EH professionals responding to passenger car accidents on I-70. We do not have the training, availability, connections, equipment and it is not in our mission. I would observe that some current public health emergencies may fall in the same category. Are you really set up and capable to be a comprehensive first responder to a weaponized anthrax attack or do you better serve by making sure that your reporting systems are good, in place, responsive and that you are prepared to assist the emergency CDC or other team when they arrive? I believe that some local agencies, out of a sense of responsibility, may try to respond when they can have limited affirmative effect and endanger their staff unnecessarily. Furthermore, the sense that you can respond to things beyond your capability provides you with a temptation to assert a false sense of security to your protected public. Have you really, really assessed what you can do and in what situations you should do it?

Who should respond is an equally important question. Are all of your staff members who might be carrying a “beeper” really trained on when they should intervene? I have investigated too many industrial accidents and deaths where other people with some training thought they were equipped to rescue someone from a confined space and IDLH atmosphere only to supply another body to be removed from the tragic scene. Have you trained folks properly, are they poised to respond, and do they know the limits of what they should do when they respond?

Where and when to respond are combined elements that must be considered. Do you really have the capability to respond 40 miles away from your main office in the dead of night with sufficient resources, equipment, knowledge, communications and authority to have an affirmative effect? I seem to remember a number of scenes where the responders in a remote location and time periods in the dead of night who became nothing more than a part of the crowd wandering the edges of the scene with their hands tucked into their pockets. Have you really considered where and when to respond?

The last question – the WHY to respond is the toughest. Often we are tempted to try to respond because this is an environmental or a health threat and we are the environmental health department, right?? I ask again, are you prepared to affirmatively address 3000 gallons of sodium hydroxide on the highway? Can you affirmatively respond to an unknown but potentially lethal weaponized bioaerosol attack? Are you the best agency and do you have the authority to control a scene and cause others to respond in assistance if you are the first to arrive? Unless things have changed dramatically in a short period of time, I think that most local health agencies do not have the authority of a law enforcement agency nor the equipment to be able to respond, mobilize, direct and command in a comprehensive first responder mode with affirmative command and control capability.

Too many times I hear the reports of many dollars of Homeland Security money spent but the ability that the public expects of us is not dramatically enhanced with the new “capability” that was bought. All of you know about the emergency radio stories; the health club membership stories and on and on. Did we accept dollars and then, somewhat unintentionally divert them to tangential areas that did not really address the primary reason we got the money? Did we not really contemplate and then communicate to our potential funding agencies AND our constituencies what our role and capability is before an event? Did we, as a result, suddenly find ourselves between a “rock and a hard spot?”

I do not relish the thought of putting anyone in a position where they can do nothing but fail valiantly in a glorious battle against overwhelming odds. I know this is going to happen from time to time – we cannot visualize every outcome – but we can control the likelihood that we will put ourselves and our staff in so many situations that a bad outcome is not only probable — it is likely, if not assured.

The last observation that I would make is this: Sure, you can train your capable staff and colleagues to do about anything; provided you have the time, resources and institutional will to do so. If you train to the level needed to be a comprehensive first responder, is that investment of resources really described and expected within your vision statements and your mission as disclosed to your constituents? If it is, then you need to invest the time and effort and money to be as ready as you can. If not, do not let the allure of a Herculean response by the public health



ASTHO's National Environmental Public Health Tracking Network

By Mary Hano, ASTHO

The Association of State and Territorial Health Officials (ASTHO) is the national nonprofit organization representing the state and territorial public health agencies of the United States, the U.S. Territories, and the District of Columbia. ASTHO's members, the chief health officials of these jurisdictions, are dedicated to formulating and influencing sound public health policy, and to assuring excellence in state-based public health practice.

ASTHO's role in the creation of the National Environmental Public Health Tracking Network is to serve as a conduit of information among CDC, grantee states, the Academic Partners of Excellence, and the states that are currently not funded to conduct tracking activities. ASTHO's tracking project goals are to:

- Assess state needs and barriers to implementing a National Tracking Program
- Identify and share model practices, lessons learned, and other resources among the states
- Increase communications among state and local health and environmental agencies

A major accomplishment over the last year was the State Environmental Health Surveillance Survey, which was done in partnership with Johns Hopkins University and the University of Colorado at Boulder. This assessment of state health agency environmental health surveillance capacity was done in follow-up to the survey published in 2000 by the Pew Commission titled, *America's Environmental Health Gap: Why the Country Needs a Nationwide Health Tracking Network*. Preliminary analysis of the 48 responses indicates there are new and enhanced partnerships, improved capacity, and increased support for personnel in environmental health surveillance. Results of the survey are expected to be published in 2006 in the *American Journal of Public Health*.

Other environmental public health tracking activities over the past year were an ASTHO position statement, an environmental public health tracking Web page, and a series of case studies. The tracking case studies address asthma surveillance, capacity building, and data sharing. In addition, ASTHO completed two major projects in partnership with the National Association of County and City Health Officials (NACCHO) including a series of facilitated discussions and a tracking workshop. Some of these activities are detailed below.

