



Oregon Environmental Health Association

Words from the President

**Vol. III
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May 25, 2005

Details inside on:

- Handwash Education Trailer*
- OEHA Conference*
- Scholarship Auction*
- Awards Banquet*
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- *WNV reports in California*

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Well, word on the street is that this year's AEC at Mt. Bachelor Village in Bend was a great success. I want to thank the OEHA members who helped organize the event for all their effort above and beyond the call of duty. I would also like to thank the DHS food program folks for providing a third day of training. It was a good "fit," and allowed a few extra folks to attend both events that might not have been able to if the trainings had been on different dates and locations. I hope we can continue to combine the two groups in the future.

Speaking of the future, it is not too early to begin thinking about where we should have next year's OEHA/DHS conference. Perhaps it is time to look at somewhere along our beautiful coast, as was suggested by a few of the attendees this year. However, we will consider other areas as your preferences become known to the board. If you have a favorite resort destination that might accommodate our group, contact myself or one of the OEHA board members so we can begin the search. Also, feel free to suggest topics that you would like to see presented at the next conference. We want our training to reflect the needs of the entire OEHA membership, and to do that we need your input.

I look forward to working with the new OEHA Board of Directors this coming year. There are a few "newbies" mixed in with the "oldies," and it is always good to have some fresh new ideas. I'd like to welcome Gerhard Matheis as our new President Elect, David Bussen as new Vice President, Christine MacKenzie as new Secretary, Bob Anderson as new Mid-Willamette Region Director, Angela Scott (last year's Secretary) as new Eastern Region Director, and Ron Baker (who took over my old position) as the new Southwest Region Director. Randy Howarth will stay on as Northwest Region Director and (with lots of arm twisting and praise for a job well done) Caroline Gross-Regan has agreed to remain as our Treas-

urer.

Thanks to Bill Emminger, who has agreed to chair this year's Scholarship Committee. He has close ties with OSU and a local high school science fair program that should be helpful in locating deserving students. Dave Bussen will keep our OEHA newsletter going on regular basis, and he will be looking for interesting articles from the membership. Dave has also agreed to help contact possible conference locations for next year.

Bob Anderson did such a great job last year of scheduling the use of our first Rotary/OEHA "Clean Team" hand wash trailer that we decided to have a second one built to fill in the gaps when the first one couldn't be in two places at the same time (which was quite often). Once again, Ron Baker was the driving force (with generous support from local Rotary clubs) in getting the second trailer built in Roseburg. This second trailer will be staged primarily in the southern part of the state, but will also be available where ever needed. Bob has agreed to manage the scheduling on a first come first served basis for both trailers this year, so if you have a need in your county be sure to contact him ASAP.

Special KUDOS to Bob Anderson for receiving the Sanitarian of the Year Award and to Ron Baker for the Meritorious Service Award. No two people are more deserving than these two old mossy backs. They have always gone way above and beyond the call of duty to not only represent our profession in the positive light, but have inspired those us who know and work with them to go the extra mile as well. Thanks again for all your service.

Finally, I want say again that I look forward to serving as President of this fine organization of public health professionals and with your help we can make it even better.

Cases of West Nile Virus in California Birds

As of April 19, 2005 West Nile Virus (WNV) activity has been detected in 21 California counties. The report of surveillance and laboratory activities from the division of Communicable Disease Control of the California Department of Health Services states that to date this year 57 dead birds and one sentinel chicken have tested positive for WNV. There are no reports of new human WNV infections in California or anywhere in the United States

for the year 2005 according to this document. There is a great chance of the appearance of West Nile Virus (WNV) in Oregon this year.

By October 22, last year, WNV has been identified in Grant, Jackson, Josephine, Lane, Linn, Benton, Crook and Malheur counties. The majority of cases are in horses (32) and birds (23), with five human cases, four in Malheur and one in Jackson counties.

Second Handwash Demonstration Trailer Available



A second handwash demonstration trailer with six sinks has been completed and available for use for education purposes at events, such as county fairs. Bob Anderson, RPHS, Mid-Willamette Region Director will schedule your request for one of the two trailers. He can be reached at (503) 588-5408.



