



Fall 2023 Edition 3

Supporting Water and Wastewater Systems in New Hampshire

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Operator Field Day 2023

The weather on September 13, 2023 started off threatening to rain. We kept an eye on the dark clouds all through the morning, and they ended up clearing up by mid-morning, so we didn't have to move everyone inside. By the afternoon, the sun was out and drying up any rain that had fallen during the first seminar. After lunch, many people decided to go up the chairlift to the summit of Mount Sunapee to enjoy the lovely views and the warm sun.

Operator Field Day 2023 started off with GSRWA's annual meeting. This year's annual meeting agenda was full to the brim, mostly due to an election to fill two vacant board member positions. Welcome April Busfield of West Stewartstown and Dick Emberley of Monadnock Tenants Cooperative and NHDES! April is returning after having previously served on the board a few years back. Today, April concurrently manages the water and wastewater operations in Canaan VT and West Stewartstown NH. Dick is brand new to the board and was a contract operator for 16 years before moving to NHDES in the Wastewater Engineering Bureau. We're so glad to have both April and Dick on our team!

We at GSRWA would like to extend our gratitude to Aaron Costa for his time on the board. Aaron served on the board from 2017 to 2023, with his term as president starting in 2020. He led us through all the trials and tribulations that came with working through the pandemic, and saw us through to the other side. We would also like to extend our gratitude to Bruce Bottomley, who has since passed away. While serving from 2017 to 2023, Bruce held the position of Representative to National Rural Water Association. Bruce made several trips to Washington D.C. advocating for water and wastewater support. We truly appreciate all who step forward to serve.

Our Mission

Supporting public water and wastewater systems by providing training, onsite technical assistance, and legislative representation.

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Board Director's Message

Fall is a busy time for all of us as we button up our systems in preparation for the coming winter. To us, first frost means snow is soon to come and we all pray that mother nature lays down a carpet of white to protect our service lines from freezing on those cold February nights.



For me, fall started with my shift into the role of board representative to our National Rural Water Association. This new position offered me the opportunity to travel to Denver, Colorado for NRWA's WaterPro tradeshow and conference. I, along with 2,200 like-minded water professionals met up to exchange ideas and share strategies to make our job as operators easier and increase the level of service provided by our circuit riders. The three-day event was packed with trainings, keynote addresses, and tradeshow exhibits.

A big highlight was connecting with EPA leaders. Andrew Sawyers, the director of the wastewater management division, spoke about next year's focus on small wastewater systems and how the EPA through state circuit riders is going to help operators improve the operation of their plants. Later, Jennifer McLain, the EPA water management director discussed the upcoming deadlines for the lead service line identification in the fall of 2024. To give you an insight to their accessibility; at lunch we were able to sit down with each of the speakers, and through casual discussion, gain critical insights to their programs; something you would never get at a formal meeting or through a phone call.

Overall, for me, the Waterpro conference was an eye-opening experience. It was incredible to see how the circuit riders, the executive directors, and fellow board members all work together to help National Rural Water become a stronger more cohesive organization working towards a common goal.

Sincerely,
John Coffey
Board of Directors & Board Representative to NRWA

From the Executive Director



A few nights ago, Rob and I were on the phone with our young-adult daughter when we heard her say, “So, I’m finding out it doesn’t really matter what you do, it just matters who you do it with.” These words were coming from a girl who spends her life jumping from one big adventure to another. Rob and I exchanged knowing glances. Our life is more filled with daily tasks than with big adventures.. There are lots of Saturdays when one of us says “Want to make the recycle run together?”

This conversation got me thinking about GSRWA. Right now, we have an incredible administrative team and an outstanding field team. Everyone has their own demanding tasks, and job structures often necessitate working independently. What's remarkable is that both teams are finding ways to come together. My heart swells with pride when our staff meetings veer off course because someone is excitedly proposing ways to collaborate and support a colleague with a project.

Feeling isolated can be a significant drain on job satisfaction, and I suspect that in rural New Hampshire, many water and wastewater operators can relate to this. Alleviating that sense of isolation and fostering connections is the essence of GSRWA's mission. My hope is that every member actively engages with our association. Attend a class, participate in Operator Field Day, or request a visit. You could even become a part of our team. We have job vacancies to fill, and we're open to expansion. In any case, always remember that you're not alone. GSRWA is here for you.

With hope for the future,
Heidi Lauricella,
Executive Director

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Your Letters!