The ASTHO Executive Committee approved the Environmental Public Health Tracking Position Statement during the summer of 2005. The position statement

demonstrates ASTHO's support for a national environmental health tracking network that will provide information to effectively plan, apply, and evaluate public health actions to prevent and control environmentally-related diseases. The position statement, case studies, and other resources are available on the ASTHO environmental public health tracking page at www.astho.org/?template=1events.html.

Beginning in September 2005, ASTHO and NACCHO hosted a series of facilitated discussions among state and local environmental health practitioners in states that are funded through CDC's Environmental Health Tracking Branch. Discussions were hosted in California, Maryland, Oregon, and Wisconsin. Participants discussed three questions aimed at informing state officials about local needs and challenges as well as increasing communications among the state and local officials. The three questions were 1) how the participants would want a Tracking Network to look; 2) what data would be useful; and 3) what could ASTHO, NACCHO, and CDC do to help. A final report of these meetings will be available during the summer of 2006.

ASTHO and NACCHO also hosted a workshop held in March 2006 titled, *From Patchwork to Network: Constructing a Nationwide Environmental Public Health Tracking Program*. The goal of the meeting was to bring together teams from states that do not participate in the National Tracking Network in order to 1) increase awareness of environmental public health tracking activities in all of the states (funded and unfunded); 2) provide tools for unfunded states to initiate partnerships that could lead to independent environmental health tracking programs; and 3) provide a forum to discuss how state and local agencies can contribute to national efforts. A summary document of this meeting will also be available during the summer of 2006.

In addition, ASTHO works with the National Environmental Health Association (NEHA) to help educate NEHA members about the National Tracking Program. NEHA was also a partner in the *Patchwork to Network* meeting and has other EPHT accomplishments including an educational fact sheet available online at www.neha.org/pdf/research/epht_fact_sheet.pdf.

ASTHO staff frequently present on EPHT at national conferences. ASTHO expects to continue to participate in the National Tracking Network as a National Partner in FY07. For more information on ASTHO's Environmental Public Health Tracking Program visit www.astho.org/?template=1events.html or contact Mary Hano by email at mhano@astho.org or phone at 202-371-9090.



CSU's Aspen Grille: Restaurant/classroom serves up unique dining experience

Reprinted with permission from CSU's College of Applied Human Sciences newsletter

Two years after Aspen Grille's opening, the place is full every day. Young servers wearing black slacks and shoes and champagne button-down shirts deliver attractive salads, sandwiches, and entrees to salivating customers. Tables elegantly covered with pale green linen tablecloths and chairs upholstered in a leaf-motif fabric complement the paintings and photographs of aspens that decorate the walls. A glass wall facing west offers a panorama of the Colorado foothills.

The atmosphere is certainly a drawing card, but the real reason that faculty, staff, students, and visitors are anxious to try Aspen Grille, the newest dining venue in Colorado State University's Lory Student Center, is that, despite appearances, this is no ordinary restaurant. For students majoring in restaurant and resort management, Aspen Grille is a working classroom where they earn credits rather than paychecks. Four days a week, students work in the kitchen, serve customers, tend bar, and participate in virtually every aspect of the restaurant's operations.

Aspen Grille evolved from a partnership between the Division of Student Affairs and the Department of Food Science and Human Nutrition. Eager to offer a higher-end dining experience on campus, Student Affairs picked up the tab to remodel part of the University Club. Restaurant and resort management students, wishing to practice what they were learning, worked with their professors to decide on the kitchen layout, dining room décor, place settings, menu offerings, pricing, restaurant philosophy, and other details.

"This whole project has been student-driven from the beginning," says Ken Smith, former restaurateur and associate professor and coordinator of the Restaurant and Resort Management Program.

Jason Van Ort, assistant manager of Aspen Grille and a senior in the program, spent more than a year helping to plan the restaurant. "Our focus was to do something simple, like an upscale café, and make it essentially a student-run restaurant," he says.

Students conducted a feasibility study and then determined that the menu would offer simple, innovative cuisine, made primarily from locally and regionally produced foods. Every item on the menu is either grown by the students or is produced within a 50 mile radius of the campus. A sheep farm in nearby Windsor provides lamb, Charlois cattle provide the beef and local bison round out the menu offerings. Award-winning Bingham Hill cheeses, handcrafted in Fort Collins, accompany many of the menu items. Customers can enjoy beers made by celebrated local microbreweries, wines crafted in Colorado or at the vineyards of CSU alumni, and Café Richesse, a "socially conscious" coffee,

produced by another Colorado State alumnus in Fort Collins. When seasonally possible, Colorado State's horticulture department provides herbs and greens grown in gardens on campus. The students meet the farmers and ranchers who provide the food that is served. They visit the land and plant the greens for salads. The supply chain is short—the farmers and ranchers bring the food to the back door. Meats are grass fed, hormone free, and raised sustainably.

The décor carries on the restaurant's "home grown" philosophy. Colorado State graduates Becky Everitt and Bill Cotton provided, respectively, the aspen watercolors and photographs adorning the walls, and small wooden boxes holding sugar packets were made by another local alumnus.

