

April 21, 2015

Flash No. 49

Attend the Upcoming April Luncheon

Our Speaker for the Wednesday, **April 29, 2015** luncheon (11:30 am – 1:30 pm at the Hotel Tucson, 475 North Granada Avenue) will be **Mark Grushka** of **Tucson Medical Center**, who will discuss chemical management at TMC.

→ Remember that there will be NO luncheon in May so we can focus on the 2015 Annual SAEMS RCRA Seminar ←

February Luncheon Summary

Fernando Molina is the Public Information Officer with **Tucson Water**, and oversees community information outreach. He spoke to SAEMS members at the February luncheon about Tucson Water's 50-year water plan and the focus on continuing a reliable water source for the community. Tucson Water is working to maximize renewable water use rather than continuing to rely on non-renewable resources. To achieve this goal, Tucson Water is working to inform the community on water use and conservation efforts. Tucson Water is also working to become more efficient in its processes to further conserve resources across Tucson.



March Luncheon Summary

In March, we were joined by **Jason Laros**, Energy Manager with the **City of Tucson**. Mr. Laros has worked in the energy and waste efficiency field for 15 years, and has a Master's degree in Project Management with a focus on Environment and Sustainability and Organizational Change Management. Mr. Laros led a discussion with the group about what sustainability means through different perspectives and the relationship between improved efficiency and sustainability. This interactive presentation covered topics such as sustainability on individual, local, and global scales, and the idea of "tools" for sustainability compared to more efficient "toys" for efficiency in our daily activities. Luncheon attendees participated in this lively discussion, offering insights from their own experiences and contributing to new perspectives on sustainability for the group.

A big thank you to our luncheon sponsor, **TestAmerica**; **Elizabeth Baker** provided a short presentation about the company prior to the lunch talk. If you would like to sponsor a luncheon, contact Ami Kidder at AKidder@raytheon.com.



2015 Annual SAEMS RCRA Seminar

SAEMS will host its **2015 Annual RCRA Seminar** on **Thursday May 14, 2015** at Hilton Tucson East, 7600 East Broadway Boulevard in Tucson, Arizona. SAEMS, a 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization, is actively involved in activities that promote awareness, education, and the understanding of environmental issues. The proceeds from this seminar go towards the SAEMS' Scholarship Fund. In 2014, SAEMS awarded a total of \$10,500 in scholarships to college students who were majoring in environmental studies at the University of Arizona.

Planned topics for this year's seminar include RCRA Basics; Pollution Prevention; RCRA DSW Rule; updates on ADEQ's Southern Regional Office and the Waste Program solvent wipes ruling; Pima County rules updates; RCRA penalties and outcomes; LEPC updates and training; container compatibility; and wastewater pretreatment (see the attached seminar agenda). **Speakers** will include Fred Brinker of Tucson Airport Authority; Pat Harrington of Honeywell Aerospace; Barton Day of the Law Office of Barton Day; Jeanine Inman, Linneth Lopez, Amanda Stone, and Laura Malone of ADEQ; Sarah Reitmeyer of PDEQ; Jerry Worsham of The Cavanagh Law Firm, PA; John Wisner of Pima County; Tyrone Hudson of Sun West Container; and Al Brown of ASU.

This is also a great opportunity for **vendors** to showcase your services and products – sponsorship packages are available for exhibitors and break sponsors. The registration form is posted on the SAEMS website at http://www.saems.org/seminars_frameset.htm. Contact Lisa Cuestas (Lisa.Cuestas@tucsonaz.gov) for more information on the seminar. Contact Frank Bonillas (Frank.Bonillas@tucsonaz.gov) for more information on sponsorships.

Upcoming Events

SAEMS Adopt A Highway Cleanup – Saturday April 25, 2015 at 8 AM

SAEMS Luncheon – Wednesday April 29, 2015 at 11:30 AM to 1:30 PM at the Hotel Tucson

2015 SAEMS Annual RCRA Seminar: Targeted Compliance – Thursday May 14, 2015 at Tucson Hilton East, Tucson AZ

February SAEMS Adopt A Highway Cleanup Summary –**Join us on April 25, 2015 for the Next Cleanup**

Our SAEMS volunteers defended the environment once again by collecting trash, tires, and treasures along our SAEMS' 1-mile stretch of I-10 on February 28, 2015. Fortunately the wind held off until we were nearly complete, as there were 14 bags of trash, plus tires and other large items pulled from the desert. Found items include a cane, hubcap, Frisbee, hat, and eyeglasses. The winner of the Starbucks Gift Card is Ken Asch who found a modified flashlight, which some called a "Peace-Pipe."

