

The Alabama Environmentalist

*Conference
Happenings*
Page 2 - 9

*Award
Winners*
Page 9

*News
from the
Board*
Page 2

*Area
News*
Page 10

*Retirements
and
In
Memoriam*
Page 11

Games
Page 12

Annual Conference 2014

Sponsored by ALPHA / AEHA / UAB / SHA

April 9th - 11th, 2014

DoubleTree by Hilton, 808 South 20th Street, Birmingham, Alabama



PUBLIC HEALTH
PARTNERSHIPS

WORKING TOGETHER TODAY
for A HEALTHIER TOMORROW



News from the Board

By Kathie Limbach

The 2014 - 2015 Board of Directors met for the first time on June 11, 2014 in Montgomery. Topics of discussion included committee assignments, chapter meetings and the upcoming conferences for 2015 and 2016.

Chapter meetings have been scheduled for August and October/November. The August meeting will be a video cast to keep travelling to a minimum. The meeting is scheduled for August 12th at locations TBA. Further information will be e-mailed and located on web site. The locations for the October/November meetings have not been set, but the meeting dates are:

Northern Chapter	Tuesday, October 28th
East Central Chapter	Thursday, October 30th
West Central Chapter	Wednesday, October 29th
Southeast Chapter	Tuesday, November 4th
Southwest Chapter	Wednesday, November 5th

The 2015 conference is tentatively planned for sometime in February 2015 and will be held in conjunction with the Environmental Symposium. Topics, dates and location are still in the planning stages but keep this timeframe in mind and watch for updates on the website and/or through e-mail.

Speaking of e-mail - if you know of a retiree that would like to be put on our e-mail list, please contact Kathie with an e-mail address.

Alabama is hosting the 2016 Interstate Conference in July of 2016. This conference will be held somewhere on the Gulf Coast.

The financial report shows AEHA in a strong financial position after the annual conference. Income from March 12, 2014 to June 11, 2014 was \$5,388.00. Expenses for the same period were \$1,731.17 leaving AEHA with a balance of more than \$14,000 in the bank. This balance includes approximately \$1,700 of Scholarship Funds.



Please give a warm welcome to your 2014-2015 Board of Directors - from the left:

Bottom Row:

Tammy Ricks (SW Chapter Chair)
Lauren Lerner (SE Chapter Chair)
Bridgette Key (EC Chapter Chair)

Second Row:

Shane Lindsey (N Chapter Chair)
Barry Ambrose (Secretary/Treasurer)
Haskey Bryant (President Elect)

Third Row:

Cindy Goocher (Past President)
Tim Hatch (President)
Trina Parker (Central Office Rep)

Fourth Row:

Randall Cole (WC Chapter Chair)
Steven McDaniel (Past President 2)
Stacy Williamson (First Vice President)
Information Officer: Kathie Limbach (not pictured)

We bid a fond farewell to the following:

April Pearce (Past President 2011-2012)
B. J. Diltz (West Central Chapter Chair)
Beverly Spivey (Southeast Chapter Chair)
Jennifer Roberts (Southwest Chapter Chair)

We thank you for your dedicated service to the Alabama Environmental Health Association.

Weiss Lake Environmental Health Concerns

Steven McDaniel

This year the Environmental Health Association's (AEHA) 60th Annual Education Conference (AEC) theme was: Public Health Partnerships: Working Together Today for a Healthier Tomorrow. AEHA partnered with the Alabama Public Health Association, University of Alabama at Birmingham (UAB), Southern Health Association, and the UAB School of Public Health. The conference promised to provide valuable educational opportunities for all public health employees and present a forum for networking and exchange of thoughts and ideas that will further advance the overall effectiveness of public health and environmental health programs in Alabama.

