



# SWANA BEAVER CHAPTER

Fall 2010

# Bulletin

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

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## OREGON DRIVERS MOUNT UP AT INTERNATIONAL ROAD-E-O IN PHOENIX

*By Jan O'Dell*

Five Oregon drivers recently competed in the International Road-E-O competition held at Phoenix Stadium in Glendale, Arizona. Those drivers earned their ticket to the national competition by placing first or second in their truck classification at the Oregon Road-E-O event held in May.

Oregon's International Road-E-O competitors:

- Jeff Alford, Waste Connections, Inc. (front-loader)
- George Gray, Dahl Disposal, (roll-off)
- Scott Nelson, Sanipac/Waste Connections (automatic side-loader)
- Wayne Peterson, Sanipac/Waste Connections (front-loader)
- Jason Thomas, Pride Disposal Co. (roll-off)

The course, stadium, accommodations and the food provided by the Phoenix chapter were all excellent. The competition was fierce. None of Oregon's drivers placed in the top three in their truck categories, but Jason Thomas came close, finishing just five

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points behind the third-place finisher in his category.

"I didn't know what to expect," says Jason. "None of us had any time in the truck before the competition. You had to have your seatbelt on and your windows rolled up." Jason said that the inability of the drivers to lean out their windows made skillful use of the mirrors and good depth perception especially important.

Jason usually drives a tractor/trailer combination. He says he was "talked into" competing in the Oregon event in the roll-off category because "no one else wanted to do it." The Phoenix competition did offer a tractor/trailer competition, and Jason says he would like to compete in that category next time.

George Gray with Dahl Disposal Services also enjoyed competing in Phoenix. He enjoyed meeting other drivers from around the country and hearing about the similarities and differences in their businesses.

Like Jason, George says the fact that none of the drivers were permitted to drive the trucks prior to the competition was challenging. "We were able to walk the course ahead of time, but they didn't let us see or test out the trucks," he says. While the course was very similar to Oregon's, George noted that the alley back-up felt tighter; "but that could've been because of the truck I was driving (a conventional Sterling)," he noted.

"I'm really looking forward to next year's Oregon event," says George. "I've encouraged all my drivers and mechanics to participate. It's a lot of fun."



PHOENIX STADIUM IN GLENDALE, ARIZONA



## **SAVE THE DATE: MAY 14, 2011 OREGON 2ND ANNUAL ROAD-E-O**

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The second annual SWANA Oregon Road-E-O is scheduled for May 14, 2011 (location TBA). Once again, front-line employees in the solid waste management field will be given the chance to demonstrate their skills in a friendly, competitive event.

The competition includes a behind-the-wheel test that requires each driver to maneuver industry-standard roll-off, front-end loading, and automated side-loading vehicles through a preset course. The competition has been designed to challenge the drivers' skills at starting and stopping the vehicle, negotiating the road, and backing up the vehicle while exhibiting general safe driving skills. The board is discussing the possibility of expanding the categories for the Road-E-O in 2011.

If you are interested in helping to plan the event or to help out during the competition, contact Betty Patton at [BPatton@SWANAOregon.org](mailto:BPatton@SWANAOregon.org). Volunteers will earn a reduced registration fee for a driver from their company.

Check the SWANA Oregon website frequently for event details as they are firmed up. [www.SWANAOregon.org](http://www.SWANAOregon.org).



## **TOUR WASTE CONNECTION'S WEST VAN MATERIAL RECOVER FACILITY**

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Join your fellow SWANA Oregon members for a tour of the new West Van MRF in Vancouver, WA. Waste Connections has invested \$4M in new equipment and structure for this facility, resulting in the ability to process 25 million pounds of material per hour. Their new glass crushing and screening system prepares material for aggregate.

Lunch will be provided by our host, Waste Connections.

To attend: RSVP by contacting Betty Patton at 503-230-9513 or BPatton@SWANAOregon.org and bring your own hardhat and safety vest, if you have it.

