



# SWANA BEAVER CHAPTER

March 2009

*Bulletin*

A quarterly publication of the Oregon Chapter of the Solid Waste Association of North America

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## SWANA SYMPOSIUM HEADS TO BRITISH COLUMBIA, MARCH 29-APRIL 3

*By Jan O'Dell*

Pack your bags for BC! The 24th annual Pacific Northwest Regional Symposium is fast approaching.

The symposium's theme, "One World – Many Solutions," is aptly chosen for these complex and challenging times. Solid waste professionals in the Pacific Northwest have been leaders in the development of many new concepts and ideas that encourage and assist in the sustainable management of solid wastes. In these times of intense change and unpredictability, creativity is increasingly important.

The symposium will focus on:

- The Challenge of Change – redefining priorities, greenhouse gases, energy requirements, social and environmental issues are ever increasingly important.
- Technology Silos – links between processes and facilities are critical and ever increasingly complex.

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- Understanding Zero Waste – coming to grips with the expectations of politicians and the public is increasingly challenging.
- Sharing Implementation Success Stories – what works (and what doesn't).

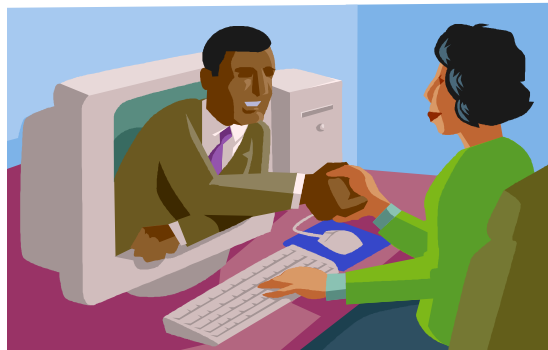
Training opportunities offered March 29-31 lead up to two-and-a-half days of technical and plenary sessions and a trade show that should not be missed. The symposium will be held at the Best Western Richmond Hotel & Convention Centre in Richmond, British Columbia. More details at <http://swanabc.org/2009-northwest-regional-symposium.html>.

## EDUCATION, ANYONE?

*SWANA Self-paced E-sessions available*

You can't always travel, but you can always get good training. SWANA's self-paced E-Courses offer a cost-effective way to do just that.

Self paced E-Courses are designed for individuals to learn about MSW topics – at their own pace and without leaving their office or home.



By taking these courses, those that are SWANA-Certified can also earn valuable Continuing Education Units (CEUs) toward their SWANA recertification.

E-Sessions are 50-75 minute online technical presentations bringing cutting-edge solid waste research and case studies directly to your office. Each registered participant can earn 1 CEU toward their SWANA Certification.

Get details at <http://swana.org/www/Portals/Training/E-SessionScheduleFY2009.pdf>.



## BOARD OF DIRECTORS

**President**

**David Vonasek**  
Weaver Boos Consultants, LLC.  
8384 SW 169th Place  
Beaverton, OR 97007  
503-536-5364  
dvonasek@weaverboos.com

**Vice President**

**Brian May**  
Valley Landfills, Inc.  
28972 Coffin Butte Road  
Corvallis, OR 97330  
541-745-2018  
Brian.May@awin.com

**Past President**

**Don Alexander**  
Marion County Public Works,  
Environmental Services  
P.O. Box 14500  
Salem OR 97309  
503-588-5169 x5919  
dalexander@co.marion.or.us

**Treasurer**

**Daniel Hurley**  
Lane County Solid Waste  
Management  
3100 East 17th  
Eugene, OR 97403  
541-747-4368  
daniel.hurley@co.lane.or.us

**Secretary**

**Kory Mahaffy**  
Sales Representative  
Rehrig Pacific Company  
13348 SE 155th Drive  
Clackamas, OR 97015  
503-658-5780  
KMahaffy@rehrigpacific.com

**International Board Director**

**Timm Schimke**  
Deschutes County Solid Waste  
Department  
61000 SE 27th Street  
Bend, OR 97702  
541-317-3177  
Timms@co.deschutes.or.us

**Louis Caruso**

SCS Engineers  
4800 SW Meadows Road, Suite  
300  
Lake Oswego, OR 97035  
503-534-3788  
LCaruso@SCSEngineers.com

**Audit Chair**

**Gordon Brown**  
Benton County Health  
Department  
P.O. Box 579  
530 NW 27th Street  
Corvallis, OR 97339-0579  
541-766-6170  
Gordon.D.Brown@co.benton.  
or.us

**George Duvendack**

Riverbend Landfill Company  
13469 SW Highway 18  
McMinnville, OR 97128  
503-472-8788  
gduvendack@wm.com