Kudos to Cindy Goocher and Timothy Hatch for putting together such a variety of topics and presenters at this year's AEC. Our theme was truly exemplified with a presentation given by Lem Burrell, Environmental Director for Public Health Areas 5 and 6, on Weiss Lake Environmental Health Concerns. Lake Weiss (pronounced "Wice") is an Alabama Power Company hydroelectric impoundment (of the Coosa River) covering 30,200 acres in northeast Alabama on the Alabama - Georgia border. Weiss Lake is known as the "Crappie Capital of the World". The Weiss Lake



fishery is the major economic influence in Cherokee County, so the locals treat anglers very well. There are four free public access areas and 37 privately run marinas that service Lake Weiss. Campgrounds, motels and rental cabins dot the shoreline of the lake. Also dotting the shoreline are positive outlets from dwellings with no sewage disposal system and household waste is being discharged into the lake. Lem explained that a Cherokee County, Alabama, Sewage Disposal Ordinance for the Alabama Power Co. Flood Easement of Weiss Lake within the county became effective July 9, 2012. The ordinance was adopted to protect the public health by minimizing the adverse health effects of improper sewage disposal into the lake. Sewage contamination poses both health and environmental threats.

A dwelling or establishment located on a lot within the flood easement which does not have access to a public or private sewerage system must have a holding tank permitted by the Cherokee County Health Department. If a public or private sewerage system is available to a dwelling or establishment on a lot, the owner must connect to the system. Under the ordinance, a dwelling is defined as "a house, manufactured home or house trailer, shelter, structure, or building or portion thereof, that is or could reasonably be expected to be occupied in whole or in part as the home, residence, or sleeping place of one or more persons." An establishment is a facility, other than a dwelling that generates sewage, including offices, work places or food service establishments. The sewage holding tanks must comply with structural, placement and pumping requirements in local rules.

Lem shared pictures of some of dwellings that dotted the shore line. He explained that there are over 1000 persons in violation of the sewage disposal ordinance and each was issued a "Notice of Violation" by the Cherokee County Health Department. Most of these notices have been ignored; currently, only about

Drug Task Force “What To Look For: Drug Use Updates”

Trina Parker

Lt. Sellers could not be present but he sent two co-workers from the Jefferson County Drug Force to make a presentation to the participants.

In the presentation, the officers covered various drugs. They spoke on marijuana, bath salts, prescription drug abuse, the rise of heroin usage, crack and powdered cocaine, and the usage and production of methamphetamines.

In the discussion regarding Meth, they talked about how the drug was made. The officers went over the items/materials needed to make meth. They explained that most of these items are flagged by drug stores and businesses to prohibit individuals from buying large quantities. They also gave examples of how people would pay clients or other drug users to purchase the needed items so they could make the meth.

The officers described the process on how meth was cooked in homes and hotel rooms and showed pictures of what environmentalists or health care workers needed to look for if they suspect that a person is cooking meth.

Overall, it was a great presentation and I enjoyed it.

KoronisFest: Poster Award Winners Presentation and ALPHA Reception

Shane Lindsey

A good time was had by all at KoronisFest. Public Health Awareness announcements produced by the UAB students were shown as AEHA members drank wine, nibbled on cheese and crackers, and visited/networked with other attendees. The Public Service Announcements ranged from “No Texting While Driving” to “Bullying”. The Lister Hill Library - Edge of Chaos at UAB was top notch and the refreshments were exceptional. The Annual Conference with ALPHA was very successful and

Health Aspects of Collaborative Efforts: 2012 Democratic National Convention and 2013 Super Bowl

Haskey Bryant

During the 2014 AEC, we were fortunate to have Chris Smith, Regional Retail Food Specialist with the FDA, present on work with the 2012 Democratic National Convention and the 2013 Superbowl in New Orleans. He generously took time from his busy schedule and drove from Atlanta to present on his experiences - (both good and bad). Both events were extremely interesting as he shared his team's challenges with logistics and security and their lessons learned.



The FDA teams worked extreme hours and in crazy conditions to control risks and ensure food safety during the Superbowl and DNC. He was happy to report that there were no documented cases of foodborne illnesses during either event! This was pretty amazing considering the length of the Democratic National Convention, as well as the incredible number of participants involved in both events! We all benefited from learning how they were effective in their mission and dealt with the challenges of extended venues, tight security and short supplies of manpower. We can all relate as we are charged to do the most good with limited resources, on a daily basis.

each area was well represented at the conference. Next year we will be partnering with the Environmental Symposium and the AEHA Board is already planning. There are many new things



coming up this year from the Cottage Food Law to the new Onsite rules, so stay tuned and stay involved.

Mosquitoes, Rats and Bird Roosts: **The Vector Control Division of the Madison County Health Department**

Beverly Spivey

Cheryl Clay, Vector Control Supervisor with the Madison County Health Department, did an outstanding job in presenting her vector control information to the 2014 Annual Conference attendees.

