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The Georgia Environmental Health Association, Inc. is a nonprofit organization incorporated under the laws of Georgia, and the recognized Georgia affiliate of the National Environmental Health Association. Membership dues are $25.00 per year.

Georgia Environmental Health Association, Inc.
397 Eastman Highway
Hawkinsville, GA 31036
geha@comsouth.net
www.geha-online.org

COVER ART: The Three Core Public Health Functions and Ten Essential Services Wheel was adopted in 1994 by the Public Health Steering Committee at the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services. Public Health is tasked with protecting health and safety of populations. Where do you fit in? More information about the functions and essential services is available in the Workforce Development article on page 8.

For more information, go to www.health.gov/phfunctions/public.htm
MESSAGE FROM THE GEHA PRESIDENT
by Chris Carter

Four years ago I was given the opportunity to serve as Secretary for the Georgia Environmental Health Association (GEHA). Since that time, I have gained a new respect for this association and its membership. GEHA membership represents Environmental Health leadership from regulatory agencies, academia, and private industry, serving the citizens of Georgia. GEHA provides a common ground for professionals from these groups to interact and discuss issues relative to Environmental Health, and also a platform to affect needed change. The professional relationships I have enjoyed with this organization have proved invaluable in my current position with the Georgia Department of Agriculture, Consumer Protection Division.

The current budget shortfalls have forced GEHA to change the traditional Annual Education Conference from a three day event to a one day event. Unlike our traditional conferences alternating between coastal Georgia and north Georgia, Macon is centrally located and hopefully will be accessible to more of our GEHA members. Therefore this summer’s conference, scheduled for July 7, 2010, is at the Georgia Farm Bureau building in Macon. I would like to thank members attending this year’s conference, and to encourage each member to attend next year’s conference showing your support for this worthwhile organization. I also request members to encourage their fellow environmental health co-workers to join GEHA.

As environmental health regulatory agencies face tough economic times, our jobs as environmental health professionals have become more difficult. Unfilled positions, furlough days, and budget cuts all contribute to potential environmental health problems - Listeria and E. coli do not take furlough days. GEHA stands firm in recognizing the importance of the environmental health professional and the need to adequately fund these critical programs. The citizens of Georgia deserve no less.

I would like to express my sincere appreciation to the membership of GEHA for allowing me the privilege of being your president from July 2009 to July 2010. Thanks to the GEHA officers, board members, committee chairs and staff for their support during this past year. The current budget crisis is a concern for GEHA, however I am confident in the abilities of our upcoming leadership to weather this storm.

Most importantly, I would like to thank you, the Environmental Health Professional, for performing a job that may be unrecognized by most, but is vital to the welfare of the people of Georgia.

— Chris Carter

Chris Carter is the District 5 Supervisor with the Georgia Department of Agriculture (GDA) in the Consumer Protection Division, comprised of 46 counties in southeast Georgia. GDA is the agency which ensures public health in grocery stores, food storage warehouses, processing plants, wholesale and retail seafood, wholesale and retail bakeries, and all food safety for the retail industry. Chris graduated from the University of Georgia with a Bachelor of Science in Agriculture and has worked with GDA since 1992. Currently, Chris lives in Alma, GA with his wife Renee and his two sons, Will (15) and Jacob (12).
CALL FOR ARTICLES and PHOTOS

The Georgia Environmental Health Association, Inc. (GEHA) invites environmental health professionals, educators, researchers, and other persons or entities to submit manuscripts for possible publication in the Georgia Environmentalist. Original technical papers, review articles or reports on experiences, research, endeavors, management techniques, or current issues are considered. Guest commentaries, letters to the editor, cover art, and other items of interest to the readership are also encouraged. Authors receive no monetary compensation for their contributions. All material is subject to peer review.

GEHA is also accepting photos for journal publication. Photos may include natural scenes of Georgia, photos of Environmental Health in practice. Please, no pictures of pets. See insert on page 15 for more information.

Submit articles, letters, and photos for publication to: jncampbell@dhr.state.ga.us, or call 404.657.6534 for information. If you would like to be added to the mailing list for this publication, you must become a member of GEHA. Please complete the membership form on page 36, or contact GEHA Membership at geha@comsouth.net.
ENVIRONMENTAL HEALTH SPECIALIST/SANITARIAN REGISTRATION PROGRAM

Those desiring to be registered as an environmental health specialist/sanitarian in Georgia shall make a written request to the Board to take the environmental health specialist/sanitarian examination. The application shall:

Qualify that the applicant will possess, within 30 days after the examination and as certified by the head or Dean of the applicant’s college or university, or already possesses, a degree from a four-year accredited college or university with a minimum of 45 quarter hours/30 semester hours plus one algebra or higher level math class, with exception that those with at least four years experience as of April 2002 may qualify with 40 quarter hours/27 semester hours of science.

If you believe you are qualified, the first step toward becoming registered is to request an application from the GBREHPP address listed below. Examinations are given each July in conjunction with the GEHA Annual Education Conference and at other times and locations under the supervision of an approved proctor. An admission letter will be sent prior to the exam date. Registration will depend upon the final grade attained on the examination and evaluation of the applicant’s experience.

Top 3 Reasons To Be A Registered Environmental Health Professional

1. Professional credentials are one way of demonstrating your earned expertise and validating your credibility. It is a way of telling your clientele that your training and experience have enabled you to answer their questions and to improve their safety. In a time of continuous budget-cutting, it is important for our clientele to know that you have the broad-base expertise important to community and individual health and safety.

2. Professional credentials are a way of expressing your commitment to achieving your personal best for the clientele you serve. Credentials proclaim that you care, that you are on the leading edge of your profession and that you endeavor to stay current on emerging issues in environmental health through continuing education.

3. The Georgia Board of Registered Environmental Health Professionals is a growing, mentoring body. It offers the environmental health professional opportunities for continuing education, responsible leadership, and job growth. Credentials make you more marketable, affording better flexibility, mobility and job security. Position upgrades for environmental health professionals are slowly being implemented throughout the state, partially as a result of the work of this Board. Getting the credential is just the first step. We have a lot of work to do, and we need every environmental health professional's participation to make environmental health in Georgia the best it can be.

Contact us and join the team!
The Georgia Board of Registered Environmental Health Professionals
PO Box 157 Hawkinsville, GA 31036
Executive Clerk, Cathy Coleman, geha@comsouth.net
The GEORGIA ENVIRONMENTAL HEALTH ASSOCIATION, INC. promotes and supports the efforts of, and provides training and registration for, individuals working in environmental health fields in government, academia, industry and business. The field of Environmental Health developed decades ago by successfully using the epidemiologic model for the sole purpose of preventing disease. Today, environmental concerns are becoming more prevalent among our citizens and, in Georgia; GEHA members are leaders in the field of Environmental Health.

GEORGIA DEPARTMENT OF COMMUNITY HEALTH
DIVISION OF PUBLIC HEALTH, ENVIRONMENTAL HEALTH

Inspecting and permitting on-site sewage management systems, food service establishments, tourist accommodations, and public swimming pools - childhood lead poisoning prevention - rabies and vector control - injury prevention - hazardous materials exposure investigations - epidemiologic investigations - indoor air quality - nuisance complaints - individual and non-public water systems - Georgia healthy farmers.

GEORGIA DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE
CONSUMER PROTECTION DIVISION

Inspecting and permitting food products including meat, eggs and milk in grocery stores, bakeries, food processing plants, bottled water and soft drink bottling plants, farmers markets and meat, and seafood dealers - inspecting commercial scales and fuel pumps for accuracy - licensing and monitoring commercial nurseries, lawn care companies, exterminators, pesticides, pet and animal industries - testing dairy cattle and equipment - assuring proper formulation of fertilizers, pesticides, feeds and fuels - enforcing fair standards in the purchase of grain and livestock - monitoring the health of livestock in the state as well as those imported into Georgia.

UNIVERSITY OF GEORGIA
SCHOOL OF AGRICULTURAL AND ENVIRONMENTAL SCIENCES

The college of agricultural and environmental sciences promotes economic viability and global competitiveness of Georgia agriculture, fosters environmental stewardship and wise management of natural resources, and ensures the production and distribution of safe food, feed and fiber.

Mission:
• To provide baccalaureate and graduate education in agricultural and environmental sciences that promotes excellence in student achievement and prepares students to effectively contribute and excel in a changing world;
• To inquire into the nature of agriculture and the environment, through the discovery, interpretation and creative application of knowledge;
• To serve the public through timely education of producers, consumers and agribusiness using relevant, accurate and unbiased research-based information, and
• To improve the quality of life through youth development and life-long education.

BUSINESS AND INDUSTRY

Georgia business and industry support and encourage a wide variety of environmental leadership initiatives. They share a commitment to the environment based on the principle that they shall conduct business in ways that protect and preserve our environment. Furthermore, they promote a philosophy of shared responsibility, where all participants in the supply chain accept responsibility for the environmental impacts occurring in their specific part of the chain. Working together with suppliers, customers, regulators and other environmental partners, Georgia business and industry achieve an effective balance between responsible environmental and economic stewardship.
Dear Colleague:

The Georgia Board of Registered Environmental Health Professionals held its Annual Educational Meeting on **Friday, February 12, 2010 at the Georgia Farm Bureau, located at 1620 Bass Road, Macon, GA.** The four speakers were Rob Blake, MPH, Melinda Scarborough, MPH, Bob Payne, and Chris Hutcheson. All presentations shared very appropriate and current topic information with those in attendance.

During the business meeting, Ms. Cheryl Pierce was recognized as the newest registrant through reciprocity. The Board discussed acquiring online CEU credits. The GBREHP link to the GEHA website includes a link to course credits available through the National Environmental Health Association.

A short Board meeting was held with the officers immediately after the annual meeting concluded.

The following officers were elected for the year 2010-2011:

- **Chair** - Melinda Scarborough  
- **Vice Chair** – Travis Sheppard  
- **Secretary** – David Brake  
- **Treasurer** – David Garner.

*For more information on becoming registered, please see instructions on page 6 or call geha@comsouth.net.*

**NEWLY CERTIFIED MEMBERS**

The GEHA Board of Directors and Members congratulate individuals for completing the Environmental Health Specialist/Sanitarian Registration Program.

