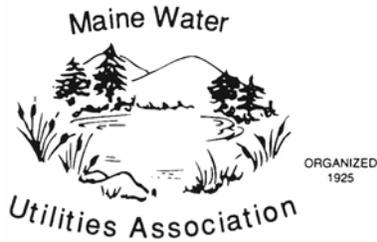


# MAINE



# WATER

# NEWS

March 2007

*A Publication of the Maine Water Utilities Association*

Number 132

## Links in the Chain

*William G. Alexander, Jr., President*

Ah... A nice New England northeaster, if you can call it nice, has given me a respite from the day-to-day duties that occupy so much of my time. The storm seems to have affected the telephone somehow, as it hasn't rung for several hours. A welcome change from my usual routine of dealing with items such as budgets, regulations, staffing and customer issues, to name a few. Oh and, by the way, arrange for the appropriate resources to repair a sixteen inch main that, at a rate of 15,000 gallons per minute prior to shutdown, washed an important throughway out, while explaining to a resident that lives three miles away that the main break did not contaminate their well. Multitasking is the way of life for this water operator, as one link of many, in a chain that binds the staff of this utility together. This chain in the form of teamwork will achieve the goal of providing safe, potable water to our customers.

By the time you read this article the Maine Water Utilities Association has completed another successful trade show and conference at the Cumberland County Civic Center. The conference was a pleasurable event, despite the arrival of the traditionally cold weather, to meet and greet old friends and hopefully make some new friends. This event continues to provide for some first rate training, networking, and opportunities for vendor contacts. Yet, while walking through and around the Civic Center's mezzanine, and trade floor one cannot help but notice the omnipresent emblems of the Portland Pirates above and behind the blue and white drapes of the MWUA. Among these emblems are the flags that proclaim victories that were achieved by teamwork and, please pardon the pun, goals.

The Maine Water Utilities Association has a similar network of teams in the way of its volunteer committees. There are five committees that serve the association, along

with the Board of Directors. Each committee has its own mission statement and has been directed by the Board to provide three new goals by March 1st of 2007.

While the program committee carried the lion's share of the work in the planning of the tradeshow, other committees assisted and provided training as well. At the conference you may have noticed a few people walking around with committee flags attached to their nametags. Who are these people? How do I get involved?

Are you the type of person that loves to assist others by sharing new information and technologies? Perhaps you have creative ideas that capture the attention of others. The Education and Operations Committee may be just right for you! This committee provides opportunities for training and the sharing of information for water utility personnel. The ever-increasing regulatory climate in today's world requires a medium that can disseminate information in a timely matter. This is accomplished by determining the subject matter; finding speakers, locations and scheduling the training session. Locate a volunteer coordinator; turn in the appropriate paper work to the Executive Director and on to the next one!

Do State and Federal government regulatory activities leave you smiling every time you have to explain to your customers why their rates are increasing again due to unfunded mandates? Do you have a penchant for the nebulous workings of governmental affairs? The Legislative and Regulatory Affairs Committee monitors state and federal legislative and regulatory activities. This group of hard working individuals develops strategies for the Board of MWUA and for all utilities large and small.

Have a specific subject that you want discussed in your town? Give the Program Committee members a call. This group is charged with creating and implementing bimonthly membership meetings. These meetings usually consist of a business meeting, a regulatory update, training and networking. See the link here?

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Material of interest to the water supply profession will be considered for publication. Copy deadline is the 15<sup>th</sup> day of month preceding publication.

#### BOARD OF DIRECTORS

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*Sanford Water District*

##### Program Committee

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*Kennebec Water District*

##### Public Awareness Committee

*Chair: Julia Coes*

*Bath Water District*

##### Water Resources Committee

*Paul Hunt*

*Portland Water District*

(Continued from page 1)

Do you like dealing with the press? Is your latent Van Gogh screaming to get out? The Public Awareness Committee consists of a talented team of people that prepares news articles, attends trade shows that are held by other associations and creates pamphlets to inform the public on issues that are important to water utilities state wide.

