

Awards Committee Announces 2009 Award Winners

The New England Water Environment Association (**NEWEA**), through its Awards Committee, has completed the year long process of nomination, selection and promotion of the 2009 slate of awards recipients. In all, sixty (60) individual recipients will be recognized by the Water Environment Federation (**WEF**) and NEWEA during the **Annual Conference Awards Program** in Boston at the Marriot Copley Place Hotel, on January 27, 2010.

These Awards recognize “the best of the best” of water quality professionals from within the 2,000 member NEWEA organization, plus additional “stars” from the Public Education, Journalism, Educational Institution, and Municipal Utility/Public Works community. The recipients are from all New England states. For 2009, a new award recognizing the contributions of an Outstanding Young Professional will be added to the Awards program.

As always, the Awards Program will include outstanding performance awards given by the US EPA New England Region to eleven (11) recipients, and WEF will recognize twelve (12) New England operators who have achieved 25 years of continuous operation. This year those Quarter Century Operators Club membership are awarded to: **Steven Brown**, Billerica MA; **Donald Chappell**, South Deerfield MA; **Kevin Cini**, City of Groton CT; **James Clifton**, Simsbury CT; **James Geremia P.E.** Providence RI; **Vernon “Chris” Hipkiss**, Pittsfield NH; **Lorraine Sander**, Billerica MA; **Thomas White**, City of E. Providence RI; **George Gullage**, Billerica MA; **Bernie Fleury**, Essex Jct. VT; **Al Jellison**, City of Bangor ME; and **Michael Grove**, Augusta Sanitary District, Augusta ME.

WEF and NEWEA will also recognize the **Seacoast Sewer Snakes** Operation Challenge team from New Hampshire, who won and placed 3rd in the New England and National Operations Challenge competition respectively.

The **WEF Member Association Awards** to be given at the NEWEA Awards Program are:

❖ **George W. Burke Jr. Award – Narragansett Bay Commission, Providence, RI
– Raymond Marshall, Executive Director**

This prestigious safety award is given to the NBC for their continued reduction of reportable cases and days lost by 56% and 80% respectively. They received the A. Joseph Mattera Safety Award from the Narragansett WPCA. James McCaughey P.E., David Aucion, and John Bissonette have lead their safety team.

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❖ **Laboratory Analyst Excellence Award – Robert Fischer, Montpelier, VT**

Bob Fischer’s credentials and 20 year experience profile have made him a dedicated analyst in the proper and adequate analysis and testing of micro-biological, aquatic, and wastewater monitoring of integrated treatment systems

for water quality improvement. He is actively involved in both the state and New England WEA's as a Director, Officer, and Technical Committee Chair. He has been previously awarded the Green Mountain WEA - Andrew D. Fish Laboratory Excellence Award, and is a member of the NEWEA Crystal Crucible Society.

- ❖ **William D. Hatfield Award – Richard I. Persson, Windsor Locks, CT**
As a Chief operator, Rich Persson has made significant contributions to the Town of Windsor Locks and the operations profession. Under his leadership the plant staff has completed proactive improvements necessary to continuously upgrade the collection system and treatment facility assets of Windsor Locks. He has also injected enthusiasm into plant staff and fostered the teamwork ethic necessary for success in operations and maintenance activities.

- ❖ **Arthur Sydney Bedell Award – Janice E. Moran, NEWEA Information/ Education Program Coordinator**
Janice is extremely dedicated to the success of the many programs in a growing and professionally expanding organization. She displays a high level of Organizational Leadership, Administrative Service and stimulation of Technical Functions. She has been instrumental in the development of NEWEA's new website, and worked to adapt the site to assist with NEWEA's administrative operations. Throughout her many job assignments; she has displayed passion, organization, creativity, and energy to the benefit of the Association.

- ❖ **WEF Service Award – Charles W. Tyler, MWRA, Winthrop, MA**
Following his many years of service and leadership to NEWEA, Charles Tyler has now retired from three (3) years service in the WEF House of Delegates. This Award is in recognition of his outstanding service to the Water Environment Federation.

