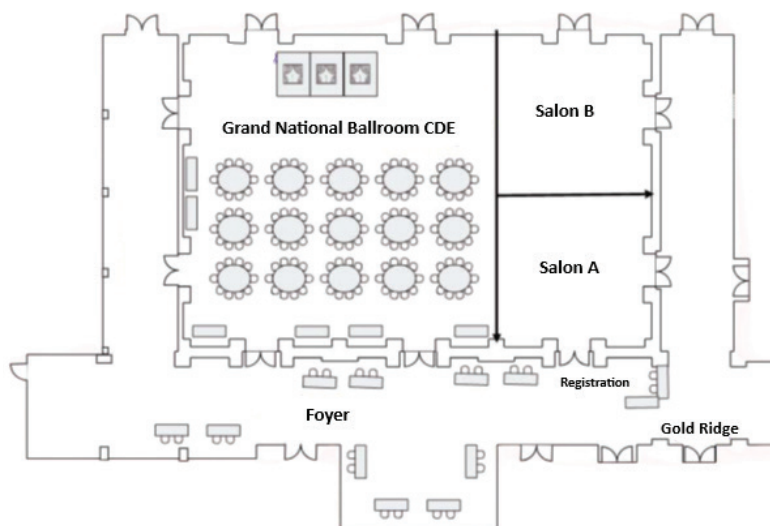


**Alabama Environmental
Health Association
Annual Education Conference
October 14-16, 2026**

**Auburn Marriott Opelika Resort
& Spa at Grand National
3700 Robert Trent Jones Trail
Opelika, Alabama**



Conference Facilities Layout



Foyer: Registration/Exhibitors
**Grand National Ballroom: General Assembly/
Silent Auction/Awards Ceremony**

Salon A and Salon B: Breakout Sessions
Gold Ridge Boardroom: RSA Consultations



Message from the President

Dear Conference Attendees,

The Alabama Environmental Health Association Board of Directors is pleased to welcome you to the 2026 Annual Education Conference (AEC) at the beautiful Auburn Marriott Opelika Resort at Grand National. We hope you will enjoy this professional development and networking opportunity.

We are grateful to State Health Officer, Dr. Harris and the Bureau of Environmental Services for their unwavering support of AEHA and our mission: To serve the people of Alabama by assuring conditions in which they can be healthy and to provide continuing education to enhance skills while promoting high standards, professionalism, and cooperation among government, industry, and academia in environmentally related areas.

The agenda is intended to provide you the most current guidance and best practices in the field of environmental health. We encourage you, in this community of peers, to develop your professional competency, reconnect with old friends, and meet new contacts.

We would like to thank all the vendors and sponsors of our conference. Please take time to visit their tables, learn about what they have to offer in support of our profession, and fill up your vendor bingo card for a chance to win door prizes.

Special appreciation to those who donated to the silent auction. Please bid early and often in support of the Summer Burpee Beard Scholarship encouraging the next generation of environmental health professionals.

Your feedback that we received through surveys has been used to structure an AEC tailored to your interests for this conference. Please find any AEHA board member for questions, concerns, or comments. Enjoy your experience and thank you for being a member of the Alabama Environmental Health Association.

Loren Powers, President
Alabama Environmental Health Association

Alabama Environmental Health Association

Mission of AEHA:

Serve the people of Alabama by assuring conditions in which they can be healthy. Provide continuing education to enhance skills while promoting high standards, professionalism, and cooperation among government, industry, and academia in environmentally related areas.

2026 AEHA Board of Directors	
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Past President: Jeremy Bryant	Southwest Chapter Chair: Alden Pendelton
Past President: Thad Harris	Southeast Chapter Chair: Justin Foster

**If you need any assistance during the conference,
we will be glad to assist you.**

Agenda

Tuesday – October 13

3:00PM – 6:00PM	AEHA Board Meeting
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Wednesday – October 14