What do SWAP, SWA, SWR, to name a few acronyms, mean to you? Ask the members of the Water Resources Committee. This group of intelligent and environmentally minded people performs a great service to the Association and its members by championing and protecting the health of everyone's water supply and ultimately the water consumer.

This is old news to some of us that have been around a few years. The Maine Water Utilities Association is a great organization to be involved in. The benefits of involvement in this association are innumerable. MWUA is an association that provides for networking, education, and legislative representation for all utilities, large and small. Don't have the time? How about some of your staff? These teams of committees meet throughout the state to fulfill their assigned tasks for MWUA. A few hours a month away from the office can pay dividends in receiving the mentioned benefits plus the additional benefit of personal development. With the graying of our workforce and the ever-increasing demand for our time we need to get fresh new faces involved in our association. The committees have and will continue to serve this Association well. So what do you say? Help achieve the goal by becoming a member of the team and participate on a committee of the MWUA. Become a link in the chain that, since 1925, has made the MWUA what it is today, a premier waterworks association.

#### **Past President Does Good**

With the arrival of Cooper Heywood Tarbuck at 7:29 AM on February 27<sup>th</sup>, Readfield has a new resident and the MWUA Past President has progressed to a state of higher consciousness. Congratulations are in order for Brian & Kathy Tarbuck. Cooper was 6 pounds, 8 ounces and 21" long.

#### **2006 Lobbying Costs Available**

It has been a hectic first quarter at the MWUA office and the reports detailing each Corporate member's share of MWUA lobbying costs for 2006 were not mailed out.

As in the past it is a simple calculation. It amounts to 0.05177 times the 2006 membership dues. Corporate members who require additional information or have other questions can contact the office.

#### **Manager's Breakfast Set for April**

"Difficult Issues in the Workplace" is the topic for a Manager's Breakfast scheduled for April 26, 2007 (8:00AM – 11:00AM) at the Portland Water District. The program will be an open discussion forum that will allow managers and supervisors to share problems and experiences with others. The session will focus on management of

personnel issues and team building. The cost to attend will be \$20. Visit [www.mwua.org](http://www.mwua.org) for more information.

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### Joint Legislative Breakfast a Success

On February 13<sup>th</sup> a Legislative Breakfast, jointly hosted by the Maine Waste Water Control Association, the New England Water Environment Association and the Maine Water Utilities Association, was held at the Senator Inn in Augusta. The primary purpose of the breakfast was to explain Maine's Clean Water and Drinking Water State Revolving Funds to legislators and to emphasize the importance of securing the 20% match necessary to secure the annual capitalization grant.

Much of the impetus for the breakfast was provided by Greg Cataldo, who is active in all three of the sponsoring organizations. Two PowerPoint presentations automatically cycled during the event. One of the slide shows featured the basics of how the programs work and included details relative to federal money that has been secured and used to improve Maine's water and wastewater infrastructure. The other slide show featured several dozen pictures of facilities constructed throughout the state. The pictures were supplied by engineering firms,

DWP and DEP staff and others. A special thanks goes out to Madeleine Storer, who organized the presentations.

This breakfast was successful on several fronts. It presented an opportunity for water and wastewater professionals to either meet each other, either for the first time or to renew friendships and discuss common interests. With many new faces in the 123<sup>rd</sup> Maine Legislature the breakfast was an ideal venue for system managers to meet their elected officials. Finally, the educational value of the program cannot be underestimated. More than one legislator remarked that they were not aware of the fact that the match was 5:1 money. Generally, it is safe to say that more than a few of the representatives were not aware of the magnitude, or benefits of the SRF programs.

### Augusta Water & Sanitary Districts Announce New General Manager

Effective April 14<sup>th</sup>, Brian Tarbuck will become the new General Manager of the Augusta Water & Sanitary Districts. Brian will succeed Dale Glidden upon his retirement after 34+ years with the District.