Make it your goal to attend just one trash pickup a year – you too can be a defender of the environment! An opportunity is coming up soon -- **the next cleanup is scheduled for 8 AM on April 25, 2015**. Please contact the event coordinator, Dan Williams, at Dan_Williams@kindermorgan.com, to volunteer or if you have any questions.

Volunteers in the photo are (left-right); Pat Harrington, Barb Ricca, Ken Asch, Pat Hartshorne, Ryan & Jeff Christensen (Dan Williams taking the photo)

**SAEMS In the News**

The SAEMS Executive Board would like to call your attention to a recent news item that mentioned SAEMS. A guest opinion in the Tucson Weekly criticized the Earth Day Festival by condemning the sponsorship of the event by SAEMS, several of our corporate members, and the other "platinum" sponsors of the event -- the article can be seen in this link: <http://www.tucsonweekly.com/tucson/guest-opinion/Content?oid=4950247>. The SAEMS board and the Earth Day Committee considered whether and how to respond to this article, and decided only to post this notice to our membership. The criticism of SAEMS appeared to be largely based upon our corporate membership, which includes industrial, business, and municipal members, and our lack of "grassroots" environmental members. This shows a fundamental misunderstanding of the purpose of our organization and the agenda of the writer. No response by SAEMS or the Earth Day Committee is likely to change the opinions of the writer or those with similar viewpoints.

If we had been consulted, we could have discussed how SAEMS provides a forum for people employed in the environmental and safety industries to network, learn, and contribute to the community. We would have indicated that anyone who is interested can attend the luncheons and become a member, and that we represent many different viewpoints – our membership is not restricted. We could have described our community involvement, which includes providing scholarships to University of Arizona students pursuing a career in an environmental field; teaming with Tucson Clean and Beautiful and Arizona Native Plant Society to provide Youth Environmental Education Mini-Grants to schools in the Tucson area; sponsoring SARSEF, the regional science competition created by the Southern Arizona Research, Science and Engineering Foundation; performing volunteer trash cleanups for our stretch of highway for the Adopt A Highway program and wildcat dump cleanups; and providing and sponsoring educational seminars on RCRA, pollution prevention, and emergency management. Our support and contributions to the community are generated from the interest of our individual members and we are always looking for additional opportunities to contribute and partner with other organizations. Our members volunteer and support these endeavors because they believe in them and feel they are making a difference, and truly enjoy making their contributions.

SARSEF Regional Science Competition

Congratulations SARSEF on 60 years of celebrating and encouraging STEM learning in our region! Sixty top student projects were on display at the TEP building on April 15, 2015, with the students on hand to share info about their projects! SAEMS continues to be a Newton level SARSEF sponsor.

**Job and Internship Announcements**

City of Tucson Environmental Services - Engineering and Groundwater Protection Division – Engineering Manager – Go to their website to apply at <http://www.tucsonaz.gov/sigma/JobListings.aspx>. The opening closes May 6, 2015.

Pima Community College - Environmental Program Coordinator – Go to their link at <https://pima.peopleadmin.com/postings/5613>.

Arizona Department of Environmental Quality – Go to the following link: <https://azstatejobs.azdoa.gov/> for job announcements.

Environmental Protection Agency – Four paid postgraduate internships are available with EPA's Office of Superfund Remediation and Technology Innovation in Arlington, Virginia through the Oak Ridge Institute for Science and Education. The internships are full-time for one year and are renewable for up to three additional years. Candidates must have with degrees earned within the last five years related to environmental engineering/chemical engineering, soil science, chemistry and toxicology/risk assessment. For more information, see <http://www.clu-in.org/jobs>. (From the EPA's TechDirect Newsletter)

