

June 2, 2015

Flash No. 50

VOTE FOR THE SAEMS EXECUTIVE BOARD NOW!!!

It is time for the annual elections for the SAEMS executive board. An email was recently sent to the membership containing board nominee biographies and a link to the voting website. Please don't wait, vote now!!! The nominees are: Mike McGovern – President-Elect; Erin Lansey – Vice President; Pat Hartshorne – Communications Coordinator; Krissy Gaska – Treasurer; and Michelle Frandsen – Secretary.

Attend the Upcoming Annual June Luncheon

Our Speaker for the Wednesday, **June 24, 2015** luncheon (11:30 am – 1:30 pm at the Hotel Tucson, 475 North Granada Avenue) will be **Dr. George Hammond**, Director and Research Professor at The University of Arizona Eller College of Management, Economic and Business Research Center. Dr. Hammond will discuss the **Making Action Possible Dashboard** website (mapazdashboard.arizona.edu), which is a major new tool that the local community can use to measure progress and inspire action. Members will learn about the types data included in the dashboard, which range from indicators of economic performance, to quality of place, to workforce and demographics, among others. Members will also learn how to use the dashboard to better understand how the local community is doing, how it compares to other communities, as well as key trends.

Also at the June meeting, the **new SAEMS Executive Board** will be introduced and the gold bung wrench will be passed to the new President.

REMINDER – If you register late (after 5 PM on the Friday before the luncheon) and pay on PayPal, please select the late payment fee.

April Luncheon Summary

The speaker for our April luncheon was **Mark Grushka**, a founding member and long-time friend of SAEMS. Mark was recognized by many attendees and many were eager to hear his presentation. Mark joined us with **Dr. Ron Spark** to talk about the history of wastewater clean up with the introduction of a granular activated carbon (GAC) system and reduced xylene use to obtain compliance with a new (at the time) Pima County wastewater ordinance at Tucson Medical Center. Dr. Spark, who worked closely with Mark on these changes, spoke to the group on some of the hurdles to change they experienced (namely cost). Dr. Spark discussed how the work involved strong collaboration with both public and hospital administration to complete their efforts, and the contrast between historical and current technologies and processes in terms of both chemical use and costs to the company. Go to the SAEMS website for links to the presentation documents at http://saems.org/luncheon_info_frameset.htm.

May RCRA Seminar Summary

The **2015 Annual SAEMS RCRA Seminar – Targeted Compliance**, was held on Thursday, May 14, 2015, at Hilton Tucson East. Thanks to all the volunteers, speakers, sponsors, and 144 participants that made this event a great success! The proceeds from this seminar go towards the SAEMS' Scholarship Fund. In 2015, SAEMS awarded a total of \$11,500 in scholarships to college students who are majoring in environmental studies at the University of Arizona.

Topics for this year's seminar included RCRA Basics; Pollution Prevention (P2); EPA's New Scope with RCRA DSW Rule; updates from ADEQ's Southern Regional Office and the Waste Program Solvent Wipes Ruling; Pima County rules updates; RCRA penalties and outcomes; LEPC updates and training; achieving RCRA compliance; and wastewater pre-treatment. We also congratulated long-time SAEMS member, former Vice President, and annual RCRA Basics speaker **Fred Brinker of Tucson Airport Authority** on his future retirement and thanked him for the many years he has been supporting SAEMS. Participants retired upstairs for happy hour following the end of the seminar.

The majority of the RCRA Seminar presentations are now available for viewing on the SAEMS website, including that given by Mr. Jerry Worsham II, Esq., which was inadvertently left out of the seminar binder; go to http://saems.org/seminars_frameset.htm.



RCRA Seminar participants



Thanks to everyone for a successful Seminar!



