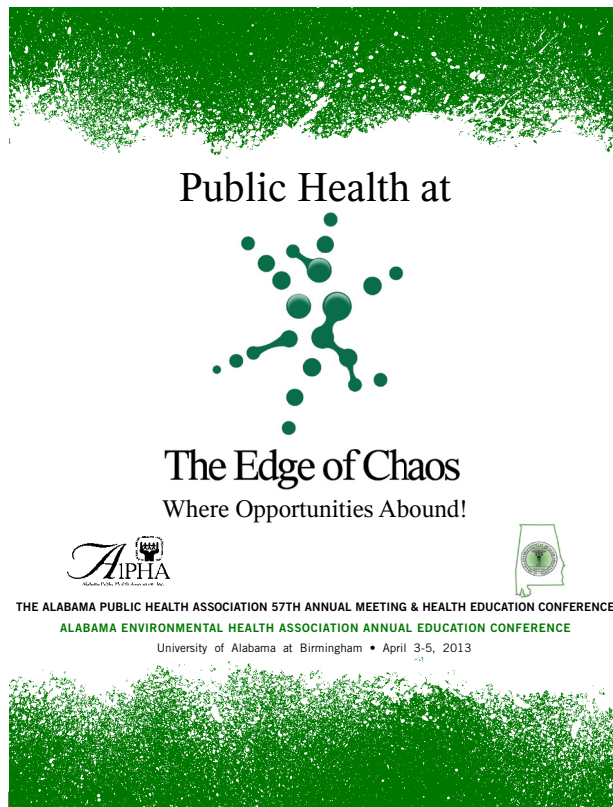


The Alabama Environmentalist



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Sweet Home Alabama

by April Pearce

Alabama the Beautiful - that's what the sign says when you cross the state line, it's on our license plates, we see those words everywhere. Do we take them for granted? That was the take-away message from Dr. Elizabeth Maples' presentation, "Sweet Home Alabama, The State of the State We Are In." Will Alabama just stay beautiful on its own, if we fail to take care of it? As citizens and as public health professionals it falls to us to work toward and provide for the health and welfare of the citizens of this state. This presentation was a great reminder for us of our charge as environmental health professionals. She even used our own mission statement to remind us of what we, as members of AEHA, work towards daily. She



Elizabeth Maples, PhD, MPH

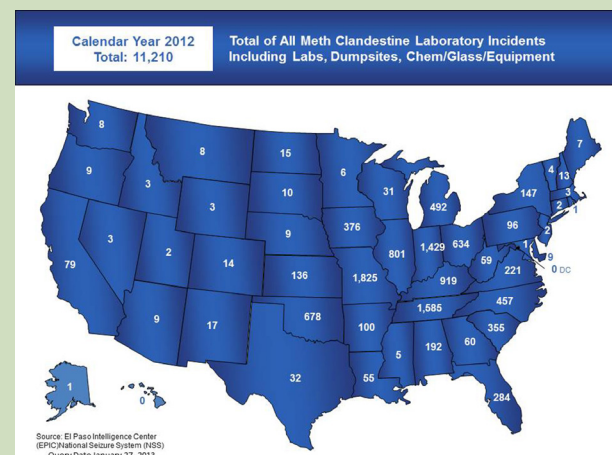
had to know we are not known as morning people so she came with energy and a great attitude to go with her message. She even got us, at 8:30 in the morning, to participate in a group activity! In small groups we discussed a community issue from the perspective of various community stakeholders to work toward a solution to a common problem like an un-regulated dump. Dr. Maples' presentation was a great motivator and helped remind us all why we are members of AEHA.

Meth Lab Awareness

by April Pearce

I thought I knew about Meth - it's a manufactured street drug, it's very addictive, it's the reason why I can only buy one box of Sudafed at a time, it destroys lives and wreaks havoc on teeth. But that's really not what meth is, that's not even really the full scope of what meth does. Meth is a man-made drug, the result of a complex and dangerous process, and after seeing Bruce Freeman's presentation on the subject I have a new disturbing awareness and increased level of concern on this topic. Meth is dangerous in all stages of its conception, production, and consumption. It even leaves residual effects where it was produced that can cause harm long after the drugs have been made and sold. I knew meth, in production, involved Sudafed and lots of it (that's the extent of my knowledge) but in reality, it is way, way more complex and involved than I ever thought possible. The number of steps, volume of chemicals and types of equipment needed for production was really shocking. Prior to this presentation, if I saw a 20oz bottle with white crust and a hose coming out of it, I don't even know if it would have registered as something to be concerned about - but now I know that is one of the disposable parts of a meth operation. The scariest thing I learned from this presentation was the effects a meth operation has on the environment where it is produced.

