



# MWEA News

Winter 2003

Mississippi Water Environment Association

## ESCATAWPA FACILITY WINS NATIONAL AWARD

*Facility also chosen MWEA Plant of the Year*

You are invited to the

Mississippi Water  
Environment  
Association's

### 46th Annual Technical Conference

June 4-6, 2003

Vicksburg  
Convention Center  
Vicksburg, MS

Come join the engineers, industrial and municipal managers, operators, and regulatory officials of the MWEA for presentations of innovative ideas and state of the practice technology.

Keynote address by Phil Bass, Director of MDEQ's Office of Pollution Control and Robert McMillon, Water Environment Federation President.

**For registration information, visit MWEA on the web at [www.mswea.org](http://www.mswea.org) or email [info@mswea.org](mailto:info@mswea.org).**

We look forward to seeing you there!

The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency has awarded a national second place award for Operations and Maintenance Excellence in the medium secondary treatment category to the Mississippi Gulf Coast Regional Wastewater Authority's Escatawpa Treatment Plant for 2002. Wastewater treatment plants in all states were in contention for this prestigious EPA award. Award criteria included water discharge quality, cost-effectiveness, safety, and training.

According to General Manager, C. E. Miller, "Winning this national award is a tremendous honor—knowing how tough the competition is. This recognizes, on a national level, the quality of our operation which is directly due to our dedicated employees."

Chairman of the Board, A. Jackie Elly, reiterated their priority to provide treatment services in an environmentally-conscious manner and having the EPA award the plant on a national level is further evidence that their efforts are being recognized.

The award was presented at the Water Environment Federation's annual conference in Chicago on September 30.

The Escatawpa Wastewater Treatment Plant also won first place in the EPA Region IV medium secondary category for 2002. The award was presented at the EPA Region IV office in Atlanta. In addition to these EPA awards, the facility was also named MWEA's Plant of the Year at the 45<sup>th</sup> annual conference. Plant personnel include, Kevin Elliott, Operations Manager, Amos Dunlap, Plant Supervisor, and

Chuck Redmond, Operator.

The Escatawpa Regional Wastewater Treatment Plant is a 3.0 million gallon per day biological wastewater treatment system utilizing the activated sludge process. The major components of the treatment system include mechanical clean bar screening, influent pumping, grit removal, aeration basins, secondary

clarifiers, return pumping, waste pumping, ultraviolet disinfection, aerobic digesters, and belt filter presses.

The raw wastewater arrives at the plant via regional pumping stations, force main, and gravity sewers. Wastewater enters the head works structure passing through a mechanically cleaned bar screen. The screened wastewater is then pumped to the grit chamber. From the grit chamber the wastewater flows by gravity to the aeration basins for biological treatment.

The wastewater then flows into the

secondary clarifiers where the biological solids generated in the aeration basin are separated. The biological sludge accumulated in the secondary clarifiers is returned to the aeration basin. The treated wastewater from the secondary clarifiers flows into the ultraviolet chamber for disinfection. Following disinfection, the effluent is discharged into the Escatawpa River.

The excess solids accumulated in the system are wasted to the aerobic digesters and dewatered by means of two belt filter presses. The dewatered solids are then transported to a land application site for final disposal.



## Worrel Honored by MWEA for Outstanding Water Research

Mary Beth Worrel was honored by the Mississippi Water Environment Association as Mississippi's Stockholm Junior Water Prize winner for 2002 at its 45<sup>th</sup> Annual Conference June 7 in Jackson. The MWEA reviewed water related research projects by high school students at each of the state's regional science fairs before choosing Ms. Worrel's "Restoration of an Inland Bayou – Year IV" project as best representing the ideals of the SWJP.

The Stockholm Junior Water Prize is an international environmental award presented to an individual or team of young people for the world's outstanding water-related science project. The SWJP mission is to engage, encourage, and support the interest of future leaders in water environment issues. The Water Environment Federation and ITT Industries sponsor the national winner to the international competition in

Stockholm, Sweden.

Ms. Worrel's project investigated the use of oysters as a means of reducing bacterial pollution in estuarine waters. As the Mississippi winner, Mary Beth represented the state at the national competition in Dallas on May 30. She is the Daughter of David and Debbie Worrel of Biloxi and Genie Goodrow. Mary Beth is currently a senior at Mercy Cross High School in Biloxi.

MWEA's SJWP Committee is again making plans this year to sponsor a state award winner to the national competition. Throughout March, committee members will be attending regional science fairs throughout the state, judging water quality projects, and selecting regional winners to compete for the state SJWP.

"I am simply amazed at the quality and sophistication of the projects that we see at the regional science fairs," said David Sykes, SJWP Committee



Mary Beth Worrel, of Biloxi, is presented the Mississippi Stockholm Junior Water Prize by David Sykes, MWEA Director, at the 45<sup>th</sup> Annual Conference in Jackson

Chairman.

"It is very encouraging to see the interest in preserving our water quality and to see the skill with which these future scientists are developing their experiments."