*Cheryl Pierce*
In any emergency, public health has a role in preparedness and response. Public health’s primary responsibilities are to serve as outlined under the Federal Emergency Management Agency’s Emergency Support Functions (ESF) #8 to:

- Prevent communicable disease and contamination of food and water
- Develop and monitor health information
- Inspect and control sanitation measures
- Ensure potable water and wastewater
- Control diseases, vectors, and related epidemics
- Conduct laboratory testing as necessary
- Facility and shelter inspections

**Mass Fatality**

A Mass Fatality Incident is an incident where more deaths occur than can be handled by local resources. A Mass Casualty Incident is an incident which focuses on managing surviving victims of an incident. Either incident can be caused by severe weather, pandemic flu, hazardous chemical events, transportation accidents, etc.

Environmental Health’s role in either a mass fatality or mass casualty incident is the same as for any emergency incident, to work with local, state, and federal Emergency Management Agencies under ESF 8.

The role of Environmental Health in a Mass Fatality Incident would be limited to planning, coordination, mobilization, assessment, community knowledge, and leadership experience with emergencies, but not physical removal bodies.

**EH Strike Teams**

At the Georgia Department of Community Health, Environmental Health is developing and implementing strike teams which will be deployed to respond to emergency incidents. In Georgia, these Environmental Health Strike Teams are being modeled after the Alabama system in which a multi-disciplined team is made up of members that are located strategically around the state. By employing trained individuals scattered across the state, these teams can be rapidly deployed with a minimal impact on local workforce and daily duties. The Environmental Health Strike Teams will follow FEMA team type guidelines. For more information, visit [www.fema.gov/good_guidance/](http://www.fema.gov/good_guidance/) and [www.fema.gov/pdf/emergency/nrf/nrf-esf-08.pdf](http://www.fema.gov/pdf/emergency/nrf/nrf-esf-08.pdf).

**EH Emergency Preparedness Training**

Several resources are available for Environmental Health Specialists (EHS) to be trained in Emergency Preparedness and Response. Basic emergency preparedness courses are available through FEMA online at the National Incident Management System (NIMS) training program. Additional training is available at the US Department of Homeland Security (DHS)/FEMA Center for Domestic Preparedness in Anniston AL, called the Environmental Health Training in Emergency Response (EHTER). All transportation, lodging, and meals are paid by DHS/FEMA and this course is recommended for all EHS with emergency Preparedness responsibilities.

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**FOR MORE INFORMATION**

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Environmental Health Workforce Development
by R. Chris Rustin, M.S., R.E.H.S.

According to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), the three core functions of public health are: assessment, policy development, and assurance. These core functions are supported by the ten essential public health services and associated environmental public health performance standards.

The ten essential services outline the necessary services required to effectively protect and improve environmental health. The ten essential services are to:

1. monitor health status;
2. diagnose and investigate;
3. inform, educate and empower;
4. mobilize partnerships;
5. develop policies and plans;
6. enforce laws and regulations;
7. link to needed resources;
8. assure capable workforce;
9. evaluate effectiveness; and
10. research innovative solutions.

The Georgia Division of Public Health (GDPH), Environmental Health Branch and the eighteen health districts conducted a statewide assessment using the national environmental public health performance standards instrument to assess how well we do at providing the ten essential services. According to the CDC, Georgia was the first state to conduct such an assessment of its program. CDC will use the lessons learned from our approach to educate other states on this process.

The results of Georgia’s assessment indicated that four areas were in need of improvement: monitoring, mobilization, evaluation and workforce development. All four areas are a priority for improvement, but the focus of this article will be on workforce development.

As a graduate of the CDC Environmental Public Health Leadership Institute my project was to collaborate with the state Environmental Health Branch Director and the health districts to develop a comprehensive environmental health workforce development plan.

Environmental Health is a cornerstone of the public health system with early accomplishments in “…preserving the purity of food and water, and ensuring basic sanitation” to more recently responding to the “…emergence of new threats, including West Nile virus and being at the forefront of emergency preparedness activities” (ASTHO, 2005). The mission of the environmental health profession is to provide primary prevention through a combination of surveillance, education, enforcement, and assessment programs designed to identify, prevent and abate environmental conditions that adversely impact human health.

In Georgia, Environmental Health Specialists (EHS) accomplish this mission by utilizing their scientific education and training to perform health assessments including inspections, investigate complaints, provide education and provide technical assistance. However, with the emergence of new threats and additional programs, the responsibilities of environmental health are rapidly increasing, and many counties in Georgia are facing a shortage of trained, experienced environmental health staff to handle these increasing demands.

This shortage in staff is due to high turnover and staff retirement. It has led to problems such as inconsistent inspections, increased consumer and industry complaints, low morale, and the potential for public health threats to go undetected and unabated. Like many other states, Georgia’s challenges are:

- Experienced staff retiring in large numbers
- Limited recruitment and retention of new EHS because compensation, advancement, and training opportunities are well below regional and national levels.
- Potential low quality workforce because of limited training or education opportunities to educate staff beyond the minimum level required to perform basic duties.

R. Chris Rustin is Deputy Director of the Environmental Health Branch at the Georgia Department of Community Health*. Chris began his environmental health career in Evans County in 2000, transferred to Effingham County, and was promoted to District Environmental Health Director for the Coastal District.

Chris received his B.S. in Biology from Armstrong Atlantic State University and an M.S. in Safety and Environmental Compliance from Georgia Southern University. Chris became a registered environmentalist in 2007, and is now studying for his DrPH from Georgia Southern University with expected graduation in 2011. *(see NOTE Page 10)
Emerging threats of pandemic flu, bioterrorism, and other diseases

Extensive loss of county fee revenue from the precipitous decline in housing construction, while non-fee service requests increase

A survey of the health districts in 2010 indicated an approximate 20% vacancy/turn-over rate with over 90 vacant positions across the state. These vacancies are a result of the current economic crisis, and have led several districts to eliminate Environmentalist positions. Out of the 90+ vacant positions, 46 positions have been eliminated. This problem is further exacerbated by a large percentage of senior environmental health staff that will retire in the next five years, which leads to the proverbial “brain drain” of institutional knowledge and experiences. By the end of 2010 alone, Georgia will lose approximately 40 positions (10% of its workforce) to retirements.

In the last 10 years, GDPH Environmental Health Branch and District Environmental Health Directors have studied and discussed the issue of EHS leaving the profession and the impending retirements of senior staff. Efforts were made to increase salaries several years ago, but lost legislative support and were not approved. In addition, the merit system increased salaries slightly in 2000-2001, but this did little to make salaries competitive to other environmental disciplines.

In late 2008, the GDPH Environmental Health Branch expressed concern about the increase in turnover of EHS and pending retirement. In early 2009, the Environmental Health Branch organized a committee to evaluate the problem. This committee was comprised of District Environmental Health Directors and County EHS. Its mission was to determine why EHS are leaving the profession, and to develop an enhanced career ladder to improve retention and recruitment.

At the time, I was on this committee as the Chatham County Environmental Health Director. The committee met in person, via conference calls, and through the WebEx Webconference system, and discussed exit surveys and conversations with former EHS. The committee determined that the number one reason EHS leave the profession is salary inequities with other Georgia agencies, neighboring state agencies, and the private sector. In addition, other factors discussed that influence turnover is the lack of incentives to obtain additional credentials, lack of professional development opportunities, lack of opportunities for advancement, and discrepancies between hiring and promotion practices between districts.

The disparity in compensation between Georgia, surrounding states, and industry is a hindrance for recruitment and retention. Georgia requires all entry level EHS to have a minimum of a Bachelor of Science degree and all EHS must attend an Environmental Health training program administered by the state. In addition, they must obtain professional certifications in the onsite sewage program, emergency preparedness, and become F.D.A. food code standardized. Many of these credentials require maintenance through continuing education courses.

Georgia’s entry level salary is currently $26,672, which is well below other professions that require similar degree requirement and credentials. There have been many anecdotal stories of EHS that left the profession for jobs in industry, other state programs, and even other state agencies in Georgia making $5,000-$20,000 more in salary. According to the U.S. Department of Labor, Bureau of Labor Statistics, Georgia’s entry level salary does not meet the national 10th percentile average of $32,220 for our job classification.

In addition, more affluent health districts are able to offer higher entry level salaries, which results in districts competing against each other for the top candidates and current staff. There are many examples of well trained and competent EHS that leave one district to take the same position in a neighboring district for more money. While this benefits the individual EHS, it is bad overall for the continuity of the program statewide.

After transitioning to the state office in May 2009, collaboration began immediately with the GDPH Environmental Health Director, Scott Uhlich, on this plan. This project grew from a simple career ladder improvement to a full workforce development plan that has two basic components:

1. support of existing staff and
2. enhanced recruitment.
The plan is still in draft form and research is currently underway to develop a budget that will support the plan. While the current economic climate does not support implementing the full plan immediately, it is our goal to get the structure of the plan in place and to present to leadership so when the economy improves, the plan can be implemented. The plan includes the following elements:

- Establish competencies and provide training to ensure a competent workforce to meet community needs for environmental health services.
- Support of existing staff with a comprehensive career ladder that adjusts salaries, provides incentives for trainings and credentials, and adds additional advancement opportunities.
- Develop a leadership/management program for mid-career professionals to enhance management skills and build leadership capacity for the next generation of EHS leaders.
- Enhance recruitment through improved marketing to universities and student career day events to showcase the profession.
- Establish sustainable funding through enhanced marketing of the profession’s importance to the state legislature via fact sheets that describe the profession’s role and the economic impact of losing environmental health professionals.

- Encourage and eventually require EHS to become credentialed as a REHS/RS, seek advanced education degrees, and to compensate and celebrate this achievement.

The goals of this plan match recommendations from the Centers for Disease Control, Environmental Health Branch and the Association of State and Territorial Health Officials. In addition, the Department of Community Health has listed workforce development as an important initiative.

The GDPH Environmental Health Branch appreciates and applauds the hard work Environmentalists across Georgia do each day to protect public health. It is our hope that this plan, once implemented, will reward EHS for their professional accomplishments, reduce turnover, and enhance our recruitment efforts.

