



NJEHA *News*

A Publication of the New Jersey Environmental Health Association
An affiliate of the National Environmental Health Association

Summer 2011

President's Message

Aimee Puluso-DeLotto, NJEHA President

Comradery, knowledge and a renewed sense of purpose: all of this and more was found at the 2011 NEHA Annual Educational Conference and Exhibition held in Columbus, Ohio. In addition to the seminars on a wide variety of topics, given by national experts from government, academia, and the private sector, there were also business meetings for affiliate representatives to attend, as well as special events such as the Keynote presentation and the President's Banquet.

As NJEHA representative, I attended the Affiliate President's Meeting, the Regional Caucus Meeting, and the Affiliate Focus Group Meeting. During the Affiliate President's Meeting, Presidents (or their designated representatives) from NEHA affiliates throughout the nation met to discuss how current public health issues in their states are affecting their associations and members. I also met with Presidents from the Mid-Atlantic and Northeast during the Regional Caucus Meeting, where we shared association experiences and issues unique to our regions.

Finally, I attended the Affiliate Focus Group, where each President brought inspirational public health stories from their state. NEHA has concluded that people are more likely to connect with and remember stories than statistics. They feel that stories are a better vehicle than traditional marketing to enhance the support that we get from politicians and policy-makers. This is an interesting new approach, and I look forward to seeing the results. The focus group was very impressed by the two stories from New Jersey, submitted by NJEHA member Frank Terranova, and NJEHA Executive Council Member-at-Large Virginia Wheatley. These two stories are available for your reading pleasure on our website at www.njeha.org, and we welcome you to submit your own inspirational public health stories to info@njeha.org.

As interesting and informative as the educational sessions and business meetings were, perhaps the most valuable and memorable experience was meeting with dedicated public health professionals from around the nation. Public health can feel like an underappreciated profession during the best of times, and especially now in this difficult economic climate. It can be easy to become discouraged in the face of a steady stream of underfunded or completely unfunded mandates, a lack of support of public health from policy makers, and a blistering hostility to public workers in general from our state and local governments, not to mention layoffs, furloughs, hiring freezes, wage reductions, and increased deductions from our paychecks to fund pension and healthcare. Sharing common experiences, triumphs, and challenges with so many fellow professionals who were clearly passionate about public health, I came away from the NEHA conference re-energized and refocused. If you have never attended the NEHA conference, or it has been a while, I encourage you to do so at your next opportunity.

Wishing you all a happy and healthy summer,

Aimee Puluso-DeLotto

NJEHA Officers

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News articles and letters are always welcomed.

Consumer Product Safety Commission Announces Recall of Pool Drain Covers

Local Health Departments should be aware that on May 26, the U.S. Consumer Product Safety Commission (CPSC) announced a voluntary recall of approximately one million anti-entrapment drain covers. The recalled drain covers were rated with improper flow rates and were unable to meet the rated value stamped on the drains. All pool owners/operators and consumers who own pools should contact the manufacturer of the drain cover to receive a replacement or retrofit. All public shallow pools (i.e., wading pools, hot tub/spas) are required to take immediate action if they have not done so already.

The New Jersey Department of Health and Senior Services (NJDHSS) urges all owners of a residential (non-public) pool to review the recommendations of the CPSC. The recommendations are available on the Association of Pool and Spa Professionals (APSP) FAQ sheet at: <http://www.apsp.org/Public/Safety/DrainCoverRecall/ConsumerFAQs/index.cfm>.

The NJDHSS is providing the following action guidelines to all local health authorities (LHA):

- LHAs should send a letter to all public pools under their jurisdiction advising them of the voluntary recall <http://www.cpsc.gov/cpsc/pub/prerel/prhtml11/11230.html> with guidance on actions needed and who is exempt from compliance.
- Include a copy of form CB-20 "Certification for the Replacement of Main Drain Covers in Pool/Spa. <http://web.doh.state.nj.us/apps2/forms/subforms.aspx?pro=eoh/phss> AND
- Inform each facility that they need to complete the form or a photo copy of the form they already submitted to their LHA, highlighting the make and model number and whether it is on the recall list or not; the form must be signed and dated.
- Each facility should submit the CB-20 back to the LHA specifying action taken if necessary.
- Wading Pools and hot tubs/spas are the highest priority and immediate action shall be taken to protect the public.
- The LHA will then provide an electronic list of all their pools and actions taken to the NJDHSS, Public Health Sanitation and Safety Program Supervisor at loel.muetter@doh.state.nj.us.

