

Spring 2010

March 30, 2010

Kansas Environmental Health Association Newsletter

Affiliate of the National Environmental Health Association and the International Association of Food Protection



Message From the President

Keena Privat, R.S.

It is that time of year when the excitement of spring is in the air; the birds are singing, the flowers are blooming, and green is everywhere. It is also that time of year when the overall fiscal situation of the State of Kansas gives an outlook for the upcoming year. It looks like 2010 is going to be another trying time for Environmental/Public Health Professional staff due to budget cuts, program downsizing and restructuring, and financial issues as a whole. Now more than ever is the time to show pride in the fundamental Environmental/Public Health principles on which our organization is based and stand strong to make our voices heard.

A few weeks ago, Luann Watson and I had the opportunity to participate in a joint conference call with the Kansas Public Health Association and the Kansas Association of Local Health Departments. All three organizations are committed to the strength in standing strong together, particularly during these difficult times. The KEHA Board is aware of the challenges faced by the membership of this organization during the current fiscal situation within Kansas, and we will work diligently to make it as easy as possible for you to come to our educational conferences.

It has been a long and cold winter for much of our State this year. The below normal temps and record snowfall will just make us all more appreciative of the warm sun, green grass and good days ahead. A great way to start off this spring is to attend the 2010 KEHA Spring Conference. The Spring Conference will again be held at the Rock Springs 4-H camp on April 22nd and 23rd. The agenda has already been distributed to the KEHA membership and it looks like we will end Thursday with the Leadership Adventure Course (weather permitting; the course will be conducted outside.) So please come and join us for a great Spring Conference and catch up with great friends and colleagues. As your President of KEHA, I look forward to serving you in 2010!

Keena

2009–2010 Officers

President: Keena Privat
1st Vice Pres: LuAnn Watson
2nd Vice Pres: Levi Beaver
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Environ Chair: Daryl Meierhoff
At Large Chair: Bronson Farmer
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Special points of interest:

- KEHA Spring Conference
- Announcements
- Information
- HELP WANTED
- KEHA Fall Conference info

www.e-keha.org

KEHA Spring 2010 Conference, April 22-23

Below, you will find the agenda, registration information and maps for the upcoming Spring KEHA conference. This year's conference will be held in Junction City at Rock Springs 4-H Ranch. Registration forms should be sent to Greg Willis as soon as possible. Hope to see you all there.



Thursday, April 22, 2010

12:00 – 12:45: REGISTRATION

1:00 – 1:15: Opening Remarks & Welcome
(President Keena Privat)

1:15 – 2:15 “PPI – “Give it a Try – Finding Benefits in Environmental Regulations and Pollution Prevention” Ryan Hamel, Pollution Prevention Institute, K-State

2:15 – 3:15: “Statistics...WHAT? - Managing Data and Statistics to Increase and Enhance Job Performance” Sheryl Ervin, KDHE

3:15 – 3:30: BREAK

3:30 – 5:00: Teambuilding and Leadership Skills – Rock Springs Leadership Adventure Course—(Please wear tennis shoes), Mike Spohn

5:00 – 5:45: Leadership Lodge Check-In

6:00 – 6:45: Dinner at Williams Dining Hall
Dark - ???? : Council Circle Campfire, Beverages and S'Mores

Friday, April 23

7:30 – 8:00: Breakfast at Williams Dining Hall

8:15 – 9:15: Kansas Water Planning - Diane Coe, Kansas Water Office

9:15 – 10:15: “Legislative Leverage – Tried and True Communication Techniques” – Kim Christiansen, General Counsel, Kansas Water Office

10:15 – 10:30: BREAK

10:30 – 12:00: “On-the-Job Management of Out-of-Control Poisons” – William McMoran, University of Kansas Hospital, Poison Control Center

12:-12:15: Closing Remarks

Courses and activities offered during our conference will help us all to grow and develop as a group, learning from each other and our speakers, and learning to cooperate and communicate with each other to make the Kansas Environmental Health Association an impacting force in the State! Please, plan to attend !!

2010 Spring Conference Registration

DUE BY April 15, 2010

Please mail entire sheet to:

**Greg Willis
373 W 6th St
Hoisington, KS 67544**

NAME: _____
ADDRESS: _____

Conference Registration ONLY—KEHA member registered by 04/09/2010	\$80.00
Conference Registration ONLY—KEHA member registered after 04/09/2010	\$90.00
Conference Registration ONLY—KEHA non-member (Includes Membership)	\$110.00
Conference and Lodging—KEHA member registered by 04/09/2010	\$95.00
Conference and Lodging—KEHA member registered after 04/09/2010	\$110.00
Conference and Lodging—KEHA non-member (Includes Membership)	\$130.00
Membership Dues (If not already paid since 2009 fall conference)	\$20.00

Please complete this page and send in for each person attending the Spring Conference