*2nd trailer completed
for use during 2005
county fair circuit*

Rotary International Community Clubs have financed the construction of both trailers. OEHA has taken on the ownership, management of scheduling their use, and routine maintenance. The county requesting the use has responsibility for transportation, damage repair, supplying of hand soap, toweling, and for the glow germ products. Make sure it is cleaned up and ready for its next destination.

2004 & 2005 Conference CEUs

The 2005 OEHA Conference held in Bend was again a great success. Lots of fun was had by all and great speakers kept everyone awake. The Health Licensing Office has awarded the 2004 AEC with 1.2 CEUs as announced on our OEHA web site www.oregonEHA.org and 1.7 CEUs for the 2005 conference

Scholarship Auction



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 was a fun finale to the evening.

The 2005 scholarship auction was very successful. Members and friends of the organization donated a variety of fine wines and other interesting items. Thanks to all the participants, we were able to raise \$831 to support the educational pursuits of

future environmental health professionals.

Sadly, no applications, again, were submitted for this year's scholarship award.

Let's get the word out for 2006. Encourage students preparing for careers in environmental health to apply for next year's award. Applications can be found on-line at www.oregoneha.org. Click on scholarship information, and then click on "application" in the last line. Let's get the word out this year.

OEHA 2004 Awards

OEHA is proud to introduce the deserving professionals and happy to highlight the accomplishments of this years Award recipients.

Michael Christman, OEHA '04 -'05 president, presented The Sanitarian of the Year Award, awarded to the Sanitarian or Environmental Health Specialist who consistently exemplifies the principles and ideals of the Environmental Health profession, to Bob Anderson. The 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, was given to Ron Baker.

Sanitarian of the Year Award Recipient

Bob has been supportive and active member of OEHA for many years. He has been a great asset to his community as a Rotary member and to the profession of Environmental Health/Public Health. Bob Anderson, REHS, is with Marion County Environmental Health.

Bob's latest endeavor has been putting together the development and implementation of the "Clean

Team" hand washing training trailer. He continues to support the operations, activities, & mission of OEHA participating as OEHA Mid -Willamette Regional Director.

"The Vern Reiersen"

Meritorious Service Award Recipient

Ron Baker, REHS, Environmental consulting Services and PHI president. He has worked as a Sanitarian in Oregon for a long time. He has been an active member and participant for OEHA in many capacities over the years; as OEHA President, committee member & committee chairman. He continues to support the operations, activities, & mission of OEHA participating as OEHA SW Regional Director.



Ron is also the heart and soul of Public Health International, a non-profit group of environmental health professionals whose goal is

to improve the health of people in refugee camps and disaster locations as well as third world coun-

2005 OEHA Award Winners

Bob Anderson

*Sanitarian of
The Year*

Ron Baker

Meritorious Service

*No Candidates were
nominated for the
Legislative Award or
Editorial Award*

6th Annual OEHA Float Trip & BBQ

Oregon Environmental Health Association Members, family & friends invited

Date: Saturday, July 23, 2005

Time: 12:00 noon

Place: Amacher Park, Winchester (North of Roseburg)

South of narrow bridge on Hwy 99 under I-5 bridge

FREE Bar-B-Q & Pot Luck with games & prizes after rafting, around 4:00pm at River Forks Park Rafts or inner tubes, and life vests are a must. If you need one or have extra to bring let me know.

We will have a limited supply of extras.

Contact David Bussen: (541) 440-3570

Cel phone: (541) 643-5184

[<dhbussen@co.douglas.or.us>](mailto:dhbussen@co.douglas.or.us)

2005 OEHA Conference

The 2005 OEHA Annual Education Conference was held in Bend, on April 25-27. This year the Department of Human Resources' Environmental Health Section joined the conference overseeing the Wednesday agenda.

Speakers delivered over 17 hours of exceptional educational sessions on topics ranging from terror-

ism and food security to West Nile Virus and blue-green algae in the Pacific Northwest.

Social events included golf, tennis, and basketball action, social hour, awards banquet and scholarship auction. 1.7 CEUs were granted by Registration board for 2005 AEC conference.