It is also suggested that LHAs hand deliver the recall notice to all public pools under their jurisdiction. Also, it is useful for inspectors to stress that the size, make, and model is needed to determine the recall status on the form CB-20. Other information can be obtained at a later date.

The CPSC has provided important recall information which is available on the APSP FAQ sheet for health professionals at: <http://www.apsp.org/Public/Safety/DrainCoverRecall/ProfessionalFAQs/index.cfm#3>.

This FAQ sheet has additional information on pools and spas that are not subject to the recall:

- If the drain covers were installed before December 19, 2008, or are part of a hydraulically balanced multiple drain system (at least three feet apart, center to center) or have a gravity based system, then replacement is not required
- Pools or spas with unblockable drains that have been rated and listed by the manufacturer as unblockable and include long "channel drains" 3" x 31" or larger and other large drains, typically 24" x 24" or larger
- Swimming pools (not wading pools or in-ground spas) that have a multiple main drain system or a gravity drainage system are exempt from this recall.

The following is a current list of the manufacturers of the recalled drain covers:

A&A Manufacturing, Phoenix, AZ; AquaStar Pool Products Inc., San Diego, CA; Color Match Pool Fittings, Surprise, AZ; Custom Molded Products, Tyrone, GA; Hayward Pool Products, Elizabeth, NJ; Lawson Aquatics, Naples, FL; Paramount Pool & Spa Systems, Chandler, AZ; Pentair Water Pool and Spa, Sanford, NC; Rising Dragon USA, E. Sweetwater, TN; and Waterway Plastics, Oxnard, CA.

Any further questions should be directed to Loel Muetter, NJDHSS, at (609)826-4941 or loel.muetter@doh.state.nj.us.

Loel Muetter
Environmental Scientist 1
NJDHSS

Contributor: Doug Sheehan
Supervising Chief REHS
Middlesex County Public Health Department

Spotlight on a Member

Although Alice Cadotte has been a member of the New Jersey environmental health workforce since 1987, she is a recent addition to the NJEHA Executive Committee. While attending the Annual Educational Conference in March 2010 and volunteering to assist committee members at a few functions, she was presented with the opportunity to run for a vacant Member-At-Large position.

Alice graduated from Lehigh University with a Bachelor’s Degree in Biology and was hired as an Environmental Specialist by the Monmouth County Health Department (MCHD). She attended the Environment and Public Health Course at Rutgers University in the summer of 1987, then received her Sanitary Inspector license the following November. Since then, she has worked her way up through the ranks at MCHD holding the titles of Senior Sanitary Inspector, Principal Sanitary Inspector, and is now currently the Chief Registered Environmental Health Specialist overseeing the daily workload of 12 inspectors.

The first fourteen years of Alice’s career were spent primarily in the field performing inspections and obtaining experience in many areas including septic, wells, rabies, retail food, public recreational bathing, and environmental complaints. She completed the EPA 40-Hour Hazardous Materials Response Training and received a specialized training Certificate in Occupational Health. After moving into a more Supervisory position in 2001, Alice became more involved in public health planning and response. In the aftermath of September 11th and Anthrax, the Monmouth County Health Department developed a dedicated Public Health Response Team. Alice was designated as Team Leader and was responsible for plan development, staff training, and supply/equipment management. It was through this assignment that she attended the National Disaster Medical System training conferences where she realized the tremendous benefits a well-organized and informative conference can bring to inspectors.

Since joining the NJEHA Committee in the summer of 2010, Alice has been focusing her energy on the Annual Educational Conference, primarily obtaining and scheduling the presenters. She is already busy looking forward to next year’s Conference with the hope that it will be even more successful than the last!