***Date: September 30***

***Time: 11:30 am***

***Location: 6601 NW Old Lower River Rd., Vancouver, Washington***

***Agenda:***

- ***Lunch at 11:30***
- ***Introduction and presentation at 12:15***
- ***Tour from 12:30 to 1:30***



# THANK YOU AND FAREWELL



## DAVID VONASEK STEPS DOWN AS CHAPTER PRESIDENT

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*David Vonasek recently announced to the SWANA Beaver Chapter Board that he would be stepping down as chapter President. The Board elected Brian May, Landfill Manager at Landfills, Inc. in Corvallis and past Beaver Chapter Vice-President, as the new President.*

### **A few words from your outgoing Chapter President**

“Due to a recent career change, I will be unable to continue the duties as Board President. My new situation may require that I be out of town on a frequent basis. Due to this, I announced to the Board my intention of stepping down as President. I just felt that the Board and Chapter would be best served by having a President that is available whenever needed.

As part of a September 16, 2010 Board meeting, the Board unanimously voted in reigning Chapter Vice-President Brian May to fill my position. I know that Brian is more than able to fill the position as he has been serving as the Chapter Vice-President for the past four years.

I would like to extend a much-appreciated thank you to all of the Board members and Chapter membership. I am extremely grateful for everyone's hard work and support I have received over my term as President. I believe the future of the Oregon Beaver Chapter is in excellent hands and I will continue to support the Board and Brian during this transition.”

*. . . David Vonasek*



# PRESIDENT'S CORNER



## A FEW WORDS FROM YOUR NEW CHAPTER PRESIDENT, BRIAN MAY

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I would like to begin my term by sincerely thanking my predecessor. David Vonasek contributed endlessly to this organization. All of the board thanks him, particularly for his legacy of introducing Oregonians to the Road-E-O. We appreciate his excellent work and hope that other chapters benefit from his knowledge and energy.

The Oregon Beaver Chapter has a full year ahead. We have the opportunity to tour one of our newest material recovery centers in the region on the 30th of this month. We will begin planning the 2011 Road-E-O next month. We will have our annual forum in January of 2011. And we will continue to inform the members of advances in technology as well as legislation that impacts our industry.

I appreciate the opportunity to serve the Chapter as Board President. . . . *Thank you*

***Brian May***

*Landfill Manager*

*Republic Services, Corvallis, Oregon*

***Oregon Beaver Chapter President***



SWANA OREGON BEAVER CHAPTER

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## BEN MASENGIL SCHOLARSHIP AWARD

*This year the Board awarded scholarships to Justin Brown and Josh Gavett.*

SWANA Oregon awards two scholarships every year. One is for a recent high school graduate who is college bound, and the other is for a returning student. All nominees must be children or grandchildren of current SWANA members

### *Justin Brown – returning student*

“It was amazing news when I received notice (of the scholarship), because it allows me to work a little less during the school year and focus more on studies,” says Justin Brown, who will be attending Santa Clara Law School.

Justin grew up on a wheat and cattle farm in Wasco, Oregon that was founded by his great-great grandfather. He attended Sherman County High School where he went to state playoffs in baseball and football. Following high school he attended Pepperdine University and spent four years in sunny Malibu, CA. During his junior year at Pepperdine, Justin spent one semester in Washington D.C. as an investigative intern with the Public Defenders Service. He graduated cum laude with a B.S. in Economics and Political Science. He recently finished his first year of law school at Lewis & Clark Law School in Portland. He decided to transfer to Santa Clara Law School to focus on business law and intellectual property.

Justin’s mother, Cindy Brown, works for Wasco County as the recycling and hazardous waste manager. Here’s what she had to say when she learned that her son had received the award:

“My son Justin was thrilled to hear he had been selected for the SWANA scholarship! Justin has wanted to be a lawyer since he was a junior in high school and attended a law/mock court summer program. He is working his tail off this

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JUSTIN BROWN



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summer...30 hours/week at the PD's (Public Defender's) office, and then 40 hours/week as a customer service/valet/shuttle driver for a motel near the Stanford campus.

So, thanks again for supporting youth in their educational efforts. Receiving a scholarship is both a help financially and an encouragement to a student. It's a 'Keep up the good work!' pat on the back."