RECEIPT: 2010 SPRING CONFERENCE

Name: _____
Address: _____

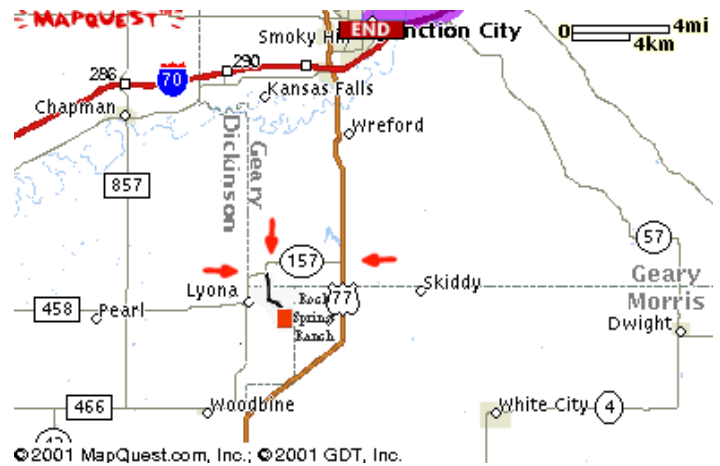
Organization: _____

Conference	\$ _____
Lodging	\$ _____
Dues	\$ _____
Other	\$ _____
Total	\$ _____

Greg Willis, Treasurer: _____

KEHA 2010 Spring Conference Map

Directions: From the Junction of I-70 and U.S.77, travel eight miles south on U.S. 77. Turn right (west) at the junction of K-157 and follow the blacktop highway 4 miles west and south through the gateway and into Rock Springs Ranch. Registration begins at noon at the Johnson Administration Building.



Announcing additional educational opportunities

AWWA's 5th International Symposium on Waterborne Pathogens will be held May 2-4 in Manhattan Beach, CA. The Symposium scope includes: detection methods; occurrence, distribution, treatment and disinfection of waterborne pathogens; emerging/re-emerging pathogens; source water tracking, outbreaks, and protection; risk assessment; regulations, and biosecurity initiatives. This is a single track conference which in the past has been shown to be very effective in promoting scientific discussion and collaboration. The Symposium attracts an international audience including leaders from research, water and wastewater industry professionals, public health professionals, regulatory agency staff, recreational water quality professionals. Here is a link to more information:

<<http://www.awwa.org/files/Conferences/2010WaterborneAnnouncement.pdf>>

Mark your calendars now!

April 8, 2010 - Ned E. Baker Lecture in Public Health, Bowling Green, OH

Aug 5-7, 2010 - 18th Annual NALBOH Conference, Omaha, NE

Every year NALBOH partners with Bowling Green State University on a public health lecture during public health week. This year's lecture is titled "A Growing Hunger: The Nation's Demand for Food Safety and Nutrition Information." The lecture is available as a webcast as well for individuals who are interested. Thank you so very much for your time and assistance with this request. Have a great weekend.

Jeff Neistadt, MS, RS

Director of Education and Training

National Association of Local Boards of Health

www.nalboh.org (419) 353-7714

Interesting listserv with lots of information available.

Health inspectors or like our partners to the South, registered sanitarians need to keep abreast of evidence based food safety publications to provide the most accurate and up to date information to the public. It is apparent that regulatory bodies tend to push certain food safety practices without them ever be questioned.

View the entire entry:

<http://barfblog.com/blog/141151/10/03/04/questioning-food-safety-practices>

On-line information available

Water Headlines is a weekly on-line publication that announces publications, policies, and activities of the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency's Office of Water

6) EPA Decentralized Wastewater Management E-Handbook Now Available

The EPA Office of Wastewater Management has recently expanded its "Handbook for Managing Onsite and Clustered (Decentralized) Wastewater Treatment Systems with the addition of an "E-Handbook." The E-Handbook features resource guides containing detailed information on the 13 management program elements featured in the existing management handbook: public education, planning, performance, site evaluation, design, construction/installation, operation/maintenance, inspections/monitoring, residuals management, training/certification, financial assistance, inventory/recordkeeping, and compliance assurance.

The E-Handbook focuses on individual and clustered wastewater systems that discharge to the soil, but the information can also be applied to small systems that discharge to surface waters through federal or state National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) permit programs. The E-Handbook is intended for health departments, wastewater system management entities, local governments, and others involved in managing multiple individual or clustered treatment systems. Each resource guide contains detailed information on each program element topic and links to other resources, case studies, and examples of successful management programs. The resource guides in the E-Handbook can be accessed via hot-links in the current Management Handbook posted at <http://www.epa.gov/owm/onsite>

Just in case, heaven forbid, when looking in well pits and crawl spaces.