A lab can be set-up anywhere, and residues will persist in any porous substances in that environment - carpet, furniture, even drywall. There are remediation procedures recommended by the EPA but in most states, disclosure of a property that has been used as a meth lab and the remediation of it, are not required in a property transaction. I knew that meth was a drug and that it is very bad, but after this presentation, I now know that meth is a scary phenomenon that has negative effects on society, not just buyers and sellers and users, it affects everyone. Bruce Freeman is Chief of the Ambient Section in the Decatur Field Office of ADEM.





Proclamation By the Governor of Alabama

WHEREAS, Public Health Environmentalists make a conscious decision to serve their communities by building sustainability of resources and protection to the health and well-being of Alabama's citizens; and

WHEREAS, the field of Environmental Health provides important services to the citizens of Alabama by ensuring the purity of food, milk, shellfish, water, air and other factors that contribute to their personal and community environments; and

WHEREAS, the activities and programs provided by environmental health agencies result in significant savings in health care costs; and

WHEREAS, most consumers are unaware of the many programs within the scope of Environmental Health because of the success of the protection and prevention programs; and

WHEREAS, the dedicated professionals within the field of Environmental Health come from both the public sector and private enterprise, with a common interest in protecting the public; and

WHEREAS, the Alabama Environmental Health Association, as Alabama's leading professional organization in the environmental field, has undertaken the responsibility of providing personal and community environmental health education to meet the concerns of the citizens of Alabama:

NOW, THEREFORE, I, Robert Bentley, Governor of Alabama, do hereby proclaim the week of April 14 through April 20, 2013, as

Environmental Health Week

in the state of Alabama.



Given Under My Hand and the Great Seal of the Office of the Governor at the State Capitol in the City of Montgomery on the 20th day of March 2013.

Robert Bentley
Robert Bentley, Governor

FEMA Disaster Declarations 2013

Michigan Flooding

April 16 - May 14, 2013

Vermont Severe Storms and Flooding

May 22 - May 26, 2013

Iowa Severe Storms, Straight-line Winds, and Flooding

April 17 - April 30, 2013

North Dakota Flooding

April 22 - May 16, 2013

Oklahoma Severe Storms and Tornadoes

May 18 - June 2, 2013

Illinois Severe Storms, Straight-line Winds, and Flooding

April 16 - May 5, 2013

South Dakota Severe Winter Storm and Snowstorm

April 8 - April 10, 2013

Iowa Severe Winter Storm

April 9 - April 11, 2013

Minnesota Severe Winter Storm

April 9 - April 11, 2013

Kansas Snowstorm

February 20 - February 23, 2013

New York Severe Winter Storm and Snowstorm

February 8 - February 9, 2013

Massachusetts Severe Winter Storm, Snowstorm, and Flooding

February 8 - February 9, 2013

Oklahoma Severe Winter Storm and Snowstorm

February 24 - February 26, 2013

Maine Severe Winter Storm, Snowstorm, and Flooding

February 8 - February 9, 2013

Rhode Island Severe Winter Storm and Snowstorm

February 8 - February 9, 2013

Connecticut Severe Winter Storm and Snowstorm

February 8 - February 11, 2013

New Hampshire Severe Winter Storm and Snowstorm

February 8 - February 10, 2013

Strike Teams

by Sarah Douglas

Mr. Ryan Jones is the Environmental Health Emergency Planner for the Georgia Department of Public Health. He spoke at the annual AEHA conference about how the Georgia Department of Public Health has organized their disaster relief groups into strike teams. He evaluates how the state responds to a disaster and tries to improve on their plan of action. Georgia is separated into five different areas. They deploy for 7 - 10 days and rotate so that one team doesn't have to work more than 7 - 10 days at a time. He described several events in which the strike teams were developed and used. Mr. Jones described the types of assistance the strike teams provide during the disaster. In particular, he told us about the well testing that took place after torrential rains caused mass flooding in 2009. (See above for FEMA Declared Storm Related Disasters so far this year.)