R. Chris Rustin, MS, REHS
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rcrustin@dhr.state.ga.us
www.health.state.ga.us/programs/envservices

CDC Environmental Public Health Leadership Institute

Congratulations to these GEHA Members and former members for completing the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention’s Environmental Public Health Leadership Institute (EPHLI)! EPHLI is a 1-year program of seminars and workshops, special projects, and individual study. Each year, approximately 30 practicing environmental public health professionals are admitted to the program. CDC pays for all allowable and approved costs associated with participation in the institute. For more about EPHLI, go to: www.cdc.gov/nceh/ehs/EPHLI/default.htm

EPHLI FELLOWS FROM GEORGIA

GEHA Members

Former GEHA Members

More about our members’ fellowship projects can be found at:
www2a.cdc.gov/nceh/ehs/ephlis/states.asp?State=Georgia
Illegal Slaughtering Operations on the Rise

by Rex Holt, D.V.M. and Blandon Moseley

Illegal farm meat slaughter and processing is an increasing issue, and a serious problem for Georgia Meat Compliance Investigators.

In Georgia, only two sources are approved for inspecting meat for public consumption:

• US Department of Agriculture (USDA), Food Safety and Inspection Service, and
• Georgia Department of Agriculture (GDA), Meat Inspection Section (MIS).

All meat products transported, sold, or offered for sale must be inspected and bear the mark of inspection from the facility. However, a farmer may slaughter his own animals on his own property for his own use (and that of non-paying friends, family, and guests).

Illegal slaughter involves processing under extremely unsanitary conditions, such as processing on blood and feces soaked dirt; using rusty, unclean tools or implements; using unacceptable chemicals; or packaging improperly. The uninspected meat is adulterated, unwholesome and often fraudulently labeled. Successful illegal slaughter investigations result from complaints about: discarded entrails and parts; scavengers and pests; inhumane treatment of animals; meat contaminated with feces, ingesta, hair or milk; and meat mislabeled or lacking an inspection stamp. A farmer renting out his property or facilities for others to slaughter is also illegal.

Under cooperative agreement, USDA and GDA work closely to ensure compliance with the Federal Meat Inspection Act and Georgia Meat Inspection Act. Under these acts it is a misdemeanor to sell meat from an unlicensed and uninspected butcher shop, and it is a felony to sell contaminated or spoiled meat. In Georgia, each carcass is considered a violation.

Since 2005, GDA has seen an increase in illegal farm slaughter. In 2005, GDA MIS found three illegal slaughtering operations. Over the next four years, compliance officers found five additional illegal operations per year. In 2010, however, GDA MIS officially warned nine farm slaughter operations, uncovered four more that are currently under investigation, and are looking into other allegations regarding several more individuals throughout Georgia.

GDA attributes the rise in illegal farm slaughter to cash profits from the combination of poor economy, high rate of unemployment, and influx of immigrants. Immigrants unfamiliar with state and federal food safety laws drive new demand for illegal butchering linked to various holidays. One recent court case revealed a violator netted $28,000.00 in a single weekend; and another violator allowed over five hundred goats to be slaughtered on his farm over a two year period.

After slaughter, the processing of illegal meat in retail stores often results in numerous violations. Unfortunately, when given an opportunity to make a lot of money, people will not always stop when told, despite illegality. The high profit and demand motivates the movement of illegal activity to new farms when an illegal source is shut down, regardless of the penalties. Initial fines and official warnings can be escalated to rarely used criminal prosecution for repetitive or heinous violations.

Environmental Health Professionals are encouraged to contact the authors if they suspect illegal slaughtering operations.

People are subject to injury from the unwholesome, adulterated, or misbranded meat operations from illegal slaughtering; livestock producers and meat processors of wholesome products also suffer economic losses.”

Commissioner of Agriculture, Tommy Irvin
Thank you for joining us for the 2010 AEC at the Georgia Farm Bureau in Macon, GA on July 7, 2010. It was full of fellowship, fun, and information about current trends in food service, on-site sewage, agriculture, hazardous materials, and much more! Join us in 2011 for the latest in the various disciplines Environmental Health. Watch the GEHA website at www.geha-online.org for updated information, or call at Mark Norton at 404.656.3621.

GEHA instituted the golf tournament as part of the annual education conference to raise scholarship money for Georgia college students pursuing environmental health careers. The tournament is named after Irving Bell, who retired from the Coca-Cola Company after many years as a supportive corporate liaison, and who remains a dedicated advocate for GEHA, and an avid golfer.

This year, two candidates were chosen to receive the Irving Bell Scholarship! The winners of this year’s Irving Bell Golf Scholarship are Rachel Spencer and Erika Parker.

Rachel received a degree in Environmental Health Science and Agricultural Science from the University of Georgia. Rachel is currently in the midst of a prestigious SUPEH/ORISE internship at the CDC in Atlanta. She will be working closely with the epidemiological intelligence service (EIS) to investigate topics relating to food borne illness. She is interested in many aspects of public health but has been a real activist when it comes to sustainable agriculture and our food system. She is the Vice President of the EHS Club and is active with one of our most well known organizations on campus, Students for Environmental Awareness. Rachel is considering graduate school in the future.

Erika also received a degree in Environmental Health Science from the University of Georgia, and is Erika is interested in medical school. Erika completed an internship at the Greater New York Hospital System in the summer of 2009. During her internship she compiled and analyzed data from the hospital systems environmental checklists. For summer 2010, Erika is working at the University of Washington with Dr. Sverre Vedal on his project relating to occupational lung diseases.

The State Science and Engineering Fair recipient of the GEHA award was Boyang Niu. She recently graduated from Northview High School in Duluth, GA. His project was titled: “Use of Google's Insights for Public Health”. He analyzed data he collected by traditional methods to that contained in a data base generated by Google.

Mark Burkhead won the John J. Sheuring Scholarship! Mark is a junior in the Environmental Health Science program at UGA. Mark first became interested in environmental health science to help improve the quality of life for people by looking beyond the medical needs of patients at the environmental factors that affect people's daily lives. Mark’s main academic interests are the new innovations in health and technology such as alternative energy and pollution control.

At our conference in 2010, Awards Committee Chair Christie Blair bestowed the following retirees with an honorary lifetime membership to GEHA for their dedicated service:

- Georgia Department of Agriculture Commissioner Tommy Irvine
- David Blankenship
- Van Harris
- Murl McCall
- John Rudesell
- John Tebeau

Continued on page 29...
2010 CONFERENCE SNAPSHOTS

GEHA 2010 Conference, held at the Georgia Farm Bureau in Macon, GA

Pictured at top: NEHA Regional Chair John Steward and GEHA President Chris Carter, Past President Krissa Jones poses with her GEHA Meritous Service Award, Commissioner Tommy Irving and Awards Chair Christy Blair present Environmentalist of the Year to Chris Carter, Assistant Commissioner Oscar Garrison with Agriculture Commissioner Tommy Irving and his Lifetime Achievement Award, and President Chris Carter hands the gavel to President Elect Dwain Butler.

GEHA members from all disciplines enjoyed the 2010 workshops...

Pictured above (clockwise): USDA guest speaker Kenneth Cash and Charles Mattocks with Sandy Shepherd, NEHA Regional Chair John Steward and Melinda Scarborough, President Chris Carter and Irving Bell Scholarship Winner Rachel Spencer, GDCH Guest Speaker Brad Wiggins, John Steward and GEHA Historian Melinda Scarborough.

NEW for Professionals!

GEHA WEB BLOG

Join other Georgia professional discussions on this environmental health web forum

Access the web blog from the GEHA website or go to: http://gaenv.wordpress.com/2009/02/25/hello-world/

GEORGIA

AGRITOURISM

Under the leadership of Commissioner Tommy Irvin and Deputy Commissioner Terry Coleman, the Georgia Department of Agriculture, along with the Departments of Transportation and Economics, has initiated an Agritourism Program in the state of Georgia. Agritourism road signs provide tourists unique opportunities to enjoy Georgia’s resources and companies as they travel the roads.
## GEHA OFFICERS AND BOARD MEMBERS

**2010-2011**

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<td>President</td>
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<td>Allison Strickland</td>
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<td>Vice President</td>
<td>Chad McCord</td>
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<td>Past President</td>
<td>Chris Carter</td>
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<td>Treasurer/Finance</td>
<td>Tad Williams</td>
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### COMMITTEES

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### Calling All Members! Three Great Opportunities!

#### GEHA BOARD RECRUITMENT

Be a bigger part of the opportunities. It's YOUR Environmental Health.

The GEHA Board is looking for Environmental Health Specialists to serve on their Board of Directors. Make a change and be a part of the only association in Georgia that is solely for Environmental Health. Take part in networking opportunities! Help plan the Annual Education Conference!

**Be a bigger part of the opportunities and make it YOUR Environmental Health.**

#### Get Published!

Articles are always welcome for the GEHA Journal, *Georgia Environmentalist*. Submit article suggestions to incampbell@dhr.state.ga.us.

#### Send Us Your Favorite Environmental Health Photos

The GEHA Journal Editorial staff encourage you to send in your favorite Environmental Health photos. Contact the editorial staff for more information. Formats preferred include TIFF or JPEG. Photos received will be considered for Journal publication and website posting.

#### WANTED: Scenic Photos of Nature in Georgia

Do you have excellent quality and artistic photographs of Georgia scenery? We are collecting photographs for use in national presentations and brochures to help promote Georgia. No people or pets, please- just photos depicting the natural Georgia. If so, please send them to Jane Perry, Photography Committee Chair, at jmperry@dhr.state.ga.us.
SPOTLIGHT ON ENVIRONMENTAL HEALTH

Rosmarie Kelly, Ph.D.
Public Health Entomologist
Zoonotic and Vector Borne Diseases Team
Epidemiology Branch, Division of Public Health
Georgia Department of Community Health
2 Peachtree St NW, 14th Floor
Atlanta, GA 30303
404-657-2912

Rosmarie Kelly, Ph.D. is the state Public Health Entomologist in the Georgia Division of Public Health, Department of Community Health. Currently as the Public Health Entomologist, Dr. Kelly is responsible for mosquito control and outreach in Georgia. She provides training and support, monitors insects, monitors insect transmitted disease, provides training and technical assistance to county and district public health, and she manages emergency mosquito control for state emergency preparedness and response in Georgia. She spends much of the mosquito season driving statewide setting mosquito surveillance traps to monitor mosquito populations as well as vector-borne diseases. In 2009, Dr. Kelly initiated Georgia’s first Emergency Mosquito Control Mobile Surveillance Laboratory.