Ms. Clay holds a Bachelor of Science degree in Natural Resource Conservation and Management from the University of Kentucky. She is also certified in hazardous materials operations/OSHA level II and is permitted by the

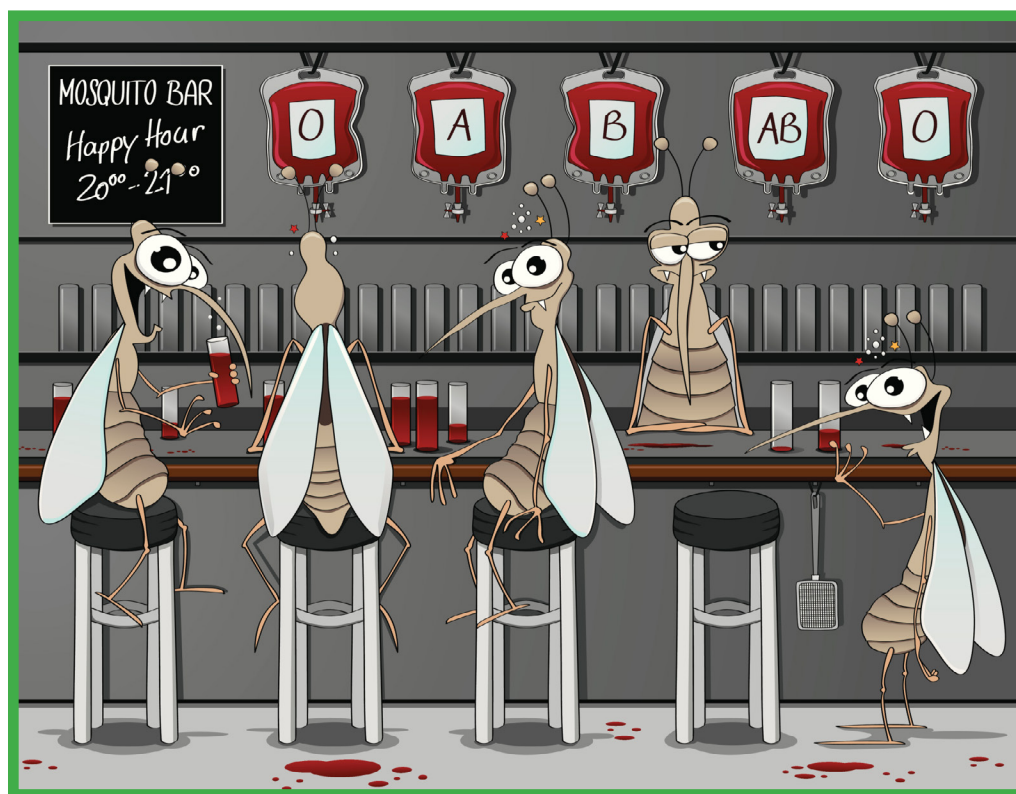


Above: Ms. Clay is performing a "landing rate count". Right: Ms. Clay is conducting "breeding surveillance".



Alabama Department of Agriculture and Industries as a commercial pesticide operator. During her presentation, she gave us a better understanding of the behaviors of mosquitoes, rats and birds and how the abatement process works in conjunction with regulatory requirements. Her information on efforts in controlling and preventing mosquito breeding was very beneficial and enlightening. Also very

interesting, was her explanation of how the routes for the mosquito sprayers in her county are planned and carried out. The visual aids she provided were very helpful and we were even treated to pictures of Ms. Clay and her co-workers working hard in the field to accomplish their goals!





I just don't know what to say about this...



Hey! We need to make enough money to pay for this shindig.



Smile Honey, Kathie's going to put this in the newsletter.



Forget the Trophy, check out the ring on Barry's finger!



Our Fearless Leaders after too much time at KoronisFest!



Conference attendees soaking up all the great educational opportunities and food.



I said it's a WEED Whacker imported from Colorado!



Thank Goodness, my last official act.

