



# SWANA BEAVER CHAPTER

September 2009

## Bulletin

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

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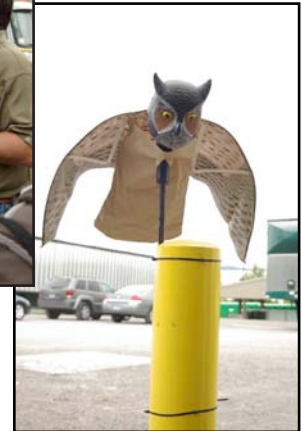
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## TOUR OF WASTE CONNECTIONS' WASHOUGAL TRANSFER STATION

*By Jan O'Dell*

The SWANA Oregon Chapter toured Waste Connections' new transfer station in Washougal in July. The facility – number three for Waste Connections in Clark County – opened in February. Wes Gavett led the tour of the facility, which includes a transfer station, scale house, public recycling and household hazardous waste (HHW) drop-off areas.

The site is 4.5 acres in size, and Waste Connections is leasing it from the Port of Camas/Washougal on a long-term basis. The site is bordered by the Lewis and Clark trail, so Waste Connections paid special attention to landscaping around the perimeter of the facility.

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The facility is open to commercial customers six days a week, but for now, it is only open to the public two days a week – Wednesdays and Saturdays. That is likely to change over time, and the facility was designed with expansion in mind. The HHW area is open to the public one day a month. Recycling is available six days a week.

The scale house is fully automated and is not staffed four days a week. Commercial trucks with transponders can just roll over the scales to get weighed and then ticketed on their way out.

Between 100 and 120 tons a day of material is processed through the facility and trucked to the disposal site in The Dalles. Three or four trucks a day – each loaded with 31 tons – make the trip.

### ***It was the best of times, and it was the worst of times***

“We could not have built at a worst time,” Wes said. “Record crude oil prices meant asphalt costs were up, as were steel prices. If we built it today, it would cost 30 percent less.”

On the other hand, there were a number of factors that came together that made 2008 the right time to build the facility.

Wes says that the facility had been contemplated for years. Waste

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Connections' contract with Clark County always had a provision for a third transfer station, but there was limited industrial land upon which to build.

The other two company transfer stations reload waste and barge it up the river to the Finley Buttes Regional Landfill outside Boardman, Oregon. But the economics of siting a facility in Washougal, direct-hauling waste to the West Vancouver barge facility and then shipping it up the river didn't pencil out. However, once the company made the decision to direct-haul waste from Washougal to the landfill, "this site made a lot of sense," Wes said.

But the wheels of progress move slowly, and from the time Waste Connections did the feasibility studies and got the "go-ahead," the new transfer facility took six years to complete.

### ***Built for strength and efficiency***

Wes said the design of the facility makes it efficient to operate. Four staff members are assigned to the facility, but some days only two are needed.

Recycling is free and ahead of the scale. "We found at our other transfer stations that many customers show up with just recycling. Here, if they also have MSW, they circle back around to the scale house after they drop off their recyclables," said Wes.

A concrete pad under the drop boxes in the recycling area collects water that is routed into the Port storm water system.

The HHW receiving area is an open-sided building. There are four-foot masonry walls, and one wall is taller than the others to keep out rain and wind. The floor is sloped to divert and collect any spilled materials. HHW can



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be stored on-site on a short-term basis between collection events.

Design of the transfer building design took the notorious “East Gorge Wind” into account and is open only on the west and north sides. “We didn’t want to create a wind tunnel and have trash blowing all over the place,” said Wes. A 12-foot-high push wall provides plenty of area for pushing waste and then dumping it into top-load trailers. The doors are 23-feet high, and “they haven’t been hit yet,” Wes said.

Most days, one side of the building is designated for public traffic and the other for commercial. The design also allows public or commercial trucks to enter and exit at a 90-degree angle. This means a pickup truck hauling a trailer can pull right through and not have to back in or out. On Saturdays when there is no commercial traffic, the public can use both entrances.

### ***A happy ending***

Camus and Washougal area residents now have a convenient option for disposing of trash and recyclables. Even the nearest neighbors are happy now, since their fears about noise, odor and litter have been allayed.

