

Maine Water News

A Publication of the Maine Water Utilities Association

July 2014, Number 176

Every Day is Learning Day

Jefferson Longfellow, 2014 President

As some may know, I enjoy attending High Performance Driving Events or HPDE's. These "track days" are an opportunity to take a car to a track and be able to drive it as fast as the car or your talent will allow. These days are not a race, but rather a learning experience. The focus is to emphasize the relationship between the driver and the auto, making both function together. By doing so, the driver is learning their own limitations, and then expanding skill sets in a controlled manner. Students such as myself are normally exceeding the speeds that are on public roads, adding to the reinforcement of the skills. The most experienced drivers are approved to drive without an instructor. These drivers have had to demonstrate to a variety of instructors, that they have been able to master the basics of high speed driving. Such skills are the correct line, etiquette to other drivers, maturity, good judgment, and demonstration of driving skills. After several years of attendance, I have been able to drive in the solo grouping.

In June of this year, a new road course was opened in Thompson, Connecticut, after being unused since 1978. The new course has a different configuration, one that no one has had the opportunity to drive before June. A new adventure for all. Shortly before the event, I had received an email with two freshly made videos, requiring the drivers of similar skill sets as me to learn the track before the attending, and to be ready to go with minimal instructor oversight.

Before going on track, my run group attended one of many classroom times to discuss how we were all going to get along on the track and to express observations from the videos and how to proceed. Throughout the two days, when in classroom settings, we were given critiques and positive reinforcements. Opportunities were given in both organized and independent times to observe the instructors, their approaches to certain aspects of the track, and to use those times to learn and improve. For me all went well, and I had one of the more enjoyable times at the track

because I had been given the independence to learn and grow.

Driving home, I found many parallels to the event and to learning and improving in the workplace. Are we giving our employees a chance to learn, allowed to take risks with supervision, or only given tasks to do? What opportunities are we giving employees with talent? There is the management candidate school. Are we using it to its full capacity? Enrollment for the 2014-15 classes begin in the Fall. Do you know of a candidate?

With daily tasks, are they being delegated? Is the delegation being done to help train and for one to learn, or only to get some items off your plate? I will be the first to admit, that giving someone a task to learn, often means that instead of taking one hundred percent of your time to do, it often becomes a seventy-five percent of your time task. Not much of a savings, but with time and allowing one to grow, the time spent becomes less, but only if you allow yourself to let go. Letting go is sometimes the hardest part because someone else may do the task different than you, but still correctly.

The real question is, when we talk about succession planning, is it the new buzz word of how to handle the twilight of a career, or has it been the way you have conducted personnel enhancement all along? I know that it is uncomfortable to be training your replacement, but it is the right thing to do, if not for yourself, but for those around you.

See you at the track!

The June Meeting

It mattered not whether it was sunny or stormy while we were in Rockwood; the Birches provided a very nice venue for the June bimonthly meeting.

Greenville Superintendent Woodie Bartley provided an interesting summary of the system's history, which dates back to 1904. The system, which serves Greenville, Moosehead Junction Township and Big Moose Township has experienced a number of ownership changes over the years and is now a division of The Maine Water Company.

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The business meeting essentially consisted of a legislative update from Executive Director Jeff McNelly, who described the outcomes of the most important of the bills MWUA followed this past session.

Roberta Hill, Invasive Species Program Director of the Maine Volunteer Lake Monitoring Program, brought us a two part presentation. First she provided an overview of the Volunteer Lake Monitoring Program, which is a citizen based effort that collects a variety of water quality data on Maine Lakes. That was followed by a discussion of invasive aquatic species, complete with an opportunity to identify plant specimens.

Lake water quality and the presence/absence of invasive plants are certainly in the wheelhouse of water system operators, so this meeting was an excellent opportunity for water personnel and VLMP folks to have meaningful dialogues.

The June meeting is a chance to network with peers in distant corners of the state and many take advantage of the opportunity to take a day off and play golf, fish, or otherwise recreate at some remarkable venues.

After the meeting we attacked the buffet that would have been more appropriately set out for logging crew, and then embarked on the trek home.

29th Annual Golf Tournament Includes Sponsorship Opportunities Annual Clambake to Feature Bocce Ball Competition

MWUA's 29th Annual Golf Tournament will, once again, take place on August 13th at the Val Halla Golf Course in Cumberland. There is an opportunity to provide valuable support for this event through a generous sponsorship of a \$125 donation. If you are interested in sponsoring, please click the "events" link on our website www.mwua.org. We are also seeking vendors who would be able to donate items for us to give away as prizes at the tournament. If you can donate an item, bring it with you to the golf tournament. We are very thankful for your support of our events, and hope you are able to participate in the golf tournament this year.

The Annual Clambake at Thomas Point Beach in Brunswick will be the day after the Golf Tournament - August 14th. **New this year, attendees will not be required to pay the entrance fee to the park.** When you stop at the gate please inform them that you are attending the MWUA Clambake. They will tally the total number of attendees and invoice the association directly. Please note that meal costs have been adjusted to accommodate those fees and other increases.