## WEF Headlines

### Over 18,700 Attend WEFTEC 2002

WEFTEC 2002, the Water Environment Association's 75<sup>th</sup> annual technical and educational conference attracted a record-breaking attendance of 18,740 over the course of the 4-day event.

### Water Utility Vulnerability Assessment Tools Available

On January 15, the Association of Metropolitan Sewerage Agencies (AMSA) announced the availability of new water security software. The vulnerability self assessment tools, developed with over \$300,000 from the EPA, will enable water and wastewater utilities to evaluate their vulnerabilities to terrorist and other threats and develop remediation plans, according to AMSA. One of the

software tools, known as "VSAT<sup>TM</sup>water/wastewater" was developed for joint water/wastewater utilities. The other, known as "VSAT<sup>TM</sup>water" was developed for small and medium-size drinking water systems. Additional information can be found at <http://www.amsa-cleanwater.org>.

### Biosolids 2002-2003 Annual Report Released

The National Biosolids Partnership's 2002-2003 Annual Report has been released and is

available for viewing on the Partnership's Web site. The report highlights the NBP's accomplishments during 2002, action plan for 2003, how the EMS program is benefiting the demonstration agencies, and other related information. The Partnership is an alliance of the Water Environment Federation, Association of Metropolitan Sewerage Agencies, and U.S. EPA. To view the report, visit: <http://www.biosolids.org> and click on the following link: <http://biosolids.policy.net/relatives/25322.pdf>.

## Subscribe to MWEA Newsletter Online

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So, look for us on the world wide web at [www.mswea.org](http://www.mswea.org) and if you have any suggestions please let us know.

## WEFTEC 2002 Attracts Record Attendance

WEFTEC 2002, held in Chicago September 30 through October 2, attracted 18,704 attendees—a new record. The meeting included 793 exhibiting companies arranged on over 200,000 net square feet of exhibition floor space. Other WEFTEC facts:

—80 technical sessions, including the timely "Case Studies in Environmental Health Hazards: World Trade Center Collapse, Anthrax Investigations, Dover Township, New Jersey."

—25 workshops, and 7 facility tours.

—The Opening General Session featured Christine Todd Whitman, U.S.

Environmental Protection Agency Administrator. Ms. Whitman announced the release of The Clean Water and Drinking Water Infrastructure Gap Analysis during her keynote address at WEFTEC 2002.

—For the 15th year, Operations Challenge was held in the Expo Hall and featured 36 teams from across North America. The teams were judged on speed and accuracy in five events - maintenance, laboratory analysis, collection systems, process control, and safety

## Meet Your MWEA Officers

### Glenn Odom—President

Glenn is a native of Jackson, MS, where he continues to reside with his wife and three children. He graduated from Mississippi State University with a BS Degree in Civil Engineering in 1981. Upon graduation, he joined the Mississippi Department of Environmental Quality to work in the Surface Water Branch with municipalities. For 15 years he was Chief of the Municipal Permit and Compliance Branch until re-organization separated permitting and enforcement for almost all regulatory programs into separate new branches. He remained with the Surface Water Branch where he now coordinates the surface water program with the two new permitting and enforcement branches. Glenn previously served as Secretary/Treasurer of the MWEA in the mid 80s for two years.

### Greg McKnight — Secretary

As Director of Business/Marketing Development for Argus Analytical Inc., since 1998, Greg is responsible for sales calls and maintaining business relations with major manufacturing plant facility managers, municipality superintendents, engineering firms, and hospital industrial maintenance managers throughout the state of

Mississippi. A graduate of Mississippi State University, Greg has been working in the environmental field with air and water issues since 1993. He currently lives in Brandon, MS with his wife Marta and their first child (their dog) Lady Bear McKnight.

### David Sykes — Director

David is a Senior Engineer with Access Environmental Solutions, Inc., an environmental and safety consulting firm headquartered in Tupelo, Mississippi. David earned a B.S. in engineering from Mississippi State University and a M.S. in mechanical engineering from West Virginia University before returning to Mississippi in 1993. David consults with industrial and municipal clients in Mississippi and throughout the United States. He previously served MWEA as Vice-President, President, and Past President.

## Mississippi Water Environment Association



**Glenn Odom**  
President

**Rose Mary Bagby**  
Vice-President

**Terry West**  
PWO Representative

**Alan Pate**  
Treasurer

**Greg McKnight**  
Secretary

**Charles Williford**  
Past-President

**David Sykes**  
Director

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## Shindala Awarded Lifetime Membership by WEF

We are pleased to announce that the Water Environment Federation has awarded Dr. Adnan Shindala with Life Membership in the Federation. Dr. Shindala has a long and distinguished career working in the environmental arena by educating future environmental

specialist at Mississippi State University as well as designing and constructing environmental controls working with Cook-Coggins Engineers in Tupelo.

Congratulations Dr. Shindala and thank you for your continuing care for our environment.

**INSIDE...**  
**Mississippi Plant Awarded by EPA**  
**Stockholm Junior Water Prize**  
**46<sup>th</sup> Annual Conference Announcement**



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