

Where has the summer gone?

Seems like we get cheated out of the good weather and old man winter hangs out way too long. You really need to set time away to enjoy the Michigan weather. It's always a busy time for our type of businesses and that's a good thing, but still could use a couple more months of summer. It also doesn't help when your spring gets treated like winter. Man that was a tough April.

Our fight against HB4438 was for nothing. The money grabbing politicians were bought out by big money associations like Farm Bureau. The health and safety of our seasonal workers and consumers is not important enough to the politicians. I hope in the future Michigan is not mentioned as e-coli source like some of the other States. My disappointment will linger and I will pay attention to the ones who would like our support and have their hand out. I'm tired of playing that game. The Governor approved HB4438 and it will go into effect September 27, 2018. You can see the language at www.legislative.mi.gov and search for bill HB4438.

Our fall meeting is set for October 13th in Mount Pleasant and I hope all can attend. Plans are being set and hopefully we can get some speakers to get some credit hours for you folks. Please look for the announcement within our newsletter.

Please remember that MSTA is always looking for fresh blood to join in as a Director. A lot of us have been doing this along time and speaking for myself I am hoping to work my way towards retirement in near future and when that happens I will walk away from all of it. Till that day I will stay involved. I encourage anyone interested in becoming a director to step up and discuss it with a director and ask about their involvement. Better yet talk to one of the Executive officers and get their take on it. MSTA is strong because of people who care.

See you at the fall meeting!

Submitted by: Dave W. Snyder (MSTA President)



Fall Board Meeting and Educational Classes

Saturday, October 13, 2018
9:00am - 3:00pm
(time is tentative)
Mount Pleasant, MI

Please consider joining us for the MSTA Fall Meeting on Saturday, October 13 in Mount Pleasant, hosted by General Insurance Agency. Coffee, Donuts and Networking starts at 9:00am with the business meeting to follow from 9:30am to 11:30am.

The 5th Annual Chili Cookoff will begin at 11:30pm. We encourage you bring your best pot of chili to be shared and used in the competition against others who think their chili is the best too. Who said a little friendly competition isn't fun? Be sure to sign up for this competition when signing up for the meeting or call Karlyn Wickham at 989-808-8648.

The educational classes will begin following lunch. An agenda will be emailed as soon as it becomes available, as well as be on the DEQ website. The number of CSE's you will receive is dependent on the agenda and State of Michigan approval.

Registration information will be sent to you via email very soon as well as on the MSTA Website at www.msta.biz. If you don't get an email, but want to sign up please contact Karlyn Wickham at 989-808-8648. The price for members is FREE. The price for non-members is \$100.

Please mark this on your calendars and plan for a day of networking, education and good food!

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MSTA Annual Raffle

Tickets On Sale Now

We are happy to be hosting the 6th Annual Raffle at the MSTA Banquet during the 2019 Onsite Wastewater Conference in January. Below is a list of prizes you could win:

2019 Raffle Ticket Sponsor:



1st: Henry Lone Ranger 308 or \$750 Cash

2nd: Ruger American Camo BM450 or \$450 Cash

3rd: Springfield XDS 9mm FDE or \$400 Cash

4th: Henry Silver Bay 22LR or \$400 Cash

5th: Weatherby PA-08 12ga Camo or \$300 Cash

6th: Ruger American 17 HMR Rimefire or \$200 Cash

7th: Traditions Back Stalker Camo or \$175 Cash

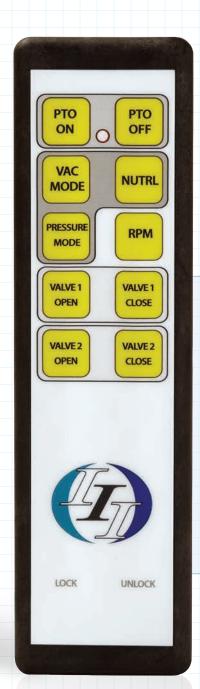
8th: Ruger LCP 380 or \$150 Cash

Thank you to **PLUMMERS WASTE GROUP** for sponsoring the raffle tickets this year.

The tickets are 3 for \$25 and you do not have to be present to win. They would make a good present for the deer hunters on your Christmas list or just for yourself! Contact Chris Sloan if you want to purchase tickets. Call Chris at 989-845-6280 right away as the tickets will go quickly. If there are any left, they will be available for purchase at the conference.

Sincerely,

MSTA Raffle Committee



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Getting your CSE Credits off from the MSTA Website

As you already know, we have a new website and database system to track your membership and CSE credits. The old website contained all your CSE Credits prior to August of 2017. If you don't have records of your credits prior to August 2017, you will not be able to get them by logging onto the website.

Instead you will have to send an email to the address below to request a report of those.