**Gerry Friesen**

G. Friesen Associates, Inc.  
4088 Orchard Drive  
Lake Oswego, OR 97035  
503-635-1233  
gerry@gfriesen.com

**Membership Chair**

**Wes Gavett**  
Waste Connections, Inc.  
P.O. Box 61726  
Vancouver, WA 98666  
503-288-7844 x319  
wesg@wcnx.org

**Legislative Chair**

**Holly Sears**  
Oregon Refuse & Recycling  
Association  
PO Box 2186  
Salem, OR 97308  
503-588-1837  
HollyS@orra.net

**Ben Masengil**

30160 Victory Drive  
Junction City, OR 97448

**Betty Patton**

**Resource Consultant**  
32 NE 44th Avenue  
Portland, OR 97213  
503-230-9513  
swana-or@  
environmentalpractices.com



# PRESIDENT'S CORNER



*David Vonasek, Weaver Boos Consultants*

First of all I would like to announce that during our February 19, 2009 board meeting, a number of changes were made to the Chapter's Officers and Board Members. Donna Schneider has had to step down from the position of Chapter Secretary. Board member Kory Mahaffy has volunteered to step in and fill the remaining term of her position. Also, Erik Colville announced that he also will be stepping down as a Board member. By a unanimous vote of the Board, his position will be filled by Louis Caruso, also of SCS Engineers. The Board would like to extend our appreciation to Donna and Erik for all of their hard work and contribution to the Chapter while serving in their positions.

Other Chapter changes being announced for 2009 are: Wes Gavett has assumed the position of Membership Chair; Holly Sears is now Legislative Liaison; and Gordon Brown is Audit Chair. We would also like to extend our thanks to these members for agreeing to take on these additional responsibilities.

Just a quick reminder to everyone that March 29–April 3, 2009, the British Columbia Pacific Chapter will be hosting the 24th Annual Pacific Northwest Regional Solid Waste Symposium at the Best

Western Richmond Hotel & Convention Centre in Richmond, British Columbia. The event begins with SWANA training sessions for MOLO and Landfill Gas certifications being offered from March 29–April 1. The symposium offers a wide variety of technical sessions, plenaries, trade show, and a facility tour on April 1, 2 and 3, 2009. For more information about the symposium, including registration assistance, log onto the Chapter's website at [www.swanabc.org](http://www.swanabc.org).

Since the Oregon Beaver Chapter just wrapped up a successful 2008, which included our hosting the 23rd Annual Pacific Northwest Regional Solid Waste Symposium last April, we are now looking ahead at our schedule for the rest of 2009. We will be scheduling a couple of different site tours later in the year. More specifics on the tours will be forthcoming in the weeks and months ahead. Later in the year, the Oregon Refuse and Recycling Association (ORRA) will be hosting its Fall Event, and the Chapter will look to support ORRA with its annual event. The Board is also considering other new and exciting events possibly for 2010, which you will likely be hearing more about as we move forward into the year.

***David Vonasek, President  
Oregon Beaver Chapter***



## BEN MASENGIL SCHOLARSHIP AWARD PROGRAM

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*College scholarships available! Apply by May 1*

The Oregon Beaver Chapter is preparing for its fifth year of the Ben Masengil Scholarship Award program. Easy-to-fill-out applications (just two-pages long) are on the SWANA Oregon website and are due May 1.

Children and grandchildren of SWANA members are eligible for two scholarships of up to \$1,000 each. The first is for graduating high school seniors, and the second is for returning college students. The students can enroll in a junior college, four-year college, or university in any undergraduate or graduate program.

Elsbeth Centola, daughter of Chad Centola of Deschutes County, was last year's recipient of the scholarship for a returning student. There was no scholarship awarded last year for a high school senior.

Information and applications are available on the SWANA Oregon website, [www.swanaoregon.org](http://www.swanaoregon.org).



# SWANA'S FORUM ON DEQ SOLID WASTE LEGISLATIVE AGENDA

## Forum Wrap-up...

The SWANA/Beaver Chapter Board recently hosted a forum about the Oregon Department of Environmental Quality's legislative agenda as it pertains to solid waste issues. SWANA, ORRA and AOR members and DEQ employees attended. Topics included product stewardship, greenhouse gas emissions and the Oregon Bottle Bill.

Betty Patton attended the forum and provided the following summary...