- ❖ **WEF Honorary Life Membership**
Honorary membership has been bestowed upon the following three (3) WEF/NEWEA members who have proven their preeminence in the fields of activity encompassed by Federation Objectives:

Edward L. Rushbrook Jr., Northfield, NH
Hubert Spurway, Norwell, MA
Albert Pincince, CDM, Cambridge, MA

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The **NEWEA Awards** given to recipients at the Annual Awards Luncheon are as follows;

- ❖ **Alfred E. Peloquin Award**

Each year NEWEA affiliated State Associations select deserving individual nominees for this Award given in recognition for the late Alfred E. Peloquin, Past Executive Director of NEWEA. The 2009 Awardees are:

Connecticut	Curley Richard , Hartford MDC (Retired)
Maine	James A. Fitch , Woodard & Curran, Portland
Massachusetts	Thomas Azevedo , Fall River
New Hampshire	David Mercier , Underwood Eng., Concord
Rhode Island	Scott Goodinson , Veolia Water N.A., Cranston
Vermont	Steve Roy , Burlington

❖ **Operator Award**

The ASA's also select individual candidates for the annual Operator Award, given in recognition of personal service to the State Association, and who have made contributions to excellence in plant operations either individually or through service to operations personnel. These Awardees are:

Connecticut	Hector Ruiz , Hartford MDC, Hartford
Maine	Mary Anne Peck , Biddeford
Massachusetts	Pete Bernard , Woodard & Curran, Fall River
New Hampshire	Kevin MacLean , Hanover
Rhode Island	Michael Hodde , Veolia Water N.A., Smithfield
Vermont	Harry Benner , Windsor

❖ **Operator Safety Award – Patrick Doyle, Warwick Sewer Authority, Warwick, RI**

This years Award for outstanding safety initiative in working for safety in the workplace goes to a deserving safety coordinator in a large wastewater collection and treatment system. As Assistant Superintendent, Patrick has a voluminous job of supervision and management of the entire system including the safety program and training for employees. He takes his job very seriously which has directly resulted in WSA having no “loss time” injuries in 2008.

❖ **Public Educator Award – Joseph Alosso, Kathleen Hayne Smith, Gale E. Meister, Edgartown, MA**

This unusual combination of wastewater system management and grade school teachers has demonstrated an excellent example of a Town official and educators partnering to recognize 6th grade students for their efforts in promoting water quality awareness and understanding of water quality issues beyond the classroom and throughout the Town. The success of the educational programs these three collaborators have accomplished is a model to the water environment profession.

❖ **Paul Keough Award – Jack Maley, Southborough, MA**

This Award is given to a worthy individual recognized for leadership in efforts to communicate to the public the need to protect the water environment. Mr. Maley demonstrated that in one of the most effective ways possible – through photo journalism. Now retired after many years as the Associations photographer, Jack has documented hundreds of milestone events, important meetings and presentations, and has helped NEWEA grow to its present status in the environmental community. No finer gentleman has ever embodied our ranks!

❖ **Young Professional Award – Deborah Mahoney, AECOM, Concord, MA**

This new Award is given to an outstanding young professional in recognition of contributions to the wastewater industry and NEWEA. Deb Mahoney is the epitome of that recognition. She began her service to NEWEA right out of college with the Student Activities Program, was a founding member of the Young Professionals Committee, and now serves as the Associations Secretary. All of this while carrying on an active engineering career and being a mom!

❖ **J.J. Courchaine Collection Systems Award – Richard Salisbury, Veolia Water N.A., Cranston, RI**

Richard is the Chief Collections Systems Operator for the Veolia Water North America team who maintain the City of Cranston's Collection System. For 33 years Richard has been instrumental in day to day operations of water and wastewater infrastructure maintenance and management for the City. He holds six (6) active operations and inspection licenses in CT. and RI. And is a member of six (6) related professional associations. He has been one to take initiative to find ways of doing things more efficiently and displays an endless quality of unselfishness to assist other City Departments with their operation and maintenance needs.