Dr. Kelly, received a Bachelor of Arts in Biology and Psychobiology from Hiram College in 1978, her Master of Science in 1984 in Zoology (Parasitology) at Ohio State University, her Master of Arts in Teaching in 1987 from Kent State University in Secondary Education of Biology and General Science, her Doctorate of Philosophy in Medical Entomology in 1994 from the University of Massachusetts, Cartography Certification from Salem State College in 1996, and her Master of Public Health from Kent State University in 2001.

Dr. Kelly devoted her graduate and post-graduate career in the 1990s to mosquito control working on her Ph.D. in Medical Entomology at the University of Massachusetts in Amherst, MA, and serving as entomologist to the East Middlesex Mosquito Control Program in Waltham, MA for several years. In 2002, she joined the Georgia Division of Public Health as the state entomologist, and has served as a guest researcher at the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) National Center for Zoonotic, Vector-Borne, and Enteric Diseases in Atlanta, GA. She has published many research articles between 1984 and 2007.

Dr. Kelly was born in Lafayette, IN. When she is not working with mosquitoes and other entomological vectors, Dr. Kelly enjoys horseback riding, reading, playing with her dog and cat, and being with family.

AWARDS and ACHIEVEMENTS

2009 Initiated Georgia’s first Emergency Mosquito Control Mobile Surveillance Lab
2008 Published 15 research articles
2008 Prepared 13 presentations
2001 MPH– Geographic Information Systems
1996 Certificate of Cartography
1994 PhD– Medical Entomology
1987 MA– Education of Biology/General Science
1984 MS– Zoology/Parasitology
1978 BA– Biology/Psychobiology

COMMITTEE & ASSOCIATION LEADERSHIP

Georgia Mosquito Control Association
Board Member, Public Health Liaison
Since 2003

National Association of Vector Control Officials
Georgia Representative
Since 2004

MEMBERSHIPS

• GEORGIA ENVIRONMENTAL HEALTH ASSOCIATION
• NATIONAL ENVIRONMENTAL HEALTH ASSOCIATION
• GEORGIA ENTOMOLOGICAL SOCIETY
• ENTOMOLOGICAL SOCIETY OF AMERICA
• AMERICAN MOSQUITO CONTROL ASSOCIATION
• MID- ATLANTIC MOSQUITO CONTROL ASSOCIATION
**Public Health’s Role in Mosquito Surveillance**
by Rosmarie Kelly Ph.D.

**Mosquito Surveillance and Control**

Following the appearance of West Nile Virus (WNV) in 1999 in New York, Georgia, along with many other states, began planning WNV surveillance and control activities. Since WNV is an arboviral disease spread by mosquitoes, Georgia incorporated a public health entomologist as part of this plan.

Currently, there is no state level mosquito control in Georgia, therefore mosquito control was not well represented during the planning stages for WNV. In fact, before WNV, most mosquito control was for nuisance species with little thought given to vector species.

Mosquito control programs are fragmented, and most run through Public Works Department. There are a few stand-alone programs; some programs are county-level, some serve the town or city, and some are both. Two nuisance control programs are housed in environmental health, one in Richmond County and one in Muscogee County; however many counties have no programs at all. Programs range from fully integrated mosquito management with good budgets that allow for spraying where needed, to programs with virtually no budget.

In addition, there are a number of vector control-only programs that were put into place to reduce the risk of WNV transmission to the public. These programs are primarily located in environmental health, although there is at least one university-run program.

Included in the activities to support mosquito surveillance and control in Georgia, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention and the Georgia Division of Public Health offer two mosquito ID classes each year. Typically, one adult and one larval ID class each year are usually offered; however this varies depending on need. The Southeastern Cooperative Wildlife Disease Study (SCWDS) at the University of Georgia in Athens provides testing of vector mosquito species.

**NPDES Requirements**

There will soon be a requirement for mosquito control programs to file National Pollution Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) permits. Currently, the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) is developing an NPDES permit for the application of pesticides to the waters of the US. Once this is completed, States will have to develop their own permits.

Until recently application of mosquito control pesticides has been exempt from the Clean Water Act as long as pesticide application was done in compliance with the Federal Insecticide, Fungicide, & Rodenticide Act (FIFRA). In March 2001, the 6th Circuit Court ruled that pesticide discharges into US waters required a permit specific to an irrigation district. In 2005, the 9th Circuit Court held that a pesticide applied consistent with FIFRA was not a pollutant. Lawsuits filed, however, in 11 of 13 Circuit Courts by both pesticide industry and anti-pesticide group led to a ruling by the 6th Circuit Court that pesticide residues are pollutants and applicators must apply for a (non-existent) NPDES permit in order to apply pesticides. Now NPDES permitting for pesticide application will be required by April 2011.

**Emergency Preparedness and Mosquito Control**

Georgia is vulnerable to tornadoes, flooding, and other natural and man-made disasters that can and have caused severe disruption of essential human services and severe property damage to public roads, utilities, buildings, parks, and other facilities. Mosquito populations following water-related disasters can increase to a level that they become a public health risk making the restoration of vital services to the citizens of the affected area both dangerous and difficult.

Several mosquito-borne viruses circulate in Georgia each year and are capable of causing disease in humans and other animals. The most common mosquito-borne viruses in Georgia include West Nile virus, Eastern Equine Encephalitis virus, and LaCrosse virus. Saint Louis encephalitis virus has also been detected in Georgia in the past. The risk of infection with one of these mosquito-borne viruses could increase after a natural or man-made disaster.

The Georgia Emergency Mosquito Surveillance Trailer is a 16-foot trailer with equipment to support surveillance of vector and nuisance mosquito species. This trailer is designed for use during any emergency or disaster where mosquitoes constitute a public health problem either by virtue of disease transmission or by nuisance factor. The trailer may also be used in emergency-related exercises, testing, or other training activities.

**More about Dr. Kelly is available in the GEHA Spotlight on page 15**
On April 20, 2010, an explosion occurred on the Deepwater Horizon oil drilling platform in the Gulf of Mexico. The explosion killed 11 platform workers and injured 17 others. The drilling platform is owned by Transocean, and is under contract to British Petroleum. Millions of gallons of crude oil have leaked into the northern Gulf since the platform sank two days later.

How does the spill affect Georgia?

None of the oil has reached coastal Georgia; however, if current efforts to stop the leak and/or abate contamination of Gulf waters are not successful, oil could drift into the strong Loop Current and possibly affect Coastal Georgia. The National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration is the nation’s leading scientific resource for oil spills, and they are participating on a flow rate task force to inform the public about the location and dispersion of the oil spill. Daily updates about the spill can be found at www.noaa.gov. Call (866) 448-5816 for general information.

The Georgia Department of Community Health (DCH) is constantly evaluating the latest reports about the spill, and evaluating predictions of oil movement, weather patterns, and projected landfall points. The Department of Natural Resources (DNR), Coastal Resources Division and DCH’s Coastal Health District currently direct a beach monitoring program on the Georgia coast for bacterial contamination. If Georgia’s coastal waters and beaches become contaminated with oil from the spill in the Gulf of Mexico, DCH and DNR will assist federal agencies and other authorities with informing the public about beach closures, and swimming, boating, and/or fishing advisories.

Is it safe to swim, or eat fish and seafood?

It is safe to swim, fish, and participate in recreational boating in Coastal Georgia. However, if a body of water is deemed unsafe or unusable by state officials, advisories will be posted near affected bodies of water. If advisories are posted, all individuals should avoid the area and any contact with the water.

Fish and seafood currently harvested in Georgia is safe and has not been affected by the oil spill in the Gulf. DNR’s Coastal Resources Division is taking the lead for any necessary closures of commercial shrimping and fishing from Georgia waters. The Georgia Department of Agriculture will be tracking commercial fish and seafood available in grocery stores and for sale in restaurants. The DCH Chemical Hazards Program will be providing guidance to individuals who fish, shrimp and oyster harvest for personal consumption.

Crude oil has the potential to taint seafood with a wide range of flavors, odors, and “mouth-feels” such as fuel, tar, sulphur, solvent, tobacco-like or burnt plastic. Most consumers would be able to see and smell it in any locally purchased or caught fish and seafood prior to consumption, even in very small amounts. Human detection by smell, taste, and texture occurs at extremely low levels—far below levels that would be harmful if consumed. If and when any petroleum contaminants reach Georgia, DCH and other agencies will inform the public about any health risks.

What about long term environmental and health effects?

The U. S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) is conducting air and water sampling to assist states and agencies in understanding the affects of oil contamination in the Gulf. Petroleum odors are often pungent, but fumes usually do not present an immediate health risk. The smell is similar gas station fumes, which come from “volatile organic compounds” in the oil, and can be smelled at levels far below what makes individuals ill. Chemical dispersants being applied to the water are also of concern. Chemical composition details of dispersants are not available beyond noting that most are reported to contain petroleum distillates. See EPA’s summary of oil spill response products at www.epa.gov/emergencies/docs/oil/ncp/notebook.pdf for updated information about air and water quality, and for health effects of dispersants.

For More Information

BP ENVIRONMENTAL HOTLINE AND CLEANUP VOLUNTEER INFORMATION
866-448-5816

RESPONSE JOINT INFORMATION CENTER
www.deepwaterhorizonresponse.com

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Atlanta, GA 30303
Phone: 404-657-6534
Fax: 404-657-6533
www.health.state.ga.us/programs/hazards
**FEATURED INTERVIEW**

Na’Taki Osborne Jelks, M.P.H.
National Wildlife Federation

**Na’Taki Osborne Jelks** is the Manager for Education and Advocacy Programs with the National Wildlife Federation (NWF). She is responsible for building capacity with individuals and community organizations to take personal and civic action to restore the communities in which they live, work, play, worship, and learn. She works with youth through NWF’s youth environmental education and leadership development program for teens of color (Earth Tomorrow), and with adults on various advocacy initiatives. She leads coalition building efforts to get kids connected to nature, engaging underserved communities in conservation efforts such as combating global warming, restoring habitat in Atlanta’s diminishing urban forest, creating green jobs, and training the next generation of environmental leaders. Na’Taki is a part-time part-time lecturer in the Environmental Science and Studies Program at Spelman College, and also volunteer Chair of the West Atlanta Watershed Alliance, an organization committed to ensuring environmental justice in Southwest and Northwest Atlanta’s African American neighborhoods.

