



Learning More About Mercury

My husband and son love to fish. After the catch, the pleasure for me comes in the form of culinary art when we get to cook and eat the fish. As many of the trout that come home are from the Adirondacks – a “hot spot” for atmospheric mercury deposition from coal-fired power plants in the west – the question is raised if these fish are safe to eat.

Prior to preparing the fish for the pan, one of the dog-eared documents I routinely refer to is a report titled, “Chemicals in Sportfish and Game,” published by the New York State Department of Health. It lists by water body the various species of fish and gives recommendations on consumption based on chemicals of concern. I use the report to determine if the fish caught came from a water body listed and if the particular species bioaccumulates chemicals. Mercury plays a big role in this report, which can be found online at: <http://www.health.state.ny.us/nysdoh/fish/fish.htm>.

The New York State Department of Environmental Conservation also has information on Fish Healthy Advisories on their website at www.dec.ny.gov.

In reading through this issue of the magazine, I'm reminded of chemistry class and trying to fully understand the concepts behind this heavy toxic metal. Sandy Lizlovs, of NYSDEC's Region 7 and one of our Publications Committee members, is acknowledged for identifying this topic for us. NYWEA's educational mission is continually upheld by covering themes that give its members a better understanding on a given topic or issue. From my perspective, I know more about mercury after reading this edition, and I hope the same holds true for you.

Focus on Safety and Getting Involved

You may have noticed that we are now featuring a new column in *Clearwaters* titled, “Focus on Safety.” Eileen Reynolds, an environmental health and safety engineer at AES Greenidge, LLC, volunteered to write this column and we welcome this addition to the magazine and look forward to her participation in the organization. I met Eileen at an event I spoke at last summer for the Genesee Valley Chapter where I encouraged participation in NYWEA. Eileen thought about how she could get involved, and decided to step forward and use her talents to help the organization.

NYWEA is continually looking to engage its members and contribute to its mission. What is your talent? How would you like to get involved and make a difference? If you are thinking about it, contact me and I'll connect you to the right “cause.”

I recently spoke at a Long Island Chapter dinner meeting, and it was a great honor to report that at the 80th Annual Meeting, President Thomas Lauro will be recognizing longstanding members – those people who have been members for 30, 40, 50 and 60 years! Such commitment and dedication is truly remarkable. These members (like you) perform noble work protecting public health and the environment daily, while at the same time, placing a value on belonging to a professional society. I like to believe the connection to our organization helps members feel empowered in the workplace and beyond.

Here's wishing you all the best in the coming year!



Patricia Cerro-Reehil

NYWEA Board Action Items

Resolution 2007-28

Election of Vice President–Elect, Anthony DellaValle

Resolution 2007-29

Approval of Contracts: Hotel Thayer for Watershed Conference in 2008 and 2009

Resolution 2007-30

Approval of Awards:

Municipal Achievement – Westchester County Department of Environmental Facilities

Robert MacCrea – Albert Stipe

John Chester Brigham – Jerry Werner and Harry Reiter

Laboratory Analyst – Purnima Dixit

Young Professionals – Vincent Apa

Student Chapter Service – Lauren Myers and Eric Spargimino

Public Education – Beth Petrillo

Resolution 2007-31

Water for People Matching Grant

Upcoming Meetings



NYWEA

80th Annual Meeting

February 3–6, 2008

Marriott Marquis, New York City

Spring Technical Conference & Exhibition

June 2–4, 2008

The Sagamore Hotel

Bolton Landing, Lake George, NY

Watershed Science & Technical Conference

September 16–17, 2008

Hotel Thayer, West Point, NY