8:00AM – 10:30AM	Exhibitor / Silent Auction Set up	Foyer / Grand National Ballroom
10:30AM – 11:30PM	Lunch Break	
10:30AM – 12:30PM	Registration	Foyer
	Exhibitors & Silent Auction Opens	Foyer / Grand National Ballroom
12:30PM – 4:00PM	RSA Consultations	Gold Ridge Boardroom
12:30PM – 1:00 PM	Opening Session Welcome – Loren Powers, President and Tim Hatch, East Central District Administrator Invocation – Stacy Williamson, Past President Conference Overview – Blair Thompson, President-Elect	Grand National Ballroom
1:00PM – 2:00PM	Effective Communication Kenneth Harrison, Workforce Development Director Brent Hatcher, Deputy Chief of Staff	Grand National Ballroom
2:00PM – 2:45PM	CEP Standardization Updates Wanda Cotter, ADPH/CEP Director	Grand National Ballroom
2:45PM – 3:15PM	Break / Exhibitors / Silent Auction This break sponsored by  Infiltrator Water Technologies Part of ADS	Foyer / Grand National Ballroom
3:15PM – 4:00PM	Mobile Food Truck Changes Phyllis Fenn, ADPH/Director of Food & Lodging	Grand National Ballroom
4:00PM – 5:00PM	Environmental & Emergency Preparedness Working Together Wendy Rose, ADPH/Emergency Preparedness Coordinator – Northern District	Salon A
	RSA – Approaching Retirement Sharon Massey, Retirement Systems of Alabama	Salon B

Thursday – October 15

7:30AM – 8:30AM	Registration / Exhibitors / Silent Auction	Foyer / Grand National Ballroom
8:30AM – 3:30PM 4:15PM – 5:00PM	RSA Consultations	Gold Ridge Boardroom

Agenda

8:30AM – 9:15AM	Introducing E-SAFE: A Conceptual Framework for Predictive Environmental Health Surveillance Benjamin J. Ryan, Ph.D., MPH, REHS, FRRHHed - NEHA Region 7 Vice President	Grand National Ballroom
9:15AM – 10:00AM	From Field to Fork: Tracking the 2026 Lettuce and Produce Outbreak Rachel Tulibagenyi, ADPH Infectious Diseases and Outbreaks	Salon A
	Health and Safety in the Onsite Industry Alan Nipp, Infiltrator Water Systems Regional Manager	Salon B
10:00AM – 10:30AM	Break / Exhibitors / Silent Auction	Foyer / Grand National Ballroom
10:30AM – 11:15AM	The JCDH Green Loop Initiative: Bridging the Gap Between Regulators and Environmental Sustainability Haskey Bryant, MPH, MPA, Jefferson County Department of Health	Salon A
	More Than A Chamber: The Story Behind the Prinsco Pro4 Nate Reznechek, Prinsco Water Management Solutions Representative	Salon B
11:15AM – 12:15PM	Alabama Extension Food Safety Program Updates Dani Reams, Alabama Cooperative Extension System	Salon A
	What to Look for When Inspecting a Traditional or Cosmetic Tattoo Studio Robin Hays, CPCP, DAAM	Salon B
12:15PM – 2:15PM	Awards Ceremony Environmentalist of the Year, Ansel C Mullins, Jacqueline Summer Burpee Scholarship	Grand National Ballroom
2:15PM – 3:00PM	The Importance of Rodent Inspections Brandon Sartain, BELL Laboratories Inc	Salon A
	AOWB and ADPH Working Together Ike Bright, AOWB Executive Director	Salon B
3:00PM – 3:30PM	Break / Exhibitors / Silent Auction	Foyer / Grand National Ballroom
3:30PM – 4:15PM	RSA – Early/Mid-Career Sharon Massey, Retirement Systems of Alabama	Salon A
	Frequently Flooded Areas Richard Smith, ADPH Soil Evaluator Boyd Rogers, ADPH Soil Evaluator	Salon B

Agenda

4:15PM – 5:00PM	You Have the Clues We Need Judi Wright, ADPH Seafood Branch	Salon A
	Glowing Concerns: Alabama Radiation Control Nick Swindell, ADPH Office of Radiation Control, Director Paul Sullivan, ADPH Office of Radiation Control	Salon B
7:00PM – 9:00PM	Networking Event – Show your team spirit! Games/Contests	Putting Green

Friday – October 16

8:00AM – 9:00AM	Exhibitors / Networking / Silent Auction	Foyer / Grand National Ballroom
9:00AM – 9:30AM	NEHA Update Benjamin J. Ryan, Ph.D., MPH, REHS, FRRHed - NEHA Region 7 Vice President	Grand National Ballroom
9:30AM – 10:00AM	Alabama Department of Public Health Overview Matt Conner, Director, Bureau of Environmental Services Melanie Boggan, Deputy Director, Bureau of Environmental Services	Grand National Ballroom
10:00AM – 10:30AM	Environmental Health at UAB: Academic Programs, Internship Opportunities and Workforce Development Jeffrey Wickliffe, UAB School of Public Health Mark Meade, UAB School of Public Health	Grand National Ballroom
10:30AM – 11:00AM	Break / Exhibitors / Silent Auction (Final Bids) SILENT AUCTION ENDS 11:00AM	Foyer / Grand National Ballroom
11:00AM – 12:00PM	Closing Session AEHA Business Meeting Door Prizes/Closing Remarks New AEHA Board Meeting	Grand National Ballroom