Na’Taki has received recognition and awards from the Georgia House of Representatives, the Georgia Legislative Black Caucus, the Environmental Careers Organization, the Atlanta Chapter of the National Alumnae Association of Spelman College, the Turner Broadcasting Systems (TBS), and former U.S. President, Bill Clinton. She has also received recognition from Redbook, Ebony, Uptown, the Atlanta Tribune, Atlanta CityMag, and Atlanta Woman magazines. Na’Taki is an alumna of Spelman College, and earned her Master’s of Public Health in Environmental and Occupational Health from Emory University.

**GEHA: What do you think will be the biggest environmental issue in Georgia over the next ten years?**

**Na’Taki Osborne Jelks:** It’s hard to narrow it down to any one environmental issue. I see the issues of water availability, greenhouse gases, and air pollution as Georgia’s greatest challenges. For example, the challenges of water availability have been amplified with the “Water Wars” between Georgia, Alabama, and Florida. These challenges will continue while there is excessive development and no focus on conservation and smart growth. Also, if prudent measures aren’t taken to curb greenhouse gas emissions and climate change, the impacts will be felt throughout the state, and both the environment and people will suffer—our coastal communities and urban centers being hardest hit. Too, there are high asthma rates in Georgia counties where ozone, particulate matter, and other air pollutants are in excess of safe limits, and older, inner neighborhoods in places like Atlanta are still plagued with aging infrastructure like combined sewer overflow systems that impact water quality and public health.

**GEHA: What can we, as Environmental Health professionals, do to improve Georgia’s environment?**

**Na’Taki Osborne Jelks:** As environmental health professionals, it is important that we expand the boundaries of what is traditionally considered environmental health—food safety, water systems, sanitation, etc., and address issues of health and the built environment in a more deliberate manner: “nature deficit” (the lack of time that today’s kids spend outside connecting to the natural world), the impacts of climate change on health, and environmental justice.

**GEHA: What can other citizens do to help improve Georgia’s environment?**

**Na’Taki Osborne Jelks:** To improve Georgia’s environment, citizens can take personal responsibility and engage in civic actions to protect, restore, and conserve resources that are so important to the well-being of our state and all of its living things. They can get involved in local planning decisions impacting environmental quality and the health of their communities, and they can take steps in their individual lives that will make a difference. For example, residents can eat local foods, recycle, conserve water and energy, and become connected to their “place”---whether it’s urban, suburban, or rural---by exploring it, learning about its special ecological features, and working to enhance it. They can join environmental or community-based organization or initiatives that are working actively to improve Georgia’s environment, and, if no initiative exists in their area, they can start one!

*Continued next page...*
GEHA: Who have been the major influences in your life?

Na’Taki Osborne Jelks: My parents have been major influences in my life. They are both educators so service and advocacy make up the fabric of their lifestyles. Following in their footsteps, my work has led me beyond my office and into low-income communities and communities of color whose efforts to change their realities have largely been about challenging polluters. My work is centered around assisting residents of these communities to create partnerships to clean up their environment, to restore and protect natural resources, and to improve their health and quality of life. My passion for environmental justice and health was initially inspired by my mother’s diagnosis with breast cancer after living in Louisiana’s “Cancer Alley” corridor. “Cancer Alley” is the 100-mile strip from Baton Rouge to New Orleans, Louisiana that is home to over 300 chemical companies, oil refineries, and other pollution generating facilities. I began to make the connections between the polluting industries that we lived around, the ever-present stench in the air and water, the consistent high pollution index, the bad taste of the water, and even the slightest possibility that my mother’s diagnosis was linked to our exposures; I was then motivated to work to ensure that all people, regardless of race and income, have access to healthy and safe living and working conditions and equal protection under environmental laws.

GEHA: What is most rewarding to you about your work?

Na’Taki Osborne Jelks: I find the opportunity to make real change happen most rewarding. Using my background in science and community organization, I have been able to help communities build their capacities to address health disparities by reducing the environmental hazards and stressors impacting them. I feel like I am making a difference helping leaders from environmentally degraded communities to find their voice and develop the necessary skills to speak out and act.

GEHA: How can we best teach children about environmental issues?

Na’Taki Osborne Jelks: We can best teach children about environmental issues by helping them to connect in a personal way to their environment and the natural world around them. To quote Baba Dioum, the Senegalese Forestry Scientist, “... in the end, we will conserve only what we love. We will love only what we understand. We will understand only what we are taught.” Through developing those personal connections, they can develop an affinity for the environment, and in turn desire to make a difference to conserve, protect, restore, and enjoy it. As the mother of a 9-month old son, I am being faced with this right now. My son already loves being outside and looking out of our kitchen window at the birds, trees, and flowers in our yard. When he’s a little older, I’ll teach him “little things” like how important it is for us to turn out the lights when we’re not in the room or to not let the water run when we brush our teeth, and I’ll make him my “recycling buddy”. I can’t wait until he can really enjoy experiences in the outdoors that will connect him to the nature in our neighborhood—the parks, greenspaces, creeks, and streams that, when protected and properly cared for, are beautiful and enhance our community and quality of life.

GEHA: Do you have any advice that you’d like to give to the members of GEHA?

Na’Taki Osborne Jelks: I would encourage GEHA members to use their expertise and influence to elevate issues of environmental health in the minds of citizens in our state. We face great environmental and health challenges in our state, nation, and planet. Right now there is a huge emphasis on environmental issues from the federal government level to the local level, and television networks and major retail stores are promoting “going green”. Harnessing all of this energy around “green” and health present the ideal opportunity to educate and engage the average citizen to become more informed and to take action that will help ensure a cleaner, greener, healthier Georgia for future generations.
The main Legislative issue that continues to be on the minds of the On-site Sewage Management Systems industry is the Regional Water Planning Districts, created by the Legislature 2 years ago. However, in this past legislative session it was said that there would not be a lot of legislation regarding water or wastewater until the Regional Water Planning Districts made their recommendations.

**HB 1094 / SB 370 Water Conservation.**

HB 1094/SB 370 requires all state government departments to examine their practices, programs, policies, rules, and regulations in order to develop programs and incentives for voluntary water conservation and to make regular reports of measurable progress to the Governor, Lieutenant Governor, Speaker of the House, and General Assembly; to require the establishment of best management practices by public water systems; to change provisions relating to state and local watering restrictions; to provide for the classification and continuation or discontinuation of certain farm use water withdrawal permits; to provide for measuring and separate charging of water to units in certain new construction; to amend Georgia law, to require high-efficiency toilets, shower heads, and faucets; to require high-efficiency cooling towers; and to create the Joint Committee on Water Supply. This bill passed and was signed into law by the Governor.

**HB 239 Eliminate Septic Tanks**

This bill has been followed for the last two sessions by Rep. Richard Smith of Columbus. Many felt would have eliminated septic tanks.

HB 239 related to control of water pollution and surface-water use, so as to regulate the return of surface waters to the sources from which they were withdrawn by local government entities; to provide for reports; to provide for permit modifications; to amend Code Section relating to functions of county boards of health, so as to change certain provisions relating to on-site sewage management systems. GOWA raised objections, and this bill did not pass.

**HB 1206 Geothermal boreholes.**

This bill relates to water well standards, changing certain provisions relating to the requirement for a water well contractor's license and drilling under the direction of a professional geologist or engineer; to change certain provisions relating to standards for wells and geothermal boreholes. It provides a definition of geothermal boreholes and provides that anyone who drills a geothermal borehole must have a water well drillers' license.

HB 1206 regarding geothermal boreholes also provides the following:

"(G) Geothermal boreholes that penetrate into ground water shall be grouted from bottom to top by forced injection using impervious grouting material designed for such purpose. Geothermal boreholes shall be constructed or located at a safe distance from any potential source of contamination. The minimum safe distance from the following sources of contamination shall be: (i) Ten feet from sewer lines; (ii) Twenty-five feet from septic tanks; (iii) Fifty feet from septic drain fields; (iv) Ten feet from a connection between a house and a septic tank; and (v) Ten feet from a connection between a house and a sewer line;"

This bill passed the House and Senate but as of yet, the Governor had not signed this bill into law.

For more information about article content, or for information about attending water planning meetings, contact Bruce from GOWA at:

678-646-0369 or online at www.onsitewastewater.org
HB 853 Tanning Facilities Regulation Act
by Jane Perry, M.P.H.

Skin cancer is the second most common form of cancer among young adults ages 15 to 29. Damage to DNA in skin cells results from ultraviolet (UV) radiation found in sunlight and in commercial tanning lamps. UV light is divided into three wavelength bands—UVA, UVB and UVC. Only UVA and UVB rays reach the earth.

Scientists believed that only UVB rays played a role in the formation of skin cancer. However, UVA also contributes to skin cancer.

At one time scientists believed that only UVB rays played a role in the formation of skin cancer. UVB rays are responsible for sunburn, melanoma, and many basal cell and squamous cell cancers. UVA, however, also contributes to skin cancer. UVA penetrates the skin more deeply than UVB rays, which weakens the skin's immune system and increases the risk of cancer, especially melanoma.

Regular tanning beds use several fluorescent lamps that have phosphor blends designed to emit UV in a spectrum that is somewhat similar to the sun. Tanning beds provide typically 95% UVA and 5% UVB, +/-3%. A large tanning unit typically has ten to fifteen times the amount of UVA radiation as the sun. Among tanning bed users, 70 percent are females between the ages of 16 and 29 years of age. It has been shown that using a tanning bed before the age of 35 can increases the chances of contracting melanoma, the most serious skin cancer, by 75 percent.

On March 26, 2010, the Georgia House of Representatives passed House Bill 853. Sponsored by Representative Karla Drenner (D-Avondale Estates), HB 853 aims to ensure safer usage of tanning beds and increased awareness of their associated health risks. HB 853 also aims to reduce skin cancer rates by prohibiting children under the age of 14 from using tanning beds. The bill also states that older minors must receive parental permission before using tanning bed services. The bill was not passed by the Georgia Senate.