Menu items include traditional and contemporary favorites prepared with an unconventional flair. The Smoked Turkey Panini sandwich, for example, comes with smoked gouda cheese and red pepper mayonnaise and is served on artisan bread. The Ramburger, made from ground lamb seasoned with garlic, mint, ginger, parsley, and pine nuts, is topped with caramelized onions and bleu cheese and tucked inside a brioche bun. Also featured are several salads, grilled entrees, a soup of the day, and homemade salad dressings, such as Asian vinaigrette and Caesar. Rotating dessert selections may include an apple tart or chocolate cake made by local dessert chefs, or ice creams and sorbets handcrafted by restaurant and resort management Chef Instructor Jeff Miller, who was instrumental in the menu development.

Continued on Page 17



Aspen Grille's menu focuses on simple, innovative cuisine, made primarily from locally and regionally produced food.



Creating an Environmental Health Legacy

By Mark McMillan, CDPHE

“People who become leaders don’t always seek the challenges they face. Challenges also seek leaders.” -from Kouzes and Posner’s “The Leadership Challenge”

Several years ago when I was approached about running for a CEHA Board position, I was excited about the many possibilities before me. After all, this was the Board that so well represented its membership for many decades before. This was the Board that supported and developed so many solid Annual Educational Conferences and one-day trainings. This was the Board that spearheaded and nurtured so many wonderful ideas. With a little prodding, I threw my name in the hat and ran for that position. As I look back after three years of serving on the Board and our membership, I am thankful for this opportunity. I hope you’ll consider the same as Board elections come near.

Opportunities over the past three years have been amazing. For example, I’ve had the great chance to work

alongside CEHA’s top notch environmental and public health professionals. Our membership has been fortunate to have such leadership over the years. Serving the Board has allowed me to better identify issues important to our membership and to target our resources accordingly. For example, the CEHA Board has created and supported a Funding and Grants Chair, responsible for bringing in approximately \$10,000 to the CEHA treasury. We’ve also had the chance to develop and expand other opportunities including the CEHA-RIHEL Scholarship and the Supplemental Student Scholarship, all designed to further the educational experience of our fellow members.

With that, I ask you to consider running for the CEHA Board this Fall. Your involvement might be one more way you can give back to the Association that has served us so well. So, what legacy do YOU want to create? Please consider serving CEHA and its membership as an officer of the CEHA Board.

In Search of Candidates for Vacant Board Positions in the Fall

The following positions will be opening in September. Elections for these positions will take place prior to the 2006 Annual Education Conference on September 18-23 at the Vail Cascade Resort in Vail. For more information or to run for a position, please contact Carmen Vandebark at carmen.vandebark@cehaweb.com.

Environmental Health Director—This representative shall be the president of the Colorado Directors of Environmental Health or his/her designee. The term served shall be for one year, from this group’s last meeting of the year through the following year’s last meeting (approximately November through October).

Western Slope representative—This representative shall be from an area west of the Continental Divide in the state of Colorado.

Southeast Colorado representative—This representative shall be from an area east of the Continental Divide and South of Interstate 70 excluding the metro counties of Adams, Arapahoe, Boulder, Broomfield, Clear Creek, Denver, Douglas, Gilpin and Jefferson.

Metro Representative—Due to his recent retirement, Christopher Erzinger has decided to step down from his position as Metro Representative one year early. The Board would like to recognize the contributions and support that

Chris provided during his year serving on the Board. We appreciate all that Chris has done for the organization, particularly his efforts in organizing OSHA refresher courses for our Annual Education Conference.

Accordingly, the position of Metro Representative is open to any member from the Denver Metro area counties of Adams, Arapahoe, Boulder, Broomfield, Clear Creek, Denver, Douglas, Gilpin, and Jefferson.

President-Elect—The President Elect position will also be open in September. In order to run for the President Elect, one must be a member in good standing and have served on the Board of Directors for one year.

Please note that if a candidate is not available from a specified area, the position will be open to candidates from other areas of the State. If you are interested in running for the Western Slope, Southeast, or Metro Representative Board positions—even if you are not from one of these regions—please contact Carmen Vandebark and discuss your interest with her. To run for any of the open positions, submit a brief biography (200 words or less) by August 22nd to carmen.vandebark@cehaweb.com.

Please note that in order to run you must be a CEHA member in good standing for at least one year.



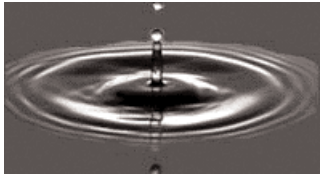
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E. Hartford, CT 06108



EnviroTec Systems, Inc.
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Golden, CO 80403



Front Range Precast Concrete, Inc.
5439 N. Foothills Hwy
Boulder, CO 80302



Geoflow, Inc
506 Tamal Plaza
Corte Maders, CA 94925



Glo Germ Company
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Moab, Utah 84532




Ground Engineering Consultants, Inc.
7393 Dahlia St.
Commerce City, CO 80022



Hoot Aerobic Systems, Inc.
2885 Highway 14 E.
Lake Charles, Louisiana 70607




Infiltrator Systems, Inc
5311 Blue Bonnet Ct.
Castle Rock, CO 80109



Oreco Systems, Inc
814 Airway Ave.
Sutherlin, Oregon 97479



Regional Institute for Health & Environmental Leadership
2211 South Josephine Street
Denver, CO 80208