Outbreak Investigations by Public Health

April Pearce

The 2014 Annual Education Conference held in Birmingham, Alabama was designed to bring together the disciplines that make up both public health and environmental health. No presentation embodied that “bringing-together” sentiment more than Tina Pippin’s. In this presentation she reviewed several outbreaks that have occurred recently in the state of Alabama. While some of us may have been familiar with these tales of poor planning and even worse sanitation, it was interesting to think about these outbreak investigations as resulting from the combined efforts of both public health and environmental health practitioners. This presentation not only provided a great review of how investigations are conducted, it also showed the importance of everyone’s role in that process, and how we work together to make the investigation and resolution as successful as possible.



Tina Pippin is the Nurse Manager and Branch Manager for the Surveillance Branch of the Epidemiology Division of the ADPH. She has worked as both an Emergency Room Nurse and a Public Health Nurse in several counties in Alabama.

Brewing in Bama

William “B.J.” Diltz

They’re popping up everywhere! Some cities have several already, and if your city doesn’t have one, it will soon. I’m talking about craft breweries of course! What did you think I was talking about... zombies?

At the 2014 AEHA Annual Conference, I had the privilege of moderating a session that included gentlemen from two of Alabama’s multiple, and growing, craft breweries. The speakers were Elliott Roberts, co-founder of Druid City brewing from my home base of Tuscaloosa, and David Carn who is the legal representative for Back Forty Brewing in Gadsden.



Since the laws regarding beer and craft brewing changed in Alabama in 2008, the state has seen an explosion of little breweries being started in all of its major cities. The Alabama Department of Public

Humor of the Month

At Trinity Law School, the professor asked a student if he knew what the Roe vs. Wade decision was. He sat quietly, pondering this profound question. Finally, after giving it a lot of thought, he sighed and said, “I believe, sir, this was the decision George Washington made prior to crossing the Delaware.”

Health has been scrambling to learn how to handle them. Elliott and David each brought a different perspective to this particular session of the conference, and who doesn’t want to learn more about beer, right?

Elliott brought everyone up to speed on the actual process of making beer and what needs to be done along the way to ensure a good finished product, which, coincidentally also ensures that everything stays clean and maintained to make the Health Department happy. Making beer is food processing and equipment needs to be kept clean, and ingredients need to be stored and handled in a manner that will not jeopardize public health. Beer is especially sensitive to the condition of its ingredients and the cleanliness of the equipment it’s made in.

Continued on Page 8

Continued from Page 7 - Brewing in Bama

If a little contamination gets in, the beer is ruined and nobody will want to drink it, although the danger of making the drinker sick from food poisoning is very low.

David spoke more on what breweries are required, by law, to meet before they can even begin making beer. He's involved with everyone from municipal leaders all the way up to the federal government. He even informed us of new proposed laws that could control what breweries do with their spent grain after the beer making process is complete.

This particular session had high attendance and good involvement from those who attended. Lots of questions were asked to both guys, and they were all too happy to answer. We'll hope to see them again at some future conferences.

*Continued from Page 3 - Weiss Lake*

100 applications have been filed and permits issued. Lem stated that the violations would be followed up with citations.



The Cherokee County Health Department will be

issuing citations for violators of Cherokee County Ordinance Number 2012-02. This citation carries both a fine of \$150 per day, not to exceed a total of \$5,000, and further legal action as needed to correct the violation.



If a dwelling or establishment has been built or located on a recreational lot within the flood easement, regardless of how often it is used, it must have an approved means of sewage disposal.

Applicants for permits must contract with a pumper licensed by the Alabama Onsite Wastewater Board to pump the holding tank on a regular basis. The pumping schedule will depend upon the frequency of use of the dwelling or establishment and water usage. The fee for the initial holding tank permit is \$150, and the permit must be renewed annually for a fee of \$100. Applications for permits may be obtained from the Cherokee County Health Department. This permit requirement applies to "dwellings and establishments" for as long as they do not have access to a sanitary sewer system. The purpose of the requirement is to protect the public's health by minimizing the adverse health effects of improper sewage disposal into and around Weiss Lake.

Lem concluded his presentation saying that enforcement is the key to any environmental compliance. Currently, Cherokee County Health Department has had little to no assistance at all from the County Commission with enforcement. So if the citations are not being enforced; how effective will this program be in the upcoming year? Time will tell, but as for now it doesn't look so good for the efficacy of the holding tank program at Weiss Lake. Hang in there environmental!