"We must educate our children and enable them to make healthy decisions," said Representative Drenner. "We prevent minors from consuming alcohol, cigarettes, and even piercings. Why should we allow them to engage in an activity that increases their chances of developing melanoma by 75 percent?"

The Georgia Division of Public Health will publish an educational brochure for distribution to tanning salon operators and the general public. The brochure provides detailed information about the dangers of tanning beds. GDPH hopes that consumer education can reduce tanning bed use, especially by minors.

FOR MORE INFORMATION
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Phone: 404-657-6534
Fax: 404-657-6533
www.health.state.ga.us/programs/hazards
Environmental conditions can have a profound effect on the mental and physical health of communities, including exposures to toxic chemicals in air, soil, and water. "Brownfields" are one source of chemical pollution which community members may be exposed to. A brownfield is defined by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency as property, the expansion redevelopment, or reuse of which may be hindered by the presence of hazardous chemicals.

Providing public health insight for brownfields redevelopment can not only reduce the potential for chemical exposures, but also encourage healthy behaviors and improve quality of life. For example, turning a brownfield into green space can increase physical activity by introducing walking paths, recreational areas, and canopy cover. Green space may help reduce vehicle traffic and, thus, air pollution and the prevalence of asthma and other respiratory diseases. Redeveloping land that was once contaminated may improve feelings of well being in communities through involving residents in positive growth and change.

Public Health’s role in brownfields redevelopment is to develop and implement strategies to ensure that public health issues are considered in the earliest phases of, and throughout, brownfields redevelopment.

Atlanta Beltline Redevelopment

Atlanta, Georgia is achieving national attention for an innovative revitalization plan involving the reuse of existing railroad tracks. The Atlanta BeltLine is a $3 billion plan for public transportation, housing, and green space. Incorporated in the redevelopment plans is the reuse of a local quarry as a public park and drinking water reservoir.

The inclusion of 1,300 acres of new green space, 33 miles of multi-use trails, affordable housing, and the connection of many neighborhoods creates a need for public health involvement to address abandoned and contaminated sites, such as brownfields.

Atlanta Brownfield Community Health Project

From October, 2008 through March, 2010, the Georgia Department of Community Health, Chemical Hazards Program (GDCH) partnered with the Fulton County Department of Health and Wellness (FCDHW) and local non-profit organizations to address health, safety, and prevention initiatives as part of the Atlanta brownfield redevelopment in northwest Atlanta. Under a new cooperative agreement with Agency for Toxic Substances and Disease Registry, the Atlanta Brownfield Community Health (ABC-Health) Project built effective partnerships between government agencies, local officials, community based organizations, residents, and others to gather health concerns, and to ensure that community participation and public health principles are included during brownfields redevelopment. GDCH accomplished this by forming a Community Advisory Group (CAG).

ABC-Health Project: Brownfields Awareness and Health Considerations

For the ABC-Health Project, the Chemical Hazards Program gathered community health concerns, and reviewed environmental and population data for several brownfields in northwest Atlanta. The brownfields sites included a former granite quarry to be redeveloped into green space and drinking water reservoir. Adjacent to the quarry in the planned public green space is an electrical substation contaminated with polychlorinated biphenyls. Additionally, former manufacturers of chemicals and electrical switchboard components are contributing to the chemical pollution of a small creek running through these communities. Each of these brownfield sites is unique, and therefore the public health issues associated with their redevelopment vary.

To address health concerns about the potential for exposure to chemicals from these brownfields sites, a health consultation and health impact assessment were conducted, and technical assistance was provided. Environmental health education materials including the Brownfields Redevelopment and Public Health brochure was distributed to residents, CAG members, and others throughout the project.

For More Information about Brownfields in Georgia, visit:

Georgia Environmental Protection Division Brownfields Program
www.gaepd.org/brownfields

U.S. Environmental Protection Agency
www.epa.gov/brownfields
**ABC-Health Radon in Homes Testing Initiative**

One health concern identified under the ABC-Health Project included the potential for exposure to radon in residents’ homes, which was the basis for the Radon in Homes Testing Initiative of the ABC-Health Project. The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency identified north Georgia as an area of high potential for exposure to radon, especially in Metro Atlanta. Uranium in the underlying geology contributes to the potential for exposure to radon. Blasting from the quarry operations may have caused cracks in the foundations of homes within one mile of the quarry, which may make residents more vulnerable to radon gas. In addition, greater focus on energy efficiency in new home construction may potentially increase the potential for radon gas to remain in homes.

Under the ABC-Health Radon in Homes Testing Initiative, GDCH partnered with the Southface Energy Institute, a local non-profit organization, to encourage residents living around the former granite quarry to test their homes for radon. More than 130 radon test kits and radon awareness surveys were distributed at two Radon in Homes Testing events, door-to-door to residents’ homes, and at public meetings, overall representing more than 300 people in households. Participants completed 115 radon awareness surveys, and 55 participants tested their homes for radon. For the summary of the testing and survey results, see the contact information below.

**ABC-Health Scrap Tire Initiative**

Another environmental health concern identified was the potential for exposure to chemicals from tire fires, or to diseases from mosquitoes breeding in abandoned tires. This led to the Scrap Tire Initiative, a prevention initiative of the ABC-Health Project to remove existing scrap tires from neighborhoods, and to add shredded tire surfaces in green space or trails development. Reusing the recycled tires for recreation surfaces or community beautification reduces the potential for the spread of disease and the number of tires that go to landfill, and promotes healthy habits and quality of life.

Under the ABC-Health Scrap Tire Initiative, GDCH partnered with Scrappy Green Recycles, the West Atlanta Watershed Alliance, Village Vitals, and the GrandParents Parenting Association to remove, recycle, and reuse scrap tires located in neighborhoods around the former quarry. As a result, nearly 4,400 tires were removed and recycled from the community surrounding the quarry, and recycled tires were reused as mulch for community flower gardens in three locations in the same neighborhoods.

For More Information about the ABC-Health Project, contact:

Julia Campbell  
Program Consultant II  
Environmental Health Branch  
Georgia Department of Community Health  
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www.health.state.ga.us

**Naturalist’s Ethic**

Take nothing but pictures, waste nothing but time, and leave nothing but footprints!

**Pictures of the ABC Health Scrap Tire Initiative are featured in Images in Environmental Health on Page 32.**
The Environmental Health Section has recently updated its website and you can now access:

- Rules and Regulations for On-Site Sewage Management Systems, Food Service, Tourist Accommodations, and Pools
- Information about Georgia's Food Code Revisions
- Lists of certified septic tank installer and pumper companies
- Approved septic tank products and sizing criteria
- A homeowner's guide to septic tank care and maintenance
- Non-public drinking water documents
- Upcoming continuing education courses
- Agendas, meeting minutes, and documents pertaining to: Technical Review Committee (TRC) Certification Review Committee (CRC) Soil Classifiers Certification Advisory Committee (SCCAC)

Environmental Health Section’s Mission: Provide primary prevention through a combination of surveillance, education, enforcement, and assessment programs designed to identify, prevent and abate the environmental conditions that adversely impact human health.

www.health.state.ga.us/programs/envservices

This same information can be accessed through GEHA’s website: www.geha-online.org
To protect children from lead poisoning, county health departments conduct on site investigations for elevated blood lead levels (EBLL), and offer blood lead testing for children six years old and younger. For lead levels below 14 micrograms of lead per deciliter of blood (ug/dl) an information package is usually mailed out including a lead questionnaire. The questionnaire is completed by the homeowner, and returned to the health department.

The questionnaire provides important clues about where lead may be found around the home such as painted surfaces, mini blinds, ethnic candies and remedies, spices, makeup, jewelry, and sometimes even toys. Often questionnaires will indicate construction work done by a family member as a contributing source. In one instance the father used his truck for construction work, had tools, work clothes and quite a lot of construction dust in the truck also used the vehicle to pick up the child from day care. The clues provided allow us to discuss abatement options with the families in an effort to lower the lead levels before they reach 14 ug/dl.

If the blood lead level is 14ug/dl, county health departments will conduct an investigation. The focus of the investigation is on identification of the source(s) of lead, found through collecting predominantly dust wipes, soil samples, and paint chips. Once the source(s) are found, the family is notified. Follow up consists of continued blood tests taken at 3 or 6 month intervals, determined by the level of lead in the blood. Levels dropping from test to test indicate that at least some of the sources of lead contamination have been eliminated. Increasing levels require a follow up investigation.

During several on site lead investigations conducted in the homes of children with elevated blood lead levels, construction was the common thread. In one case a family purchased a turn of the 20th century home in an affluent area of the county and the father began to do some re-modeling work in his spare time. The father created a great deal of dust when he tore down walls and sanded. His toddler turned up with elevated blood lead levels. In another case, a father was working with a remodeling construction business that specialized in old homes and restorations. His work shoes tested positive for lead dust.

The highest impact exposures were found older homes whose window frames contained lead paint, and every time it was opened lead dust was created. In another case a pre-school located in a pre-1978 home that was found to have doors and windows and several blinds that had lead on the surfaces.

These cases show that lead poisoning in children is increasingly an issue of construction work done without the knowledge of a hazard and without adequate protection in pre-1978 housing, rather than being an issue of economics and poverty. Lead paint was one of the most expensive paints available so it is found in the greatest concentration in affluent neighborhoods, and homeowners and construction companies both have to obtain building permits for renovation work. Therefore, more focus should be on education about lead hazards, abatement, and personal/family protection for residents and contractors involved with remodeling activities. Brochures and educational materials made available at the building inspections department of each county is one way to provide that education.

Catalina Kovac grew up in Athens, GA and obtained a Bachelor’s degree in Microbiology from the University of Georgia in 2001.

Catalina began her career in science at Infectious Diseases Lab at the UGA College of Veterinary Medicine, and then continued at the UGA Agricultural Sciences Lab in Griffin.

She is currently an Environmental Health Specialist 3 with the Northeast Health District in Clarke County.

