



SOUTHEAST CIRCULAR

Publication of Water Environment Association of Texas,
Section 9, Houston & Galveston

May 2010

Featured Speaker

Ms. Rachel Powers
Senior Environmental Planner
Houston-Galveston Area Council



Ms. Rachel Powers joined H-GAC as a Senior Environmental Planner in March of 2008. She is responsible for coordinating the activities of the Bacteria Implementation Group in its endeavor to develop a plan for addressing high levels of bacteria in the region's waterways. She also works with H-GAC's Regional Flood Management Council and the Parks & Natural Areas Subcommittee of H-GAC's Natural Resources Advisory Council.

Prior to joining H-GAC, Ms. Powers worked for the Harris County Flood Control District for six years, coordinating volunteer tree planting activities, wildflower planting, planning, and outreach related to maintenance activities. She also has extensive experience working as an environmental educator and program manager in the Houston area, Austin,

Possum Kingdom (Texas) and some cities in Massachusetts.

A native of Newton, MA, Ms. Powers has lived in Texas since she matriculated at Rice University, from which she graduated with a bachelor's degree. She is currently enrolled at the University of Phoenix - Online, working towards an MBA. Rachel volunteers with organizations such as the Citizens Environmental Coalition and Texas Master Naturalists.

Meeting Notice

Date: **Wednesday, May 19**

Time: Registration 11:00
Lunch 11:30
Presentation 12:00

Place: Houston Engineering and Scientific Society (HESS)
5430 Westheimer Rd.

Luncheon: \$20 if confirmed by May 17
\$25 after May 17 or at the door

Discount price - \$12 for students and public employees, if confirmed before May 17

Sponsors: **LJA Engineering, Inc.**

RSVP: Lindsay Kovar (281-558-8700)
or www.weat.org/southeast or
lkovar@browngay.com

The President's Message

Dear WEAT Members,



It is incredible how quickly time flies. Here we are again, at the end of another WEAT Season, and a great one it was indeed! We had the fortune of having wonderful speakers, great topics, and a record setting amount of sponsors. We could not have done all of this without your support. We started out with Mr. Jace Houston with the San Jacinto River Authority who talked to us about groundwater regulation and the surface water conversion in September. In November Mr. Ravi Kaleyatodi with the City of Houston gave an overview on the City of Houston's Wastewater System. We then kicked off 2010 with Ms. SuEllen Staggs with the City of Sugar Land who presented the topic "Using Risk Based Criteria for Rehabilitation Decisions". Last month we earned a credit hour of ethics with Mr. Clint Walker of Malcolm Pirnie.

Thanks to Mr. Walker not only did we earn that professional development hour, but we refreshed our memory on the Texas Board of Professional Engineers policy and regulations. We appreciate you taking the time to come speak at the luncheon.

Typically, the May meeting is carried out as a social event without a speaker. This month, we are excited to announce that Ms. Rachel Powers with the Houston-Galveston Area Council will be presenting. Ms. Powers will be talking to us about something "BIG" that HGAC is currently working on; A Bacteria Implementation Group (BIG) whose purpose is to reduce bacterial pollution in

our water. The project area impacted by BIG will require participation of over 60 cities, 10 counties, 600 MUDs, 650 WWTP, and much more. This is an interesting topic which we are happy to be able to present to our members.

Please join us for this luncheon on Wednesday May 19, 2010 at HESS. To RSVP please contact any of the officers or via website www.weat.org/southeast.

Officer elections for the WEAT 2010-2011 season will be carried out during the May meeting. The current officers will move up a position and we will accept nominations for open positions and vote on these.

Don't forget the ongoing FROG (Fats, Roots, Oils and Grease) Workshop in Houston. More information is included in this newsletter.

On other exciting news, scholarships are back! Thanks to the significant amount of sponsors this year we were able to reinstate the award of two scholarships to a student from the University of Houston and Rice University. We are currently finalizing the selections and will share the news on the next newsletter.

Thanks to all of our sponsors throughout the season. We hope to count on your support again in the future.

As always, if you are interested in sponsoring a meeting, placing an ad in our newsletters, for any questions or comments, please feel free to contact me or the officers.

We look forward to seeing all of you again next season. Enjoy the summer!

Evelyn Zapata

Meeting Sponsor



LJA Engineering, Inc. is a multi-discipline, consulting engineering firm, serving both the public and private sectors. With offices in Houston, Austin, San Antonio and The Woodlands, Texas, the staff of LJA includes over 225 experienced civil and transportation engineers, hydrologists, land planners, landscape architects, construction managers, designers, GIS Specialists, technicians and surveyors.

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For more information on LJA, please visit: www.ljaengineering.com.

