

# CENTRAL PENNSYLVANIA WATER QUALITY ASSOCIATION

Volume 23 - Issue 4  
December 2011

NEWSLETTER  
[www.cpwqa.org](http://www.cpwqa.org)

President - Robert White  
Editor - Kevin Shannon

## 2012 IMPORTANT DATES

### APRIL 13, 2012

Plant Tour, Luncheon and Business Meeting - TBD  
Contact: Dave Seibert  
(717) 566-3237

### MAY 11, 2012

Plant Tour, Luncheon and Business Meeting - TBD  
Contact: Dave Seibert  
(717) 566-3237

### JUNE 2-5, 2012

PennTech 2012  
Penn Stater Conference Center Hotel  
Contact: Sue Boynton  
(717) 642-9500

### JUNE 22, 2012

Awards Meeting/Picnic  
Rich Valley Golf Course  
Contact: Lee Koch  
(717) 243-8269

### AUGUST 3, 2012

GWTF Golf Tournament  
Fairview Golf Course  
Contact: Wayne Schutz  
(717) 566-3237

### SEPTEMBER 14, 2012

Plant Tour, Luncheon and Business Meeting - TBD  
Contact: Dave Seibert  
(717) 566-3237

### NOVEMBER 7, 2012

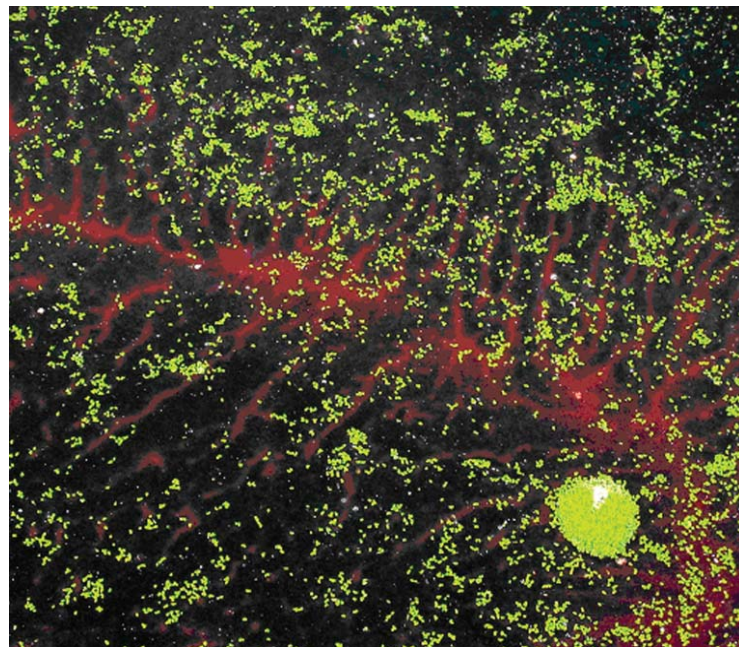
Trade Fair and Training Expo  
Sheraton Harrisburg Hershey Hotel  
Contact: Rich Heinick  
(717) 763-7211

## SOMETHING OUT OF THE ORDINARY

After returning to work from a weekend the last thing you want to see is something out of the ordinary, or is it? That was my initial thought as I did my morning inspection of the final clarifiers on a midsummer morning. I observed red streaks of something on the surfaces of all six final clarifiers with the most severe case being concentrated on final clarifiers 2 and 3. My next thought was being thankful for the retaining baffle and collector preventing this red contaminant from being discharged in our effluent. Initially and incorrectly, I believed the Maintenance Department had done oil changes on the final clarifier drive units and, as the oil

had heated up, it expanded enough to cause some leakage out of the breathers. Upon closer inspection of these red streaks of "oil" on the surface, I noticed one problem with that hypothesis, "the red streaks were alive and appeared to be moving in a rather organized pattern."