For more information
Childhood Lead Poisoning Prevention Program
www.health.state.ga.us/programs/lead/
800-247-9054

US. Environmental Protection Agency
www.epa.gov/lead/pubs/brochure.htm
or 1-800-424-LEAD
New EPA Lead Rules for Renovation Contractors

April 22, 2008 U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) issued a rule requiring “lead-safe practices and other actions to prevent lead poisoning”. This year, EPA’s Renovation, Repair, and Painting Rule will go into effect to protect residents, children, and contractors against the risk of exposure to lead dust and paint chips from common renovation activities like sanding, cutting, and demolition, and to prevent lead poisoning. Under the rule, contractors who provide renovation, repair, and painting services for projects that may disturb lead-based paint in homes, child care facilities, and schools built before 1978 must be certified and follow specific work practices to prevent lead contamination.

The rule defines child-occupied facilities as residential, public or commercial buildings where children under age six are present on a regular basis. The requirements apply to renovation, repair or painting activities. The rule does not apply to minor maintenance or repair activities where less than six square feet of lead-based paint is disturbed in a room, or where less than 20 square feet of lead-based paint is disturbed on the exterior.

Does it apply to window replacement?
The rule primarily affects paid renovators who work in pre-1978 housing and child-occupied facilities, including renovation contractors, maintenance workers in multi-family housing, or painters and other specialty trades. Additional information for Lead-Safe certification, compliance, and training is available on the EPA website for the Renovation, Repair, and Painting rule.

Lead-Safe Training

As of April 22, 2010, EPA has accredited 204 training providers who have conducted more than 6,900 courses, training an estimated 160,000 people in the construction and remodeling industries to use lead-safe work practices.

For more information

U.S. Environmental Protection Agency
Renovation, Repair, and Painting Rule
www.epa.gov/oppt/lead/pubs/renovation.htm

Home Renovation Dos and Don’ts

Property owners can also do their part to ensure that contractors’ practices are protective of children’s health and are compliant with the Renovation, Repair, and Painting rule. Homeowners and owners of rental properties or child care facilities can use the following checklist items below to determine if their selected contractors are compliant.

1. Verify that your contractor’s firm is registered with the EPA.
2. Verify that the crew supervisor is a “Certified Renovator” with documented training of the work crew.
3. Be sure that certifications are available at the work site at all times.
4. Look for posted signs clearly defining the work area and warning people to remain outside the work area.
5. Review the EPA brochure, “Renovate Right”.
6. Remove all belongings from the work area.
7. Be sure that workers use plastic sheets (not fabric drop cloths) to seal the area at least six feet beyond affected surfaces.
8. Be sure that workers minimize lead dust by vacuuming or mopping daily.
9. Be sure that all vacuums and wet mops are HEPA certified.
10. Be sure that workers are wearing disposable suits.
11. Be sure all contaminated materials are placed in heavy duty plastic bags before disposal.
Your personal carbon footprint measures the carbon dioxide (CO$_2$) emissions caused by your activities. It includes CO$_2$ emissions from such things as driving your car or flying in a plane, the manufacture and distribution of the products you buy, and turning on the lights in your home. A carbon footprint is usually measured in pounds or tons of CO$_2$ per year.

Home energy use accounts for about one-quarter of your carbon footprint, but this can vary depending on the kinds of energy sources available to power your home. Energy Star calculates carbon savings for Energy Star qualified windows, doors, and skylights based on the mix of fuels in a region and the estimated energy use for a typical home.

**Sources:**
- EPA Power Profiler (fuel mix)

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**What is a Carbon Footprint?**

_The enjoyment of the highest attainable standard of health is one of the fundamental rights of every human being without distinction of race, religion, political belief, economic or social conditions._

--Preamble to the Constitution of the World Health Organization

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**Georgia State University**

At Georgia State University in downtown Atlanta, the Institute of Public Health provides graduate level public health education that serves the needs of those interested in working in public health and healthcare including tracts in epidemiology, health policy, and health communication. Specifically, the Institute offers a 39 semester-hour Master of Public Health (MPH) degree program, and a 15-hour Graduate Certificate in Public Health (CPH). For more information, visit [http://publichealth.gsu.edu](http://publichealth.gsu.edu).

**University of Georgia**

The University of Georgia is training the next generation of public health policy makers, practitioners and researchers with the new UGA master’s degree program in public health. UGA’s Biomedical and Health Sciences Institute (BHSI) and its Division of Public Health initially will coordinate the interdisciplinary degree program. It will be a unique collaboration between many UGA academic units, including the departments of Environmental Health Science and Health Promotion and Behavior. For more information about this degree program, call the BHSI office at 706.542.5922, or visit [www.biomed.uga.edu/public_health.html](http://www.biomed.uga.edu/public_health.html).

**Georgia Southern University**

The Jiann-Ping Hsu College of Public Health at Georgia Southern University in Statesboro transitioned from a school to a college in 2006, and provides three graduate level public health degrees that serve the needs of those interested in working in rural communities and underserved populations to address public health issues, eliminate health disparities and improve health outcomes. Areas of concentration include Biostatistics, Community Health, Environmental Health Sciences, Epidemiology, and Health Policy and Management. The college offers a Master of Public Health (MPH) degree program, a Doctorate in Public Health (DrPH) and Masters in Healthcare Administration (MHA). For more information, visit : [http://jphcoph.georgiasouthern.edu](http://jphcoph.georgiasouthern.edu).
The Member of the Year award is a way for GEHA to recognize one outstanding professional Environmentalist for their contributions to the field during the year. The winner is selected by the Nominations Committee. The winner must be a GEHA member. Winners are announced at the Annual Education Conference and given a plaque and official recognition from their peers.

CERTIFICATE of APPRECIATION
The GEHA Board of Directors, 2009-2010 President, and Members congratulate the following member for his outstanding dedication, and service to GEHA and its members, and for the of the organization of the GEHA Golf Tournaments:

Terry Levy, GEHA Golf Tournament Committee—Winn Dixie

CERTIFICATE of MERITORIOUS SERVICE
The GEHA Board of Directors, 2009-2010 President, and Members congratulate the following member for her outstanding dedication and service to GEHA and its members for 2009-2010:

Krissa Jones, Past President—Georgia Department of Agriculture

GEORGIA PUBLIC HEALTH ASSOCIATION
ENVIRONMENTALIST OF THE YEAR AWARD
...for 2010 goes to Tim Allee! Tim is the Environmental Health Director for the 10 counties in the Northwest District, 1-1 and has served as an environmental health scientist in Georgia for more than 20 years. He graduated with a Bachelor’s of Science degree in Environmental Science from Shorter College in Rome, GA, and began his career in Environmental Health as an Environmental Health Specialist in Carroll County in 1989. In 1997, he became Gordon County Environmental Health Manager, and served in this position for 4 years. In 2001 he was promoted to District Environmental Health Director for the Northwest district. Tim has been an active member of the Georgia Public Health Association for 15 years.

In his spare time, Tim enjoys outdoor activities such as fishing, golf, and tennis. He lives in Rome, GA with his wife, Janice, and 16 year old son, Tyler.

Congratulations Tim!

COLLABORATING WITH THE U.K.
Through the efforts and connections of Rob Blake, Georgia shares reciprocity with the Chartered Institute of Environmental Health’s (CIEH) London Centre in the United Kingdom. Initially. Our organizations have linked websites, shared newsletter and journal articles, and regularly communicate ideas, philosophies, and practices to increase GEHA’s scope both nationally and abroad. Future plans for this partnership include offering GEHA members’ opportunities to work in London through professional exchanges!

Founded in 1884, CIEH’s London Centre is one of 17 centres making up its national structure. Its major activities are the training and professional support of its members. This is accomplished through study groups for all Environmental Health subjects including food, housing, health and safety, and pollution. The Centre has nearly 1100 members in the corporate, graduate, associate, student, and retired member categories, and became an associate body with the International Federation of Environmental Health in 2000. Visit GEHA’s website at www.geha-online.org for updated information on this exciting new endeavor!

GEHA congratulates all of the scholarship and award winners! For information about scholarships and awards available through GEHA, please see page 29.
GEHA AWARDS AND SCHOLARSHIPS

Member of the Year Award
The Member of the Year award is a way for GEHA to recognize one outstanding professional Environmentalist for their contributions to the field during the year. The winner is selected by the Nominations Committee after all nominations are received. The winner must be a GEHA member.

Lifetime Achievement Award
Lifetime membership is awarded to GEHA members who retire from the Environmental Health field.

Science Fair Award
The award recipient is selected from elementary, junior high and high school students at the Georgia State Science and Engineering Fair.

Certificates of Meritorious Service, Appreciation, and Recognition
Presented to GEHA members who exhibit outstanding service to the association.

John J. Sheuring Scholarship
This scholarship fund was established in 1967 in memory of John J. Sheuring. $750.00 is awarded to a Junior in the University of Georgia Environmental Health Sciences Program.

Rowe Environmental Health Scholarship
This scholarship is awarded to one undergraduate University of Georgia, Environmental Health Sciences student based on a combination of characteristics that lead to success as a professional including, but not limited to: enthusiasm, interest in public health, integrity, involvement in environmental health organizations, and success in environmental health courses.

Irving Bell Golf Tournament Scholarship
This scholarship award is based on academic achievement, financial need, letters of recommendations, statement of why s/he is choosing a career in Environmental Health, and evaluation of internship. The scholarship will consist of: $1550.00; recognition at GEHA’s AEC awards banquet; hotel room, meal expenses, and $100 for the AEC, courtesy of GEHA.

Please contact Cathy Coleman, GEHA Executive Clerk at geha@comsouth.net for more information.
The recent NEHA Board meeting agenda items may give you some idea of the issues that NEHA is addressing:

2011 – Columbus, OH
2012 – San Diego, CA
2013 – Washington DC/Baltimore, MD

- NEHA Board had decided to adopt an electronic voting process that would correct the mail ballot problems encountered that necessitated an election re-vote using first class mail.

- NEHA President Roberts wrote letters in opposition to legislation that posed potential food safety problems in Montana, Wyoming, and Missouri.

- NEHA Board of Directors developed a position paper to address the environmental health concerns associated with the gulf oil spill to be available in the next issue of the Journal of Environmental Health.

- Larry Marcum, Director of NEHA’s Research & Development Program presented NEHA’s success in developing opportunities for environmental health professionals as a result of Centers for Disease Control, the Environmental Protection Agency and the Food and Drug Administration grant funding. These grants make it possible for NEHA to develop new educational opportunities for the environmental health profession including Epi Ready and the Indoor Air Quality training seminars.