The new website contains your CSE Credits from August 2017 through now. To get a record of the credits you received from the Fall 2017 meeting or the 2018 Michigan Onsite WW Conference, follow the steps below:

- Log into your account on www.msta.biz
 If you do not remember your username /or password, click on "Forgot Your Password?" on the MSTA Homepage.
 You will receive an automatic email with instructions to get your username / password.
- · Once you are logged in, go to "My Membership Information"
- Click on the "other information" tab
- Click on "Prior Event Registrations"
- · Find the class you just attended and click on the symbol with the checkmark inside the square
- · A copy of your transcript will appear showing the credits you earned by going to the meeting
- Print this page and keep it for your records to be turned into the DEQ when you renew your license.

Please save these instructions for future use. Please also save your username and password somewhere safe as well so that you can log onto the MSTA website again. By the way, your username and password can be changed to something you remember more easily by clicking on "Member Information / change username and password" (right next to the "other information" tab).

Thank You.

Karlyn Wickham

MSTA Executive Officer executiveofficer.msta.biz@gmail.com



68TH MICHIGAN ON-SITE WASTEWATER DISPOSAL CONFERENCE

Please mark your calendar for January 8-10, 2019 (Tuesday – Thursday) for the 68th Michigan On-Site Wastewater Disposal Conference. The conference will be held once again at the Kellogg Center in East Lansing, MI. The 2018 conference brought in a good crowd of onsite professionals and was quite successful. The annual conference is a great time to learn more about our industry. You have the opportunity to rub shoulders with suppliers, regulators, colleagues, competitors, friends, and educators. Furthermore, this GREAT educational opportunity is offered at a time of year most onsite professionals are not as busy.

Arrangements are being made for Michigan Department of Environmental Quality (MDEQ) accreditation of all the conference sessions to count toward continuing education credit hours required for MDEQ licensed septage haulers.

Vendor Booths are planning to be open Tuesday afternoon and through most the day Wednesday. Please contact Dan Milan, onsite wastewater vice-chair and vendor coordinator at 800-756-4526, if you are interested in a booth this year.

Some of the topics discussed at the previous planning meetings for possible inclusion in the 2019 conference are:

- MDEQ Track Lenawee Case Study
- MDEQ Question & Answer Session
- Pumper Truck Inspection from a Haulers Perspective (Possible Trip Outside for Show and Tell)
- CDL Drug Testing and Recommended Training
- U.S. EPA Part 503 and the Septage Industry
- Michigan Truck Safety Mobile Truck Simulator
- Proper Truck Inspections (Possible Trip Outside for Show and Tell)
- Back to Basics for Sanitarians, Installers & Pumpers
- · New Tools for Monitoring Onsite System Performance
- Haulers / pumpers / portable toilet presentations (regulations, insurance, business plans)
- Health Care Reform Update (Roundtable)
- Septage Land Application Injection
- Bidding Proposals for Septic System Installations
- Pumper Stories
- Workshop Important Factors in Onsite Wastewater Treatment System Design
- Remote Telemetry Panels
- Secondary Containment and Reasons for It Panel Discussion
- MDEQ Track Site Suitability Determination
- MDEQ Track Emerging Issues
- How to Set a Septic Tank Proper Septic Tank Installation
- MDEQ Land Application
- Meth Awareness Identifying Hazards
- How to Train Your Sanitarian (Sanitarian Training Methods)
- How to Design a Septic System (Installers & Sanitarians)
- SepticSmart (Education Your Clients/Homeowners)
- Onsite Pumps (Gould/Meyers)
- · Poly Portables
- Septic System Enhancements



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PLYMOUTH Fred G. Manuel (734) 320-6667 fred@teamgca.com (continued from page 6)

- Onsite Parts & Pieces (What's New on the Market and How to use it?)
- Soil Compaction on the Job site Soil Compaction Studies (Soil Texturing)
- Where to Place Portables on Various Construction Sites
- Anatomy of a Septic Truck
- Septic System Basics (Septic 101)
- Septic Installation Presentations
- Vendor Product Showcase Session
- American Society for Asset Protection (ASAP)
- Onsite Wastewater Workshop
- Sewage Sniffing Dogs
- Statewide Sanitary Code
- · Many more TBA

Please contact one of the MSTA planning committee members with suggestions of what you would like to see at the 2019 conference. Members include: Jason Spangle (Esch Septic Service, LLC at 989-848-2391) Ralph Bailey (American Rentals at 517-719-6412) and Mark N. Scott (Scott's Excavating at 989-275-5011).

It is the intent of these annual wastewater conferences, organized as a joint venture by the Michigan Onsite Wastewater Recycling Association (MOWRA), the Michigan Department of Environmental Quality (MDEQ) with the Michigan Environmental Health Association (MEHA), the Michigan Septic Tank Association (MSTA), the Michigan Water Environmental Association (MWEA) and Michigan State University, to educate people involved in the onsite wastewater field.