**NJEHA Financial Report
for First Quarter 2011**

Business Checking Account

Starting Balance: \$ 28,133.59
 Plus Total Credits: \$ 40,038.43
 Minus Total Debits: \$ 12,670.68
 Ending Balance: \$ 55,501.34

Gary S. Strauss Scholarship Fund

Starting Balance: \$ 8,565.42
 Plus Total Credits: \$ 1,701.08
 Minus Total Debits: \$ 4.00
 Ending Balance: \$ 10,262.50

Matthew S. Klein Scholarship Fund

Starting Balance: \$ 5,869.16
 Plus Total Credits: \$.14
 Minus Total Debits: \$ 0.00
 Ending Balance: \$ 5,869.30

Online Membership Renewals and Payments

NJEHA is officially up and running with our new online membership renewal and payment process on our website!

You can now go to: <http://www.njeha.org/membership.html> to renew or join as a new member by submitting the online form and then securely being connected to the PayPal website to make payment via credit or debit cards.

NJEHA is now on Face book and Twitter!

Please see our new Face book page, and also follow us on Twitter for all the latest NJEHA updates!



The Role of an REHS in This Era – A New Way of Thinking

Sixteen years ago, I graduated from college and started working as a Health Educator at the Paterson Health Department. I looked as young as they come. My first real assignment was to give a presentation on puberty to fifth graders. As the students watched the video on puberty, I wrote questions on the chalkboard. The substitute teacher walked into the class and started yelling at the top of her lungs “SIT DOWN, STOP WRITING ON THE BOARD!” I looked around the class and saw that I was the only person standing and writing on the board. She yelled again, “SIT DOWN!” I looked at my colleague, mortified, and asked, “is she talking to me?” The students were laughing so hard, they nearly fell off their chairs. I turned around and showed my work ID to the substitute teacher. She was so embarrassed, and left the class abruptly. I had to use that moment to **teach** the students how everyone goes through puberty at a different pace.

I have had my share of budget cuts and that’s how I ended up in Environmental Health. With layoffs and furloughs, we are compelled to be cross-trained in other fields. The old days when the Sanitary Inspector only inspected food and investigated nuisances are long gone. I realize now more than ever that being an REHS means multi-tasking and holding many certifications/licenses in an array of different environmental health fields, as well as being a conflict resolver and sometimes a therapist. You have to be open minded! The common theme I hear is that being an REHS provides a venue for you to not only enforce sanitary codes, but to **TEACH**. We see this by the various topics offered at NJEHA conferences. (LOVE THOSE TOPICS!) We should strive every day to learn and to teach because if we don’t and we remain stagnant, we miss opportunities.

As a supervisor, I receive complaints from citizens such as, “your inspector was rude”, “your inspector asked me to leave the event yet I am trying to make a decent living”, “they threatened to take me to court”, or “those laws are meaningless.” What we do has a profound impact on public health, but people that are not in this field don’t grasp the whole intricate concept unless we teach them and show the connection.

I realized that the regular person does not make a connection between everyday stuff and public health, or how certain issues pose a public health hazard. They don’t see the risk of preparing meals in their homes or in an unapproved facility. They don’t understand the concept of cross-contamination or improper temperatures and how these would create a foodborne outbreak. I am always going into Health Educator mode. I tell my staff to remember the purpose of our laws and to teach them why they are asking them to do what they need to do. I am always reminding them not to be the food police. People are more open to understanding the laws if we teach the purpose of them. People will always remember how you made them feel especially if you take the time to explain.

My staff complains that they are underpaid and unappreciated, and that they are already doing more with less. Unfortunately, this is the new trend. It’s hard to survive in this economy, especially if they are not useful in many ways. Many employers are letting go of the employee that doesn’t have much to offer, the person doing the least who impacts the job less. It’s not just retail food and pools, it’s much more (lead, asbestos, indoor air, etc.). Think about it – if you were given more money would you still have more time to do more than what you do? So is money what drives you to do more and continue doing your very best? Public health is not about the money, it is all about making an impact. Look for ways to motivate yourself and find activities to broaden your vision. Finally, always seize the opportunity to teach with a purpose! Thanks NJEHA for the scholarship to attend the 2011 conference and provide me with the opportunity to bring vital information back to my staff who could not attend due to the economy.

