

May 7, 2013

Flash No. 36

SAEMS & RCRA ♦ NEXT GENERATION

The seminar will be held on Thursday May 9, 2013 from 7:30 am to 4:30 pm at the Holiday Inn Hotel & Suites, 4550 S. Palo Verde Road, Tucson, Arizona. The 2013 registration form (for late registrations) can be found on the SAEMS website at http://www.saems.org/seminars_frameset.htm. Contact Lisa Cuestas at Lisa.Cuestas@tucsonaz.gov for more information.

PAYMENT TIP:

SAEMS lunch and seminar attendees are requested to use PayPal for payments whenever possible. Financial charges for using PayPal are about 2.5% and the charge for using a credit card averages 6%. Last fiscal year SAEMS spent \$1,700 on financial fees. If everyone used PayPal, we could cut the costs in half and have \$1,000 more for scholarships. As an added bonus, pre-paying on PayPal allows members to fast forward through the lunch or seminar check-in line.



April Luncheon Summary

Our Guest Speaker at the April 24, 2013 SAEMS luncheon was **Brian Bellew** with the Tucson Field Office at the **Bureau of Land Management (BLM)**. Brian highlighted public lands near Tucson that are accessible for hiking and enjoyment including Ironwood

Forest National Monument, the San Pedro Riparian National Conservation Area, and Las Cienegas National Conservation Area (that includes Empire Ranch). BLM programs cover a broad spectrum, from the Abandoned Mines Program to the adoption of wild horses and burros, and Restoration Design Energy Projects. Find out more at the BLM website http://www.blm.gov/az/st/en/fo/tucson_field_office.html. There are volunteer opportunities as well. SAEMS thanks Brian for his many years of service to our community and for speaking to our membership.



March Luncheon Summary

The Guest Speaker at the March 27, 2013 SAEMS luncheon was **Andrew Rector** with the **City of Tucson Office of Conservation and Sustainable Development (OCSD)**. Andrew was joined by David Bradshaw, a University of Arizona grad currently interning with the OCSD. Andrew reviewed the origins of the Green Business Program, how a business becomes certified, and presented a case study of a downtown business.

The OCSD has a Climate Change Committee, and supports Energy Workshops, the Az Rooftop Solar Challenge, and some Grants. There are currently 12 business certified through the Green Business Program and many still in various stages of completing certification. The GBC Program is changing in fall 2013 to the Green Business Challenge Program with a goal of reaching 100 business participants. Focus areas include energy and water conservation as well as greenhouse gas emission reductions. Andrew hopes to promote lunch-n-learn sessions and increase business networking opportunities. Look for kickoff information in early September. SAEMS thanks Andrew and David for sharing their program information with our members.



Tucson Earth Day Festival – SAEMS Booth A Big Hit!

The Tucson Earth Day Festival was held in Reid Park on April 21st. The SAEMS sponsored booth was wildly popular. We hired Reptile Specialists to bring about 15 snakes, lizards, and tortoises to the festival. They talked to the children about the reptiles and their habitat, food, and other interesting facts. The kids (and adults) got to hold the animals (see Barb Ricca and Ken Asch with the big South American lizard). The SAEMS booth was one of the most crowded, well-attended booths at the festival. The kids loved it.

Several SAEMS members serve on the Earth Day Festival committee, including Barb Ricca, Ken Asch, Heather Shoemaker, Frank Bonillas, Jean Bierwirth, and Dan Williams. Thanks to these SAEMS volunteers for being involved in the community and helping coordinate another successful Earth Day Festival. If you would like to be involved next year on the committee, as a sponsor, or as an exhibitor, contact Barb Ricca.





SAEMS Adopt-A-Highway Cleanup

On April 13th, a group of six SAEMS members and their families cleaned up the adopted mile of Interstate 10 near the Sonoita exit. The 11 volunteers included Ken Asch and son Nathan, Barb Ricca and daughter Amanda, Dawn Weyer and husband Charles, Derek Koller, Michael Block, and Heather Spitzer and husband Alex and son Tyler.

A total of 23 bags of trash were collected along the highway, at the parking area and at the on-ramp. The Starbucks prize gift card went to Alex, who found a \$5 bill. Honorable mention went to Nathan Asch, who found about 40 small cannon balls (or were they equipment from a mine?). The next cleanup will not be until fall, the second weekend in September. Have a happy summer.

SAEMS 2013 Scholarship Winners – University of Arizona 2013-2014 Academic Year

The SAEMS Scholarship Committee, consisting of B. J. Cordova, Nancy Turner, and Shri Parikh, presented a total of \$10,500 in scholarships on April 19, 2013. Funding for the scholarships was provided by SAEMS (\$10,000) and the Arizona Laboratory Association (\$500, passed through via SAEMS). The awards will be divided evenly between fall and spring semesters, unless otherwise noted. The scholarship winners are:

- 1) 1st Place Winner (Graduate): **Rebecca Lybrand**, \$2,500
- 2) 1st Place Winner (Undergraduate): **Leah Edwards**, \$2,500
- 3) 2nd Place Winner (Graduate): **Valerie Rountree**, \$1,500
- 4) 2nd Place Winner (Undergraduate): **Emily Pecilunas**, \$1,500
- 5) 3rd Place Winner/Tie (Graduate): **Joshua Larsen**, \$750
- 6) 3rd Place Winner/Tie (Graduate): **Michael Tso**, \$750
- 7) Honorable Mention (Graduate): **Ashwin Naidu**, \$500 (full amount, Fall 2013 only)
- 8) Honorable Mention (Undergraduate): **Avidor Kazen**, \$500 (full amount, Fall 2013 only)



WRRC Weekly 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 North Campbell Avenue. Please see their website at <http://wrrc.arizona.edu/events/brownbag> for a schedule of topics. For more information, contact Jane Cripps at jcripps@cals.arizona.edu or 520-621-2526.

SAEMS Website Updates

Members can now access the current membership directory on the SAEMS website. The link can be found under the Members tab on the website (www.saems.org) or [Click Here](#), and then enter the member user name and password.

Sonoran Permaculture Guild Workshops for Spring

Here is a snapshot of some of the Sonoran Permaculture Guild workshops coming up in the next few weeks. Full details can be found at their website at www.sonoranpermaculture.org/courses-and-workshops.

Raising Chickens in Your Backyard – A Hands on Primer – Saturday, May 18th, 2013

This is a one-day introductory class is for anyone interested in raising chickens for the production of compost, eggs, and/or meat. Participants will gain a basic understanding of chicken coop design and construction. This will include a material cost-breakdown for a very basic coop with an easy to follow building plan. Strategies for incorporating a backyard flock into an overall Permaculture based system will be demonstrated and discussed. Location: Milpa Tecolotlan Permaculture site on the south side of "A" mountain. Time: 9:00 am to 4 pm. Cost: \$49 – Includes all course materials, handouts, & chicken coop building plans. Taught by Zotero Citlalcoatl – Contact Dan Dorsey at dorsey@dakotacom.net to register or Zotero at 520.450.1607 or zcitlalcoatl@gmail.com for more information.



Pima Association of Governments – Air Quality Forum

On Tuesday **June 18, 2013**, PAG's **Sustainable Environment Program** will be hosting a free public event, the Air Quality Forum, at the Joel Valdez main library in Tucson. The agenda/topics for the forum are being developed, but will include air quality related topics (criteria pollutants, health, industry activities/programs, energy/water/air quality interactions, regional haze, transportation and greenhouse gases/climate change). The goal of this year's forum is to broaden the scope of the topics and attract interested members of the public, industry, environmental groups and businesses to attend while not losing the core technical group of air quality regulators and academic staff. PAG is soliciting input for possible topics that would appeal to this wide audience and suggestions for stimulating speakers from Arizona or surrounding states. To submit your suggestions and for more details, contact Susanne Cotty at scotty@pagnet.org or (520) 792-1093. In addition, visit their website at <http://www.pagnet.org/Programs/SustainableEnvironment/Air/AirQualityForum/tabid/623/Default.aspx>.