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❖ **Founders Award – Connecticut Nitrogen Trading Program, CT DEP
Paul E. Stacey, Director**

The Founders Award is given, among other reasons, to recognize “notable achievements or accomplishments in the environmental field”. Connecticut’s innovative Nitrogen Credit Trading Program represents such an achievement. This groundbreaking trading approach to managing nitrogen discharges from the State’s wastewater treatment plants has led to a significant reduction in nitrogen loading to the Long Island Sound, improving water quality in this important regional resource. The Connecticut DEP, Bureau of Water Protection and Land Reuse along with the ten (10) member Nitrogen Credit Advisory Board have managed the success and maintained the integrity of this important program.

❖ **E. Sherman Chase Award – Thomas K. Walsh, Upper Blackstone Water Pollution Abatement District, Millbury, MA**

Tom Walsh has been a long time member and supporter of NEWEA as an engineering consultant and now as the Engineering Director and Treasurer of one of the largest sewer districts in central Massachusetts. He is a founding member of the Massachusetts Coalition for Water Resources Stewardship, where he utilizes his passion for effective wastewater treatment. Tom is both an advocate for cost effective and responsible regulations and an environmentalist. He continually promotes collaboration between wastewater managers and watershed groups for the purpose of working together toward a common goal.

❖ **Clair N. Sawyer Award – Terrance Campbell, Weston & Sampson, Portsmouth, NH**

Few recipients of a prestigious Award like this one can tout the fact that they were taught by and had professional association with the founder, but Terry can! Even though Terry has occupied much of his four decade engineering career in Business Development for several consulting firms and a Fortune 500 Industrial company, he has contributed too many technical aspects of the Water Environment. His many contributions to NEWEA include past chair of the Program Committee and Industrial Waste Committee and Charter Member of the NE Chapter “5 S” Society. He is currently the NEIWPCC non-agency Commissioner from Maine.

❖ **Wastewater Utility Award – The Mattabassett District Regional Sewer Authority, Cromwell, CT.
Brian W. Armet, Executive Director**

This comprehensive Award recognizes this large Connecticut based Wastewater Utility for outstanding performance and management based on a seventeen (17) point nomination criteria review. The Mattabassett District had positive ratings on all seventeen points including progress on short and long term strategic goals, along with demonstrated Operational and Performance Excellence.

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❖ **Asset Management Excellence Award – Framingham, MA –**

**Department of Public Works,
Peter Sellers, Executive Director**

With the mission statement to “Utilize Asset Management to Advance a Town’s Preparedness and Capitol Plan”, this recipient set about demonstrating initiative and leadership in the area of asset management. Under the leadership of Executive Director Sellers and his team, Public Works is today one of the most responsible, proactive, information-driven organizations of its kind in the nation, thanks to its deployment of Asset Management. The Town DPW was recognized in 2007 with the Excellence in Engineering Award for its “creation of an Innovative Infrastructure Management System”

- ❖ **Past President Plaque and Pin – Robert Cutone, CDM, Manchester, NH**
This is given in recognition of Bob’s multi-year service and leadership to NEWEA, and his role in keeping it the premier WEF Member Association that it is!

The Awards Committee also wants to recognize the following academic students who received scholarship assistance from NEWEA and who participated in the Stockholm Junior Water Prize Competition:

- ❖ **Scholarship Recipients – Yogesh Sharma – Graduate Program
- Trevor Cone – Undergraduate Program**

- ❖ **Stockholm Junior Water Prize Winners**

Morgan Bartz – Bethel High School, Bethel, CT

Anne Marie Lausier – Bangor High School, Bangor, ME

Nadya Shlykova – Westfield High School, Westfield, MA

Stephanie Chang – South Burlington High School, South Burlington, VT

Emily Papazian – LaSalle Academy, Providence, RI