

OEHA News

February
2005

2005 AEC

APRIL 25-27

at

**Mt. Bachelor
Village**

in

BEND

2005 Annual Education Conference

April 25-27 in Bend

Presentations for the three day event will include subjects on tsunami relief, onsite alternate treatment technology, WNV, environmental health law, and food security. 1.4 CEUs are expected to be awarded from the Oregon Health Licensing Office for the three day conference. CEU certificates will be presented to attendees. All meals and meeting rooms are covered. Lodging will be at per diem rates if acquired before March 26th. See page 5 for registration form and lodging information.

This year the Oregon Health Division will join the conference on Wednesday, April 27th with their Annual Food Conference. Registration will be open for individual days or for all three days. The morning sessions will cover "EHS Network Communications" and "Positive Communications Climate." The afternoon will offer four break-out sessions covering DHS Food Program update, refrigeration, chef tips, and pest control.

The Annual Business Meeting is scheduled for Tuesday morning. The Awards Ceremony, Banquet & Scholarship Auction will be Tuesday night after the no-host bar social. The Scholarship Auction always offers a great selection of treasures and plenty of fine wines to bid on (no corking costs). Help a college student through school by bidding on these valuable items.

THE CLEAN-TEAM STRIKES AGAIN



Last spring, as some of you recall, OEHA and Rotary teamed up to build and operate a hand washing trailer to help educate youngsters (adults too) on the proper techniques of washing hands after visiting animal barns at local county fairs. The purpose of this education tool was to demonstrate the importance of good hand washing practices to avoid bacteria, such as E coli from animals, making us sick due to eating food with dirty hands.

This first "clean team" trailer was in great demand all through last year's summer fair season around the state and, unfortunately, not all fairs were able to use it due to scheduling conflicts with other counties. So, it was decided that another trailer was the only solution to providing this valuable training to all the fairs. To that end, Ron Baker and Terry Westfall (Roseburg Rotary Club members as well as a long time OEHA members) set out to twist arms for donations from Rotary clubs around the state, and to seek matching Rotary grant

funds to complete the project. Most of the money has been raised (we could still use some additional \$\$ if you need a worthy cause), and a local Roseburg trailer manufacturing company will build the trailer. It has been ordered, and will be available for the 2005 fair season.

As with last year's trailer, scheduling the use at the various locations is a juggling act that takes a creative mind. Bob Anderson did a great job last year and has agreed to continue this year with both trailers. Those counties that had a trailer at last year's fair will certainly have one available this year. For those counties that wanted a trailer but had conflicting dates with other fairs, they need to contact Bob as soon as possible to guarantee that the second unit will be available for them. Call Bob at (503) 588-5346 (ext. 6).

Submitted by Terry Westfall, SW Region Director, OEHA

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ANIMAL BITE REPORTING--THE LOCAL HEALTH DEPT. CONNECTION

During a recent conversation with Dr. Emilio DeBess, Oregon Department of Human Services Epidemiologist and Veterinarian, the subject of properly reporting animal bites to the DHS came up. In my county, Douglas, there is a very close relationship between the Animal Control Department, which is a part of the Sheriff's office, and my office at the Environmental Health Division (part of the "local health department"). While this is not unique (nor should it be), it is not all that common around the state (which it should be).

Some of you might ask "What does the local health department have to do with animal control issues?" Well, the answer is simple when it comes to animal bites and rabies control--IT IS THE LAW. To be a little more specific, let's look at portions of ORS 433.340 to 433.390 and OAR 333-019-0017 to -0024.

To simplify, ORS 433.345 says that anyone (e.g., physicians, veterinarians, animal control officials, or animal owners) who has knowledge of an animal bite that breaks the skin shall report it to the local health department, and that the state DHS shall make rules relating to the handling of these biting animal. These rules are found in the OAR's previously mentioned, and are very specific in identifying the role of local health departments. For instance, OAR 333-019-0024 (1) says " The circumstances surrounding bites of humans by mammals shall be investigated by Local Public Health Authority in Accordance with the Investigative Guidelines published by DHS." (Look on DHS's web site for the guidelines or ask me for a copy) Also, (2) of that section identifies a 10 day quarantine period, and the proper location for the safe handling of the animal, all determined by the Local Public Health Authority.

Basically, all of the regulations surrounding reporting of bites and control of biting animals is under the jurisdiction and responsibility of local health departments. Certainly, some of this responsibility can be delegated to animal control agencies, and some cities can elect to have their own animal control ordinances and enforcement officers. However, the local health departments are still required to insure that the state rules are followed regarding bite reporting and proper quarantine facilities to protect public health.