Post-Seminar happy hour attendees Pat Harrington, Derek Koller, Brent Borchers, and Derek Sizemore

Fred Brinker (L) receiving congratulations and thank you from SAEMS President Pat Harrington



RCRA Seminar Committee (L to R): Ken Asch, Barb Ricca, Lisa Cuestas (front), Pat Hartshorne, Derek Koller, Heather Shoemaker (front), Cari Cunningham, and Frank Bonillas

In Memoriam – Dr. Rafe Sagarin

We are saddened to report that the speaker at our August 2014 meeting, Dr. Rafe Sagarin, recently passed away on May 28, 2015. The following quote is attributed to UA College of Science Dean Joaquin Ruiz: "Dr. Raphael Sagarin, associate research scientist for Biosphere 2 and adjunct assistant professor for the School of Natural Resources and the Environment, was killed Thursday in a bicycle accident on Highway 77 between Biosphere 2 and the town of Oracle. Dr. Sagarin was committed to education and research, and understood that the Biosphere was a unique platform for science and education. He represented all of us in our commitment to quality and making things better. 'Rafe' will be deeply missed. His energy and enthusiasm were contagious, and it was a blessing to have known such wonderful colleague."



April SAEMS Adopt A Highway Cleanup Summary



Did you forget? That's OK, we enjoyed perfect weather on Saturday April 25, 2015 as the SAEMS loyal & faithful volunteers completed our last highway trash cleanup along I-10 before the summer break. The Team found numerous treasures along with 17 bags of trash and several tires during our morning trash hunt. Most "unique" was Ken's find of the recently shed skin of a rarely seen Sonoran Hoop Snake! The theme of the day related to beverage consumption as we found a cup holder, can koozie, and an unopened beer can – See what you're missing! Mike Block was voted the best find with a valuable blue-tooth antenna (see it attached to his hat in the photo) and won the Starbuck's gift card. Barb, Ken, Mike, Al, and Dan enjoyed a great meal afterward at the Vail Steakhouse. Next pickup is late September, so think about joining us. Always looking for new faces – try and support SAEMS by spending one morning each year with us 😊

Volunteers in the photo are (left-right); Al Jorissen (Mike's cousin), Mike Block, Barb Ricca, Ken Asch (Adopt A Highway Chairperson Dan Williams inset at far left side of page)



Update on Mini-Grant Winner – International School of Tucson (IST) Garden

International School of Tucson (located at the former Jefferson Park Elementary site) – Their garden is complete/ongoing now, and they will also be working with the Jefferson Park Neighborhood Association (JPNA) on tree planting efforts in the fall via this grant.



From Joan Hall, President of JPNA: *The rain garden is done! Hi Everybody, Thanks to everybody who showed up to help install the rain garden at the entrance to IST, and the basins on the north side. The butterflies were already circling as we finished. Next planned workshop will be planting more trees in the right of way on the west side of the school - scheduled for Sept. By the way, did you know that IST offers "proximity" scholarships? Yes, the closer you live, the less you pay. A benefit to JPNers. Now, pray for rain!!*



★ SAEMS 2015 Scholarship Winners Announced ★

SAEMS is proud to announce its 2015-2016 environmental studies scholarship awards. As a volunteer-run organization, SAEMS is committed to enhancing environmental education opportunities and developing innovative future environmental leaders. Proceeds from the organization's environmental professional development seminars and sponsor donations support communitywide environmental education efforts including scholarships for students in the environmental field.

The **SAEMS Scholarship Committee** consisted of: **B.J. Cordova**, of Tucson Clean & Beautiful, Inc.; **Terri Garcia**, of Turner Laboratories; and **Kim Stone**, of Sanofi. The committee recently awarded a total of \$11,500 in scholarships to several University of Arizona students. A portion of this amount was a special honorary donated by the Arizona Laboratory Association honoring retiring SAEMS and ALA member **Nancy Turner**. Award recognition, student awardees, and their respective majors include:

- Nancy Turner Honorary Scholarship:** **Guangbin Li** (Environmental Engineering Grad Student)
- Nancy Turner Honorary Research & Travel Funding:** **Amanda Veals** (Natural Resources, Wildlife Conservation & Management Grad Student)
Emily Soderberg (Sustainable Built Environments Undergraduate Student)
- Graduate Student Scholarships:** **Mojtaba Azadi Aghdam** (Environmental Engineering)
Noelle Espinosa (Natural Resources, Wildlife Conservation & Management)
Bridget Guiza (Planning)
- Undergraduate Student Scholarships:** **Cynthia Hernandez** (Environmental Science)
Trevor Ledbetter (Environmental Science and Ecology & Evolutionary Biology)
Derek Koller (Public Health/Environmental & Occupational Safety & Health)

Scholarships awards are based on both merit and financial need. Scholarship winners and interested students are also provided a SAEMS membership to encourage continued academic and professional growth through interaction with environmental professionals.



Scholarship Chairperson BJ Cordova presenting scholarship awards to three of the selected students at SAEMS gathering (L to R): Emily Soderberg, Derek Koller, and Trevor Ledbetter.

Border 2020 Arizona-Sonora Mining Symposium, Tucson, Arizona on June 25, 2015

Environmental issues related to mining in the 100 km-wide US-Mexico border continue to be an area of interest as a result of recent high profile mining related incidents, the prevalence of mining in the region, and the fact that mining issues cut across all five US-Mexico Border 2020 Task Forces (Air, Water, Materials Management and Clean Sites, Emergency Preparedness and Response, Enforcement). Objectives of the Symposium: Develop recommendations for near-term best practices for mines and identify domestic and/or binational follow-up actions that government, academia, and industry can potentially implement (e.g., best practices for mitigation, monitoring QA/QC, sulfuric acid tanker car derailment emergency response training exercise, risk communication training). Location: John P. Schaefer Center for Creative Photography Lecture Hall, University of Arizona, 1030 North Olive Road, Tucson, AZ 85721, There is no charge but you do need to sign up at the following website: <http://superfund.pharmacy.arizona.edu/meetings/border-2020>.

PAG Air Quality Forum, Tucson, Arizona on June 23, 2015

Pima Association of Governments (PAG) will be hosting an **Air Quality Forum** in Tucson at the PAG office, 1 East Broadway Boulevard, on **June 23, 2015**. It will focus on the EPA's proposed ozone standard and transportation, energy use and industrial operations information related to the proposed standard. Register now and hear from federal, regional and local agencies and industry representatives on: the proposed ozone standards; regional ozone levels and sources; and trends and possible impacts to the transportation, industrial and energy sectors. Don't miss the opportunity to network with environmental professionals. Visit <http://www.PimaCleanAir.com> to register.

Job Announcements

Arizona Department of Environmental Quality (Tucson) – Air Quality Source Inspector, Southern Regional Office Compliance Unit – To apply, go to the ADEQ website at <http://www.azdeq.gov/>.

Materion Ceramics (Tucson) – Environmental Health and Safety Manager – Apply online at www.Materion.com/Careers.

Note to Student Members of the American Society of Safety Engineers (ASSE)

The University of Arizona College of Public Health Environmental and Occupational Department now has an officially chartered **ASSE Student Section**; the local Southern Arizona ASSE Chapter pays for this membership. Here is the link to learn more about it: <http://southaz.asse.org/1-2/>. **Carole and John Benz of ETC** have graciously offered a significant benefit to student members of ASSE by allowing them the opportunity to attend any ETC Open Enrollment course in Phoenix and Tucson at no charge (excluding cost of regulation books if required or fees associated with a class). Contact ETC at 602-923-9673 or 520-321-1999 for more information.

A BIG THANK YOU TO ALL THE 2015 RCRA SEMINAR SPONSORS!



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!



Information on the SAEMS website has recently been updated. 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, now that we finally have all renewals paid for. 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.!

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%. In 2013 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.