DEQ's three biggest issues are climate change, the bottle bill and product stewardship. SB80 establishes a cap-and-trade program, including program development, deadlines, legislative reporting and approval. HB2186, as a complement to cap-and-trade, will help pursue a more carbon-neutral economy focusing on transportation. The Bottle Bill Task Force recommendations have been included in HB2184 and submitted by the Governor on DEQ's behalf. Policy Package 132 on product stewardship provides two positions to help DEQ develop product stewardship policy and to work with stakeholders to draft framework legislation for the 2011 session. The desire is to expand into compact fluorescents, rechargeable batteries, and additional non-standard products. Brenda Wilson, City of Eugene's lobbyist, is working on pharmaceutical take-back programs with a product stewardship structure. Cast-off pharmaceuticals are found in water and wastewater, motivating a pollution-prevention approach. Take-back programs will reduce avoidable poisonings, prevent prescription drug abuse and addiction and protect water quality. As presented by John Ledger of Associated Oregon Industries (AOI), the cap-and-trade approach to greenhouse gas emissions is a controversial approach to climate change

management. He gave a brief history of the Western Climate Initiative (WCI) and some details on how these accounting procedures work. AOI's primary objections to this governing body are due to the fact that the WCI is a quasi-governmental creation, with unelected members working in a closed process with no transparency and no legislative power. Due to the complexity of climate change management policy, this approach deserves much more oversight and research. Bottle bill improvements are again on the legislative agenda. The modifications that went into effect January 1, 2009 were the first step in a multi-phase effort. Jerry Powell presented an overview of the results of the 2008 bottle bill task force study. The majority report from this study group is the foundation for HB2184. The proposed legislation will phase in a variety of enhancements: increasing the deposit in 2011, including additional beverage types in 2013, and establishing a return-rate goal in 2015. This enhanced bottle bill is a true product stewardship approach and the manufacturers are watching. If this is successful, Oregon's container deposit legislation could be the foundation for a national approach.



# THINKING OUTSIDE THE BLUE BOX CONFERENCE

*Highlights from the February event in Portland*



The Thinking Outside The Blue Box Conference held in Portland in mid-February gave participants a lot to think about. About 150 solid waste and recycling industry professionals – some coming from as far away as the Virgin Islands, Florida and New York – enjoyed a variety of timely and informative technical sessions, as well as training courses and certification exams. SWANA Oregon sponsored a session on product stewardship, and the Association of Oregon Recyclers sponsored a panel on special event recycling.

Presentations are available through the survey at <http://www.zoomerang.com/Survey/thankyou.zgi?p=WEB228SU4J4ZH4> or on the SWANA website by logging in and going to the Education Center, recycling and special waste section. Responding to the survey will provide you with the appropriate user ID and password. Here are a few highlights of some of the conference sessions.



SCOTT KLAG MODERATES PRODUCT STEWARDSHIP PANEL

## Product Stewardship

A keynote presentation and a panel discussion sponsored by Oregon Beaver Chapter focused on product stewardship issues. Electronics recycling programs in Oregon and Washington are examples of producer-responsibility programs that are gaining momentum. States are looking at other products – such as fluorescent light bulbs and pharmaceuticals - that could and should be addressed. Several presenters advocated for more framework legislation, which establishes a broad policy in statute and gives government the authority, through rulemaking regulation, to address multiple products rather than having to write legislation for individual products.



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### **Recycling pricing crisis**

Jerry Powell, Resource Recycling, and Pat DeReuda, Recycle America, presented information about the downturn in markets. Jerry's predictions: More consolidation; strong foreign markets, especially if oil prices stay low; a focus on material quality; a resurgence in market knowledge by municipal program managers; increased use of market contacts; attention to minimum recycled-content requirements; low mill investments in the U.S.; China continues to offer both low-tech and high-tech processing markets.

### **Commingled recyclables**

Despite the collection efficiencies, health and safety benefits, and customer privacy benefits, commingled recycling has its issues. Materials are being lost, mills have different quality standards, certain materials are especially problematic at Material Recovery Facilities (MRFs), and customers are confused about what goes in/stays out of the cart. A multi-state group (Oregon/Washington) has been formed to examine strategies for minimizing contamination from commingled recyclables.

### **Electronics recycling**

A program in Alberta, Canada is collecting TVs and computers, and is considering adding other electronics, such as CD and DVD players, radios, and microwaves. A King County, Washington program accepts a wide variety of electronics: computers, monitors, printers, TVs, cell phones, PDAs, fax machines, stereos, DVD and VCR players, household electronics and rechargeable batteries, and fluorescent bulbs and compact fluorescents.



CHUCK GEYER AND SEGO JACKSON

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LISA HEIGH, SARAH GRIMM AND TOM EGLESTON TALK ABOUT SPECIAL EVENT RECYCLING

### Organics recovery

The City of Olympia's \$100,000 residential organics collection program was launched with state and federal funding, as well as a \$65,000 grant for start-up costs. The local health department and composting facility were involved in setting up the program. Santa Monica, California's program is based on using food waste in an anaerobic digester at a wastewater treatment plant. Hot Texas weather and cultural differences in managing waste pose unique challenges for organics collection in that state. Nonetheless, commercial accounts like Whole Foods participate in organics collection now, and spends about half of what they would have paid for garbage collection.