So, if you want an educated approach to competing in your industry this is an excellent opportunity for you and your employees. There will be more on the conference in the winter newsletter. Hope to see each of you there!

Article submitted by:

Mark N. Scott (Member - Michigan Wastewater Conference Planning Committee)

What's new on the MSTA Website www.msta.org

We hope that you like the new MSTA Website! Below is some information on the Resource Section of the website:

Septic Postcards

The following postcards can be used FREE of CHARGE to promote proper septic system maintenance:

Think at the Sink Postcard
Don't Overload the Commode Postcard
Don't Strain Your Drain Postcard
Keep it Clean Postcard

Protect it and Inspect it Postcard Pump Your Tank Postcard Shield Your Field Postcard

Legislative Report for MSTA

Judy Augenstein, Legislative Consultant

June 2018

Senator Steven Bieda, D-Warren has introduced SB 944 and SB 945. The bills amend PA 51 to redistribute funds based on lane miles instead of road miles. Similar bills were introduced in the House by Rep. Jeff Yaroch, R-Richmond, HB 5706. Governor Rick Snyder has wanted to re-write PA 51 since 2011 to re-direct road monies away from the north and to the southwest based on lane miles opposed to road miles. Senator Tom Casperson, R-Escanaba, Chair, Senate Transportation Committee and Rep. Triston Cole, R-Mancelona, Chair, House Transportation and Infrastructure Committee oppose opening PA 51 or any redistribution of the road monies.

HB 4475, sponsored by Rep. Gary Howell, R-Howell has passed the House and awaits action by the Senate Natural Resources Committee. Companion bills SB 302 and SB 303 remain on the House calendar for final action. The bills lift the cap on state land ownership north of the Mason-Arenac line, but would restrict those purchases if payments in lieu of taxes are delinquent on current holdings. Purchases would have to be made in line with the DNR land strategy which would have to be approved by the Legislature. The bills would require notice of purchases and sales to affected local governments and, if 40% of the land in the affected township is already under public ownership, the local government would have opportunity to veto the purchase. The bills also require the DNR to consider public access and recreational use in its land holdings and provide an appeal process if it rejects requests to remove barriers to access state lands.

Legislation to install public oversight boards over the DEQ is being finalized in the Senate. SB 652, 653 & 654 spearheaded by Senator Tom Casperson, R-Escanaba, create a committee to oversee all DEQ rule making and a panel to decide permit application appeals and a board to advise the Governor on environmental policy. Democrats oppose the bills, saying the bills would allow corporations to make decisions about environmental safety in the state.

HB 5752 & 5753, sponsored primarily by Rep. James Lower, R-Cedar Lake attempts to create a Statewide Sanitary Code. Many health departments oppose the bill, the realtors support the bill as inspections at the "point of sale" would not be included. Ralph Bailey, Ken Goike and I attended one work group meeting to discuss points of difference. A lot of work needs to be done before these bills are ready for further discussion by the House Natural Resources Committee.

HB 4438, sponsored by Rep. Tom Barrett, R-Potterville was reported out of the Senate Natural Resources Committee with the understanding that conversations with DEQ, Farm Bureau and MSTA would continue over the points of difference. The plan was to develop language to allow farmers to haul a determined gallons of septage without a DEQ license. Senator Jim Stamas, R-Midland is the "broker" for the "deal". MSTA suggested that a maximum of 300 gallons be allowed, Farm Bureau's number was much higher and Senator Stamas suggested 450 gallons as a compromise. The problem is, MSTA has done all the compromising and the Farm Bureau has consistently resisted any of our many suggestions, the 300 gallons being the last offer. MSTA executive committee has decided to oppose the 450 gallon amendment and continues to oppose the bill. We feel that this bill is and has been about "politics" and getting the sponsor elected to the Senate with a Farm Bureau endorsement and financial support. The DEQ is now neutral on the bill as they gained five minor amendments. The Michigan Environmental Association registered opposition and the migrant workers registered opposition, but that was it. HB 4438 is one of the worse pieces of legislation I have seen in my 35 years of lobbying. The bill puts politics before the health of the people of Michigan and allows farmers yet another exemption.

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3430 Old Lansing Road Lansing, MI 48917 Phone: 517-371-6911 or 800-250-8533 Fax: 517-371-5302 (continued from page 10)

July 2018

The Citizens Research Council of Michigan in a recent study claims the 1992 voter initiated term limits constitutional amendment has failed to broom out career politicians, increase diversity or make more elections competitive. The report contends that the state's term limits, among the shortest in the nation, have not created a "citizen lawmaker" more focused on public policy, but have increased the view by lawmakers of their time in the Michigan House or Senate as a "stepping stone" to higher office. "Term limits have failed to strengthen ties between legislators and their districts or sever cozy relationships between legislators and lobbyists. They have weakened the legislature giving the executive branch and state departments more power."