Alita Chappell - Talladega (6-30-14)

Jimmy Coles - ADPH

Jeff Cowen - Crenshaw County

Terry Kyzar - St. Clair

Jeff McCool - ADPH

John McKeller - Pike

Stanford Miller - Clay

Steve Mitchell - Conecuh

Larry Rush - Shelby

AEHA Award Winners



Environmentalist of the Year Nominees:
(SW) Bradley Phillips, (EC) Audra Jones, (SE) Phyllis Fenn, (N) Summer Beard, (WC) Barry Ambrose



Ansel C. Mullins Nominees:
(WC) Holly Lamb and (SE) Sarah Douglas. No nominees from (N), (EC) and (SW)

and the Winners are...



Environmentalist of the Year
Barry Ambrose (WC), AEHA Secretary/Treasurer. Pictured here with 2013-2014 Association President, Cindy Goocher



Ansel C. Mullins
Sarah Douglas (SE) pictured here with 2013-2014 Association President, Cindy Goocher

We acknowledge each of you for going above and beyond your usual call of duty to contribute to our association's success. Congratulations on a job well-done!

Accolades For One Of Our Own!

Reprinted from the Pickens County Herald, May 14, 2014

Pickens County Herald

Ambrose named Environmentalist of Year

Barry Ambrose of Reform has been named Environmentalist of the Year by the Alabama Environmental Health Association (AEHA).

Ambrose is the Area III Environmental Supervisor with the Pickens County Health Department.. He was nominated by the West Central Alabama chapter. IN addition to his duties in Pickens County, Ambrose also works part time in Lamar County and Fayette County.

In the past Ambrose has received the AEHA's 1985 Ansel C. Mullins Award, the third person to receive the award since its inception in 1982. He has also been named to the AEHA President's Honor Roll twice--in 1996 and 2008.

A 1974 graduate of Pickens County High School, Ambrose received his BS degree in health care management from the University of

Alabama in 1979. He has been active in youth football and baseball for many years and has been an assistant football coach/special teams coordinator with the Pickens County High School Tornadoes since 2004 and was a part of the 2013 PCHS state 1A championship team. Ambrose also has been the head baseball coach for PCHS for three years, after serving as assistant coach for 20 years. He is been the statistician and announcer for the PCHS basketball team since 1990.

Ambrose is a member of the National Environmental Health Association and is a member of the AEHA, where he is the current secretary-treasurer; he was president of the organization for 1995-1996 and 2007-2008.

Ambrose has two sons (Barry Jr. and Brandon) and four grandchildren. He is a member of the First United

Methodist Church of Reform, Pickens County Children's Policy Council, Pickens County High School Athletic Boosters, Reform Park Board, North River Watershed Planning Committee, Pickens County Fraternal Order of Police Lodge 54, Alabama Vector Management Society.

Ambrose received several letters of support for his nomination, in which he was cited for his knowledge, insight, leadership, motivation, character, innovation, reliability, tenacity, work ethic and experience. These letters called Ambrose "a faithful public servant," "positive male role model," "devoted citizen," "trusted and respected," and a "conscientious and able employee."

To receive the Environmentalist of the Year award, nominees must show an out-

standing contribution to the field of environmental health and one or more of the following activities--outstanding contribution to fellow environmentalists and/or em-

ployees; integrity and devotion to the citizens of Alabama and/or the nation; involvement with civic, community and/or church activities.



BARRY AMBROSE, LEFT, RECEIVES THE 2014 ENVIRONMENTALIST OF THE YEAR AWARD FROM AEHA PRESIDENT CINDY GOOCHER

Severe Weather Hits Limestone County Again: A Personal Story of Recovery

Carol Pharr

The tornado that hit the Coxe community on April 28, 2014 was devastating to many people. Having grown up in this community, many of my friends and family were directly affected. The clean-up is still ongoing. Two people lost their lives. A fellow church member is still unable to return home. Many of my



high school friends and teachers had major damage. The parents of one friend lost everything. Despite all of this, the community has grown even closer.