Oregon Environmental Health Association
621 W. Madrone
Roseburg, OR 970000

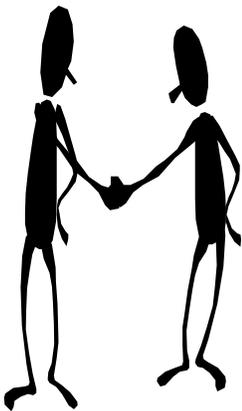
Online at
OregonEHA.org

PROCLAMATION

Environmental Health Specialist Day

By Governor Kolungoski

April 26, 2005



Oregon Governor Ted Kulungoski designated TUESDAY, April 26, 2005 with a signed proclamation as the fifth annual Environmental Health Specialist/Waste Management Specialist Day in Oregon recognizing the vital public service provided by the Registered Environmental Health Specialist and Registered Waste Management Specialist as critical to the continued health of the citizens of Oregon. It is appropriate to be formally recognized because our

work is primarily preventive in nature and our accomplishments in protecting the public from negative health effects are difficult to see and measure.

The signed Sanitarian/Environmental Health Specialist Day certificate (along with original copies of its three predecessors) and award plaques listing all previous recipients were on display during the Awards Banquet.

Newly Elected 2005 OEHA Board of Officers

President	Terry Westfall
Vice President	David Bussen
Secretary	Christine Mckinnis
Treasurer	Caroline Gross
Past President	Michael Christman
President Elect	Gerhard Mathies
Regional Directors:	
Central/Eastern	Angela Scott
NW	Randy Howarth
Willamette Valley	Bob Anderson
SW	Ron Baker

Up & Coming Training Opportunities for 2005

NEHA Conference: Providence, Rhode Island:	June 26-29
www.neha.org	
DHS Regional Meetings:	June 1—Bend—1 PM June 7—Medford—1 PM June 8—Eugene—9 AM June 15—Salem—9 AM June 21—Oregon City (2 meetings) 9 AM and 1 PM
DHS Field & Contact Investigation:	June 16 & 17—Salem

Activity in OEHA

OEHA has enabled Environmental Health Specialists to pool their resources, expertise, connections, and experience, to promote a unified voice for public health. Our association's primary direction has been in support of continuing education opportunities. Central to OEHA's activities is the annual spring and regional fall conferences. These draw a majority of our members and nonmembers for sessions on a variety of public health topics and to take action on association business. We've had close ties with the EHS Registration Board, participated on rule committees, provided public education, and testified on legislative measures, supported financially towards college students and international public health activities. One of the many recognitions includes the Oregon Annual Environmental Health Specialist Day declaration by the Governor.

Over the previous years, with local and state budget cuts, support for association activities has diminished. The 2004 Hood River Annual Conference participation dropped down to 50 attendees. The 2005 Bend Conference partnership with DHS renewed interest to previous attendance levels of 70+ attendees. Similar joint activities between OEHA and other agencies can be advantageous to all.

With the shift of leadership may bring a different perspective and direction. That's why volunteerism and involvement is necessary to continue and expand creative strategies and activities to promote public health. Get involved and help by volunteering!

OEHA 2006 Annual Education Conference

Need new

**Set your calendar for April 26, 27, & 28, 2005 for the
2005 Annual Education Conference.**

The Conference will be held at the Mt Bachelor Village Resort

Welcome new OEHA members:

Frank Ferro, Overland Parks, Kansas

Need new

OEHA Donations Support Environmental

Need new.

7th Annual OEHA North Umpqua River Raft-

Oregon Environmental Health Association Members, family & friends invited

Date: Saturday, July 23, 2005

Time: 12:00 noon

Place: Amacher Park, Winchester (North of Roseburg)

South of narrow bridge on Hwy 99 under I-5 bridge

FREE Bar-B-Q & Pot Luck with games & prizes after rafting , around 4:00pm at River Forks Park

Rafts or inner tubes, and life vests are a must. If you need one or have extra to bring let me know. We will have a limited supply of extras.

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2004 & 2005 Conference CEUs

The 2004 OEHA Conference held in Hood River was again a great success. Lots of fun was had by all and great speakers kept everyone awake. The Health Licensing Office has awarded the 2004 AEC with 1.25 CEUs as announced on our OEHA web site [<www.oregonEHA.org>](http://www.oregonEHA.org) 1.74 CEUs for the 2005 conference