

VEHA Bulletin-Spring 2016



Message from the President - Reed Cranford



In last year's Spring Bulletin I wrote about one of my favorite warm weather activities, fishing Virginia's National Forest and Parks for Virginia's only native trout, the Southern Brook trout. Many people think of flowers and green grass when the season of spring nears. The image above pops up in my mind when I think of spring even though the picture does not do justice to the true colors.

The weather this winter has been a little on the crazy side; from a 70 degree Christmas, two feet of snow in January, and thunderstorms with a chance of tornados in February. It really has been like a box of chocolates, never knowing what you're going to get. Today it is 60 degrees, and spring is on my mind. The picture above was taken from one of those 70 degree days in December.

We have had some transitions in the VEHA Board this past fall. I would like to introduce our new members:

Ken Hearst (Blue Ridge Delegate),
Adam Feris (Tidewater Delegate),
and Jessica Stewart,
(Southwest Delegate).

I would like to welcome back to the board Amy Pemberton (Capitol Delegate), and

Brock Malcom (Southern Delegate) who have returned to the board after a year off. A full listing of board members can be found at www.virginiaeha.org.

Your board members have been diligently planning for the Spring Workshops. On Friday, April 8 we are having our Spring Educational Conference at The Virginia Institute for Marine Science. This is a great opportunity to obtain continuing education hours and to network with peers. Planning is almost complete for our Spring Onsite Field Day as well. More information about both of these events can be found in the following pages.

The VEHA Board is working hard to serve our members. Feel free to contact me or any of the board members with suggestions on how we can better serve you. The board member's emails can be found on our website, www.virginiaeha.org. To e-mail an individual member, click on the boardroom and select their name. There is also a tab to email the whole board at the top of the page. Additionally, you can renew your membership online on the membership page. The website is a great resource for keeping up with events and opportunities that VEHA offers!

I look forward to seeing everyone on April 8 and Happy Spring!

Respectfully,

Reed Cranford, VEHA President

Certification Opportunities, Scholarships & Awards

VP of Professional Advancement -Sandy Stoneman

Certification Opportunities: VEHA will continue to encourage professional advancement for anyone in the environmental health field by sponsoring an exam proctor opportunity for the REHS and CP-FS certifications. VEHA members who apply and attend this credential exam proctor will save the \$100.00 proctor fee. The date and location of the exam proctor will be announced soon. It is the board's hope that these certification opportunities, along with the new VDH EH Occupational Career Plan that offers both certification and renewal bonuses to qualified EH employees, will encourage and enable more of us to acquire these prestigious, nationally recognized certifications. More information on the VDH EH Occupational Career Plan and study resources can be found at VEHA's website, www.virginiaeha.org, on the Educational Sessions & Professional Advancement page.

VEHA Educational Scholarship: Each spring VEHA solicits undergraduate and graduate students in the Environmental Health field of study to submit their applications for the annual VEHA Educational Scholarship. This scholarship is currently funded at \$500.00 and is awarded to the most qualified applicant(s) at the Spring Educational Conference. Application deadline is March 30, 2016. To apply, visit VEHA's Scholarships-Awards page, www.virginiaeha.org/scholarshipsawards.

Congratulations to **Nick Sink** and **Abigail Tompkins**, VEHA's student scholarship award winners for 2015! Mr. Sink is a recent graduate with honors from the Southwest Virginia's Governor's School and began his undergraduate studies in environmental science at Ferrum College last fall. Ms. Tompkins is a recent graduate from Western Carolina with a degree in environmental health and plans to attend graduate school in the fall to pursue a master's degree in environmental and occupational health.

Certificates of Merit: Every NEHA state affiliate is invited to designate an individual and/or a team of its members to receive a Certificate of Merit, thereby nationally recognizing one of their own for outstanding contributions to the profession of environmental health. Recipients are recognized during NEHA's Annual Education Conference awards program and in the Journal of Environmental Health. This is an opportunity for special recognition of one of our own members in front of a national audience. **Nominations must be received by May 1, 2016.** To apply, visit VEHA's Scholarships-Awards page, www.virginiaeha.org/scholarshipsawards.

Congratulations to VEHA's 2015 Certificate of Merit recipient: **BEACH Monitoring Team, Peninsula Health District** - Awarded the Team Certificate of Merit.

Environmental Health Professional of the Year: The nominee for the Environmental Health (EH) Professional of the Year award must be an EH Professional currently engaged in the practice of Environmental Health who has made outstanding contributions to the EH Profession, and the EH Programs in the Commonwealth of Virginia. Nominees must be current VEHA members and should exemplify the values, quality of work, and ethical integrity held in high regard by the EH profession. Sponsors who make the nomination must also be current VEHA members. This award is presented each year at VEHA's Fall Educational Conference. **To nominate a deserving EH Professional, submit your nomination form by September 15, 2016.** The nomination form can be found on VEHA's Scholarships-Awards page, www.virginiaeha.org/scholarshipsawards.