Rocky Mountain Water Env. Association, Inc
3401 Quebec Street, Suite 4050
Denver, CO 80207



SCG Enterprises, Inc.
P.O. Box 1411
Conifer, CO 80433



Timberline Plastics, Inc.
6195 Clermont Street
Commerce City, CO 80022



Valley Precast, Inc.
P.O. Box 925
Buena Vista, CO 81211



Tri-County Health Department

Continued from Page 4

more involved in the planning process about five years ago. The Land Use Program staff (Public Health Engineer and Environmental Health Policy Coordinator) met with each county Planning Department to explain TCHD's Program and intended services, and to seek guidance on the most effective way to participate more actively in the planning process. As a result of these meetings, TCHD began attending the Planning Department's weekly development review meetings in two counties and the third county is on an ad hoc basis. Both approaches have worked well in creating more open and informal lines of communication. For a copy of the survey, please see program contact at end of article.

In 2003, TCHD scheduled a follow-up meeting with each Planning Department to evaluate how well the Planners felt TCHD had implemented their 2002 recommendations. TCHD believes these periodic surveys and service assessments have been very useful in building constructive working relationships with their Planning Departments, thus improving the effectiveness of their health interventions. TCHD has found that Planners are often strong advocates and proactive partners in promoting public health through the land use process. They have also given TCHD an opportunity to educate the counties about the links between community design and public health, particularly on emerging topics such as active community environments (ACE). An ACE is designed with a pedestrian focus and provides opportunities for people of all ages and abilities to engage in routine physical activity with a minimum goal of 30 minutes of daily moderate activity (RWJF 2005).

Evolution of TCHD's Involvement in Community Planning for Active Living

LPHAs have long been considered the experts on issues such as air/water quality, immunization, restaurant inspections and waste management, by virtue of professional training and regulatory authority. In contrast, they have had little or no experience participating in the land use planning process. While community planning should remain the bailiwick of the planning profession, local environmental public health officials need to understand planning principles well enough to participate effectively in the area of land use and community design as it affects public health. This involves developing new knowledge, relationships and skills.

Following is an example of TCHD's movement along the learning curve in the area of the design of ACE. Several years ago the agency chose to include the promotion of active living as an element of its Land Use Program. In 2000, TCHD's first efforts involved offering conceptual level comments on development referrals (see first example below). Planners appreciated these comments, but through the survey process described above, indicated that the comments would be more useful if they were

more detailed. They encouraged TCHD to provide specific recommendations for revisions to development plans that they could either encourage or require the applicant to adopt. Over time and with education, TCHD's comments have evolved into recommendations that some Planners often integrate into their negotiating discussions with applicants and/or include in their staff reports to policy makers. The second through the third comments below are more specific and recent (2003 or 2004). (Note: actual project names were changed)

1. With a project as large as the Bonanza Ranch, our concerns are primarily long-term regional impacts. We have already mentioned wastewater, which includes sewage and storm water impacts to the Regional Water Basin. In addition, there will be increased road congestion and vehicle emissions, and significant water use. Once infrastructure and landscaping are in place, the tone is set for traffic related air emissions and water demand. If this project is approved, we encourage the County and the applicant to do everything reasonably possible during the design stage to minimize these impacts (May 2000).
2. Because chronic diseases related to physical inactivity and obesity now rank among the country's greatest public health risks, we encourage community designs that make it easy for people to include regular physical activity, such as walking and bicycling, in their daily routines. Communities that promote walking, bicycling and transit trips can also help protect air quality by reducing vehicle trips and related emissions. To further develop the "active living" theme, we offer the following:
 - Designate bike lanes on major collectors, arterials or other suitable streets, and on the pedestrian bridge to the Reward Creek Rail Station;
 - Where bike lanes do not exist, widen sidewalks from 5' to 8' where appropriate so that people on foot and on bicycles can use them jointly.
 - Provide bike storage areas in/outside the residential units, bike racks at retail and recreational destinations throughout the development, and bike racks or lockers at the Bus Drop Off.
3. We encourage County staff to work with the developer between now and final platting to prepare a project-wide transportation and mobility plan that includes design elements such as:
 - A system of well-lit, convenient bicycle, pedestrian paths and open spaces;
 - Linear streets that link development areas;
 - Connections of streets/paths with residential, commercial



Tri-County Health Department

Continued from Page 11

and public (school, recreational) destinations with neighboring developments;

- Pedestrian-friendly streetscapes;
- Building orientations to improve pedestrian and transit access and circulation; and
- If a school is to be part of the development, location of the school so that neighborhood children can walk to it safely and easily.

Wisdom from Experience

- Don't hesitate to seek involvement in emerging community planning issues while you are educating yourself in these areas. You don't have to be the expert; you can provide just as valuable a service by facilitating collaborations with others who can bring additional expertise or a needed perspective to the table.
- Recognize that it will take time to develop effective interventions. Enlist guidance and periodic evaluation of your efforts from the Planning staff.
- Timing of interventions matters! If your local government is giving clear signals that it isn't ready to address an issue, perhaps you need to do more education before offering recommendations.