“I like to think of this as a simple but pretty elegant facility,” Wes says proudly. “We have a long history of doing what we say we are going to do and doing it right,” he adds.



# PRESIDENT'S CORNER

## A WORD FROM THE PRESIDENT

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*from David Vonasek, Weaver Boos Consultants, LLC*



It has been a while since my last update on the Oregon Beaver Chapter. Now, as we begin to wind down calendar year 2009, I thought it would be good to share with you some of the key events of 2009 and what the Chapter has planned for the year ahead.

Currently the Chapter is in the midst of conducting Chapter Officer and Board Member elections. The nominees and ballots for the general membership election have been sent out. Please return yours if you haven't already done so. Once the results are final, the elected corps of Officers and Board Members for 2010 and 2011 will be announced.

In July, the Board's Scholarship Selection Committee had a tough assignment in selecting the 2009 scholarship winners for both graduating high school students and returning college students. A separate article about the number of applicants and the names of the ultimate winners is also included in this newsletter. The Chapter would like to extend its congratulations and best wishes to both winners.

As most of you know, the Chapter successfully hosted the 2008 SWANA Northwest Regional Solid Waste Symposium in April 2008 at McMenamins' Edgefield in Troutdale, Oregon. Hosting this regional event has historically been rotated between the Oregon, Washington and British Columbia Chapters. Following the 2008 symposium, the Alaska Chapter approached the three other Chapters with a request that Alaska be given the opportunity to host the event in 2010.

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Presently, planning is underway for the event, scheduled for May 5-7, 2010 in Anchorage. The Alaska Chapter will be releasing additional information about the event in the months ahead. Please check the Chapter's website at [www.swana-alaska.org](http://www.swana-alaska.org) for additional information. (The 2011 Northwest Regional Solid Waste Symposium will be hosted by the Washington Chapter, followed by the Oregon Chapter's next rotation in 2012.)

With a three-year absence before the Oregon Chapter hosts its next Regional Symposium in 2012, the Chapter has been considering other types of events that could be held. One such event the Board has come up with is a plan for the Oregon Chapter to host during 2010 what is believed to be the first ever SWANA Chapter Road-E-O in the Pacific Northwest. Read more about the proposed Road-E-O event on page 10 of this newsletter.

In the months ahead, the Chapter also will be considering other events that it may host, in addition to our annual Winter Forum/ General Membership Meeting typically held in January of each year. More information regarding these events will be passed along as soon as it becomes available. So please keep checking the Chapter website for further information and updates.

Finally, with the Chapter elections just around the corner, let me take this opportunity to thank all of the current Chapter Officers, Board Members and Board Committee Chairs for their hard work and support they have given to the Chapter over the past two years. Following the upcoming elections, for those of you who continue to remain in your current positions, or for those of you that move on, you can be proud of what you have accomplished. Over the past two years, we have seen several new members joining the Board, bringing with them new and fresh ideas that will continue to help the Chapter evolve and grow. But most importantly, as I have said in the past, thank you to the general members for your continued membership and support. You are the true backbone to the Chapter and without you there would be no Chapter. I truly believe – as we move into 2010 and 2011 – the Chapter is as strong as ever and we can expect a lot of excitement in the years ahead.

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



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## TWO SELECTED FOR BEN MASENGIL SCHOLARSHIPS

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*Adam McCuistion & Karlie Hibler are honored for their achievements*

The SWANA Beaver Chapter strives to award two Ben Masengil Scholarships every year – one for a high school graduate entering college and one for a returning student. All nominees must be children or grandchildren of current SWANA members.

This year's scholarship recipients are Adam McCuistion, son of Jay McCuistion of Columbia Environmental, and Karlie Hibler, daughter of Kim Smith of Eugene.

Karlie was born in Eugene and graduated from North Eugene High School in 2006. She started classes at Lane Community College during the 2008 summer term and has been going full time ever since. Karlie's major is zoology and she is planning on enrolling in veterinary school or pursuing another graduate program in zoology after finishing her undergraduate studies in spring 2010. Her career goals lie within the field of wildlife conservation and she hopes to work with endangered and/or threatened species.