Speaker Biographies

Bob Ike Bright, Jr. is currently the Executive Director of the Alabama Onsite Wastewater Board (AOWB). Prior to taking his position with the AOWB, Ike worked as an Environmental Supervisor for the Bureau of Environmental Services' Central Office and managed the Onsite Sewage program in Lowndes County. Ike worked for the Alabama Department of Public Health (ADPH) 2016-2025, working in Lee, Macon, Elmore, and Lowndes Counties. Ike held the ADPH seat on the Board of Directors for the Alabama Onsite Wastewater Association (AOWA). Before joining the Health Department, Ike was the Vice-President of a general contracting company that focused on commercial development. Ike holds a BS in Biology from Alabama State University.

During his years with the Health Department, Ike presented at continuing education classes, appeared at wastewater certification trainings and the AOWA Trade Show. Ike has spoken on a number of different topics relating to onsite wastewater, such as ADPH Onsite Sewage System (OSS) rules/regulation and OSS design and permitting.

Haskey Bryant is an experienced public health and environmental health professional with nearly three decades of service dedicated to protecting and improving community health. She is a graduate of the University of Montevallo and the University of Alabama at Birmingham (UAB) School of Public Health, where she earned master's degrees in Public Health and Public Administration.

With 28 years of experience in the environmental health field, Haskey has devoted the past 20 years to the Food and Lodging Division of the Jefferson County Department of Health (JCDH). She currently serves as a Food and Lodging Protection Program Supervisor, overseeing a team of Environmental Health Specialists, their inspection duties and several key programs, including the JCDH Green Loop Initiative, the Communal Living Facility Program, and the Child Care Facility Program. In addition to her supervisory responsibilities, she is an active member of the Environmental Health Emergency Preparedness Strike Team, helping ensure the department's readiness to respond to public health emergencies.

Outside of her professional life, Haskey enjoys camping, cooking, and spending time with her family. She and her husband, Dwight, enjoy making memories with their adult children and two young grandchildren, both under the age of two. She is especially proud of her son, who serves in the United States Air Force and is currently stationed in New Mexico.

Speaker Biographies

Wanda Cotter began her career as a Public Health Environmentalist, with the Dale County Health Department in 1988. She continued her environmental career in the Southeastern District as an Environmentalist, Environmental Supervisor and as the District Environmental Director. During that time, she served on many boards including AEHA, AAFP and SWANA. She was also recognized as the recipient of the Ansel C Mullins Award.

She then decided to try retirement while also working for a local nonprofit organization. That break was brief, in that she returned to ADPH part time in 2021 and full time in 2023. She served as the CEP Standardization officer for the Southeastern and Southwestern Districts until July 2026, when she began her current role as the Director of Community Environmental Protection.

Outside of work, Wanda enjoys spending time with her daughters at the beach, hunting treasures at thrift stores, and being amused by her niece, Bella.

Phyllis Fenn is currently the Director of Food & Lodging for the Bureau of Environmental Services with the Alabama Department of Public Health. With a total of 35 years in the field of public health and food safety, my administrative responsibilities include supervising program policies and practices so that the technical aspects of the environmental program comply with requirements pertinent to the laws and rules of the retail food, lodging, and body art regulatory programs.

Professional organizations:

- Alabama Association for Food Protection
- Member of the Alabama Food Safety Task Force.
- Alabama Environmental Health Association
- Conference for Food Protection

Kenneth Harrison has been with the Alabama Department of Public Health since 2019 and currently serves as Workforce Development Director. Kenneth has a Bachelor of Science degree in Business Administration. He is a graduate of Troy University. Kenneth currently serves as Board Member of the Alabama Public Health Association and serves on the Region IV Public Health Training Center Steering Committee

Brent Hatcher has been with the Alabama Department of Public Health since 2005 and currently serves as the Deputy Chief of Staff. Brent has a Bachelor of Science degree in Business Administration and Computer

Speaker Biographies

Information Systems. He also has a Master of Business Administration degree specializing in Global Management. He is a graduate of the South Central Public Health Leadership Institute and is currently certified by the Human Resource Certification Institute as a Senior Professional in Human Resources (SPHR) and by the Society for Human Resource Management as a Senior Certified Professional (SHRM-SCP). Brent currently trains staff on a variety of topics including Professionalism, Customer Service, Work Life Balance, Suicide Awareness and Prevention, Dealing with Difficult People, and Understanding Yourself: The Key to Success.