Violeta Good, Chief REHS
Paterson Division of Health

New Jersey State Legislature First in U.S. to Ban Dangerous Gas Drilling Technique (Fracking)

TRENTON, N.J. - June 30 - NJ's state legislature became the first to pass a bill to enforce a statewide ban on a controversial gas drilling technique known as fracking. The legislature was unanimously in favor of the bill, which passed the state Senate 32-1 and the Assembly 56-11. "Today, NJ sent a strong message to surrounding states and to the nation that a ban on fracking is necessary to protect public health and preserve our natural resources," said Senator Bob Gordon (D-Bergen). "Any benefits of gas production simply do not justify the many potential dangers associated with fracking such as pollution of our lakes, streams and drinking water supplies, and the release of airborne pollutants. We should not wait until our natural resources are threatened or destroyed to act. The time to ban fracking in NJ is now."

Fracking involves injecting water, sand, and toxic chemicals deep underground to break up dense rock formations and release natural gas. Opponents of fracking cite the high potential for water and air pollution as a leading reason to ban the practice. Over 1,000 cases of water contamination have been reported near sites. Public opposition to fracking has escalated in recent months, with concerned residents and environmental and consumer advocacy groups campaigning against the practice in NJ and surrounding states. "Fracking is a manmade disruption to the environment, many times on large-scale proportions," said Assemblywoman Connie Wagner (D-Bergen). "We've already seen a number of eco-casualties from this practice in surrounding states. It would be irresponsible to leave the door open for this practice to be pursued in NJ."

"The NJ Legislature is taking the pro-active step of preventing contamination of our drinking water and environment, the only sure way to protect our residents from fracking pollution. This is a great day for the state's present and future generations," said Tracy Carluccio, Deputy Director of the Delaware Riverkeeper Network.

According to Food & Water, at least 61 localities across the U.S. have passed measures against fracking. On June 16, the Trenton City Council passed a resolution calling for a statewide ban, and earlier this year, Highland Park became the first town in the country to call for a state and national ban on fracking.

"Governor Chris Christie's signature is all that is necessary now for this critical and timely statewide ban to go into effect," said Jim Walsh, Eastern Region Director of the consumer advocacy group Food & Water Watch. "If he approves it, NJ will be the first state to stand up against the devastating environmental and public health impacts of fracking, which have wreaked havoc on other states across the U.S."

Complications from exposure to fracking range from headaches and blackouts, noxious odors in the air, and sudden blindness and hair loss among livestock. A Cornell University study found that the process of fracking also releases methane, which according to the EPA, is 21 times more damaging greenhouse gas than carbon dioxide. Similarly, a study released by researchers at Duke University found methane levels in shallow drinking water wells near active gas drilling sites at a level 17 times higher than those near inactive ones.

The U.S. House and Energy Commerce Committee determined that 14 oil companies had injected 780 million gallons of fracking chemicals and other substances into U.S. wells between 2005 and 2009. This included 10.2 million gallons of fluids containing known or suspected carcinogens. The companies, however, are not required to disclose the chemicals in fracking fluid, which they claim should be protected as a "trade secret." They are also exempt from seven major federal environmental laws, including the Clean Water Act. Scientists at the Endocrine Disruption Exchange who tested fracking fluids found that 25 percent can cause cancer; 37 percent can disrupt the endocrine system; and 40 to 50 percent can affect the nervous, immune and cardiovascular systems.

Food & Water Watch recently released the report, "The Case for a Ban on Fracking." The report reveals how the natural gas industry's use of water-intensive, toxic, unregulated practices for natural gas extraction are compromising public health and polluting water resources across the country. The report is available here: <http://www.foodandwaterwatch.org/reports/the-case-for-a-ban-on-gas-fracking>. A map of municipalities that have taken action against fracking is available here: <http://www.foodandwaterwatch.org/water/fracking/fracking-action-center/map/>

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Food & Water Watch is a nonprofit consumer organization that works to ensure clean water and safe food.