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KARLIE HIBLER OF EUGENE



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**Adam McCuiston plans on attending Cal Poly San Luis Obispo this fall and majoring in Electrical Engineering. This past year he graduated from Ridgefield High School in Ridgefield WA. He has three older brothers. He was involved in premiere soccer for seven years, 4-H for nine years, Varsity basketball and soccer in high school, and also National Honor Society. Adam also served with his youth group at the Salvation Army camp as well as an orphanage in Tecate, Mexico.**

**Information about the scholarships is available on the Oregon Beaver Chapter's website, [www.swanaoregon.org](http://www.swanaoregon.org). Click on "news & info" and then scroll down to the scholarship connection.**



ADAM MCCUISTIN OF RIDGEFIELD, WA



## IT'S ROAD-E-O TIME!!

*Mark your 2010 calendars – SWANA Oregon to host its first-ever “ROAD-E-O” in Salem*

As Darrell Waltrip, current Fox Sports announcer and three-time former NASCAR Winston Cup Champion race car driver, announces at the start of each NASCAR race, “Boogety, boogety, boogety, let’s go racing boys!”

The SWANA Oregon Beaver Chapter has decided to host the first ever Chapter Road-E-O® in 2010. Tentatively, the event is to be held on May 15, 2010 in Salem, Oregon. On September 17, 2009, an event-planning committee consisting of Oregon SWANA and ORRA Officers and Board Members convened to begin preparations for the event.

The Road-E-O event was developed by SWANA back in the early 1990s as a means of recognizing and promoting professionalism on the part of truck and equipment drivers and mechanics in the solid waste field, and to create a spirit of competition and goodwill throughout SWANA and its chapters. Today, numerous chapters host their own Road-E-O event each year. Winners from the chapter events then qualify to participate in the SWANA International Road-E-O event held annually in September.

The chapter event typically lasts two days. SWANA Oregon may pare our first Road-E-O down to one day, offering a portion of the possible events. The competition consists of solid waste industry truck and heavy equipment operators competing in driving tests by operating their vehicle through a maze or obstacle course laid out in accordance with SWANA guidelines. Points are awarded based on the amount of time needed to complete the maze or obstacle course. Points also are deducted for infractions, such as missing part of the course or hitting any of the barriers or cones that make up the course.

Prior to each event, the contestants must take a multiple-choice written exam to test their knowledge on safety and the operation of the vehicle. There is also a pre-test vehicle inspection consisting of a CDL Pre-Trip and an Air Brake Procedure as required by law, for which points are also awarded or deducted.

For drivers, there are two event categories: truck drivers and landfill equipment operators. For truck drivers, the type of equipment typically includes rear loaders,

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automatic/side loaders, front-end loaders, transfer tractor/trailer, and roll-offs. For the landfill operators, the equipment typically includes track machines (loader/dozer), landfill compactors, scrapers (conventional/self loading), and articulated front wheel loaders. A third category is available for mechanics and their competition consists of three parts.

The first part of the competition will consist of a written test with 50 questions. The questions will cover shop safety, power train, brakes, hydraulics, electrical and general knowledge of shop operations. The 50 questions will be selected from a list of over 200 questions, available to all participants ahead of time so they can prepare for the test. Test questions typically consist of a combination of true/false and multiple-choice. The second part includes mechanical skills competition, which consist of a troubleshooting contest. The contestants will be performing actual diagnostic tests on available trucks. In this hands-on event, the contestant will be given a list of vehicle problems and the individual who solves the most problems in the allowed time will be the winner. Finally, the last part will include a CDL Pre-Trip Inspection with Air Brakes Procedure.

Once the competition is complete for all categories, the scoring sheets are tallied and the winners are honored with plaques or trophies awarded to the top three finishers for each equipment type and for the mechanic's performance.

For those of you that have had an opportunity to attend a previous SWANA Road-E-O event, you already know how much fun the competition can be. We are considering other activities that will also be held along with the competition. As the Road-E-O planning committee continues to develop the agenda for the event, more information will be distributed and made available on the Chapter website, so keep your eyes and ears open!