News & Announcements

FROG Workshop

WEAT in conjunction with TCEQ will be hosting the "FROG (Fats, Roots, Oils and Grease) Workshop today and tomorrow (May 13&14) in Houston. Assistance for this event can be in the way of sponsors, exhibitors, and personnel to lend a hand in the process. If you need more information please contact Evelyn Zapata or Jennie Almerico. See attached flyer for schedule and registration information.

Water For People

On May 6th, volunteers from the Water For People Houston Chapter hosted an exhibit at the 17th Annual City of Houston Water Festival at the Downtown Aquarium. The festival is designed to educate citizens about water-related environmental issues and inspire them to be life-long water stewards. The majority of festival attendees are third to eighth grade students from the greater Houston region. Many of our chapter's sponsors also had exhibits and volunteers who braved the heat in order to provide these students with a great interactive learning experience. Thanks to all who participated!

WEF - WEAT Survey

The Water Environment Federation (WEF) is seeking information from Wastewater Personnel on what you expect and need from WEF and WEAT. The survey will close on June 1st. If you could please take a few minutes of your time and complete the survey and either fax to Christine Radke at 703-684-2413 or email cradke@wef.org.

Link: <http://www.zoomerang.com/Survey/WEB22AB4RML56Z>

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Fats, Roots, Oils, and Grease Workshop

May 13 - 14, 2010

HOUSTON HOBBY AIRPORT MARRIOTT
9100 GULF FREEWAY, HOUSTON, TEXAS 77017



Register online at
www.weat.org

WEAT, with assistance from TCEQ, has developed this Fats, Roots, Oils and Grease (FROG) Workshop to provide utilities approaches to help develop new or modify existing FROG prevention and control programs in order to reduce the amount of FROG entering collection systems. Reducing FROG can help reduce sanitary sewer overflows and impacts on wastewater treatment plants. Experts will present information and facilitate discussions on a variety of topics included below to help utilities get the most out of their FROG program.

In addition to a general session on the first day, there will be two breakout sessions:

- ◆ **DAY 1** – Grease Trap and Interceptor Design and Sizing Considerations-Part 1; and FROG Program Outreach and Education-Part 2.
- ◆ **DAY 2** – Collection System O&M and Marketing, Biological Additives, Chemical Root Control Strategies and Ask the Experts Panel Discussion.

The topics below will be covered. The final agenda will be posted at www.weat.org.

EPA and TCEQ Regulatory Update

- ◆ SSO Reporting
- ◆ SSO Reduction Initiative

Elements of Effective FROG Programs

- ◆ Identifying FROG problems and causes
- ◆ Documenting impacts and costs
- ◆ Implementing prevention and control strategies
- ◆ Evaluating effectiveness
- ◆ Considerations in developing or modifying an ordinance
- ◆ Sample ordinances
- ◆ TCEQ Model Grease Standards

FROG Characteristics

- ◆ Chemistry
- ◆ Grease in the trap/interceptor
- ◆ Grease in the collection system

Grease Removal Devices

- ◆ Traps, interceptors and auto-removal
- ◆ Design and sizing considerations
- ◆ Installation issues
- ◆ Proper operation and maintenance

Breakout Session - Day 1

FROG Program Development, Implementation, and Management

- ◆ Permitting
- ◆ Monitoring and inspecting
- ◆ Enforcement
- ◆ Kitchen Best Practices
- ◆ Reuse opportunities and disposal

Grease Trap/Interceptor Inspection

- ◆ Inspection techniques
- ◆ Collecting data and inspection forms
- ◆ Communicating inspection concerns and recommendations
- ◆ Conducting follow-up

Managing & Transporting Grease Waste

- ◆ Permitting haulers
- ◆ Processing, disposal and manifests
- ◆ Ventilation hood cleaning
- ◆ Lateral cleaning issues
- ◆ Storm water issues

Record-keeping and Information Management

- ◆ Databases & information systems
- ◆ Tracking the effectiveness of your FROG program

Breakout Sessions - Day 1 & Day 2

Marketing, Outreach & Education – Parts 1 & 2

- ◆ Within your organization
- ◆ Developing outreach programs and measuring effectiveness
- ◆ Social Marketing for Residential & multi-family
- ◆ Food Service Establishment Best Practices education
- ◆ What you should know about intellectual property
- ◆ Examples of outreach programs

Breakout Session - Day 2

Collection System O&M for FROG Control

- ◆ Dealing with sewer backup, private property, and lateral issues
- ◆ FROG source identification strategies
- ◆ FROG removal and control techniques
- ◆ Preventive root intrusion prevention strategies
- ◆ Root control and removal

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