Town of New Castle
NEW CASTLE, NH 03854-0367

August 8, 2023

Granite State Rural Water Association
47 Main Street, Suite 206,
Walpole, New Hampshire 03608

To Whom it May Concern,

I am writing to express my overwhelming thanks and gratitude to Vinnie Melendez and Josh Worthen for their help and expertise. The Town of New Castle operates a small wastewater collection system serving a very small constituency. Since the town sends all its wastewater to the City of Portsmouth, it had been handicapped by both the historical retail rates that the city charged and its small customer base. Without sufficient capital reserves to investigate and mitigate the problem, the town had been unable to make substantial progress addressing the I&I issues that have plagued the town.

Earlier this spring I reached out GSRWA about smoke testing our gravity sewers as a way to help hone in on the I&I issue. Vinnie responded right away and enthusiastically assisted with the planning process. Once on site, he quickly understood the system and provided invaluable expertise on how we should conduct the smoke testing. His knowledge of wastewater infrastructure reflects his years of experience in the industry and is a great asset to operators across the state.

With the assistance of Vinnie and Josh, we have identified several items to address on both the water and wastewater side. Using their expertise, we now have a good jumping-off point to further address the infrastructure issues of the town. I look forward to working with them and the rest of the GSRWA team again in the future.

Respectfully,

Chris Robillard
Public Works Superintendent
Town of New Castle

Cc: Dick White, Chairman Water & Sewer Commission

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Recognition Award Recipients



**Operator of the Year
Paul Nugent**



**Operator of the Year
Jason Bordeau**



**System of the Year
Jewell Estates**



**Stephen L. Broadbent Award
Sharon Nall**

Not Pictured: Instructor of the Year—Frank Getchell

Training Class Schedule

Date	Course	TCH's	DES Approved	Mem/Non-Mem	Location
11-9-23	Handling Distribution Components with New Technology	6	DW & WW	\$105/\$138	Concord, NH
11-14-23	Polymer Owner's Manual & Corrosion Control	5	DW & WW	\$90/\$115	Jaffrey, NH
11-16-23	Safety Potpourri	6	DW & WW	\$105/\$138	Lebanon, NH
11-28-23	EPA RTRC – A "Find & Fix" Approach to Protecting Public Health	2	DW & WW	\$31/\$39	Virtual
11-28-23	Wastewater Exam Prep Course Day 1	6	WW	\$500/\$600	Franklin, NH
11-29-23	Wastewater Exam Prep Course Day 2	6	WW	\$500/\$600	Franklin, NH
11-30-23	Wastewater Exam Prep Course Day 3	6	WW	\$500/\$600	Franklin, NH
11-30-23	Lab Skills for Operators	4	DW & WW	\$70/\$94	Madbury, NH
12-5-23	Distribution Health: Innovative Solutions & Best Practices	6/dw 4.5/ww	DW & WW	\$105/\$138	Gilford, NH
12-7-23	Troubleshooting the Activated Sludge Process with a Microscope	3	WW	\$38/\$54	Virtual
12-12-23	Understanding your Motor Control Panel	5	DW & WW	\$90/\$115	Greenville, NH
12-14-23	Pipe Repair & Maintenance	2	DW & WW	\$31/\$39	Virtual



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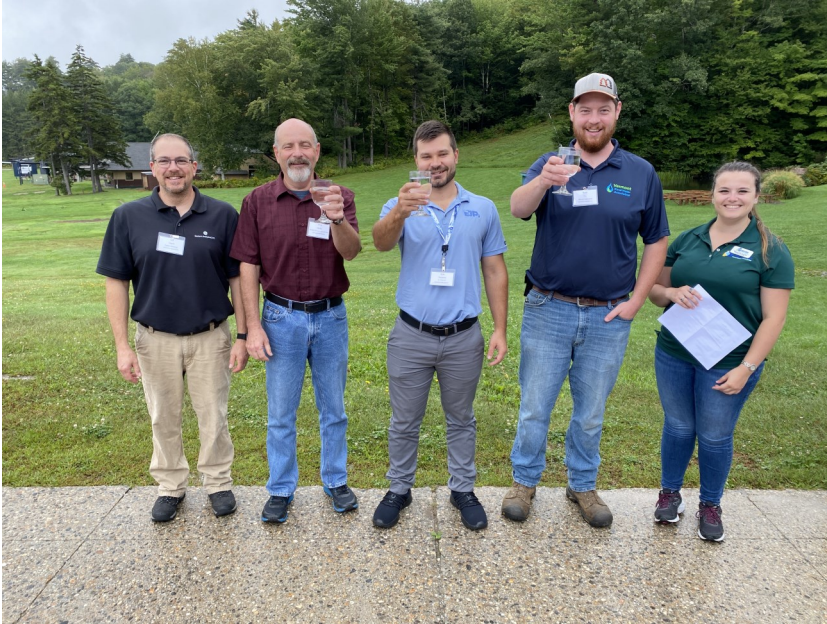
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Drinking Water Taste Test Competition



