

September 24, 2012

Flash No. 31



SAEMS' August luncheon speaker, Joe Abraham

August Luncheon Summary

Joe Abraham, Director of the UA Office of Sustainability, was the guest speaker at the SAEMS August 29, 2012 luncheon. Joe's presentation focused on the many different avenues which UA offers to engage their students in institutional sustainability initiatives. Involving students in hands-on projects, like the "water harvesting course" compliments classroom learning. UA students support a community garden, provide recycling on game-days, and advocate for sustainable food choices at the dining hall. Surveys indicate a growing number of students not only want to learn about sustainability, they are looking to work for companies that value environmental stewardship and sustainability. Maybe your company is interested in providing a regional internship opportunity to an undergrad? Also check out the UA Green Fund, approved in March 2010, and supports student environmental projects: greenfund.arizona.edu. Thanks Joe!

WRRC Brown Bag Seminars

The University of Arizona Water Resources Research Center holds weekly brown bag lunch seminars at the Sol Resnick Conference Room at 350 N. Campbell Ave. Please see their website at <http://ag.arizona.edu/azwater/events.php> for a schedule of topics. For more information, contact Jane Cripps at jcripps@cals.arizona.edu or 520-621-2526.

September 8 Highway Cleanup Report

On an overcast day with wind, cool temperatures and light rain showers, the SAEMS crew completed our quarterly highway cleanup. It was quite a challenge keeping the trash bags open under the windy conditions. Since we had not done a cleanup since spring, there was an incredible amount of shredded tire pieces - rubber and steel belts. Anna Christensen (Jeff's daughter) won the Starbucks gift card prize for the best "find". She found three mud flaps and a roll of fencing. Ken Asch got second place for his space ship parts including an electronic controls gizmo and powerful stun light. A total of 22 bags of trash were collected. Attendees were: Ken Asch, Heather Shoemaker, Dan Williams, Barb Ricca, and Jeff Christensen with his two children Ryan and Anna. The next highway cleanup is planned for the second Saturday in November, 11/10/12.

Job Openings

Job openings in the environmental field in Southern Arizona are periodically posted on the SAEMS website. If you or someone you know is job hunting, be sure to check http://www.saems.org/job_openings_frameset.htm frequently. Open positions are also forwarded to SAEMS members via the mailing list.

Annual P2 Seminar

The annual SAEMS P2 seminar will be held on September 26, 2012 at the Hotel Tucson. If you can't attend the whole seminar, you can still RSVP and pay to attend lunch only! The luncheon speaker will be Alix Rogstad of Urban and Community Forestry. The topic is "Urban Forestry in Arizona." Please see the attached brochure for more details about the seminar.

SAEMS Adopt-A-Highway Cleanup Volunteers



U.S. EPA Honors Environmental Heroes for 2012 in Pacific Southwest

The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency's Pacific Southwest Region today announced the 12 winners for the 2012 annual environmental awards to acknowledge significant contributions to protecting the environment. "The winners, green heroes all, prove there are many ways to protect our air, water and land," said Jared Blumenfeld, EPA's Regional Administrator for the Pacific Southwest. "Each one has taken up the challenge to improve our environment, and we all stand to benefit." Groups and individuals were selected from nominees received this year from businesses, government officials, tribes, media, environmental organizations and community activists. The 12 categories and this year's winners are from Arizona, California, Guam, Hawaii, Nevada, and tribal lands. Winners from Arizona are Frito-Lay Casa Grande Plant, Casa Grande (Green Business of the Year) and ASU's Sustainable Cities Network, Arizona State University's Global Institute of Sustainability, Tempe (Green Government). Each year, U.S. EPA's Pacific Southwest office encourages citizens in California, Arizona, Nevada, Hawaii and the Pacific Territories to nominate individuals or organizations for 12 environmental awards. This program offers a great opportunity to recognize individuals and groups outside of the EPA who are working to protect public health and the environment. Awards are granted to scientists, teachers, journalists, citizen activists, young people, organizations, business representatives, tribal leaders, public officials, and others committed to protecting public health and preserving our natural surroundings.

2012 EIA Arizona Regional Conference

The Environmental Information Association (EIA) will be holding a conference at the Arizona Golf Resort in Mesa on October 4 and 5. Topics cover the most up-to-date issues and business trends in the indoor environmental health and safety industry. Registration is \$200 for members and \$250 for non-members. Contact 602-300-8124 or info@eia-usa.org for more information. To see a program and to register online, please go to <http://eia-az.org/conference.html>

SAEMS Adopt-a-Highway Cleanup

Join us for the next SAEMS Adopt-a-Highway Cleanup, to be held on November 10, 2012. Volunteers will meet at 8:00 AM sharp, at the Sonoita exit, off of I-10. Park in the dirt lot south of I-10. We will leave the parking area by 8:10 after the safety meeting. SAEMS volunteers for a one mile stretch of highway east of the Sonoita exit. Volunteers must be 12 years of age or older and if under 18, accompanied by a parent or guardian. Volunteers should wear long pants, long sleeves, closed toe shoes, hat and sunscreen. SAEMS will provide safety vests, leather gloves, litter grabbers and collection bags. Also bottled water and snacks will be available. SAEMS will host a lunch at the Triple T truck stop after the cleanup. A prize will be given for the most interesting treasure found. Please contact the event coordinator, Barbara Ricca, at ricca@us.ibm.com or 799-4433 to RSVP or if you have questions.

Maricopa County Air Quality Department Recipient of U.S. EPA Air Award

The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency's 12th Annual Clean Air Excellence Award was given yesterday to Maricopa County's Air Quality Department for the development of its Rapid Response Notification System, which provides real-time air quality updates to residents on elevated levels of air pollution. The department retrofitted 13 air monitoring systems with Rapid Response Notification System technology that alerts residents via email, text message, and Twitter and Facebook posts when elevated air pollution levels are detected. "The 42-year history of the Clean Air Act is all about meeting challenges through commitment and innovation," said Gina McCarthy, EPA Assistant Administrator for the Office of Air and Radiation. "The contributions of this year's award winners are continuing the Clean Air Act's progress in benefiting public health, our communities and the economy." Maricopa County's award was one of 11 given to projects and companies nationwide for work on clean air initiatives. The Clean Air Excellence Award recognizes innovative programs that protect Americans' health and the environment, educate the public, serve their communities and stimulate the economy. For additional information on award winners, visit: http://www.epa.gov/air/caaac/clean_award.html