So, it would seem that animal control officers and local health department officials should be joined at the hip when it comes to animal bites and reporting of same. If you look to your right or left and don't see that other representative looking back at you, then what we have here is a failure to communicate (rather a catchy phrase don't you think?). Why not call up your "other half" for a cup of coffee, and take along a copy of these rules and regulations for a little chat on how to improve that relationship. You might be surprised that the local health department staff just wasn't aware of their required involvement.

And, the final icing on the cake is to see that a monthly report on the bites that occurred in your jurisdiction is reported to Dr. DeBess at the DHS.

Submitted by: Terry Westfall, REHS



Scholarship Auction Items Needed

One of the highlights of the Annual Education Conference is the Scholarship Auction. In addition to supporting future Environmental Health professionals by helping with tuition costs, the auction is a fun finale to the evening.

There are two required ingredients if the auction is to be a special event; people and auction items. The more of each that we have, the more fun we will have. Staples of the auction traditionally

have been; bottles of wine, fishing gear and golf related items. It is also fun to have items representing special areas of the state, and any unique item that you can think of.

Last year the auction raised just over \$1,500 for the scholarship fund., which is specifically dedicated to paying tuition for college students while they serve one-term internships with county Environmental Health programs.

OEHA Award

Each year OEHA members have the opportunity to honor those among us who demonstrate outstanding effort or achievement in their professional life. Now is the time to consider nominations for the four awards annually conferred at the Annual Education Conference Awards Dinner (scheduled for Tuesday, April 26).

Nominees for Sanitarian of the Year and Meritorious Service Award must be OEHA members in good standing, while the Legislative and Editorial Awards are open to anyone who has supported the fields of Environmental or Public Health.

(See page 6 for the nomination form)

Send the name of the nominee and a specific description of the reasons for the nomination, to the Award Committee Chairman listed below, or to the OEHA webmaster via the website.

Carolyn Snowberger (503) 588-5126
2111 Front St NE, #3-109
Salem, Oregon 97301
[<csnowberger@co.marion.or.us>](mailto:csnowberger@co.marion.or.us)
FAX (503) 566-2986

Sanitarian of the Year

Awarded to the Sanitarian or Environmental Health Specialist who consistently exemplifies the principles and ideals of the Environmental Health profession

Vern Reiersen

Meritorious Service Award

Awarded in recognition of a career of serving and promoting the Oregon Environmental Health Association and the field of Environmental Health

Ci Sherman Legislative Award

Awarded in recognition of efforts in the legislative process to promote the principles of Environmental Health

Ray Ruff Editorial Award

Awarded in recognition of accomplishments producing educational or informational materials relating to the field of Environmental Health

2004 OEHA Award Winners

David Bussen

*Sanitarian of
The Year*

Lila Wickham

Meritorious Service

Legislative Award

Editorial Award

2005 Annual Business Meeting

April 26, 2005

On the meeting agenda will include a discussion and vote to update the OEHA By-Laws and Constitution. Copies will be sent out to all members prior to the meeting for review.

Elections will also be held for officers.

**April 1st, 2005 will
be the time to renew your
OEHA membership.**

2005 OEHA Board of Officers

President	Michael Christman
Vice President	vacant
Secretary	Angela Scott
Treasurer	Caroline Gross
Past President	David Bussen
President Elect	Eric Christensen

Regional Directors:

Central/Eastern	Russ Hanson
NW	Randy Howarth
Willamette Valley	Carolyn Snowberger
SW	Terry Westfall



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Roseburg, OR 97470

Online at
OregonEHA.org

Mailing Address Line 1
Mailing Address Line 2
Mailing Address Line 3
Mailing Address Line 4
Mailing Address Line 5

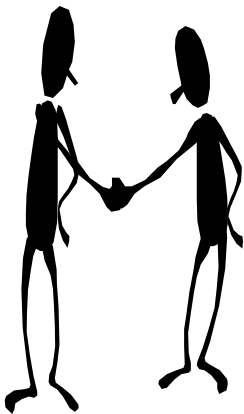
Up & Coming Training Opportunities for 2005

Public Drinking Water Conference
Silver Falls

May 18 & 19

Western Region Education Network
Ashland, OR
503-731-4573

May 19-21



22nd OR-EPI
Sun River, Bend, OR
503-731-4026

May 25-27

NEHA Conference
Providence, Rhode Island

June 26-29

www.neha.org