"Environmental Health professionals don't have the luxury of waiting to get involved in community planning until they are experts in the field. Move up the learning curve as quickly as you can, but use your current knowledge to raise environmental public health issues and facilitate positive change. Development doesn't wait – it's happening now and it can positively or negatively impact the future of people who live, play and work there." Carol MacLennan, Tri County Health Department.

Results/Successes

- LPHA is recognized as having a legitimate role in land use planning and design and specifically as a member of the development review team.
- More detailed, consistent and useful development review comments along with a broader range of comments that address not only environmental hazards but also safety and physical activity opportunities and access to services for all populations.
- More discussions among planners about the health implication of community planning.
- Improvements or movement toward more integrated programs, policies or other interventions.
- LPHA input is more likely to be sought and used in the development/revision of some comprehensive land use plans and land use code revisions.

Looking Ahead

Based on initial feedback and some anecdotal results, TCHD's level of involvement and detailed health comments in development reviews have made positive changes. TCHD anticipates its future surveys with the counties to identify how its input into the planning process has affected land use decisions and outcomes.

Recently, TCHD received a multi-year grant from Kaiser Permanente to develop an integrated nutrition and physical activity program in one of its core cities as a means of preventing or reducing the incidence of chronic disease. Fundamental elements of the program include land use policies and physical changes to the environment. Tri-County and City staff from Planning, Parks and Recreation, Engineering and other departments are working together to promote significant community involvement (residents, businesses, schools and non-profits) in these efforts. This program is a collaboration among EH Land Use Program staff, epidemiologists, health planners, nurses, nutritionists, injury prevention staff and others. It presents an opportunity to measure the effect of a coordinated interdivisional effort to promote community-wide healthy behaviors.

TCHD's goal is to continually improve its Land Use Program in terms of the quality of its interventions and relationships and its capacity to offer a more comprehensive program. It does this partly by networking with other LPHAs and monitoring best practices nationally. TCHD's methodical process of expanding its scope and collaboration around how the built environment can impact health has been a necessary component of advancing public health through the built environment.

Thanks to Karen Roof, EnviroHealth Consulting, Kroof@comcast.net for writing this case study and Carol MacLennan for providing an extensive amount of information and assistance and review to complete this case study. Also thanks to Nadejda Mishkovsky from International County/City Management Association (ICMA), Andrew Dannenburg, National Center for Environmental Health, Center for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) and Susan Jerles from National Environmental Health Association (NEHA) for reviewing this document. A longer version of this case study is on NEHA's website: www.NEHA.org. Writing of this case study was funded by NEHA though the CDC, National Center for Environmental Health.

Program contacts and end notes are available upon request from the editor.



CEHA President and President-Elect Attend NEHA AEC

By Danica Harmon

For the past few years, CEHA has been fortunate to be able to send its President and President-Elect to the National Environmental Health Association's Annual Education Conference, typically held in June. This year, Therese Pilonetti and I went to San Antonio, Texas from June 24-28 for the conference. I was astounded by the size of the conference. With over 175 sessions covering 20 different Environmental Health technical areas, we were able to attend only a fraction of the sessions, but the speakers each of us saw at the keynote, pool chemistry, retail food, built environment, vector control, childcare, and pandemic flu sessions were nationally-recognized leaders in their field, and we were able to take away lots of valuable information. Tom Gonzales, former CEHA President and current NEHA Regional Vice-President for Region 3, partnered with NEHA Executive Director Nelson Fabian to give a compelling presentation on Avian and Pandemic Flu preparedness and preparedness of local health departments to respond.

One of our biggest responsibilities as representatives of CEHA was attending the delegate sessions, which were a forum for discussion among the leaders of NEHA's state affiliates across the country. It was wonderful to compare and contrast

administrative, educational, and membership recruiting notes with the leaders of our sister organizations around the country. On the final day of the conference, the Presidents of all state affiliates participated in the annual business meeting where important organization issues are voted upon. This meeting was also a forum for the state affiliates to share the notes we had compiled at our Focus Group meetings. The Focus Groups discussed emerging Environmental Health issues, such as the role of Public Environmental Health authorities in organizing responses to pandemic flu or other large-scale emergencies. Since this discussion was outside the scope of my expertise, I really enjoyed hearing the ideas of Environmental Health leaders from across the country.

The Exhibition Hall was set up for the first two days of the conference, and included nearly 100 vendors, EH organizations, and other exhibitors! It was great to see the faces of some of the vendors who routinely exhibit at CEHA's AEC and support our organization. The size of the exhibition was amazing, and I was wowed by the creativity of some of the exhibitors.

There were also, of course, numerous networking opportunities, like the Exhibitor's Reception on Sunday evening and the UL Texas Barbecue which was held on Monday, June

26th at the nearby very, er, Texan Buckhorn Saloon and Museum which boasts one of the world's largest collections of stuffed animal heads. It was truly a taxidermist's dream. Therese and I started the evening at the Buckhorn by participating in armadillo races, where, that's right, you have to try to coax an armadillo to run at top speeds the length of the course (about twenty feet) into a wooden box. Needless to say, neither of us discovered any untapped armadillo-racing talent.