My next step was to read the operations log book. In the log it was noted that two days prior, the red



streaks had started appearing. The on-duty operator had already taken a sample of it and given it to the Chief Chemist for identification. The Chief Chemist identified it as *Daphnia Magnus* and gave me a web page to research these creatures.

While studying information on these organisms, a smug grin appeared on my face as I realized we had started growing organisms in our final clarifiers which are akin to the organisms used in Whole Effluent Toxicity Testing (or WET Test for short). Then reality reared its ugly head. I realized nothing we had done caused the event to occur. The Treatment Facility hadn't magically started nitrifying

*(continued on page 2)*



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*(Something Out of the Ordinary continued from page 1)*

and while the effluent looked clean, it wasn't exceptional. The Effluent BOD5 was in the 6 mg/l range with the Suspended Solids running in the upper teens. Phosphorus was running 1.8 to 2.0 mg/l and the ammonia nitrogen was running in the 15 to 17 mg/l range. Ph in the 6.9 to 7.0 range and the Dissolved Oxygen at this location was the normal-less than 1.0 mg/l.

I don't know where the seed came from that started these colonies. What I can state is the operators and chief chemist both confirm that fish and turtles find them quite tasty. According to the website which is where we gathered much of our information. The red color is due to the increased hemoglobin in the organism, adapting to a low D.O. environment. The organisms feed on algae, which caused a stir among the operators as they thought it might reduce the amount of cleaning required on the clarifier troughs. It didn't.

In conclusion, if you ever notice something on your final clarifiers that looks like it doesn't belong there, take the time to look closely at it. It could be that it will create quite a stir and some pride in the staff at your plant.

The colonies lasted for approximately six days after which the Daphnia were still present, but dispersed along the surfaces of the final clarifiers. I would also like to confirm that it is duckweed on the surface of our final clarifiers. I can state the source of it as a Contract Waste Hauler bringing it into our facility from a small treatment plant several years ago. The duckweed while uncommon on a final clarifier, at times appears to completely disappear and then will bloom to almost cover one or two of our final clarifiers' surfaces.

The treatment plant, a 37.7 MGD facility with a combined sewer system, serves as a regional treatment facility for all or parts of 6 additional municipalities. We have an aggressive pretreatment program, initial screening and removal of debris at the pump stations. The treatment plant consists of grit removal, primary treatment, secondary treatment utilizing high rate high purity oxygen, FeSO4 addition for phosphorus removal with final clarifiers. Chlorination for disinfection with aeration in the chlorine contact tanks for final dissolved oxygen concentration control.

*Author: Bob White, CET-GHD, CPWQA President 2011*

## PEOPLE IN THE NEWS

RETTEW recently promoted John B. Stipe, III, CPSS, to director of geosciences. Stipe, who has been with RETTEW since 1998, has nearly 13 years of environmental consulting experience. In addition, RETTEW recently welcomed new hires Carl F. Dicker, Jr., PE; Matthew Fortney, PE; and Gary A. Huntington, PE. Dicker is a senior environmental engineer in RETTEW's Lehigh Valley office. Fortney is a senior transportation engineer in RETTEW's Pittsburgh office. Huntington is a project manager in RETTEW's Lancaster office.

Andritz Separation, Inc. is proud to announce the placement of Mr. Joe Witts as their new Regional Manager for the CPWQA area. Joe is replacing Mr. R. Todd Marshall who was recently promoted and relocated to Texas. Joe has an extensive background in the water/wastewater industry, most recently with an engineering firm in New Hampshire, and previously as a Superintendent and Maintenance Foreman for a wastewater treatment facility. Welcome to central Pennsylvania, Joe.

# CPWQA NEWSLETTER EXTRA - "GO WITH THE FLOW" SPECIAL REPORT

The 16<sup>th</sup> Annual CPWQA "GO WITH THE FLOW" Golf Tournament was held on Friday, August 5<sup>th</sup>, 2011, on [YET ANOTHER] perfect day at the Fairview Golf Course. In the end, with the participation of more than 140 golfers and with the generous support of the all the sponsors, the tournament raised nearly \$4,000. This money will be donated to the Water for People Fund. The CPWQA thank all the volunteers, golfers, and especially the sponsors!!! The winning foursome including Brian Komline, Tom Komline, Warren Fuller, & Mike Snyder shot a score of 54 (17 under par) and bested a field loaded with previous champions.



