



Dam Safety

Harnessing the power of water to generate electricity, provide a drinking water supply, and spur economic and agricultural growth – all emphasize the complex and varied uses for dams. For better or worse, dams are part of our altered natural surroundings. Severe flooding and droughts also impact dams and their primary function. As dam infrastructure becomes worn with time, regulatory agencies are taking a closer look at dam safety. For all of these reasons,

we have devoted an issue of *Clearwaters* to dams in New York.

Legislative Dialogue

On May 7 in conjunction with the Interstate Environmental Commissions, NYWEA participated in a legislative dialogue that was set up as a round table with members of the senate and assembly staff, Paul Beyer from the Governor's office, Sandi Allen from NYSDEC and representatives from the following organizations:

- Nature Conservancy
- New York Conference of Mayors
- Soil & Water Conservation Districts
- Environmental Advocates of New York

Also represented at the event were the directors from the Interstate, Delaware, Susquehanna and Ohio Environmental commissions. The informal format for this discussion was productive and insightful. Many thanks go to Libby Ford, Dan Bentivogli and Boris Rukovets and the members of the Government Affairs Committee for their leadership and coordination of this important event. The date for next year's legislative dialogue is February 26, 2008. If you have an interest in legislative issues that affect the water environ-

ment, please contact me as we are looking for more people to participate next year.

Spring Meeting

The 2007 Spring Technical Conference, held in early June at the University Sheraton in Syracuse, NY, was a great success featuring 11 informative technical sessions including a focus on Onondaga Lake. The Operations Challenge resulted in two teams that will go on to compete at the October national competition in San Diego, California. Congratulations to the Brown Tide team from the Long Island Chapter and the Bowery Bay Metropolitan Chapter team! And hats off to all of the Operations Challenge teams participating in both the chapter and statewide competitions. The Public Education session featured bringing in 25 sixth-grade students from the Edward Smith School who learned about water conservation and the fundamentals of wastewater.

Other highlights of the meeting included the selection of winners for the 2007 NYSDEC/NYWEA Poster Contest. Two hundred-eleven posters were submitted from 31 schools. The winners were Sarah Kuzmack from Comsewogue High School, Port Jefferson Station, NY, and Iris Dai from the George J. Ryan Middle School, Flushing, NY. The winners received \$50 and an engraved plaque. New this year, the winning teachers won a plaque and a water test kit to use in the classroom. Our appreciation goes out to NYSDEC, namely Robin Yasinsac-Gillespie who has done a tremendous job coordinating this event.

The variety of programs during NYWEA meetings is a clear reflection of the interests and strengths of the membership. Many thanks to members of the Program Committee, Dave Barnes, Sandy Lizlovs, Ken Knutsen, Mark Greene, Eric Haslim and the members of the Central Chapter Board of Directors who made the Spring Technical Conference a memorable event. It is a privilege to work with such committed and talented individuals.


Patricia Cerro-Reehil

How Would You Like to Be NYWEA President in 2011?

If you are interested in a long-term, career-enriching opportunity, please consider applying for this important position.

Being an officer is a rewarding experience, but it is also a commitment of five years (Vice President-Elect, Vice President, President-Elect, President, Immediate Past President). When reviewing applicants, the Nominating Committee will take the following items into consideration (no one is expected to have all of these items in their resume):

- Leadership skills
- Vision and managerial skills
- Active & viable state committee chair
- Active & viable state committee involvement
- Continuous membership tenure greater than 7 years
- Chapter endorsement (in writing)
- Active member of Chapter Executive Board
- NYWEA award recipient
- Chapter representative
- Chapter officer
- Regular attendance at state meetings
- WEF Board of Directors service

Serving the water environment industry as an officer of NYWEA is the most rewarding activity of my career. I look forward to the interaction with other officers and directors, as well as the general membership both professionally and socially. From an educational point of view, my role with NYWEA keeps me current with new trends, regulations and technology. I couldn't think of a more beneficial way to spend my limited volunteer time.

—Robert Kukenberger, President-Elect

Please submit an electronic resume with a cover letter that highlights any of the attribute areas above to: Patricia Cerro-Reehil, Executive Director NYWEA, 525 Plum Street, Suite 102, Syracuse, NY 13204 • Phone 315-422-7811 • Fax 315-422-3851 • pcr@nywea.org

Nomination deadline is August 10, 2007. All members are eligible to apply!