*The Union County Health Officers Association
Presents*

Lead Inspector & Risk Assessor 8-hour Refresher Course

On Thursday September 8, 2011 (8:30 AM – 5:30 PM)

Location: Township of Cranford Community Center 220 Walnut Avenue Cranford, NJ 07016

This course is offered to licensed Public Health Officials only.

3 CEU's will be earned by attending this course.

Pre-registration is required, no walk-ins will be accepted. Space is limited! Registration must be received before September 1, 2011. Payment or Purchase Order must be received prior to start of class. Please complete the registration form below, and return via fax or mail to:

Union County Health Officers Association
P.O. Box 133
Kenilworth, NJ 07033
908 820 4018

UCHOA or NJEHA members.....\$120.00
Non-members.....\$170.00
(Lunch and materials are included).

Name: _____ Title: _____

Affiliation: _____

Phone: _____ Fax: _____ Lead License ID #: _____

I am currently a member of UCHOA and/or NJEHA: Yes ___ No ___

Form of Payment: Voucher/P.O. ___ Check ___

Book Review:

“New Guinea Tapeworms and Jewish Grandmothers: Tales of Parasites and People”

I met a LINC'S Coordinator a few days ago who told me that her family immigrated to Minnesota from Scandinavia during the nineteenth century. She moved to New Jersey a few years ago. Her family history reminded me of a short story that I read in a book called, “New Guinea Tapeworms and Jewish Grandmothers,” from one of my favorite authors, Robert Desowitz.

The short story is an epidemiology mystery story: How do elderly Jewish women in New York City acquire a forty-foot tapeworm in their digestive tract that is of Nordic origins? The account is masterfully written and parallels another parasitic mystery epidemic that takes place in a remote tribe in New Guinea. On top of these two amazingly bizarre accounts of disease epidemiology, Robert Desowitz teaches an Aesop-like lesson about how our own innate pride damages our public health perspective.

The short story is only eight pages long, and you may be able to read it directly online. All the short stories in the book are well written, entertaining, and will make you smarter.

Happy Reading,
Jim Fedorko

2011 NJEHA Membership Application

PLEASE PRINT CLEARLY

Name: _____

Title: _____

REHS License/Registration #: B - _____ Health Officer License/Registration #: A - _____

Agency: _____

Telephone: _____ Fax: _____

E-mail Address: _____

*PLEASE NOTE: e-mail address is now required.

I would like to receive the NJEHA Newsletter by: _____mail _____email (please choose one)

Mailing Address (Address at which you wish to receive NJEHA mailings)

Directory Address (Address to be included in NJEHA Membership Directory)

NEW MEMBERSHIP: _____ **or** **RENEWAL MEMBERSHIP:** _____

Please note: Memberships are valid January 1 through December 31 of each year.

Renewals must be received by December 31 of each year to avoid a lapse in membership benefits.

TYPE OF MEMBERSHIP:

Active: \$50.00 _____ **Life:** \$1000.00 _____ Year Paid: _____ (one-time only fee)

Student: \$10.00 _____ (written proof of full time matriculation must be submitted with application)

Retired: Waived _____ **Life (Past President):** Waived _____

Please complete this application in its entirety, and return it to NJEHA with check or government purchase order made payable to "NJ Environmental Health Association" to:

NJEHA, One Dag Hammarskjold Blvd, Suite 6, Freehold NJ 07728

Confirmation of membership will be sent via email.

NJEHA News
One Dag Hammarskjold Blvd, Suite 6
Freehold, NJ 07728

NJEHA 2011 Conference Presentations Available

By popular request of our members, a complete listing of all available presentations from the NJEHA 2011 Annual Educational Conference and Exhibition are now available on our website at www.njeha.org on our Post-Conference Information page. Please note that not all presentations are available, only those that we were granted permission by the speaker to post. Should you have any questions, please email us at info@njeha.org.