Mark your calendars for the 17<sup>th</sup> Annual "Go with the Flow" Golf Tournament on Friday, August 3<sup>rd</sup>, 2012, featuring the now infamous and highly coveted, "Ring of Honor" Trophy!!!



**Closest to # 18 Pin**  
**Bill Farrell**



**Closest to # 13 Pin**  
**Steve Wachter**



**Terre Hill**  
**Putting Challenge Winner**



**Straightest Drive #12**  
**Brian Komline**



**Longest Put Made #12**  
**Mike Dobson**



**16<sup>th</sup> Annual 2010 Winners: Brian Komline, Warren Fuller, Tom Komline, & Mike Snyder - 54 (17 Under par)**



**Straightest Drive #5**  
**Pat Godwin**



**Longest Drive [Women] #'s 4 & 14**  
**Susan Sprague**



**"Close But No Cigar" - 2<sup>nd</sup> Place: Jeff Culton, Mark Guise, Paul Zimmerman, Paul Gross**



**Longest Drive [Men] #4 - Bob Sims**



**Longest Drive [Men] #14 - Chad Chubb**

## SPECIAL THANKS TO: **BUCHART HORN, INC.**

For printing the fantastic sponsor signs!

## **GEIGER PUMP & EQUIPMENT CO.**

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**THANKS TO ALL VENDORS FOR THE TERRIFIC DOOR PRIZE DONATIONS!!!!**

# CPWQA TRADE FAIR AND TRAINING EXPO 2011

Central Section's Trade Fair was held on November 3, 2011 at the Harrisburg-Hershey Sheraton. The Trade Fair provided the opportunity to mingle with various engineering, equipment and contracting providers. The Trade Fair also offered several training opportunities, thanks to James Kern, US EPA, Dave Wheeler, Univar USA, Robert Beard, SAIC Energy, Environment & Infrastructure LLC, Robert Kalbach III, Utility Services Group, Frank Calabretti, Sr., JC Controls, Timothy Taber, Barton & Loguidice and Edward Gillette, Jr., Environmental Engineering & Management Associates, Inc. Rich's theme this year was "Baseball, Our National Pastime." Mark your calendars for next year's Trade Fair, which will be held on Wednesday, November 7, 2012 at the same venue.



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*Happy New Year!*

**SAFETY COMMITTEE  
RECOGNIZES JIM WETZEL**

The CPWQA Board of Directors takes this opportunity to express its gratitude to Jim Wetzel for his six years of diligent, behind the scenes, and thankless service to CPWQA as Chair of the Safety Committee. Jim has graciously agreed to assist the new chair in transitioning into this position. As stated in the CPWQA by-laws, the Safety Committee provides three valuable services to CPWQA:

1. Promoting safety programs to the membership of CPWQA
2. Administering the safety awards program of CPWQA
3. Submitting appropriate applications of CPWQA members for consideration for PWEA and WEF safety awards.

Any CPWQA members interested in becoming the chair or a member of the safety committee are requested to contact Rich Heinick at 717-805-5498 or [rheinick@gfnet.com](mailto:rheinick@gfnet.com).

**SPECIAL NOTICE  
YOUR CPWQA IS MAKING  
SOME IMPROVEMENTS  
TO BETTER SERVE YOU!**

*We have a new, one stop  
mailing address:*

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P.O. Box 705  
HERSHEY, PA 17033-0705**

*We now have email using a gMail Address:*

**[cpwqainfo@gmail.com](mailto:cpwqainfo@gmail.com)**

*Our phone number is now a cell phone  
with frequently checked voice mail.*

**(717) 732-2707**

**Ms. Christine Britton**

*will be serving as our Association  
Administrator.*

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