Robin Hays, CPCP, DAAM, has been practicing the art of cosmetic and medical tattooing since 1993. She did her apprenticeship training in Birmingham, Alabama and currently has locations in Chattanooga and Atlanta.

Robin is a certified lifetime member and previous board member of the SPCP (Society of Permanent Cosmetic Professionals), and former President of The AAM (American Academy of MicroPigmentation).

She also serves on the board of Neha (National Environmental Health Association) body art committee and is a member of APT (Alliance of Professional Tattooist).

Sharon Massey is a Field Representative for the Retirement Systems of Alabama. She has made a career in state government over the last 30 years. Her responsibilities include making presentations at the popular Retirement Preparation Seminars and working one on one with State of Alabama employees, local government employees and members of the Teacher Retirement Systems.

In addition to working for RSA she was the Training Coordinator for the State of Alabama Personnel Department for 8 years. Instructing State of Alabama employees on a variety of subjects such as: progressive discipline; performance appraisal; train the trainer; dealing with difficult people and dynamics of supervision.

She is a graduate of Troy University with a Bachelor of Science in Business Administration with a double minor in marketing and journalism.

In her spare time she enjoys reading and listening to current podcasts.

Mark Meade is an Associate Professor in the Department of Environmental Health Sciences in the School of Public Health at the University of Alabama at Birmingham. He teaches and conducts research in environmental health,

Speaker Biographies

with interests in water quality, aquatic and ecosystem health, environmental exposures, and community health. His work emphasizes experiential and community-engaged research and education, including partnerships with schools and community organizations to address local environmental concerns and expand participation in environmental health and STEM. He has more than 25 years of experience in higher education, research, and environmental science education.

Alan Nipp is a Regional Manager with Infiltrator Water Technologies. Alan joined Infiltrator Systems in 2001 and is responsible for leading the Southern Region sales territory providing sales and technical support. From 2006 until 2009, Alan was responsible for helping manage the 12-state Central Region for Infiltrator Systems.

Alan began his onsite wastewater career at the Tuscaloosa County Health Department in 1991. Alan supervised the onsite wastewater program in Tuscaloosa County from 1994 until joining Infiltrator Systems in 2001.

Alan received his Master of Public Health degree from the University of Alabama at Birmingham and his B.S. in Environmental Science from the University of West Alabama. Alan became a Registered Environmental Health Specialist with the National Environmental Health Association in 1997. He and his family live in Butler, Alabama.

Angela Reams, better known as Dani, obtained her Bachelor's Degree from Judson College in 2005 and Master's Degree in Adult Education from Auburn University in 2024. She began her career as a Public Health Environmentalist with the Alabama Department of Public Health in 2006. She was promoted to a Senior Environmentalist position in 2013 and continued in that position until she began her career as Regional Extension Agent (REA) for Food Safety and Quality with the Alabama Cooperative Extension System (ACES) in 2018.

In her current role, she provides current, science-based education on a variety of food-safety related topics. She is a registered ServSafe instructor and proctor and assists with classes on Better Process Controls for Acidified Foods and Seafood HACCP. In addition, she provides a variety of workshops on safe food preservation and general food safety. She was awarded the Early Career Service Award by the Alpha Pi Chapter of Epsilon Sigma Phi.

Nate Reznechek is a sales and business development professional with extensive experience in the agricultural and construction industries and a growing role in the onsite wastewater market. In his current position with

Speaker Biographies

Prinsco, Nate works with distributors, contractors, and industry partners across the Southeast to expand market opportunities and bring innovative drainage and onsite wastewater products to the industry.

After spending much of his career in agriculture and construction, Nate brings a fresh perspective to the onsite industry, combining his experience in sales, business development, and market strategy with a willingness to learn from and support the contractors and professionals who know the industry best. His focus is on practical solutions, strong customer relationships, and helping grow the onsite wastewater market.

Boyd Rogers graduated from Auburn University in 1998 with a Bachelor's degree in Agronomy and Soils. He worked as a Soil Consultant in the state of Georgia mapping soils for onsite systems from 1999 until 2008. He became a registered Professional Soil Classifier in Alabama in 2002 and a Certified Professional Soil Scientist in Georgia in 2003. In 2008, he joined ADPH as a Soil Evaluator and has been with the state ever since. Boyd has been married to his wife Stacey for 30 years, and together they have three children, Caleb, Grace and Elijah, as well as two grandchildren, Ford and Sammie Jo, with a third (Atlas) debuting in December.