Therese and I both took away a lot from this conference, and we hope to apply some of the information we learned both in the context of CEHA and our professional duties. We were fortunate to be able to attend this event, and we are excited to bring some of the ideas we received from other state affiliates to CEHA. We also had a wonderful time seeing beautiful San Antonio.



CEHA's President, Therese Pilonetti, and President-Elect, Danica Harmon, before competing for title of Fastest Armadillo Jockey.



End of the Rainbow

Continued from Page 5

Rose gave mixed reviews about federal law enforcement officers.

"The direct interaction I've had with the Forest Service has been really positive," she said. "But this is the most tickets I've ever seen."

According to witnesses from both sides, Rainbow participants and the nearly 100 law enforcement officers brought in to work the event clashed regularly.

But accounts of the incidents varied drastically, depending on the source. The truth was often hard to find.

Forest Service officers reportedly had to use billy clubs and pepper spray to keep themselves from a group of hostile gatherers last week. Another report indicated that gatherers surrounded the vehicles of officers and began throwing rocks and sticks at them. Rainbow participants have denied throwing things at officers.

On Wednesday, a news release from the Forest Service and the Routt County Department of Emergency Management urged "the public to be extra vigilant in protecting their personal property, vehicles and homes." It went on to say: "On July 4, 2006, the Colorado State Patrol reported that an individual was found to be hiding in a barn on private property along County Road 129." The release also stated Routt County could expect "a large exodus" of people leaving the Rainbow gathering this weekend. Colorado State Patrol spokesman Gilbert Mares said Wednesday that the individual allegedly hiding in a barn was a Durango man who had not been to the Rainbow event and who ran into the barn only when a trooper stopped to question him. The man was released without incident, and no landowners were contacted because the barn was abandoned, Mares said.

Ottaviano said her agency wasn't "targeting Rainbows."

Colorado State Patrol Capt. Rich Duran said Friday that troopers made 673 vehicle stops related to the Rainbow gathering, including 109 on Thursday. There were no crashes or arrests Thursday, Duran said, and "no significant events."

Forest Service law enforcement officers wrote 584 violation notices to Rainbow gatherers as of Tuesday. Officers made seven felony arrests, six misdemeanor arrests and served four warrants, Ottaviano said. The bulk of the violations was for improper occupancy and use of Forest Service land, because of the lack of a special-use permit for the gathering.

Seven days of federal court hearings were held at a North Routt fire station during the event. Most defendants paid a fine of less than \$200 for a petty offense. Some were banned from national forest lands for one year. The last day of hearings was Friday. Information about the cost of the federal court proceedings for the gathering was not known as of Friday.

The Rainbow gathering effect has been felt elsewhere in the community.

Christine McKelvie, spokeswoman for Yampa Valley Medical Center, said the hospital treated 62 patients from the Rainbow gathering between June 26 and July 7, for a variety of ailments. The most serious was a man with cardiac problems who McKelvie said was transported to a metro area hospital. Most ailments, she said, were cuts and scrapes or gastrointestinal problems. McKelvie said most of the patients had not paid for their medical services as of Friday. Treating the Rainbow gatherers will cost the hospital \$100,000, she said.

Detentions Dep. Sue Gaskill said Routt County Jail has been crowded, but not to the point where cells are overflowing.

Steamboat Springs Fire Chief Bob Struble said Friday that "call volume has been normal; there has really been no impact from the Rainbows."

When asked Friday about serious incidents in his department, Bob Reilley of the North Routt Fire Protection District cited an intoxicated man who fell and fractured his wrist.

City and county officials have so far been able to manage the Rainbow event thanks to extensive cooperation and preparation, Vale said. The Multi-Agency Coordination Center," led by Cochran, brought numerous county and federal agencies together with positive results, Vale said. "Now we're pretty much transitioning back into a typical busy weekend in our county," he said.

Perhaps more so than on their way into town, Rainbow participants are having a local effect on the way out. Thousands of participants are making their way south from North Routt and looking to re-supply in Steamboat Springs, leading to busy convenience stores, crowded hot springs at the Steamboat Springs Health & Recreation Center, and a lively crowd at Friday's free Michael Franti & Spearhead reggae concert.

Routt County Sheriff's Office and Steamboat Springs police department officers are continuing to deal with many calls about panhandlers and loitering. Forest Service officials say a "Rainbow presence" can be expected in the area into August.

For Prairie Rose, it's time to return home to New Mexico and resume working as a nurse. As she sat trailside Friday, an older man with graying hair and a thick beard stopped to give her a hug.

"Will I see you next time?" the man said, likely referring to a future Rainbow gathering.

"Oh yeah," Rose said. "With bells on, baby."

— To reach Mike Lawrence, call 871-4203
or e-mail mlawrence@steamboatpilot.com
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Professional Generosity Reaps Significant Benefits

By Mark McMillan

In the days of increasing costs and decreasing governmental support for higher education, scholarships make education possible for a number of students. This, in turn, benefits us as a society because these students are truly our future. From them will come breakthroughs in science, innovative solutions to the many problems facing our nation and the world, and the creativity to teach the next generation. In response to these needs, the CEHA Scholarship Endowment Fund was created by an anonymous financial gift to the Colorado State University Foundation. From this initial seed money, the Fund has grown to more than \$25,000 and is recognized by CSU as one of its prestigious Endowed Scholarships. The Fund creates a perpetual source of funding for scholarship use. Through this Fund, a scholarship is annually awarded to a CSU student working to gain further expertise in the environmental health profession.