***What's New with
Madison County's
Vector Control Program***
by Cheryl Clay

The Vector Control Division of the Madison County Health Department was formed in the 1970s through a partnership with the City

of Huntsville to provide mosquito control services for the city. Over the years, Vector Control's responsibilities have included mosquito and rat control, assisting residents with animal trapping, capturing live snakes found on residential property, and investigating large bird roosts. Today, Vector Control's primary responsibility is the mosquito control program. We also investigate rat complaints and bait City of Huntsville property when needed, and respond to complaints of sewage overflows from the public sewer system.

Mosquito control became much more complicated following a 2009 ruling by the U.S. 6th Circuit Court of Appeals, which defined any point source discharge of biological pesticides, or chemical pesticides that leave a residue, into waters of the U.S., as pollutants under the Clean Water Act. As a result of that decision, mosquito control programs that treat more than 6400 acres a year must comply with the EPA's National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) permitting program. Although the adulticide applied by the fog truck is not directly applied to the water, it may contact water through drift. The Notice of Intent to request coverage under the NPDES permit, which is issued in this state by the Alabama Department of Environmental Management, was required to be submitted by April 30, 2012. To receive coverage under the permit, programs had to complete a detailed Pesticide Discharge Management Plan (PDMP). The new regulations require justification before an area can be fogged. We must verify a mosquito problem exists before we can spray an area, then we must return to that area after it has been sprayed to verify that we have no adverse incidents, or basically did not harm anything we should not have by fogging.

It is a tedious process that requires a lot of documentation, but we have made it work to our advantage in that we can focus our attention on the areas that have the biggest problems because we have the data to justify our activities. This way, we no longer fog on a schedule and spray an area because it is Tuesday, whether they actually need it or not.

To assist in our compliance with the new regulations, at the beginning of the 2012 season, we had monitoring equipment installed on all of our fogging trucks. We are able to see where the trucks have been, how fast they were going, and how much they were spraying. This has been extremely valuable for our operation. We can ensure no streets get missed and quickly correct drivers that may spray the same street more than once or drive a little too fast on occasion. Additionally, we can closely monitor our chemical output per truck and overall usage.

During the 2012 mosquito season, we responded to 179 complaints and completed 195 landing rate counts for adulticide applications. Landing Rate Counts (LRC) are what we use to determine the severity of a mosquito problem in an area. Basically, you stand and wait, then count the number of mosquitoes that land on you in a minute. As a result of our LRCs, we fogged 136,000 acres with 222 gallons of adulticide. Based on our surveillance data, we achieved a 61% reduction of mosquitoes over the season. For the 2013 season, we partnered with the City of Huntsville GIS Department to digitize our map areas. This has greatly improved our operation as the city continues to grow and add new neighborhoods for us to spray. We can promptly update our maps when needed. We have also launched our website (www.huntsville.gov/vectorcontrol), which provides information regarding mosquito and rat control. The feature we are most excited about is where citizens may put in their address and see the last time the fog truck was through their area. This has greatly cut down on the number of phone calls to our office since this is one of the most common questions we get asked. We are very excited about the improvements we have made to our program as we continue our endeavors to try to keep the residents of Huntsville healthy.



**Alabama
Environmental
Health
Association**

**2013 - 2014
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Alabama Environmental Health Association, Inc.

Supporting Education in Environmental Health

<http://www.AEHA-online.com>

AEHA Chapter Meetings

9:15 - 9:25	Welcome
9:30 - 10:30	The History of Soil Science and the Septic System John Clement, PSC Bureau of Environmental Services, Soils Branch
10:30 - 10:45	Break
10:45 - 11:45	Rabies Update Dee W. Jones, DVM Associate State Public Health Veterinarian Alabama Department of Public Health
11:45 - 12:15	NEHA Update Howard McCane
12:15 - 1:30	Lunch
1:30 - 2:30	Social Media and the Environmentalist Leigh Salter Assistant Director, Environmental Division Montgomery County Health Department
2:30 - 3:30	Business Meeting
3:30	Adjourn