This year we will be having a Bocce Ball tournament. You may register a team of 4 or register individually, and be assigned to a team. There is no cost to play, and the winning team will receive trophies. Join in the fun and show off your skill! Please register as soon as possible to ensure that we have enough food for everyone. We also need time to coordinate this newly added world class athletic event. We look forward to seeing you in August!

Gas Expansion Discussion Moves to New Forum

The Association was unsuccessful in attempting to submit legislation last session, in order to enact more comprehensive standards for gas line siting and installation. However, that disappointment has been moderated by the fact that the Governor's Office recently asked Maine DOT to assemble utility stakeholders for the purpose of discussing and formulating protocol so as to minimize the impact of new utilities upon existing utilities.

The first meeting was held on June 16 and included representatives from the Governor's Office, Maine DOT, water utilities, wastewater utilities, Maine PUC, gas and other utilities and others.

Much of the discussion focused on the fact that there is a lack of consistency in the rules governing installation of gas facilities. Maine PUC regulations call for one foot of separation between gas lines and other facilities, while the Maine DOT Accommodation Policy calls for three feet. In addition, some communities have



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chosen not to issue written location permits for new facilities, which raises the question of whether these facilities are legally located in the public way.

Safety, cost, inadequate communication and other issue were identified as additional topics worthy of consideration and, hopefully, resolution.

The next meeting of the group is scheduled for August. In the interim, the association will be meeting with other affected utilities in order to prioritize efforts and develop recommended standards and policies.

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Management Candidate School to Start up in October

The Joint Environmental Training Coordinating Committee (JETCC), is once again offering the Water and Wastewater Management Candidate School. This training program is aimed at mid-level operators who may have the potential or desire to advance into management positions.

The year-long program includes management courses, technical courses (such as engineering basics, and construction planning) as well as skill training in the areas of personnel management, media relations, dealing with regulatory agencies, budget preparation, etc.

Contact JETCC (207-253-8020) or visit www.jetcc.org for additional information.

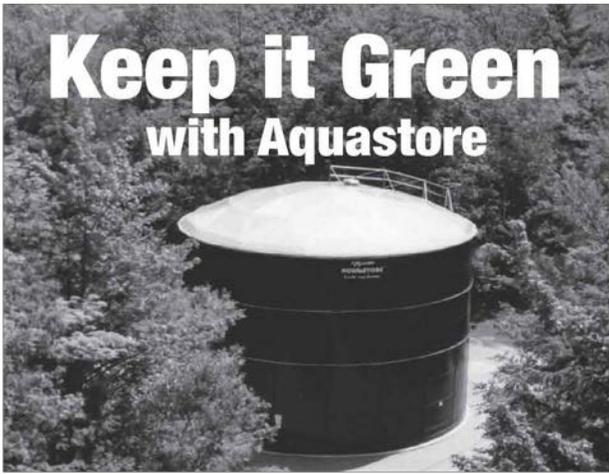


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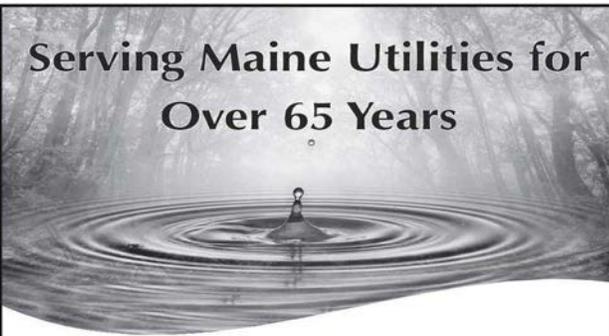


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Water Operator Board Has Open Seats

The Board of Licensure of Water System Operators has the following openings, to be filled by appointment by the Governor:

- Seat representing a registered professional engineer;
- Seat representing a manager of a water utility; and
- Seat representing an owner or manager of a non-transient, non-community public water system.

The Board meets 4 times a year and has the authority and responsibility to assure persons operating a water system are qualified. This entails reviewing the complexity of systems, assuring exams cover appropriate system processes and ensuring operators maintain their licenses in good standing.

If you are interested in serving the water profession in the role of a Board member, please contact Terry Trott at 287-7485 or teresa.trott@maine.gov or other Board members listed on the Drinking Water Program website www.medwp.com.

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MAINE WATER UTILITIES ASSOCIATION
29th ANNUAL CLAMBAKE SCRAMBLE GOLF TOURNAMENT
Wednesday, August 13, 2014

PLACE: **Val Halla Golf Course:** 60 Val Halla Road Cumberland Center, Maine 04021 phone: (207) 829-2225

DIRECTIONS: Traveling on I-295 from the North/South. Take Cumberland/Yarmouth Exit 15. Turn right onto Route 1 – 1st light turn left (Portland St) .8 mi changes to Middle Rd .6 mi turn right onto Greely Rd 3 mi Turn left onto Val Halla Rd

TIME: **Shotgun Start @ 8:30 AM**
Barbeque and Awards to follow

FORMAT: **Scramble Format is as follows:** Men play white tees; Women begin on the red tees. Each Group must use one drive from each player on each nine.