This year's recipient, Sarah Smith, indicates that "this scholarship means a lot both because of the honor in receiving such a generous gift and what it will allow me to achieve. It has created the opportunity to expand my knowledge by providing the financial means to assist in completion of an epidemiologic internship in South Africa and my Environmental Health degree. This scholarship is helping me reach my goals and complete this wonderful learning experience."

CEHA is in the strong position to expand this student opportunity by contributing even further to this Endowed Fund. If you would like to be part of this legacy, you may contribute by sending a check payable to CEHA (please indicate that these

funds are for the CSU Endowed Scholarship) to P.O. Box 460726, Glendale, CO 80246. Monies received during the year will be fully invested in the Fund.

Compiled from resources from Colorado State University.



Chris Larson, Vice-President of CSU's Environmental Health Student Association, Mr. Mark McMillan, CEHA Southeast Rep., Sarah Smith, recipient of the CEHA Scholarship and Dr. John Reif, recipient of the EHSA Outstanding Professor Award



NOWRA 2006 Annual Education Conference in Denver

Compiled by Brian Scheffe, Front Range Precast

This August (28-31) at the Adams Mark Hotel in Denver, the National Onsite Wastewater Recycling Association will be holding its 15th annual conference. If you are committed to achieving water quality results with decentralized systems, this conference offers educational and training experience that you can't get anywhere else. It's also the largest and most comprehensive exposition of onsite wastewater treatment products in the United States. Whether you're a regulator, designer, installer, service provider or otherwise involved in the onsite wastewater industry, there's no better opportunity to get the information you need all in one place.

Technical education sessions and exhibits provide updates from industry leaders about the latest technology and research focusing on the following core topics:

- Soils and watershed management strategies and applications
- Assessment tools or approaches to broader integrated evaluations
- Innovative systems, technologies, solutions
- Education strategies and applications
- System planning, performance and evaluations
- Watershed management strategies and applications
- Regulations and the regulatory framework
- And of course, NOWRA's premier program, "The Basics of Onsite Systems"

In conjunction with the conference, the Experiential Training Program for onsite industry practitioners provides a unique education forum for professionals assisting them in solving problems and learning of new installation and maintenance methods. Hosted by the Colorado Professionals in Onsite Wastewater (CPOW), this year's program includes a tour of the Colorado School of Mines onsite wastewater research facility, site tours to actual installations, and a visit to Front Range Precast Concrete, Inc. to learn about water-tight tank construction methods.

Participants attending the technical education sessions and the Experiential Training Program can receive continuing education units (CEU) to support their ongoing professional development.

The exposition features North America's leading manufacturers and distributors of onsite wastewater treatment products and services. It's a unique opportunity to have your questions answered and to see demonstrations of cutting-edge technologies and services.

For more information about the conference or to register, please contact NOWRA at 800.966.2942 or visit their website at www.nowra.org

Consumer Protection Division Prevention Strategy for Mass Illness at Children's Camps

By Therese Pilonetti, CDPHE

In July 2005 the Colorado Department of Public Health and Environment's Consumer Protection Division responded to two separate children's resident camps reporting widespread gastrointestinal illness among campers and staff. In conjunction with the Disease Control and Environmental Epidemiology Division (DCEED) and local public health officials, both camps were investigated. Following environmental and epidemiological assessments, norovirus was suspected at one camp. Laboratory evidence confirmed norovirus at the other camp. Due to the high risk of further transmission of illness within the typical austere conditions of a children's camp, both camps voluntarily agreed to close for deep cleaning and disinfection. Both camps were reopened within a week of closure and were able to accept campers for the remainder of the season. This endeavor expended numerous resources and staff time and was extremely challenging for both the Department and the camps involved.

In an effort to prevent a similar scenario from replaying this year, CPD teamed up with DCEED to develop comprehensive children's resident camp guidelines for controlling the spread of communicable disease. The guidelines describe the causes and symptoms of gastrointestinal illness in straightforward language. They also detail the regulatory requirements and disease control recommendations for preventing disease transmission.

The guidelines were finalized and distributed to all licensed children's camps in Colorado, local health agencies, as well as nurses and child care licensing specialists in May 2006. The guidelines can also be viewed on the division's website at <http://www.cdph.state.co.us/cp/>.

The Division conducted preoperational inspections with both camps' administrative and food service staff to ensure compliance and preparation for 2006 camp season. Both camps were found in compliance and have implemented the recommendations found in the camp guidelines. They had also developed creative solutions for providing adequate handwashing facilities; monitoring of hand washing, particularly just prior to dining; separating ill campers and staff from the well population and safely preparing and serving food in the spirit of camper participation. These two camps will be inspected again shortly after campers arrive to ensure continued compliance and good practice.

The Consumer Protection Division has also strongly recommended to local health agencies to inspect and review the new guidelines with all of the children's camps in their jurisdictions before or just after the arrival of campers. This approach will allow all health and sanitation concerns to be addressed promptly and before problems escalate.