TCB Partners to Award the 2015 School Minigrants

Tucson Clean & Beautiful, in cooperation with **SAEMS** and the **Arizona Native Plant Society-Tucson Chapter**, recently awarded \$4,000 in minigrants, in addition to more than 130 trees, tools, and additional technical assistance to 11 Tucson area schools. Applicants were able to apply for a cash grant of up to \$500 for environmental improvements, plus assistance with tools, and up to 30 trees and related technical assistance for a school site planting project from **Trees for Tucson**, a program of Tucson Clean & Beautiful. The 2015 grant winners included:

- **Tucson Unified School District:** Borton Magnet School; Davis Bilingual Elementary; Mary Belle McCorkle K-8 (tools only); and Henry Elementary (trees only)
- **Sunnyside Unified School District:** STAR Academic Center
- **Vail Unified School District:** Cienega High School
- **Marana School District:** Tortolita Middle School
- **Sahuarita Unified School District:** Sahuarita Middle School (trees only)
- **Private/charter schools:** International School of Tucson; Western Institute for Leadership Development; and St. John the Evangelist School.

Trees planted through this grant program this spring and fall will also count toward the second year of the Tucson Mayor's **10,000 Tree Challenge**, and efforts by many community groups to improve their local school campuses, helping to expand our community's urban tree canopy over time. Area residents may visit www.mayorrothschild.com/trees for more information and to register trees that are planted to help to fulfill this communitywide goal.

Trees for Tucson was established in 1989 as a program of Tucson Clean & Beautiful, to educate community members about the benefits of planting and properly maintaining trees to increase energy efficiency. **Tucson Electric Power** sponsored the program beginning in 1993 to encourage energy efficiency for homes, and **Trico Electric Cooperative** has also partnered with Trees for Tucson to provide home shade trees for its members. Several corporate donors have also funded trees for additional school and community tree planting projects, including **Sierrita Gas Pipeline LLC**, **Hamstra Heating & Cooling**, and **Chapman Honda**. Visit www.treesfortucson.org for more information on obtaining energy efficiency trees for homes, and supporting trees for community volunteer planting projects.

Tucson Clean & Beautiful is a nonprofit organization incorporated in 1985 as the flagship for community-based environmental volunteer efforts in the Tucson metro area. Programs include recycling and waste reduction, urban forestry, land stewardship, at-risk youth landscape training, and beautification. Visit www.tucsoncleanandbeautiful.org or call (520) 837-6832 or email tcb-admin@tucsonaz.gov for more information and to receive future grant round announcements.

News Briefs

Trevor Baggione has been selected as the new director of the **Arizona Department of Environmental Quality's Water Quality Division**, ADEQ Director Henry Darwin announced on February 23, 2015. Baggione had served as the division's deputy director since September 2014 and had been deputy director of the ADEQ Air Quality Division for four years before making the move to the Water Quality Division. Baggione replaces Mike Fulton, who resigned last week to become deputy director of the Maricopa County Air Quality Department. (from ADEQ email news)

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.

WRRRC 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. Upcoming seminar topics include:

Driving Water Conservation: The Conserve2Enhance Water Use Dashboard – Wednesday May 6, 2015 - 12:00 PM, Speakers: Kelly Mott Lacroix, Senior Research Analyst, Water Resources Research Center, and Brittany Xiu, Outreach Coordinator, Water Resources Research Center

SAEMS Financial Statements

SAEMS financial statements for the past fiscal year are posted on our website at http://www.saems.org/executive_committee_frameset.htm. The taxes were filed and the financials were reviewed and finalized by the accountant.

Calling All SAEMS Members – New, Old, and Future

Are you making the most of your membership? Do you attend monthly meetings to hear information about that month's topic? Do you mingle with the other members and network? Have you served on the Board or a Committee? Have you checked out the webpage to see what is new? Have you volunteered at a seminar or adopt a highway or other event promoted by SAEMS? Have you attended the RCRA or P2 or LEPC seminars? Why not make a New Year's resolution to do one or more of these things in 2015!

SAEMS Website Updates

Information on the SAEMS website will be updated soon. Members will be able to access an updated membership directory under the Members tab on the website (www.saems.org) or [Click Here](#) – a new member user name and password will be sent out to current members soon. See the latest information on the SAEMS website, including luncheon and scholarship information, previous luncheon presentations, Trash & Bash updates, Executive Committee meeting notes, financial information, News Flash archives, etc.!