- Special training opportunities for environmental health professionals are available at the NEHA web page www.neha.org. NEHA will select 30 individuals to participate in Asthma Triggers and IAQ Issues training in Washington DC in November of 2010. The grant opportunity from EPA includes all expenses including round trip air fare, lodging and a per diem allowance for meals. Applications must are available online and must be made to NEHA by October 15, 2010 in order to be considered.

A Message from Tom: I have had the honor of serving the NEHA members in Region 7 since 1999. My forth term as RVP will conclude after the 2011 AEC in Columbus, Ohio. I have decided not to seek a fifth term. Individuals wishing to run for Region 7 RVP need to file an application with the NEHA office by February 1, 2011 and must contain the signatures of five current NEHA members in Region 7. Applications are available online. The RVP term is three years and the RVP is a member of the NEHA Board of Directors. The position of RVP has allowed me to meet environmental health professionals in all of the regions states and has allowed me to serve on the NEHA Board of Directors and have input into the governance of this outstanding professional organization.

For More Information: Thomas R. Ward
Public Health Preparedness Coordinator
Union County Health Department
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Monroe, NC 28110
ward@co.union.nc.us
704-296-4820
www.neha.org/about/regional_vice_presidents.html
“How can you stand working here?” I was once asked by a new Environmentalist from Metro Atlanta that lived and breathed Atlanta.

I stood there dumb-founded. “You mean you actually like the ‘Big City’?” I asked. I explained to her that Macon was a big city compared to the small town where I lived. “Wait a minute,” I asked her, “you mean you have to wait in traffic 35 minutes to go four miles?” I found it interesting that she could not imagine life outside the Atlanta suburbs. I thought to myself— how could she stand all that ruckus, and the traffic! The long waits and loss of fuel just to drive a few miles?!

I lived in a larger city once. My first large city living involved my college days in Athens (GO DAWGS!) and believe me that was a huge city compared to my hometown of Zebulon, GA. When we settled in Milner over two years ago, I was back in my element. Milner is a town I absolutely love and adore. It’s a small town that’s shaded by an old pecan grove with a population under 700 people, smaller than Zebulon—even better! Milner is home to a historical landmark, Swint’s Pecan Candies shop, which has been owned and operated by the same family since 1925. There are no traffic lights; and until last year it had a single grocery store. I remember being afraid my town would be overcome by new visitors and lose its small town appeal when the Dollar General moved in, but that didn’t happen and I’ve enjoyed having the convenience of the new store.

Macon is my work home. Macon may not be full of tall buildings like Atlanta, but it is a beautiful City full of history and culture. I’ve enjoyed the events of the Cherry Blossom Festival and the Georgia State Fair. There are many places to see in Macon, but my favorite things are:

- The kazoo was invented and first manufactured here in the nineteenth century!
- It is the birthplace to the Allman Brothers Band, Otis Redding, and many other musicians.
- It is home to Capricorn Records which made Macon a central location for southern rock music in the 60’s and 70’s.
- Georgia’s Music Hall of Fame was built here due to the numerous native Macon musicians who contributed to the United States’ musical heritage.
- The city preserved Ocmulgee National Monument, some of the largest Indian mounds in Georgia.
- Rose Hill Cemetery is one of the oldest in Macon.
- The Ocmulgee Heritage Trail exists along the Ocmulgee River—a great place for a mid-afternoon walk or bike ride.
- Don’t leave Macon without trying a Nu-way Weiner! The first Nu-way was established in 1916, and is one of the oldest hot dog restaurants in the United States. So, the Georgia Heartland ain’t that bad. I can visit the "Big City" of Atlanta whenever I like, but when all is said and done, I love coming back home to Middle Georgia. There really is nothing better.
Julia Campbell is the editor for the Georgia Environmentalist. Julia is a program consultant for the Chemical Hazards Program in the Environmental Health Branch of the Georgia Division of Public Health.

Pictured in row 1 above are approximately 4,300 scrap tires found at a site in Fulton County. These tires had to be treated for mosquitoes (row 1), removed, and properly disposed (row 2). GDCH worked with the Fulton County Department of Health and Wellness, non-profit organizations, and volunteers, to remove, recycle, and reuse the tires in the same neighborhood to protect and promote public health (see ABC Health Project article, page 18).
THANKS!
The President and Officers of GEHA express their sincere appreciation and thank our sponsors and exhibitors for contributing to the success of the Georgia Environmental Health Association 2009 Annual Education Conference.

GEHA SPONSORSHIP OPPORTUNITIES

2010 GEHA Annual Education Conference
Georgia Farmer’s Bureau
Macon, Georgia

Not only does sponsoring the GEHA Annual Education Conference show your company’s support for GEHA and environmental health in Georgia, it provides you with a valuable audience to promote your products and services. Sponsorship includes full conference registration, speaker opportunities, and an ad in the next issue of the Georgia Environmentalist. For information, contact Cathy Coleman, GEHA Executive Clerk, at geha@comsouth.net.

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For more information, contact:
Susan Bowen
SCEHA President
South Carolina Department of Health and Environmental Control
843.202.7033

Georgia Environmental Association for Food Protection
www.gaafp.org
An affiliate of the International Association for Food Protection
The Georgia Association for Food Protection is a non-profit association of food safety professionals in Industry, Government, and Academia.

Georgia Onsite Wastewater Association
P. O. Box 1928, Duluth, GA 30096
Ph: 678-646-0369 Fax: 678-646-0379
Email: bruce@widener-associates.com
Representing The Onsite Wastewater Industry - Installers, Pumpers, Environmentalists, Manufacturers, Soil Scientists, Suppliers, Engineers, etc.
The Georgia Department of Agriculture publishes the Farmers and Consumers Market Bulletin, a biweekly newspaper with articles of interest to farmers and consumers as well as recipes, gardening tips, a calendar of events, classified advertisements and public notices. Subscriptions are free to Georgia residents. The fee to out-of-state subscribers is $20.00 per year. Send your subscription request via e-mail to Patricia Glenn, circulation manager, at pglenn@agr.state.ga.us. Please include your complete mailing address and a daytime phone number. Or, you can call (404) 656-3722. You should receive your first copy within 2 – 3 weeks.
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Get the word out!
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See page 36 for details.

GEHA is now on Facebook!
“Like” the GEHA Page, or “Join” the GEHA Group through your Facebook profile.

Enjoy the convenience of connecting with your friends and colleagues. Share your favorite Environmental Health photos, videos, and other links with other GEHA members.
GET YOUR MESSAGE OUT!

Advertise in the Georgia Environmentalist and increase your business potential!

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$250 - 1/2 page
$125 - 1/4 page
$75 - 1/8 page
$50 - 1/12 page (business card size)

If you would like to advertise in the Georgia Environmentalist, please contact Julia Campbell, Editor at: 404.657.6534

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GEORGIA ENVIRONMENTAL HEALTH ASSOCIATION, INC.
1 The advertisement of any product in the Georgia Environmentalist does not constitute an endorsement of said product by the journal or by the Georgia Environmental Health Association, Inc.
2 Advertisers alone are responsible for all performance claims which are made for any advertised products.
3 The Board of Directors reserves the right to reject any advertisement by returning all copy and any fees paid.
4 Fees collected for advertisements are incorporated into the general funds of the Georgia Environmental Health Association, Inc.

~ GEHA GEAR ~

Purchase GEHA Logo shirts and pins in time for next year’s Annual Education Conference!
GEHA Logo Polo Shirts $20.00
GEHA Logo Lapel Pins $3.00
GBREHP Logo Pins $5.00

Send order and check made payable to GEHA at:
Georgia Environmental Health Association
397 Eastman Parkway
Hawkinsville, GA 31036
geha@comsouth.net

STAY INFORMED!

Check out our website at WWW.GEHA-ONLINE.ORG to get valuable information about GEHA

♦ Membership
Send in the membership form and you will get the official publication of GEHA, Georgia Environmentalist, a discount on annual education conference registration, GEHA publications, voting privileges in GEHA, and much more!

♦ Conferences
The 2010 GEHA Annual Education Conference will be held at the Georgia Farm Bureau in Macon, GA. Network with peers, attend interactive educational seminars, and get your continuing education credits.

♦ Professional Registration
Professional credentials are one way of telling your clientele that your training and experience have enabled you to answer their questions and improve their safety. The Georgia Board of Registered Environmental Health Professionals offers opportunities for internationally recognized registration, continuing education, responsible leadership, and job growth.

In addition, the website contains:
♦ Pictures from the annual conference
♦ Environmental health links
♦ Award recipients
♦ GEHA publications
♦ Details about the UK Partnership agreement
♦ Over 30 documents (including lists of certified tank installers and pumpers, study guides, product approval documents, committee reports, rules and regulations, educational materials, and much more!).

GEHA is always open to comments or suggestions for improving the website. Please direct all comments to: webmaster@geha-online.org.

WWW.GEHA-ONLINE.ORG
APPLICATION FOR MEMBERSHIP

New Member _____     Renewal     _____
(Please print or type)

NAME: _____________________________________________________ DATE: _______________

HOME ADDRESS: _________________________________________________
Number       Street                         Apt. #
_________________________________________________
City                        State           Zip

HOME PHONE: _________________________________

JOB TITLE ________________________________________________________

BUSINESS ADDRESS: ______________________________________________
______________________________________________
_____________________________________________

BUSINESS PHONE: ______________________________

Please check the appropriate membership status:
Active Member       ( )       $25.00
Associate Member    ( )       $25.00
Student Member      ( )       $10.00

Active Members are those that are employed at or retired from jobs that involve environmental health
as a major component of their occupation.

Associate Members provide products for use in environmental health related activities. Associate
Members may be anyone with an interest in environmental health issues.

Student Members attend an accredited learning institution.

Voting privileges in the Association shall be limited to Active Members and Honorary Members only.

Please send application and check (made payable to GEHA) to:
Georgia Environmental Health Association
397 Eastman Highway
Hawkinsville, GA 31036

For more information, contact GEHA geha@comcast.net or visit us online at www.geha-online.org

If you move, please inform GEHA of your new address.