For the past several years, Brian has worked for the merged District in the capacity of Assistant General Manager. Prior to that, Brian oversaw the start-up and management of a large filtration plant in the State of Washington. Brian holds a B.S. in Civil Engineering, is a licensed Professional Engineer and is past-President of MWUA.

### 123<sup>rd</sup> Maine Legislature Getting up to Speed

After a somewhat slow start the committees of the Maine Legislature are considering a number of bills. Some legislative documents have been heard and dealt with; others are in process and many more remain to be addressed. The association has been active on many fronts and expects to be until sometime in June or July.

LD 237 An Act to Amend the Maine Tree Growth Tax Law would have required any land of 500 acres or more listed under Tree Growth Tax Law to be open to hunting, fishing, trapping, snowmobiling and hiking. The association and many others testified against the bill. The Taxation Committee voted the bill out Ought Not to Pass

LD 352 An Act to Provide an Appeal Process Regarding Rate Increases of Certain Quasi-municipal Districts and Corporations would have allowed water and sewer ratepayers to appeal a rate increase of a quasi-municipal corporation or district that serves a single municipality. This bill, which was submitted by Representative Tuttle of Sanford, was the result of significant rate increases caused by \$18 Million worth of improvements required of the Sanford Sewer District. This



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proposed legislation contained many troubling aspects. Many testified against it. It was killed by the Utilities and Energy Committee, at the request of the sponsor.

LD 399 An Act to Require Impact Statements from Potential Purchasers of Public Utilities and Those Who Apply to Extract Natural Resources would require an impact statement be submitted (1) before the transfer of ownership of a public utility or (2) a lease, permit or license to commercially extract natural resources is issued.

The association has offered testimony in opposition to the bill and is awaiting the work session.

LD 587 An Act to Protect and Improve Lake Water Quality amends MRSA 38 §419 to add a prohibition against the sale or use of fertilizer containing phosphorus for nonagricultural lawn or turf unless a soil test indicates that additional phosphate is needed or the fertilizer will be used in the establishment of a new lawn. The purpose of the bill is to reduce phosphorous enrichment of Maine's lakes and ponds. The association offered testimony in support of the bill and is awaiting the work session.

LD 629 Resolve, to Create the Sebago Lake Village State Park, is similar to a bill that was considered and disposed of 2 years ago. This bill would require the Department of Conservation, Bureau of Parks and Lands to purchase the boat ramp on Sebago Lake in the Town of Standish and 3 acres of Portland Water District property around the boat ramp. The Town is to be paid a fair market value for the boat ramp, and the Portland Water District is to be paid based on the value of the land under the Maine Tree Growth Tax Law. Further, the Bureau is to improve the boat landing and provide 100 parking spots for cars and boat trailers. The association testified in opposition to the bill and is awaiting the work session.

There are a number of bills associated with the proposed in-stream flow and water level rules that are either printed out or are anticipated.

LD 774, An Act to Coordinate the Implementation of the In-stream Flow & Water Level Rules Among the Department of Environmental Protection, the DWP of the Department of Health and Human Services and the PUC would require that any draft decision by the DEP that affects community water systems must be approved by the DWP and the PUC. The association has submitted a bill which would amend that same section of law to state that the Department shall incorporate into its standards a mechanism to reconcile, to the extent feasible, the objectives of protecting aquatic life and other uses and the objective of allowing community public water systems to use their existing water supplies to provide water service.

In addition the association, in collaboration with other water users, has submitted legislation which would result in development of a comprehensive water use plan for the state. Also, the provisionally adopted DEP In-stream Flow and Water Level Rules will be considered by the Maine Legislature this session.

It will be important for systems that use surface water supplies to be fully engaged in this sustainable water use process. There is a need to advocate individually and collectively for an outcome which is acceptable to the water supply profession. Failure to do so will likely result in a scenario whereby water utilities will be living with decisions made by others.