A. Clarke Slaymaker Award: A. Clark Slaymaker was a Virginia Department of Health employee from 1943 to 1970. He ended his career as the EH Manager (then called Chief Sanitarian) in Alexandria, Virginia. In 1966 he won NEHA's prestigious Walter S. Mangold award, the **ONLY** VDH employee ever to do so. This award was created to recognize an individual, association, corporation, or organization that is not actively engaged in the field of environmental health but has made outstanding contributions and supported the EH Profession and the EH programs in VA. The individual(s) who wish to submit a nomination for this award must be a current member of VEHA however, it is not necessary for the nominee to be a member. **The deadline for nomination is September 15, 2016.** The nomination form can be found on VEHA's Scholarships-Awards page, www.virginiaeha.org/scholarshipsawards.

VEHA's 2015 selection for the A. Clarke Slaymaker Award was **Terry Woods** who is an **Animal Control Officer in Carroll County** where he has worked for over 29 years. Mr. Woods was nominated by two EHS's who are members of VEHA and work with him on a daily basis, Jessica Stewart and David Burris. As they stated in their nomination, Mr. Woods never fails to go above and beyond to ensure public health and safety. He promotes public awareness and rabies prevention education, is almost always the first responder and investigator to the numerous animal bites that occur in the county, and is most definitely an invaluable asset to the environmental health specialists in Carroll County.

VEHA News & Save the Dates

Spring Educational Conference - April 8, 2016. See the agenda on the following page for all the details.

Spring Onsite Day - Each spring and fall VEHA plans an onsite, hands-on training day. Two 1-day workshops entitled Redoximorphic Features - Active vs Relic: How to Describe and Interpret be held this spring: April 20 and April 21. The agenda and registration information is included in this bulletin.



Fall Onsite Day- Be watching the website for the dates/locations!

NEHA Annual Educational Conference (AEC) & HUD Healthy Homes Conference 2016

San Antonio, Texas – June 13-16

Be Inspired!

It is the nexus for environmental health training, education, networking, and advancement. It is the event environmental health professionals attend to acquire practical and real-world information and expertise. It is the event from which environmental health professionals leave, trained, motivated, inspired, and empowered to further advance their organizations and themselves.

<http://neha.org/aec/about-aec>

Fall Educational Conference - Be watching the website for the date/location

Spring Educational Conference - Kevin Crisler, VP of Programs

2016 SPRING EDUCATIONAL CONFERENCE

Virginia Institute of Marine Science
Gloucester Point Campus - Watermen's Hall
1375 Greate Road
Gloucester Point, VA 2306

April 8, 2016

- 8:00 - 8:45AM General Workshop Registration
- 8:45 - 9:00AM Opening Remarks & Presentation of VEHA Educational Scholarships
Reed Cranford, VEHA President
- 9:00 - 9:45AM *Zika Virus - Surveillance, Control and Health Effects*
Ana Colon, MPH, Virginia Department of Health
- 9:45 - 10:30AM *Virginia Clean Marina Program*
Anne Smith, Virginia Institute of Marine Science
- 10:30 - 10:45AM **BREAK**
- 10:45 - 11:45AM *Derelict Crab Pots in the Chesapeake Bay*
Kirk Havens, Virginia Institute of Marine Science
- 11:45AM-1:00PM **LUNCH - Provided on site by VEHA**

AFTERNOON BREAK OUT SESSIONS

Food Protection/General EH

- 1:00 - 2:00PM *Comparison of Microbial Quality of
Food Products Acquired from Internet
And Local Retail Markets*
Dr. Chyer Kim, Virginia State University
- 2:00 - 2:15PM Break
- 2:15 - 3:00PM *Oysters, Marine Diseases & Parasites*
Ryan Carnegie, Virginia Institute of
Marine Science
- 3:00 - 4:00PM TBD

Onsite Sewage and Water

- Hydropedology of Problematic Interfluvial Soils in
the Central Piedmont of Virginia*
Erik Severson, Regional Interpretive Soil
Scientist at Virginia Tech
- Break
- Health Risks of Using Gray Soil Colors to
Determine Onsite Suitability*
Jay Conta, Soil Scientist at Virginia Tech
- Site Evaluation & System Design Strategies for
Severe Sites: Overview of Loading Rates*
Tom Ashton, American Manufacturing Company

For planning purposes, please RSVP at kevin.crisler@virginiaeha.org, and designate which afternoon track you prefer to participate in.