My children are not old enough to help physically clean-up debris. They decided the best way for them to help was to deliver as many donations as possible. We were so surprised and grateful for the support we received. The donations included cleaning supplies, food, bottled water, clothing, toys, personal hygiene products, diapers, wipes, blankets, and

even home interior items. I would like to sincerely thank the Madison County Health Department for all the items they donated. It is wonderful to have such a generous work family. Please continue to keep those affected by the April 28th tornado and other recent storm victims in your thoughts and prayers.

Randall J. “Jeff” Black*James Congleton*

Randall J. “Jeff” Black, 53 years old, of Tuscomb, Alabama passed from this life on March 1st, 2014, the official day of retirement after many

years of battling severe medical issues. Although he had many surgeries, hospital stays, and regular physician visits out of town, he never received any donated leave as he struggled to be at work to maintain his leave. This was very admirable and a window into his character, drive, and determination which had been instilled in him from an early age. He once told a story of how he was instructed to dig a waterline, which he did, several hundred feet with only a pick and shovel. He was voted the top third baseman in softball in a local newspaper and he could literally hit a softball a mile, sometimes still hitting home runs when trying to hit a single due to the rules of the game. He hustled around the softball field putting every ounce of energy he had on every play. Although large in stature, he had a humble and gentle spirit and tried to bring some joy and laughter into any situation.

Jeff consistently worked hard from the beginning years of his career, setting standards with his work ethic, eventually being promoted as an Environmental Supervisor. He had obtained a degree majoring in Biology from the University of North Alabama and after beginning employment with the Health Department, he regularly made trips to Birmingham and graduated with a Masters in Public Health from UAB.

Jeff was also an accomplished singer having been a part of a four part harmony group named Southwind which included his brother, Chris, and two of their local friends. One of the groups accomplishments was being the opening act for Lee Greenwood during his prime at a concert held at UNA. They also taped a segment for a Nashville based syndicated show about becoming a star. Locally they did demos to pitch songs to such groups as the Oak Ridge Boys and did some commercials.

Jeff met his wife of 27 years when he and his group performed a regular show in the showcase city of Branson, Missouri. He also had an Elvis outfit which he put on for local charity events, singing with his rich lead voice. His greatest love though, was simply leading praise songs at his church and he talked frequently of a group he admired, The Cathedrals. He was a professed devout Christian follower. Sometimes, if on a hunting trip with family out in the midwest, he would drive many, many miles to find a place to worship in order to not miss a service.

Jeff and his wife Rhonda had two sons, both teenagers, involved in sports. Jeff planned many of his work days around practices and games as he was determined, to the best of his ability, to never miss a minute of anything they were doing. He would frequently come to work giving the latest update on the game or an event in which they had participated.

He loved the outdoors, identifying trees and insects, Alabama football and keeping up with all the latest news and recruits. Jeff was purely a family man and will be missed by many.

In Memorium

We miss your smile,
Your joking ways,
We miss the things
You used to say.

And when old times
We do recall,
It's then we miss you
Most of all.

Author Unknown

BEACH WORD SEARCH



There are two puzzles to be found here - independent of each other

D	R	N	E	A	M	E	S	M	L	S	B	T	B	E
R	R	T	A	H	B	A	E	L	S	U	I	I	U	N
S	S	A	C	C	I	U	E	R	E	R	K	U	E	E
N	E	X	U	L	I	H	C	L	Z	F	I	S	B	G
L	B	S	B	G	S	L	T	S	S	B	N	G	S	H
B	A	O	S	A	E	S	E	A	I	O	I	N	C	I
M	A	C	E	A	A	F	N	P	J	A	Z	I	K	Y
T	J	S	I	C	L	D	I	W	G	R	C	H	L	G
L	N	W	D	P	A	G	V	L	Q	D	Z	T	A	V
X	L	N	T	L	O	W	N	P	V	P	R	A	W	N
G	A	U	S	X	I	R	W	U	H	V	X	B	D	T
S	K	L	G	F	M	L	T	X	S	H	E	V	R	M
N	O	I	T	A	C	A	V	W	A	V	E	S	A	N
P	C	D	N	S	E	B	T	P	Y	X	W	S	O	J
Q	B	D	C	G	R	S	Z	W	L	B	D	R	B	L

Bathing Suit
Bikini
Boardwalk
Lifeguard

Pelican
Sailboat
Sandals
Sand Castle

Scuba
Seagull
Seashell
Sunglasses

Surfboard
Tropical
Vacation
Waves