## February Meeting Award Recipients

### Kennebunk, Kennebunkport and Wells Water District Received the Excellence in Operations Award



Seated left to right: Lynn Mankin (Filtration Plant Operator), Don Gobeil (Technical Services Director), Jim Burrows (President, Board of Trustees), and Butch Tibbetts (Distribution Manager)

Standing left to right: Paul Cote (Asst. Distribution Manager), Wayne Brockway (Treasurer), Brian Tarbuk, Norm Labbe (Superintendent), Rob Weymouth (Facilities Manager), and Scott Minor (Asst. Superintendent).



Sid Anthony Award Recipient Donald Gobeil with 2006 MWUA President Brian Tarbuk

### Caribou Utilities District Received the DWSRF Award for Sustainable Public Health Protection



The Award was presented to Alan Hitchcock, General Manager of CUD (right) by J. Kevin Reilly (left) of EPA Region 1



2007 MWUA President Bill Alexander thanks 2006 President Brian Tarbuk for his dedication to MWUA



President's Award Recipient Gregory Cataldo with 2006 MWUA President Brian Tarbuk

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## Appreciate the Value of Historical Water Records

By Becky Martins

Many progressive companies are now realizing that their old customer records have become important historical artifacts. Why would old water company ledger books, maps, corporate records and plant operator log books hold any interest to a researcher you may ask? The answer is that these records may contain a record of who lived at a certain address at a certain point in time.

Similar information available to researchers is available via town tax records; which were produced annually and are often incomplete or missing and the U.S. census records; which are available every ten years up until 1930. The value of water company records is that they show property owners (as well as renters or leases of a property) and they were printed more frequently than census records or town tax records.

After speaking recently with a local historian, his suggestions include posing the following questions to water utilities: What kind of historical artifacts are within your company archives (anything pre-1930) and How are these collections being protected from destruction or environmental hazards?

If you decide to make your collection available to researchers, you'll need to ask yourself how you will preserve and/or transcribe those records. His suggestions include:

1. Make a list of any available old records (pre-1930) and determine which are no longer of commercial use.
2. Leave any transcription or copying of these records to a recipient who will have access to a standardized transcription format.
3. Loan or donate the records to local historical societies or libraries. (*Good Publicity*)
4. Companies may want to publish their own records for profit or public service.

Whatever you decide to do, work to ensure that the valuable information contained in your old records is preserved. Don't shred your archives without first verifying that researchers are not interested in your treasures.

As a volunteer, I am going to develop a standardized transcription template. To do this right, I need copies of old maps, water bills and anything else that can be identified as containing valuable historical data. I'll buy lunch for the holder of the oldest water utility map and the oldest water bill in Maine. The challenge is on! Send me samples of what you have in your vault at MWUA, PO Box P, Waldoboro, ME. 04572.

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**Private Well Symposium  
to be Held in Newport, Rhode Island**

The 2007 New England Private Well Symposium will be held December 3 & 4, 2007 in Newport, Rhode Island. This symposium seeks to integrate research, outreach, and educational efforts within the field of private well protection and management in an effort to protect drinking water quality and human health.

The program will attract a wide variety of water resource professionals from across New England and the nation.

Abstracts are being accepted until April 1, 2007 for presentations and posters on a variety of topics. In addition, there are opportunities for exhibitors. Contact Alyson McCann, Symposium Coordinator, at (401) 874-5398 or alyson@uri.edu for details or visit their website at [www.usawaterquality.org/newengland/wellsymposium](http://www.usawaterquality.org/newengland/wellsymposium).

**Water for People Raffle a Success**

Peter Garret and Jeff Musich, who spearhead the NEWWA Water for People Committee efforts in Maine,

worked the floor diligently at the February trade show, selling 50 – 50 raffle tickets. Others joined the cause as well and a total of \$910 worth of tickets was sold. The split was captured by John Hastings, the Superintendent of the Fryeburg Water Company. The cash was sent home with Hugh, John's dad, who was there at the end of the show while John was out in the cold fixing a pipe.