COMPETITION: **1st Place (2) Longest Drive M/W**
2nd Place (3) Closest to the Pin

***There will be a 50/50 RAFFLE & CASINO HOLE to benefit the MWUA Scholarship Fund**

REGISTRATION: Register by August 1, 2014 online at: www.mwua.org; or complete this form and return to:
MWUA
150 Capitol Street, Suite 5
Augusta, ME 04330
Fax: (207) 623-9522

CEREMONY: **Honorable passage of the Lobster Red “Master Scrambler” Jacket**

COST: \$80 per person, including cart, prize fund and buffet
(meal cost is \$10 per person for those requiring a breakdown)

MWUA 29th ANNUAL CLAMBAKE SCRAMBLE GOLF TOURNAMENT
August 13, 2014 at Val Halla Golf Course
Registration Deadline: August 1, 2014 *Pre-payment is Required Please

DATE: **Wednesday, August 13, 2014**
PLACE: **Val Halla Golf Course, 60 Val Halla Rd., Cumberland, ME 04102**
TIME: **Shotgun Start at 8:30 AM**
Barbeque and Awards to follow

CONTACT NAME: _____ **CONTACT MEMBER INFORMATION:** _____

Team Member #1 _____ **ADDRESS** _____
Name Company

Team Member #2 _____ **CITY** _____ **ST** _____ **ZIP** _____
Name Company

Team Member #3 _____ **PHONE** _____
Name Company

Team Member #4 _____ **E-MAIL** _____
Name Company

Payment enclosed for _____ (# people) at \$80.00/person. Total enclosed (\$) _____

I would like to contribute _____ as an award prize to the tournament. Submit all prize contributions to our office by 07/25/14, or check here _____ if you plan to bring the prize item to the tournament.

Corporate sponsorships of \$125 are recognized with business logo & sign displayed on course – Please call (207) 623-9511 for details



MAINE WATER UTILITIES ASSOCIATION

ANNUAL CLAMBAKE

Thursday, August 14, 2014

LOCATION: THOMAS POINT BEACH, BRUNSWICK, MAINE
<http://www.thomaspointbeach.com/home.shtml>

DIRECTIONS: Leave U.S. Route 1 at Cook's Corner. Turn left at the traffic light, then immediately turn right onto the road to Thomas Point Beach. *WATCH FOR THOMAS POINT BEACH SIGNS.

TIME: 12:00 P.M. DOWNEAST CLAMBAKE (Reservations Required)
 Come before lunch, meet old friends, make new ones. Stop at the entrance gate and inform them that you are attending the MWUA Clambake. It is requested that the serving of alcoholic beverages stop for the remainder of the day when lunch is served.

REGISTRATION: Register by **August 1, 2014** using the following options:
 1. online at: www.mwua.org
 2. or complete registration form and return to the address or fax # below

*Jefferson Longfellow
 President*

*Christopher Curtis, Program Committee Co-Chair
 Rick Anair, Program Committee Co-Chair*

MWUA Annual Clambake Registration
August 14, 2014 at Thomas Point Beach - Brunswick
Registration Deadline: August 1, 2014

DATE: THURSDAY, August 14th, 2014
PLACE: THOMAS POINT BEACH, BRUNSWICK, MAINE
TIME: 12:00 P.M. DOWNEAST CLAMBAKE (Reservations Required)
DIRECTIONS: Leave U.S. Route 1 at Cook's Corner. Turn left at the traffic light, then immediately turn right onto the road to Thomas Point Beach. WATCH FOR THOMAS POINT BEACH SIGNS.

NAME _____ **AFFILIATION** _____
ADDRESS _____
CITY _____ **STATE** _____ **ZIP** _____ **PHONE** _____ **EMAIL** _____

***PARK ENTRANCE FEES ARE INCLUDED IN MEAL PRICES**

<u>QUANTITY</u>	<u>REGISTER BY AUGUST 1ST</u>	<u>REGISTRATIONS RECEIVED AFTER AUGUST 1ST</u>
___ Two Lobster Dinner	@ \$45.00 per person \$ _____	@ \$50.00 per person \$ _____
___ One Lobster Dinner	@ \$40.00 per person \$ _____	@ \$45.00 per person \$ _____
___ Steak Dinner	@ \$40.00 per person \$ _____	@ \$45.00 per person \$ _____
___ Chicken Dinner	@ \$32.00 per person \$ _____	@ \$37.00 per person \$ _____
___ Veggie Burger Dinner	@ \$20.00 per person \$ _____	@ \$25.00 per person \$ _____
___ Hamburgers/Hotdogs/Chips	@ \$10.00 per person \$ _____	@ \$10.00 per person \$ _____
___ Hamburgers/Hotdogs/Chips (16 & Under Free)		

TOTAL ENCLOSED: \$ _____

Bocce Ball Tournament Registration (no charge) – Tournament begins at 10:00 a.m.

___ I am registering as an individual
(I understand I will be assigned to a team)

___ I am registering a team of 4

Name: _____

Name #1: _____ **Name #2:** _____
Name #3: _____ **Name #4:** _____

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