51st AEC to Be Largest Ever!

Continued from Page 1

AEC in Atlantic City going to the winner. The Silent Auction will also be continued this year, with all proceeds benefiting CEHA's scholarship funds. Please contact Laura VanWagenen to make a contribution to the Silent Auction showcasing your talents or your region of the state.

Be sure to join us in beautiful Vail to enjoy the fall colors, the magnificent Vail Cascade Resort and Spa, and the excellent educational and networking opportunities at this year's record-breaking conference!

Origins at the Ivory Cellar

Continued from Page 6

authority lure you into the maw of Charybdis. I hear that is really a once in a lifetime trip.

So, as to your thoughts or actions directed to emergency response, I ask of you and I urge you to ask of yourself "Who, What, Where, When and WHY"!!!

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

CSU's Aspen Grille

Continued from Page 8

The restaurant can accommodate as many as 50 people. Tables seat from one to four diners, and individual seating is also available at the bar.

Once seated, customers receive a plate of gourmet crackers, accompanied by either zinfandel marmalade or a creamy, sundried tomato spread. On the day when I dined there, my companion and I ordered a BLT, made with thick sliced applewood smoked bacon and sundried tomato mayonnaise, and a Grilled Chicken Breast served with a field green salad and rice pilaf. We also tried that day's soup, Manhattan clam chowder – a zesty tomato consommé generously stocked with diced carrots, celery and clams. Simple white China plates with an embossed scroll around the edge provided the perfect backdrop for our colorful meals. The flavors, presentation, and quality were par excellence, and the serving sizes satisfying. We were satisfied but not stuffed.

A thank you card came with our bill. Inside, a printed message from the students noted that the 15-percent service charge reflected on our check was not mandatory. "We return these funds to the students through support for student activities, and the purchase of equipment and uniforms," the note explained. Proceeds from restaurant sales are funneled back into the business.

Throughout the semester, students will fine-tune the restaurant. "We'll be getting price quotes from distributors and looking at menu costs and price margins," Van Ort explains. "We'll be adjusting things, like portion sizes, and developing appropriate prices that are consistent with the competition."

He emphasizes that the restaurant will continue to use local and regional products. "That gives a little signature to the Grille – support the students, support the community. In 2004 the Aspen Grille was awarded a Bronze Medal by the National Association of College and University Foodservice as having the most unique dining facility on a college campus. And recently, the Grille also was voted Best Local Cuisine at the annual Taste of Fort Collins.



CEHA 2003 President Tom Gonzales, who presented the awards, with Paul Macias, Isaiah Branch-Boyle and Alexis Hepworth, the CEHA award winners at the 2006 State Science Fair.



Upcoming Environmental Public Health Events

August 3

Non-Community Ground Water System Training in Eagle. Visit www.cehaweb.com for more information.

August 4

Food Defense Conference offered by CDPHE at the Doubletree Hotel Denver at 3203 Quebec St. Contact Laura VanWagenen at 303-692-3649 for more information.

August 11

Deadline for nominations for CEHA's Milton M. Miller Award and Environmental Achievement Awards. Visit www.cehaweb.com for details.

August 28-30

National Onsite Wastewater Recycling Association's 15th Annual Conference at the Adams Mark Hotel in Denver. For more information, visit <http://www.nowra.org/>

September 6th and 7th

Non-Point Source Forum 2006: More Than Brochures—Real Change with Doug McKenzie-Moore at the PPA Event Center, 2105 Decatur St, Denver. Visit <http://npscolorado.com/Forum2006.html> for registration information. Visit [cehaweb.com](http://www.cehaweb.com) for information about scholarships that are being offered by CEHA to cover registration costs to this training.

September 12-14

Wyoming Environmental Health Association's Annual Education Conference at the Saratoga Inn in Saratoga, WY. Visit www.wehaonline.net for more information.

September 19

CEHA Pre-conference REHS and CFSP testing offered at the Vail Cascade in Vail. Visit www.cehaweb.com for details and registration information. An 8-hour OSHA refresher course will also be offered as part of the pre-conference events.

September 20-22

Colorado Environmental Health Association's Annual Education Conference offered in partnership with the Colorado Public Health Association and the EPA's Children's Environmental Health Summit. Visit www.cehaweb.com for registration information.

September 25-26

Epi-Ready Team in Training is being offered as a pre-conference workshop for the Food Safety Education Conference at the Adam's Mark Hotel. Developed by the National Environmental Health Association (NEHA) and CDC, this workshop provides up-to-date foodborne disease outbreak investigation and surveillance training. Visit <http://www.fsis.usda.gov/denver2006/> for more information.

September 27-29

Food Safety Education Conference: Reaching At-Risk Audiences and Today's Other Food Safety Challenges sponsored by the FSIS and NSF and offered at the Adam's Mark Hotel in Denver. Visit <http://www.fsis.usda.gov/denver2006/> for more information.

December 1

An evening with John Fielder: a RIHEL fundraiser. Visit <http://rli.uchsc.edu/rli/> for more details or contact Mark McMillan at 303-692-3140.



CEHA MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION

2006

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.

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- | | | | |
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| | | <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



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

Our Mission: