

May 5, 2014

Flash No. 45

April Luncheon Summary

Diana Liverman with **The University of Arizona's Institute of the Environment** presented on climate change in the Desert Southwest at the April luncheon. Diana gave an overview on the evolving findings from the International Panel for Climate Change (IPCC). As more research has become available, they are finding a greater correlation between human activities and climate change. She expressed concern that most climate change studies omit all industries with the exception of agriculture, resulting in economic impact estimates failing to factor in 97% of the global economy. She offered hope in the form of examples of companies that have voluntarily made adjustments to reduce climatic impacts on supply chains.



March Luncheon Summary

Marie Light, hydrologist with **Pima Department of Environmental Quality (PDEQ)**, presented to the March SAEMS luncheon. Marie spoke about stormwater in Tucson and the measures that are taken to protect our surface waters, manage stormwater regulations, address community views on stormwater, and guide future activities and projects. She explained the various types of water systems that play a role in our overall stormwater health. For example, the sanitary sewer system is completely separate from the city's stormwater sewer system. She spoke about control measures, such as construction permitting and inspections, that help keep our stormwater system free from hazardous pollution. She found that people's knowledge about stormwater systems is severely lacking in accuracy. There are many false beliefs and ideas out there regarding the flow of stormwater. She avidly seeks ways to bring greater awareness to Tucson's stormwater health, and finds joy in protecting our water systems.



 **PLEASE NOTE – NO LUNCHEON IN MAY DUE TO RCRA SEMINAR – MAY 15, 2014**



Annual RCRA Seminar SAEMS & RCRA: In Focus

SAEMS upcoming annual one day **RCRA Seminar** will be held on **Thursday, May 15, 2014** from 7:30 AM – 4:30 PM at the Hilton Tucson East, 7600 East Broadway, Tucson, Arizona 85710. The seminar registration and sponsorship form are posted on our website at http://www.saems.org/seminars_frameset.htm. A planning meeting will be held after the April luncheon.

The current agenda includes RCRA Basics (Fred Brinker, TAA), Universal Waste (Tim Clayton, PDEQ), A Virtual Inspection (Jennifer Lynch, PDEQ), Tier II Reporting (Mark Howard, AZSERC), Update on Waste Programs (Laura Malone, ADEQ), Updates from ADEQ Southern Regional Office (Amanda Stone, ADEQ), Pima County Rules Update (Sarah Walters, PDEQ), Incident Command (Layton Dickerson, ADEMA), and LEPC Updates and Training (John Wisner, Pima County), The Laboratory and Your Hazardous Waste (Nancy Turner, Turner Laboratories), and A RCRA Case Study (ADEQ). Vendor booths will be available throughout the day and a Happy Hour will follow the seminar (location to be announced at the seminar).

2014 Earth Day Summary

On April 12, 2014, the annual Tucson community **Earth Day Festival and Parade** was held in Reid Park. This year was the 20th anniversary of the Tucson Earth Day Festival. Approximately 4,000 people attended the festival and 110 exhibitors had information and educational displays related to energy savings, water conservation, recycling, native species, and gardening. The parade marched down 22nd Street, up County Club Road, and then into the park. Live music, dancing, and food trucks were much enjoyed by the attendees.

SAEMS sponsored the Reptile Specialist's booth where the children could learn about and hold various reptiles, primarily lizards and snakes. An exciting and educational time was had by all.

Anybody who would like to join the Earth Day Festival planning committee for next year's April 18, 2015 event should contact **Barb Ricca** at BarbSAEMS@gmail.com.

April SAEMS Adopt A Highway Cleanup Summary

On April 18th, a team of nine dedicated SAEMS members and their families cleaned up the adopted mile of Interstate 10 near the Sonoita exit. Volunteers included Mike Dieckhaus and son Drew, Heather Shoemaker and daughter Olivia, Derek and Tanya Koller, Barb Ricca, Ken Asch, and Dan Williams. A total of 26 bags of trash were collected along the highway, at the parking area and at the on-ramp. The Starbucks prize gift card went to Ken for his unique find. The next cleanup will be in September. Thanks to all our volunteers and have a safe, happy summer.

Back: Ken Asch, Derek and Tanya Koller, and Mike and Drew Dieckhaus. Front: Barb Ricca and Olivia and Heather Shoemaker.



2014 SAEMS Scholarship Awards

The SAEMS Education Committee recently **awarded a total of \$10,500 in scholarships** to University of Arizona students in support of their environmental studies for the 2014-2015 academic year, based on a combination of merit and financial need. SAEMS scholarship winners and selected Honorable Mention interviewees are also provided a SAEMS membership to encourage their continued academic and professional growth through interaction with other environmental professionals. Even with slightly fewer applications than in past years, with the high quality of applicants the committee had a difficult task selecting interviewees and awarding scholarships. Winners include:



- 1st Place Undergraduate Student Scholarship Winner: **Derek Koller**
- 2nd Place (Tie) Undergraduate Student Scholarship Winner: **Kaitlyn A. Elkind** and **Taylor Sanders**
- 3rd Place (Tie) Undergraduate Student Scholarship Winner: **Chloe Jackson** and **Rachel Wehr**
- 1st Place Graduate Student Scholarship Winner: **Valerie Rountree** *(was also last year's 2nd place winner)
- Graduate Student Research, Travel, Training & Project Funding: **Ling-Yee Huang, Chase Voirin, Christopher Olivares,** and **Daphne J. Szutu**
- Honorable Mention: **Emily Pecilunas** (Undergraduate); **Frank Zadroga** (Graduate)

SAEMS appreciates all attendees and sponsors of SAEMS' periodic seminars which help fund the scholarships, to interviewers **B.J. Cordova** (Tucson Clean & Beautiful), **Nancy Turner** (Turner Laboratories), and **Kim Stone** (Sanofi), and special thanks to **Nancy Turner**, who has agreed to personally donate \$500 to increase our scholarship awards this year! The scholarship winners will be joining us at future luncheon meetings so members can meet them over the next several months.

2014 Tucson Clean and Beautiful Youth Environmental Education Mini-Grants

A combined review committee consisting of SAEMS members along with Tucson Clean & Beautiful and the Arizona Native Plant Society recently **awarded \$2,500 in school environmental project funds**. Five schools from throughout the Tucson area applied and were approved for funding. Review committee members will soon present checks for the allocated funding, along with providing additional feedback and ideas for other potential resources that may assist the schools' projects.

New applicants include **Cottonwood Elementary**, which plans to build a Desert Tortoise Habitat, **Canyon del Oro High School**, which is planning a Campus Beautification Project, and **Sky Islands Public High School**, which is planning a Courtyard Habitat Restoration. Returning applicants for expanded and continuing efforts were also improved, including a Butterfly Habitat and Passive Water Harvesting project at **Borton School**, plus continued improvements at the Student/Community Garden at **Rio Vista Elementary**.

An additional \$800 contributed by Tucson Clean & Beautiful, but not needed in this grant cycle, will be allocated to a new TCB education program to be piloted this summer, focusing on prevention and removal of graffiti by youth.

Thank you SAEMS members, and our partnering groups for supporting and funding environmental education throughout Southern Arizona. Watch for additional updates throughout the year!

PAYMENT TIP:

SAEMS lunch and seminar attendees are requested to use PayPal for payments whenever possible. Financial charges for using PayPal are about 2.7% and the charge for using a credit card averages 4.8%. Last fiscal year SAEMS spent \$1,600 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.

Upcoming Household Hazardous Waste Collection Events

May 10, 2014 , 8 AM to Noon Mansfield Park (2000 N. 4th Ave.) 4004 South Park Ave	Every Friday and Saturday , 8 AM to Noon Main Site 2440 West Sweetwater Drive
June 7, 2014 , 8 AM to Noon Eastside Service Center 7575 East Speedway Boulevard	Every Monday through Saturday , 6 AM to 5 PM Los Reales Landfill 5300 East Los Reales Road

For more information on materials you can dispose, business programs, etc., go to the City of Tucson website at http://cms3.tucsonaz.gov/es/household_hazardous_waste or contact Frank Bonillas at Frank.Bonillas@tucsonaz.gov.

SAEMS Website Updates

See the latest information on the SAEMS website, including seminar, luncheon, and scholarship information, previous luncheon presentations, Trash & Bash updates, ADOT press release regarding our Trash & Bash volunteers, Executive Committee meeting notes, financial information, News Flash archives, etc.! Members can access the current membership directory (to be updated soon) under the Members tab on the website (www.saems.org) or [Click Here](#), and then enter the member user name and password. New passwords will be sent out to current members soon, so watch your inboxes.

WRRC Brown Bag Seminars

Attend the **University of Arizona Water Resources Research Center** 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.

The upcoming seminar topic is *Modeling Water Scarcity and Droughts to Analyze Climate Change Adaptation Policies in the Jucar Basin, Spain*, to be held on **Friday May 2, 2014** at 12:00 PM.

Job Announcements

The Tohono O'odham Nation has announced two job openings for Chief Hydrologist and Hydrology Technician. Watch for the announcements to be posted soon on the SAEMS website at www.saems.org.