Removing Skunk Odor

Skunks are famous for their odorous defensive spray. When alarmed or threatened, skunks have been known to spray people, pets and automobiles. They also spray in basements, garages, window wells, and under porches. The musk they spray is a yellow-tinted oily liquid stored in two sacks located on opposite sides of the anus. Each sack holds about a teaspoon of musk, enough to allow multiple sprays. Skunk musk does not emanate from the animal as it does in the PePe LePew cartoon; it is discharged through two ducts that allow the skunk to adjust the spray to a mist or stream, to direct it at a specific target and to shoot up to 20 feet with both barrels. Skunk musk can temporarily blind and stun individuals unlucky enough to be sprayed in the face. Victims experience watering eyes, nasal irritation, and nausea. Asthmatics also may experience breathing difficulties when exposed to the odor. The rabies virus is not transmitted through skunk musk.

Deodorizing Treatment: Consider these approaches when dealing with skunk odor:

1. Remove the source of the odor.
2. Ventilate the area with fresh air.
3. Wash or apply deodorants to the source of the odor.
4. Use air fresheners to mask residual odor in the air.
5. Use laundry detergent to remove residual odor in fabrics.

Skunk odor may reactivate during periods of high humidity. If the odor does not decrease in a week or two, the skunk may have resprayed or died on the property.

Home Remedies/Over-the-Counter Products

Never overlook the simple act of taking a shower and washing clothes to mitigate skunk odor. Time, air, soap and water, and ammonia in water are recommended to remove odor from fabrics. Other treatments include washing items with a strong soap, a heavy-duty laundry detergent, or borax. Be sure to follow any directions that are specific to washing a particular fabric.

A chemist by the name of Paul Krebaum discovered a solution that chemically neutralizes skunk odor. The ingredients for the formulation are:

- 1 quart 3 percent hydrogen peroxide (fresh bottle)
- 1/4 cup baking soda (sodium bicarbonate)
- 1-2 teaspoons liquid dish soap

Ingredients must be mixed in an open container and used immediately. Never mix the ingredients in advance because oxygen released from hydrogen peroxide may cause a closed container to explode. The solution can be used on people or pets; avoid splashing the product in the eyes or mouth. Allow the solution to remain on hair for five minutes before rinsing with water. Repeat as needed. Do not use this solution on clothing - it may discolor the fabric. When deodorizing a house, don't forget to change the air filter to the furnace/air conditioner. Sometimes it can become contaminated with skunk odor and continue to disperse the smell throughout the house after the initial source of the odor has been treated.

Additional footnote: While we understand that skunks, possums, raccoons, bats and feral pets seem to have a tendency to carry rabies and need to be approached carefully, we need to be cautious about a cute little mammal increasing its territory into Kansas. Armadillos are increasing in population and range, moving up from the south. Although any warm-blooded animal is capable of transmitting rabies, this is not the primary concern for armadillos. Armadillos are prone to carry the bacteria which causes leprosy. Studies in Louisiana indicate greater than 50% of all tested armadillos had the bacteria. Not so cute anymore, are they? Be careful and wear PPE when handling.

Set the Date! 2010 Fall Conference

When: September 22-24, 2010

Where: Great Wolf Lodge, Kansas City, Kansas

www.greatwolf.com/kansascity

The Fall Conference is coming together nicely, thanks to the extremely capable 1st Vice-President LuAnn Watson.. She is pulling in speakers from all over to address the important issues of our business and in keeping with the educational requirements of the Sanitarian exam. She was diligent in securing a wonderful facility to host the conference and at a remarkable discount for the cost of \$79.00 per night. The Great Wolf Lodge/waterpark is a premier get away location. Ask Bronson, he goes on and on about it.

The Lodge is located in Kansas City, Kansas. In the vicinity are the Kansas Speedway, Cabela's, The Legends shopping area, The Wizards Soccer. Within the greater KC area are Oak Park Mall, Crown Center, Liberty Memorial, The Steamboat Arabia Museum (fascinating, really!), Worlds of Fun, Shawnee Mission Park (good hiking and birding trails). If you can't find stuff to do when you're not attending the conference activities, well, you're just trying to be

HELP WANTED

Scott Schwinn, RS has taken on additional duties within Pottawatomie County and is unable to devote time as Awards Chairperson. The Board is seeking a dedicated individual to fill this position. Anyone willing to volunteer or if you can recommend someone, please contact a board member.

The Objective of the Kansas Environmental Health Association is to promote competency and effectiveness in sanitarians and other environmentalists engaged in the regulation of the Kansas environment including, but not limited to, food service establishments, commercial food preparation facilities, dairy products businesses, meat processing plants, bakeries, commercial lodging and hotels, swimming pools, water supplies, wastewater treatment and disposal, solid waste collection and disposal, air pollution control, radiation control, hazardous waste materials management, pesticide usage, institutions, schools, nursing homes, hospitals and health care facilities, recreational camps and public events.