GSRWA hosted its ninth drinking water taste test competition on September 12, 2023 during Operator Field Day. After two rounds of judging and 11 contestants, the judges awarded Cogswell Springs Water Works in Henniker first place and Frankestown Village Water second place.

Cogswell Springs now has the opportunity to be flown down to Washington DC to participate in the Great American Taste Test Contest hosted by National Rural Water Association at their annual rally in February. Good luck representing New Hampshire, Cogswell Springs! Congrats!

New Hampshire water systems submitted drinking water samples into the competition the morning of Operator Field Day. The two panels of judges determined the winners based on three criteria: clarity, bouquet, and most importantly, taste.

Thank you to our preliminary judges: Brad Roy from Vermont Rural Water Association, Chris Clasby from ROC NH, and Kyle Rousseau from E J Prescott. Another big thank you to our final judges Betsy Davis from the EPA, Shaun Fielder from the USDA, and Jason Smith from NHDES. Lastly, thank you to Eastern Analytical for helping us host this event every year.

The competition is a fun and light-hearted way to acknowledge the importance of having clean, safe drinking water. Operators have the incredibly important job of making sure everyone has safe water to drink, and this competition really highlights the efforts of these operators. Thank you to all who participated and we hope to see your entry next year!



2023 Meter Toss Competition

The 2023 meter toss competition was a very hot and humid affair. It was a very spirited group of throwers that braved the elements. This year, unlike last year, provided a great spectator opportunity, while also allowing participants to enjoy some comradery and networking opportunities as participants cheered on fellow competitors. Although the weather was hot the numbers were sufficient and the competitive nature of the event was shared by all.

The goal of the competition is to hurl an inch and a half water meter as far as possible on our meter toss field. I'm sure there were several sore backs and a couple of sore arms but I'm happy to report again, that there were no new worker's comp cases filed for 2023. Although no new records were broken all that participated had a great time.

In the always hotly contested men's division, a winning toss of 62'.0" by Alex Gleeson of the City of Claremont beat out the second place toss by one of our vendors Kyle Jordan from New England Backflow 57'.0". I'm happy to report our OFD Meter Toss record by (Sly Karasinski of the North Swanzy Water Department 72'.0") is still intact for another year. Great job guys.



In the fiercely competitive woman's division, there was a record number of participants. Last year's winner, Andrea Day of Dufresne Group, retained her title with a toss of 32' 0". Our second place winner was a new contestant who was here exhibiting for Hazen and Sawyer. Patricia Kelliher took second place throw of 31'.0" An honorable mention goes out to Sharon Nall of DES and Kelly Cicirelli of ROC-NH for showing up with big smiles while encouraging other female competitor's to compete, it was greatly appreciated. Next year I'm expecting a big agency competition between ROC-NH, and of course NHDES.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank all the meter toss participants past and present that have helped to make this event what it is. I would like to thank my assistant Ethan Sudan for stepping in this year to help me out, couldn't have done it without you my friend. **Thanks Ethan, much appreciated!!** A special **"THANK YOU"** goes out to Robbie Lockhart of EJ Prescott and the rest of Team Prescott for their continued support of this event. This event wouldn't and couldn't happen without their support and sponsorship efforts...THANKS Again.



Although this will be my last meter toss event for GSRWA, I'm sure someone will step up and keep this fun event going for years to come. I look forward to staying in touch with many of you and seeing you from time to time in the field. Thank you all for supporting our efforts. Best of luck to you all, and thanks for the memories. Vinnie.