Wendy Rose is currently serving as the ADPH Northern District Emergency Preparedness Coordinator, overseeing disaster readiness and crisis planning for the past five years. With a 30-year career spanning emergency medicine, military healthcare, and public health, she bridges the gap between front-line reality and high-level strategy. She looks forward to discussing the often-overlooked impact of environmental health on community preparedness and emergency response.

Benjamin Ryan Ph.D., MPH, REHS, FRRHHed - Dr. Ryan is a Professor in the Frist College of Medicine at Belmont University and serves as the Region 7 Vice President for the National Environmental Health Association (NEHA). He is a Registered Environmental Health Specialist and has practiced, researched, and taught in environmental and public health, disaster risk reduction, and community resilience across the Americas, East Africa, Europe, and the Indo Pacific. His experience includes environmental and public health assessments, disaster and outbreak response, and work across all levels of government in Australia, the United States, and as a consultant. His work has been supported by organizations including WHO, USDA, NSF,

Speaker Biographies

and U.K. government agencies. He is a Fellow of the Royal College of Surgeons of Edinburgh and is committed to supporting environmental public health professionals from education and field practice through leadership, while strengthening the systems that help protect communities.

Brandon Sartain has been in the pest control industry as the Southeastern Senior Technical Sales Rep for 8 years with Bell Laboratories. He is passionate about making information on rodents and proper rodent control available to the pest control industry through teaching. Brandon is a graduate of Carson-Newman University with a Bachelor of Arts in Communication where he also played football as an offensive lineman. He is also a proud Eagle Scout, member of the Order of the Arrow, and member of Alpha Phi Omega National Service Fraternity. When he has spare time, he is an avid woodworker and chief tennis baller thrower for two dogs.

Richard "Rick" Smith graduated from Auburn University in 2005 with a BS in Agronomy and Soils, 2007 with an MS in Soil Science, earlier BA degree from UNM, 1989 was in Psychology. He qualified for and became a professional soil classifier in 2007 and currently, is a member of the advisory council for professional soil classifiers in Alabama. He began his career with ADPH in Lee County in November 1995 and left in April of 2004 to pursue soil science degrees and he returned to ADPH in Chambers County in October 2009. Rick accepted and began this role as a soil evaluator in January of 2020.

Paul Sullivan is the Director of X-Ray Compliance for the Office of Radiation Control. He has been working with the office for 15 years. He also currently serves as the Radiation Safety Officer for Radiation Control as well as a Certified Mammography Inspector for the FDA. Paul holds a Bachelor's degree from Faulkner University in Mathematics. He has been married for 17 years, is an avid golfer, and the biggest cheerleader to his 9-year-old son.

Nick Swindell is the Radiological Health Director for the Office of Radiation Control. With more than 25 years of experience in radiation safety and regulatory compliance, he has held leadership roles overseeing X-Ray compliance, environmental monitoring and radiological health programs. He holds bachelor's degrees in Applied Mathematics and Computer Information Systems from Troy State University and brings extensive expertise in radiation safety, regulatory compliance, public education and personnel leadership.

Rachel Tulibagenyi is an Epidemiologist Senior serving as the Enteric Disease Program Manager and Genetic Epidemiologist within the Infectious Diseases

Speaker Biographies

& Outbreaks Division at the Alabama Department of Public Health (ADPH). Rachel earned her Master of Public Health from the University of Alabama at Birmingham and possesses a diverse background in public health, including international experience working in Uganda, East Africa. She originally joined ADPH in 2020 as the Enteric Disease Epidemiologist, later working with the CDC Foundation during the pandemic, before returning to ADPH in 2024 to assume her current senior leadership and genetic epidemiology roles.

Jeff Wickliffe is a Professor and the current Chairperson of the Department of Environmental Health Sciences in the School of Public Health at the University of Alabama at Birmingham. He actively teaches environmental health in academic programs at UAB and carries out research investigating environmental health problems. He has been involved with environmental public health programs for the past 25 years working across the southern US in Texas, Louisiana, and Alabama.

Judi Wright is a Public Health Environmentalist with the ADPH Seafood Branch, specializing in shellfish. She joined ADPH in March 2025 after a career in private-sector finance and accounting. Judi's background in statistical analysis and data-driven decision-making translates well into her current role, where she supports the classification of shellfish growing areas and contributes to risk management activities, including food-borne illness investigations.

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