Lawmakers today, under term limits, are spending more time on activities that could be considered electioneering than was the case before the 1992 limits went into effect. The study was constructed around the question: "Many promises were made by term limit proponents. After more than 20 years how many of those promises have been fulfilled?

The following are some of the promised benefits of term limits that the CRC explored:

---Term limits would provide for self-motivated citizens to go to the state capitol and create laws that they would go back home and live under.

CRC found the reality is that after term limits, more legislators say they were asked to run, and it is more likely that people doing this recruiting are interest groups or political elites. Based on post service interviews, respondents said it is not easy to find willing candidates to run for office, especially if it means derailing their own career for a very brief stint of service.

---Expelling incumbents who were mostly white men, would help women and ethnic minorities win more state legislative seats, thereby diversifying state legislatures.

CRC found that term limits did not create a more diverse legislature.

---Term limits will result in more competitive elections.

The report contends that open seats in a pre-term limited era drew more qualified candidates. In the post-term limits world the frequency of open seats are likely to make it harder to find quality candidates willing to run.

--- A new breed of term limited lawmaker would be more responsible to voters.

The study points out that when legislators voting records are compared with the partisanship of their district, after term limits legislators from both parties became more extreme than their constituents. Compared to their predecessors, Democrats became more liberal and Republicans became more conservative.

---New post term limit lawmakers would rely on different information sources than special interest groups.

The CRC report found that on politically salient issues, such as school choice, interest groups appear to become more influential sources of information after term limits while local sources appear to lose influence in the Senate and colleagues appear to be less important sources of information in the House. Prior to term limits, local sources were mentioned by the largest proportion of representatives and senators.

Questions about the effectiveness of term limits has been raised from the moment they took effect in 1993--limiting House members to three two year terms, Senate members, the governor, the secretary of state and attorney general to two four year terms.

(continued from page 13)

August 2018

The legislature continues to campaign to either retain the majority or attain the majority. Republicans control the House, Senate and the Office of the Governor. Democrats held a slim 20-18 majority in the Senate until 1983 when then Senate Minority Leader, John Engler, R-Mt. Pleasant orchestrated the recall election of Senator Phil Mastin, D-Macomb County and Senator Dave Serokin, D-Macomb County for their support of an income tax hike proposed by then Governor Jim Blanchard.

Democrats have not held the majority in the Senate since 1983. In the House, 55 Republicans and 55 Democrats shared power for some four years with two Speakers of the House. Rep. Curtis Hertel, D-Detroit served as the Democratic Speaker and Rep. Paul Hildegonds, R-Grand Rapids served as the Republican Speaker and alternated serving as speaker of the House on a monthly basis. It was a time when politics were fair and good policy was enacted for the people of Michigan. Today, we have to traverse complex politics and settle for less policy driven issues. This election cycle we lose a minimum 48 House members and 20 Senate members to term limits.

The Senate races to watch include the 24th Senate race being vacated by Senator Rick Jones, R- Grand Ledge with Rep. Tom Barrett, R-Potterville running against Rep. Brett Roberts, R-Charlotte. Political pundits slated Rep. Barrett to have an edge over Rep. Roberts, but that was before Rep. Barrett took a critical vote against big "energy" who have dumped tons of money into the Rep. Roberts campaign making the race neck and neck. The general election will also be dicey as the GOP winner will have to go up against well-known democratic public relations consultant Kelley Rossman who appears to have an unlimited amount of money, has received support from some well-known Republicans and Democrats are working hard to get this seat back. The 35th Senate seat currently held by Senator Darwin Booher, R-Evart is also up for grabs as former Rep. Bruce Rendon, R-Lake City, former Rep. Ray Franz, R-Onekama and Rep. Curt VanderWall, R-Ludington are vying for the seat. Although based on current data the fight here seems to be between Rendon and WanderWall. As Senator Tom Casperson, R-Escanaba is vacating the 38th Senate seat it appears a battle is brewing between businessman Mike Carey and former Rep. Ed McBroom, R-Vulcan on the Republican side. McBroom has the name recognition while Carey seems to have some money. The Republican winner will face well known and well liked Rep. Scott Dianda, D-Calumet in the general election. The candidates in the 38th have been able to keep the campaign "clean"--hats off to them.

As of this writing, Democratic candidate for governor Gretchen Whitmer is up by 27 points over her nearest rival and Republican candidate Bill Schuette is ahead of his closest opponent by 18 points. War hero John James is neck and neck with businessman Sandy Pensler for the GOP bid against US Democratic Senator Debbie Stabenow.

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MSTA PAC Update

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