Operator Field Day Photo Album



**Vinnie's Final Quiz Corner—
Best Wishes at Massachusetts Rural Water**



Vinnie Melendez
Former Wastewater Specialist

A Note of Gratitude

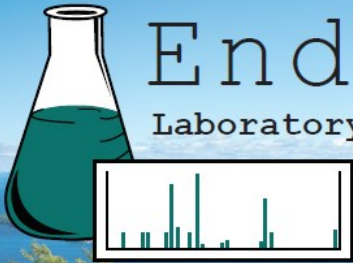
The GSRWA Board of Directors would like to thank Vinnie Melendez for his many years of service to GSRWA. I know I speak for all of us NH Operators when I say that Vinnie will be greatly missed in this state. Weather you worked with water, wastewater, or both, you probably crossed paths with Vinnie at some point over the years. When I started out in the industry, I worked alone for almost 4 years. I trudged through for a couple years until I learned about GSRWA. Vinnie was always just a phone call away. He had seen it all and knew someone in the state if he didn't have the answer. His kindness, and overall knowledge of everything wastewater helped shape me into the operator I am today. I learned a lot from Vinnie over the years and the knowledge he had cannot be taught in a book! We smoke-tested Marlborough's entire sewer system and, inspected every sewer manhole along the way. So again, thank you, Vinnie for the many years of service to this organization. You have helped generations of operators in this state with compliance issues, maintenance issues, and networking. You did it all with a smile and an infectious laugh that we will all miss. See you at the next Trade Show (Hopefully!).

-Tony Cavaliere, President

1. Which of the following is not present in activated sludge?
 - A. Aerobic bacteria.
 - B. Anaerobic bacteria.
 - C. Protozoa.
 - D. Fungi.
2. Which of the following devices should be used to measure the diameter of a replacement pump shaft ?
 - A. Engineer's scale.
 - B. Metallic tape.
 - C. Micrometer.
 - D. Ruler.
 - E. Surveyor's chain.
3. When organic wastes are discharged to receiving water, oxygen is depleted by?
 - A. Algae during the day.
 - B. Bacteria.
 - C. Pathogens.
 - D. Limestone rocks.
4. Which gas is produced in anaerobic digester and be used as a fuel ?
 - A. Propane.
 - B. Methane.
 - C. Ethane.
 - D. Carbon dioxide.
5. What is the term for the process by which water vapor passes into the atmosphere from living plants?
 - A. Transpiration.
 - B. Percolation.
 - C. Hydrologic cycle
 - D. Precipitation.
 - E. Perspiration.
6. What is the BOD of the following samples, using 25mls of sample in a 300ml bottle ? Initial D.O. = 9.20 & Final D.O. = 2.10
 - A. 28mg/l.
 - B. 85mg/l.
 - C. 58mg/l.
 - D. 106mg/l
7. For regulatory purposes, a _____ sample is taken for fecal coliform analysis?
 - A. Composite.
 - B. Grab.
 - C. Manual composite.
 - D. Composite of grabs of 1 shift.
8. The use of coarse screens for the disposal of sewage, may be dispensed with by ?
 - A. Comminutor.
 - B. Shredder.
 - C. Both (A) and (B).
 - D. Neither (A) nor (B).
9. Activated sludge generally _____ than raw sludge ?
 - A. Settles more slowly.
 - B. Is more granular.
 - C. Is saltier.
 - D. Is denser.
10. What test is typically never performed on wastewater influent?
 - A. BOD.
 - B. Fecal Coliform.
 - C. Suspended solids.
11. In dissolved air flotation thickeners, floated solids are kept out of the effluent by the use of?
 - A. Effluent baffles.
 - B. Hardware cloth screens.
 - C. Scum scrappers.
 - D. Water sprayers.
12. The chemical symbol for sodium is?
 - A. Si
 - B. S
 - C. NA
 - D. K

- Answers**
12. C.
 11. A.
 10. B.
 9. A.
 8. C.
 7. B.
 6. B.
 5. A.
 4. B.
 3. B.
 2. C.
 1. B.

References:
 CRAM - WEF practice exam
 Water Treatment Plant Operation
 (Field Study Training Program)
 Sacramento Manual (volume I)
 ABC practice exams questions



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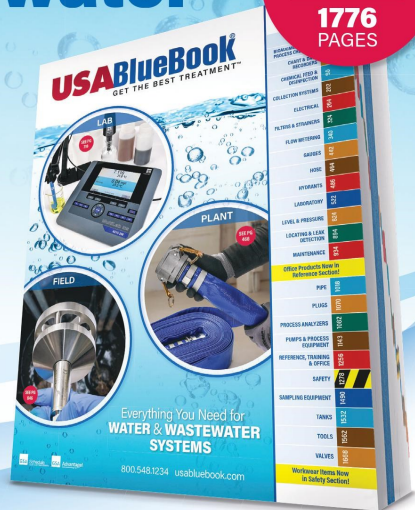
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