**For more information about SWANA International's Road-E-O visit their website at [www.swana.org/extra/roadeo](http://www.swana.org/extra/roadeo).**

**The official SWANA Road-E-O manual is available at [www.swana.org/pdf/swana\\_pdf\\_332.pdf](http://www.swana.org/pdf/swana_pdf_332.pdf)**



# CALENDAR OF EVENTS

## OCTOBER 28-29, 2009

### **Canadian Waste & Recycling Expo**

*Vancouver, British Columbia*

Canada's ONLY national tradeshow serving the waste, recycling and public works market. Focus areas include collection, hauling, processing and disposal of waste; materials recycling; municipal recycling programs including blue box programs, MRFs, scrap metals, C&D, wood, plastic, paper, auto, tires, fiber and more. Information at <http://www.cwre.ca>.

## FEBRUARY 8-9, 2010

### **Thinking Outside the Blue Box Conference**

*Charlotte, North Carolina*

Explore innovative programs and continue to "Think Outside the Blue Box." Eight technical presentations on the latest trends and innovations; training courses, including Managing MSW Recycling Systems. Held at the Embassy Suites. Learn more at <http://www.thinkingoutsidethebluebox.org>.

## MARCH 8-11, 2010

### **Landfill Gas Symposium**

*San Diego, California*

The leading authority on innovative landfill gas control, management, and utilization practices. More information at <http://lfg.swana.org>.

## APRIL 12-17, 2010

### **Landfill Symposium and Planning & Management Conference**

*Reno, Nevada*

Training sessions featuring peer-reviewed papers, two-day trade show, facility tour, technical sessions. More information at <http://lfpm.swana.org>.

## MAY 5-7, 2010

### **Pacific Northwest Symposium**

*Anchorage, Alaska*

Traditionally the NW Regional Symposium rotates between British Columbia, Washington and Oregon, but for 2010, reset your GPS to Alaska! Yes the Silver Anniversary Symposium moves up to the Land of the Midnight Sun! Watch for details on [www.swana-alaska.org](http://www.swana-alaska.org).



## UPCOMING MEETINGS

**MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 28**

**2:30 PM**

**Monthly member meeting**

*Metro, 600 NE Grand Ave., Portland*

**OCTOBER MEETING**

**Tour and member meeting**

*Location and date to be determined.*



# WHAT'S IN THE NEWS...

## **DEQ RECONVENES GREENHOUSE GAS REPORTING RULES ADVISORY COMMITTEE**

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DEQ has reconvened the advisory committee that helped establish Oregon's greenhouse gas reporting rules in 2008. The committee will develop recommendations on how best to incorporate new reporting requirements and fees authorized by the 2009 Oregon Legislature. The committee will examine reporting requirements for electricity importers, fuel distributors and fees to support the program. Meetings will be open to the public. For more information, please see the news release: <http://www.deq.state.or.us/news/prDisplay.asp?docID=3081>.

## **RESOURCE RECYCLING DEVELOPS DISASTER-RECYCLING GUIDE**

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Materials recovery is generally the last thought on anyone's mind after a natural disaster has occurred. However, having a disaster debris management plan in place can help a community identify options for collecting, recycling and properly disposing of generated debris. Resource Recycling has analyzed a variety of disasters – earthquakes, windstorms, fires and floods – and developed a guide that will help those in the recycling industry prepare for such situations. An advance copy of the article, which appears in the September issue of Resource Recycling, can be found at the following link: <http://tinyurl.com/disasterrecycling>.

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## **NRC MEMBERS REJECT MERGER WITH KAB; BOARD VOTES TO FILE FOR BANKRUPTCY**

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The National Recycling Coalition's Board of Directors voted Sept. 2 to file for Chapter 7 bankruptcy, which would result in a court assuming control of the organization and supervising a plan to liquidate assets to satisfy creditors. Several board members said they hoped NRC members would find some way to revive a similar coalition to keep the message about the benefits of recycling before the public. NRC members recently rejected a proposed merger with Keep America Beautiful (KAB).

## **SEATTLE VOTERS REJECT SHOPPING-BAG CHARGE**

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Seattle voters in August rejected Referendum 1, which would have made Seattle the first city in the nation to have a 20-cent per-bag tax on plastic bags, specifically, on every carryout bag distributed by grocery, drug and convenience stores. The plastic bag tax passed by the Seattle City Council by ordinance was to take effect in January, but opposition forces quickly collected enough signatures to put the issue before voters.