### Special event recycling

Olympic track and field trials, Race for the Cure and the New Belgium Brewing Company's Tour de Fat were the topics of a panel on special event recycling. These events achieved recovery/diversion rates of 69% to 93% – laudable, when compared to the 13% recovery captured at other events such as the Rose Festival and Portland's Cinco de Mayo event. The panelists described the challenges and successes involved with setting up efficient recycling systems at each of these unique events.

### Commercial recycling

In the City of Chula Vista, CA, they have created a "Your Community. Your Environment. Your Choice" program that includes criteria for businesses to become "Clean Businesses" that meet pollution, water, energy and waste

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standards. Businesses can fill out a simple checklist of “doable” actions, and then the City Clean Team visits the business. Chace Anderson with Gershman, Brickner & Bratton talked about how his company is working with Rhode Island to increase its 23% recycling rate, since only 4½ years of landfill space remain if permission to expand isn’t granted.

Recycling outside the single-family home: Recycling in a senior center in San Bernardino was successful due to the facility management, on-site education and washable knit bags for holding recyclables. A 4,800-square-mile nature park in Canada posed some unique collection challenges. The park collects two-stream recycling and composting plus garbage in a high-tech system using Molok containers, a bear-proof, in-ground system made in Finland. The container is removed from the ground using a crane, and the bottom of the container opens to release the garbage into the truck. The trucks have scales for recordkeeping.

### Unique and special waste streams

A door-to-door program for collection of universal waste (batteries, light bulbs, e-waste), Metro’s recycled latex paint program and fluorescent bulb recycling were highlighted in this panel presentation. So far, King County is realizing a 4% recycling rate of fluorescents, twice the national average.



MOLOK COLLECTION SYSTEM



# CALENDAR OF EVENTS

## MARCH 29-APRIL 3

### **24th annual Pacific Northwest Regional Symposium, Richmond, British Columbia**

*Richmond, British Columbia*

The British Columbia Pacific SWANA Chapter will host the 24th annual Pacific Northwest Regional Symposium at the Best Western Richmond Hotel & Convention Centre in Richmond, British Columbia. Details at <http://swanabc.org/technical-sessions.html>.

## APRIL 27 -30

### **BIOCYCLE International Conference**

*San Diego, California*

This year's conference will cover expanding compost markets, anaerobic digestion, climate change solutions, zero waste initiatives, equipment and technology developments, renewable power and fuel markets and more. Information at <http://www.biocycle50.com/over.html>.

## MAY 3 - 6

### **WSRA Annual Conference and Trade Show**

*Yakima, Washington*

Washington State Recycling Association's 29th Annual Recycling Conference and Trade Show. The theme is "Recycling: Gateway to Green." More information at <http://www.wsra.net/Conference>.

## JUNE 1- 5

### **14th Annual Landfill Symposium and Planning & Management Conference**

*Savannah, Georgia*

This year's symposium will offer eight technical sessions comprised of over 20 unique presentations, discussion sessions, a two-day tradeshow, a facility tour and a landfill fires workshop. Take advantage of early registration and sign up before May 1. Learn more at <http://lfswm.swana.org>.

## JUNE 8- 11

### **WasteExpo Conference and Tradeshow**

*Las Vegas, Nevada*

The conference will be held June 8-10, and the exhibition runs June 9-11. WasteExpo is North America's largest solid waste and recycling tradeshow serving both the private and public sectors. More information at [www.wasteexpo.com](http://www.wasteexpo.com).

## JUNE 11 - 13

### **AOR annual conference and tradeshow, Eagle Crest Resort**

*Redmond, Oregon*

The Association of Oregon Recyclers annual conference and tradeshow. Go to [www.aORr.org](http://www.aORr.org) for more information.



**THURSDAY, MAY 21**  
**8:00 AM - 10:00 AM**

**SWANA Beaver Chapter board meeting.**

*Salem, Oregon*

Watch website for details, [www.swanaoregon.org](http://www.swanaoregon.org).

**RSVPs required** to [BPatton@SWANAOregon.org](mailto:BPatton@SWANAOregon.org).



## **SWANA EXCELLENCE AWARDS**

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Nominations are due April 3 for SWANA's Excellence Awards. The awards program recognizes outstanding solid waste programs and facilities that advance the practice of environmentally and economically sound solid waste management through:

- commitment to utilizing effective technologies and processes in system design and operations
- advancing worker and community health and safety
- successful public education and outreach programs.

Programs also must demonstrate that they are fiscally and environmentally responsible through their compliance with all applicable federal, state and local regulations.

SWANA recognizes programs and facilities with Gold, Silver or Bronze awards in 13 categories. The awards will be announced in June and presented at WASTECON 2009 in September in Long Beach, CA. SWANA also sends out a press release announcing the winners, posts winning applications on its website, and will highlight award winners in the September/October issue of MSW Management Magazine.

Get more information, including downloadable nomination forms, at

<http://swana.org/Education/TechnicalDivisions/ExcellenceAwards/tabid/552/Default.aspx>.