### *Josh Gavett – College-bound student*

Joshua Gavett graduated this past June from Tigard High School with a GPA of 3.7. He was the starting Varsity soccer goalkeeper for three years at Tigard High School and made second team all-conference for soccer during both his junior and senior years.

Joshua was also involved with the Young Life Club at Tigard High School and was one of the leaders during his senior year. He counseled at many Beaverton Foursquare Church youth camps, and he also played bass for the Beaverton Foursquare High School worship band for several years.

Joshua will be attending the University of Oregon this fall and will be majoring in Business/Accounting.

"I want to thank you for awarding me the Ben Masengil scholarship for 2010. I cannot tell you how grateful I am that you gave the scholarship to me," wrote Josh in a letter to the board.

"I hope to take the accounting track in the University of Oregon business school and to someday be an accountant. I am tremendously grateful for the scholarship and I will work very hard in my studies at the University of Oregon.



JOSH GAVETT



# CHANGE IN STAFF

Since November of 2007, Jan O'Dell has been responsible for the content of SWANA Oregon Chapter's newsletter. She has decided to pursue other work. This issue is her final one for the organization. I want to take this opportunity to thank her for her contribution to SWANA Oregon. When you look at photos of the symposium, when you read about our scholarship winners, and when you gain industry knowledge from the newsletter, thank Jan.

Environmental Practices will continue as the primary resource contractor for the chapter. We have subcontracted with Green Spectrum Consulting to provide the newsletter content. Kelly Panciera and Amy Roth of Green Spectrum will be working with Betty Patton and Richard Lee-Berman of Environmental Practices to produce the quarterly newsletter. Richard will continue to do the layout and distribution. Feel free to contact any of us if you have comments or suggestions.

*-Betty Patton*



KELLY PANCIERA & AMY ROTH OF GREEN SPECTRUM



# CALENDAR OF EVENTS

## SEPTEMBER 29-30, 2010

### E-Scrap Conference

New Orleans, Louisiana

Information at [www.e-scrapconference.com](http://www.e-scrapconference.com).

## SEPTEMBER 30, 2010

### West Van MRF tour

Vancouver, Washington

See details on page 3.

## OCTOBER 18-20, 2010

### BioCycle Conference on Renewable Energy from Organics Recycling

Des Moines, Iowa

Information at [www.jgpress.com/biocycleenergy/index.html](http://www.jgpress.com/biocycleenergy/index.html).

## MARCH 21-24, 2011

### SWANA 34th Annual Landfill Gas Symposium

Dallas, Texas

More information at [lfg.swana.org](http://lfg.swana.org).

### SWANA Online Courses

All sessions start at 1:45 ET and last about 75 minutes

- **September 29, 2010:** Planning and implementing an Energy from Waste facility in the 21st Century
- **October 13, 2010:** The state of the Recycling Industry since the Economic Downturn
- **October 20, 2010:** Introduction to Developing Waste Conversion Projects: Using Public-Private Partnerships to Allocate Risks and Benefits
- **October 27, 2010:** City of Hamilton, ON Solid Waste Management Master Plan

## CALL FOR PAPERS WASTECON 2011

The WASTECON 2011 call for papers is now open. The 2011 conference will highlight the innovations and improvements that have significantly strengthened the practice of solid waste management in the 21st century. Abstracts or panel discussion proposals on the following topics are welcome:

- Waste reduction and reuse activities
- Transfer stations: design and operations
- Emissions offset programs and trading
- Clean development mechanism projects
- Landfill gas recovery and utilization
- Waste-to-energy
- Waste conversion technologies
- Recycling/composting programs
- Alternative fuel vehicles and technology
- Contracting and procurement
- Sustainable operations
- Special waste management
- Health and safety
- Climate action issues
- Renewable energy credits
- LFG to vehicle fuels
- Making a difference in social media
- Communication techniques to get your message out.

The deadline for submitting an abstract is October 15, 2010. To submit an abstract, go to SWANA's website, <http://wastecon.swana.org>.