The proceeds were matched by a donor who agreed to provide incentive for the fundraiser. It was a 1 : 1 match – not nearly as attractive as the 5 : 1 SRF match scenario, but it did happen.

Peter stated that he had the most fun in the last couple of hours before the drawing, walking around the show selling to vendors, some of whom had \$2, some \$5 and some \$10, but almost all of which had something. They were eager to participate and know more about Water for People.

Thanks to all who participated and contributed. WFP is a great cause.



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*Benjamin Franklin - Poor Richard's Almanac, 1746*

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### Farewell to a Friend

Richard "Dick" Nadeau passed away Jan. 18, 2007. He was born Sept 18, 1927 in Fort Kent, the son of Joseph H. and Amanda (Cyr) Nadeau. He attended Fort Kent public schools, graduated from Ricker Classical Institute, attended Ricker College in Houlton for a year until he turned eighteen, at which point he enlisted in the U.S. Navy and served in the South China Seas during World War II.

For forty-three years, he managed water companies in Fort Kent, Pittsfield and Searsport where he retired in 1992. He was the last living great-grandchild of Jose Nadeau, the original settler of Fort Kent and was proud of his French Acadian ancestry. For many years, he was very active with the American Legion, Veterans of Foreign Wars, Knights of Columbus and the Lion's Club.

Dick also worked part-time as a fireman, police officer, deputy sheriff, rural mail carrier, taught himself to draft blueprints and after retiring, worked summers as an inspector on construction sites for an engineering firm.

He is survived by his beloved wife Bonnie Jean Nadeau, four children and seven great-grandchildren.

## Water System Operators Take Note

### Examination dates & deadlines for applications for 2007

April 10	Examinations, Augusta
April 12	Examinations, Presque Isle
May 19	Applications for June exams are due
June 26	Examinations, Augusta
Sept. 8	Applications for October exams are due
Oct. 23	Examinations, Augusta
Oct. 25	Examinations, Presque Isle

For additional information, contact the Board of Licensure of Water System Operators at 287-5699.

### April Meeting

The April 12<sup>th</sup> bimonthly meeting will be held at Bintliffs Ocean Grille in Edgecomb. Bintliff's is an easy commute located right on Route One.

The technical program will consist of tank manufacturers and contractors who will be on hand to discuss coatings and methods for preparing older tanks for new linings. Subjects covered will include:

- Concrete tank options – Prestressed
- Concrete tank options - Built in Place
- Glass lined Steel tanks
- Field Coated steel tanks - preparation of surfaces
- Steel Tank Coating options - Does salt air matter
- Modular FRP Tank Technology
- Tank Mixing Systems to Prevent Stratification
- Tank Cover options - Aluminum, FRP, Steel or Concrete

Four Training Certificate Hours will be granted for the training. Registration forms are available online at [www.mwua.org](http://www.mwua.org).



## Winners Announced in Contests

By Madeleine Storer

The Public Awareness Committee is pleased to announce the winners in this third year round of the Photo and Rigs-n-Gigs contests.

In the Photo Contest, there were 15 entries and the judging, done by trade show attendees at large, was actually a lot closer than in previous years. Congratulations to the following winners:

### 1<sup>st</sup> Place - Gary Stevens, York Water District



Fawn skinny dipping in Middle Pond – that’s a no-no!

### 2<sup>nd</sup> Place – Moe Vachon, Auburn WSD

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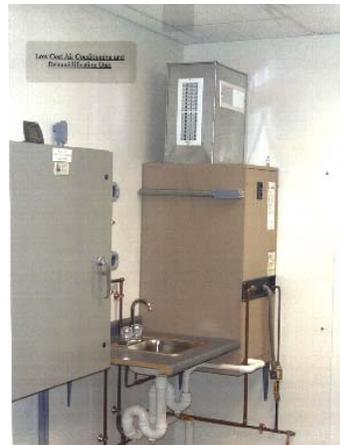
### 3<sup>rd</sup> Place - John Storer, Auburn WSD



Oooops – car eats hydrant!