Workshop Fee: Member Registration & Lunch \$30 Non Member Registration (includes membership) & Lunch \$50
Payment is due at sign-in. (please pay by check or bring exact currency)

4.0 Hours CPE for DPOR OSE licensure awarded by VEHA for attendance. Continuing Education Hours are available for NEHA's REHS and CP-FS credentials. Go to [NEHA's Continuing Education page](#) on their website to submit your request.

Spring Onsite Field Day - Tammy Falkner, VP of Membership Services

One Day Onsite Sewage and Water Workshop and Field Training

Redoximorphic Features - Active vs. Relict: How to Describe and Interpret

April 20 or 21, 2016

(the same training is being offered on 2 separate days)

VA Department of Forestry Conference Center
11301 Pocahontas Trail, Providence Forge, VA 23140

This workshop will examine the soil-forming forces that give rise to “redoximorphic features.” When soil science interprets these features, it poses the question of whether these features are actively forming and indicate current day hydrology (soil wetness and presence of a water table) or whether they are relict and left behind from an earlier soil-forming process which is no longer occurring. Relating the appearance of these features to the overall soil profile and the landscapes in which they are present are key factors in making these interpretations.

This day will include classroom technical presentations, recommendations for materials to be included in a Relict Water Table report, and examination of relevant soils through backhoe pit studies. Wear appropriate field clothing. The field study will occur rain or shine. The class will be limited to 30 participants. The trainers for this event are Jay Conta, LPSS, AOSE; Steve Thomas, LPSS, AOSE; Erik Severson, LPSS.

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| 8:30 - 8:50 AM | General Workshop Registration |
| 8:50 - 12:00 PM | Technical Sessions & Reporting Recommendations |
| 12:00-1:00PM | LUNCH - (*bring your own*) |
| | *VEHA will provide bottled water and some light snacks throughout the day |
| 1:00 - 4:00 PM | Field Session - soil pit evaluation, ... please bring your own field equipment |
| 4:00 - 4:30 PM | Group Discussion of soil evaluations/Wrap up |

ADJOURN

Registration is limited to 30 participants on each day. Select which date you prefer and reserve your spot by emailing Tammy Faulkner at tammy.faulkner@virginiaeha.org.

Workshop Fee: Current VEHA members: \$30 Non-members: \$50 (includes membership)

Registration will be done the morning of the event. Payment is due at sign-in. (please pay by check or bring exact currency)

8 Hours CPE for DPOR licensure awarded by VEHA for attendance

Continuing Education Hours are available for NEHA's REHS credential. Go to [NEHA's Continuing Education page](#) on their website to submit your request.

Environmental Health Legislative Update

David Fridley, Secretary

Food and General Services

HB 562 – PASSED House and Senate; massage therapist; requires licensure by the Board of Nursing instead of a certification; provides some exemptions for licensure.

HB 1178 – FAILED; left in General Laws; campgrounds; excluded the definition of “campground” from property where an owner can choose to allow guests to camp.

HB 1242 – FAILED; left in Health, Welfare, and Institutions; restaurants; required the BoH to include regulations requiring restaurants maintain separate cooking stations for deep-frying foods known to contain major allergens in an order to prevent cross-contact.

HB 1277 – PASSED House and Senate; restaurants; requires all restaurants be inspected at least annually with no more than 12 months passing between such inspection.

HJ 160 – PASSED House; agreed to by Senate; requests the VDH to examine state licensing and vaccination of dogs and cats in order to provide more complete information to animal control officers and to improve compliance with local licensing requirements.

Onsite Sewage

HB 465 – FAILED; tabled in Health, Welfare, and Institutions; private well permits; changed the permit validity of standard (non-express) well permits to match that of sewage systems (18 months). This bill was supported by VEHA.

HB 558 – PASSED House and Senate; requires the Commissioner to develop a plan for complete transition of direct services to the private sector. VEHA did not support this bill as originally written. There was no request for input by OEHS for the substituted language.

HB 566 – ENACTED; effective 7/1/16; licensed onsite soil evaluators; updated the language in the Code to reflect “licensed” onsite soil evaluators versus “authorized” onsite soil evaluators. VEHA supported this bill.

HB 648 – ENACTED; effective 7/1/16; provided the Commissioner the ability to develop a process to respond to requests to approve installed sewage systems (Safe, Adequate, and Proper evaluations) and allows for systems to be approved as “nonconforming”; outlines from whom the Department may accepted certified evaluations. VEHA did not support the language in this bill.

HB 1080 – FAILED; continued to 2017 session; removed effluent quality standards not contained in the VPDES General Permit for systems submitted under §32.1-163.6; removed Department oversight of “ground modification” for systems submitted under §32.1-163.6. VEHA did not support this bill.