Chapter Meeting Schedule (with location and address)			
AEHA Chapter	Chapter Chair & Contact info	Meeting Date	Meeting Location
Northern Chapter	Shane Lindsey, Senior PHE Morgan County HD Ph#: 256-340-2105 Fax#: 256-353-7901	Wednesday, August 14, 2013	Wheeler National Wildlife Refuge Visitor Center, 2700 Refuge Headquarters Road Decatur, AL
East Central Chapter	Bridgette Key, PHE Tallapoosa County HD Ph#: 256-329-0531 Fax#: 256-329-1670	Thursday, August 15, 2013	St. Clair County HD 1175 23rd Street North Pell City, AL
West Central Chapter	William Diltz, PHE Tuscaloosa County HD Ph#: 205-554-4553 Fax#: 205-556-2701	Tuesday, August 13, 2013	Tuscaloosa County HD 2350 Hargrove Rd., East Tuscaloosa, AL
Southeast Chapter	Beverly Spivey, PHE Barbour County HD Ph#: 334-687-4808 x 2 Fax#: 334-687-6470	Thursday, August 8, 2013	Pike County HD 900 South Franklin Dr. Troy, AL
Southwest Chapter	Jennifer Roberts, PHE Dallas County HD Ph#: 334-872-5887 Fax#: 334-875-7960	Wednesday, August 7, 2013	Baldwin County HD Annex Building Conference Room 22251 Palmer Street Robertsdale, AL

An Affiliate of the National Environmental Health Association

<http://www.neha.org>



An American Favorite

by Kathie Limbach

The hot dog of today can trace its origin back to the 15th century in Germany and Austria. It has become popular folklore that the first hot dog was sold in the Bowery district of New York City, from a cart, by a German immigrant. Charles Feltman opened the first hot dog stand in Coney Island in 1871. The popularity of the hot dog spread to the ball park by 1893 creating the bond we now have between hot dogs and baseball. Here are some hot dog statistics:

- In 1957, the United States Chamber of Commerce officially designated July as National Hot Dog Month.
- The average American eats between 80 and 100 hot dogs per year.
- From Memorial Day through Labor Day, Americans enjoy more than 7 billion hot dogs, which translates to 818 hot dogs per second. If laid end to end, that's enough hot dogs to circle the globe more than 15 times!
- Mickey Mouse's first on screen words were "Hot Dog!" marking his transition from the silent screen.
- Babe Ruth once downed 12 hot dogs between games of a doubleheader.
- In 1983, a 1,983 foot-long hot dog was made by Bill-Mar Foods in Wisconsin.
- Hot Dogs are included as a menu item at the Vatican and they have been served at the White House.
- Betty White eats a hot dog and chips for lunch every day on the set of Hot in Cleveland, and she says it's the secret to her longevity.
- The space outside the Metropolitan Museum of Art in New York City is an extremely lucrative spot for selling hot dogs. It was reported that in 2008, a hot dog vendor paid \$415,000.00 for the honor of selling hot dogs outside the two entrances to the Museum.
- In 2012, consumers spent more than \$1.7 billion on hot dogs in U.S. supermarkets alone.
- Baseball fans are expected to consume more than 20 million hot dogs during the 2013 season.



2013 Award Winners
are:

Environmentalist of the Year
Rick Smith, East Central Chapter

Ansel C. Mullins
Maytress Loftin, Southeast Chapter

Scholarship
Samantha Connell
UAB

How well do you know your dogs?

New York: served with steamed onions & deli mustard

West Virginia: topped with coleslaw, chili & mustard

Southern : topped with coleslaw

Kansas City: served with sauerkraut and swiss cheese

Michigan: topped with meaty chili, mustard & onion

Sonoran: is a grilled, bacon-wrapped hot dog with pinto beans, grilled onions & green peppers, chopped tomato, relish, tomatillo jalapeno salsa, mayonnaise, mustard and shredded cheese



Retirements

<i>Jimmy Coles, Central Office</i>	.....3-1-13
<i>Ralls Coston</i>	.....
<i>Winfred Cotton, Jackson</i>	.....12-31-12
<i>Jeff Cowen, Area X</i>	.....4-1-13
<i>Barbara Daly, Limestone</i>	.....4-1-13
<i>Terry Kyzar, Area IX</i>	.....12-31-12
<i>Stanford "Rusty" Miller, Clay</i>	.....1-31-13
<i>Steve Mitchell, Conecuh</i>	.....7-1-13
<i>Ben Peters, Area IX</i>	.....12-31-12
<i>Larry Rush, Shelby</i>	.....2-28-13
<i>BJ Stephens, Cullman</i>	.....4-1-13
<i>Carrie Warren, Lawrence</i>	.....8-1-13