## Rigs & Gigs Contest

A panel of five objective judges (who shall remain anonymous for their own protection) was selected by the PAC to vote for the most innovative and practical “whatsit” in this year’s Rigs & Gigs contest. You know who you are -- many thanks for taking the time to pick this year’s winners.

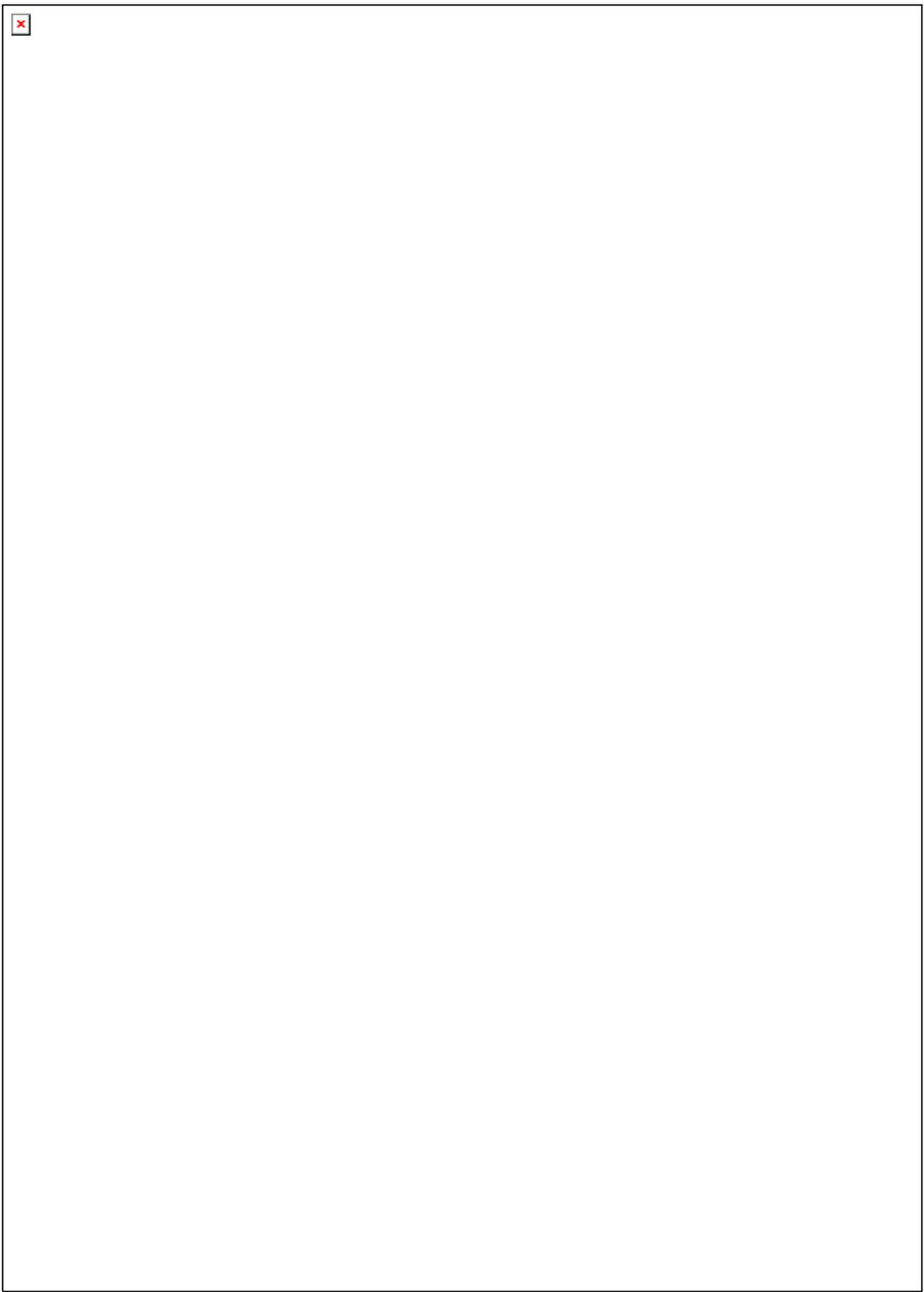


**1<sup>st</sup> Place** went to Rob Weymouth of KK&W Water District for his low cost Air Conditioning and Dehumidification Unit that allows you to eliminate condensation and/or excess heat from any facility that has a water supply. Total cost approx \$810, not to mention the savings in electrical costs as the unit uses less than 200 watts.

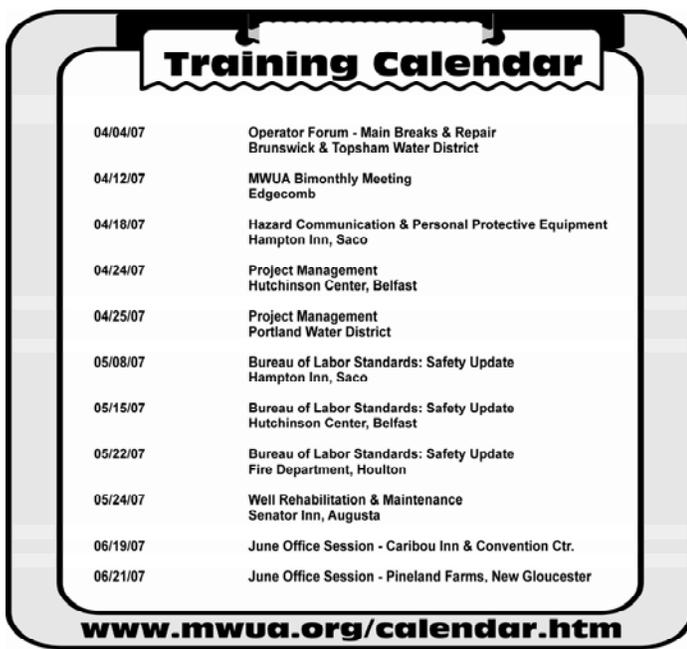
**2<sup>nd</sup> Place** winner was Dave Beaulieu of Aqua Maine for his Customized Steam Thawing Assembly at a cost of less than \$150.00.







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**Training Calendar**

04/04/07	Operator Forum - Main Breaks & Repair Brunswick & Topsham Water District
04/12/07	MWUA Bimonthly Meeting Edgecomb
04/18/07	Hazard Communication & Personal Protective Equipment Hampton Inn, Saco
04/24/07	Project Management Hutchinson Center, Belfast
04/25/07	Project Management Portland Water District
05/08/07	Bureau of Labor Standards: Safety Update Hampton Inn, Saco
05/15/07	Bureau of Labor Standards: Safety Update Hutchinson Center, Belfast
05/22/07	Bureau of Labor Standards: Safety Update Fire Department, Houlton
05/24/07	Well Rehabilitation & Maintenance Senator Inn, Augusta
06/19/07	June Office Session - Caribou Inn & Convention Ctr.
06/21/07	June Office Session - Pineland Farms, New Gloucester

[www.mwua.org/calendar.htm](http://www.mwua.org/calendar.htm)



**2007 MWUA MEETING DATES**

April 12, 2007	Conference #490 - Wiscasset
June 14, 2007	Conference #491 - Bethel
August 8, 2007	Golf Scramble - N. Yarmouth
August 9, 2007	Clambake - Brunswick
October 11, 2007	Conference #493 - Ellsworth
December 13, 2007	Conference #494 - Yarmouth