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CONFERENCE**

October 14-17, 2025
La Crosse Convention Center



AERIAL VIEW OF
VILLAGE OF EDEN WASTEWATER TREATMENT PLANT, EDEN WISCONSIN

The Clarifier

VOL. 260 APRIL 2025

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The Clarifier is the publication of the Wisconsin Wastewater Operators' Association and is intended to inform and educate the membership on issues related to the treatment and control of wastewater. The Clarifier is produced five (5) times each year: February, April, June, September, and December. All members are encouraged to contribute to the mission of the Clarifier.

The Wisconsin Wastewater Operators' Association is a non-profit organization dedicated to educating, informing, and advancing the wastewater profession. WWOA has approximately 2,000 members divided throughout six regions: Southeast, Southern, Lake Michigan, North Central, Northwest, and West Central.

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Presidents message: Spring – A season of renewal and challenges for wastewater operators

Spring is a season of renewal—a time to reset, retool, reevaluate, and sometimes rethink how we approach a problem not just in our everyday lives and our natural environment but also in the wastewater industry. As temperatures rise and daylight stretches longer, operators have an opportunity to assess their systems, refresh maintenance strategies, and prepare for the challenges and opportunities that come with seasonal changes.

One of the biggest concerns this time of year is the impact of snowmelt and spring rains on wastewater treatment facilities. High flows from infiltration and inflow can



damage infrastructure, equipment, and put undue strain on treatment processes. Thus, requiring operators to fine-tune operations, monitor biological activity, and ensure equipment is in peak condition. Spring is also an ideal time to review and practice emergency response plans, optimize nutrient removal strategies, and inspect collection systems for signs of excessive infiltration. There is also the possibility of having to incorporate new sampling and testing parameters and prepare strategies for how the results of these new requirements will affect your plant in the future. There is never a dull moment in an operator's life.

Beyond operational concerns, industry leaders are embracing the season of renewal by focusing on planning the **2025 Annual Conference October 14-17 at the La Crosse Convention Center**. The technical committee and board of directors are hard at work planning an event that will bring together experts, operators, and vendors to discuss emerging technologies, regulatory updates, and

best practices. With innovation and collaboration at the forefront, this year's conference promises to offer valuable insights for wastewater professionals. Please keep an eye on your email for updates on when conference registration opens and plan to attend this year.

2025 has already been a busy year, with successful training sessions, facility tours, and regional meetups strengthening industry connections. Highlighting these sessions, the Government Affairs Seminar and Spring Biosolids Symposium, the committees responsible for these magnificent events did an excellent job bringing together a diverse group of speakers covering many relevant topics. If you have missed any recent events, be sure to check the association's website or the Clarifier for recaps and upcoming training and networking opportunities.

As we welcome the renewal that spring brings, it is a wonderful time to embrace new ideas, refresh our approach to challenges, and prepare for the opportunities ahead. With preparation, collaboration, and ongoing education, wastewater professionals will continue to meet the demands of the season and beyond.

Marc Stephanie

From your Clarifier Team:

We apologize for the delay with the April issue. We encountered a problem with this issue due to lack of content. We strive to produce the best product possible at a reasonable cost. We found it necessary to take additional time to try to find more content to complete the issue. We will try to be better with future issues to minimize any delays.

Clarifier deadlines 2025

Issue	Deadline
June	May 16
September	August 15
December	November 14

Elevating Eden

A new era in wastewater treatment

The Village of Eden is a charming, growing community located just east of I-41 in Fond du Lac County. Eden is home to 965 people and many popular businesses, including the Eden Meat Market, Eden Pet Products, and Kelley's Country Creamery.



Eden's dedicated WWTP staff members:
(l to r) Plant Operator Ed Costello, Lab Analyst Lizzi Guell,
and Groundskeeper Marv Grahl.

Eden's Wastewater Treatment Plant (WWTP) is responsible for providing wastewater treatment services for the Village's households, businesses, and industries. The original trickling filter plant was constructed in 1958, and an activated sludge facility was added in 1981. Many of the plant's original components were still in service and were becoming unreliable. The WWTP was operating at 120% of its 0.15 mgd annual average design flow capacity, and calculations were projecting an additional 22% increase by the Year 2040. Eden Pet Products, a wet food cannery located ½ mile south of the WWTP, was also projecting a 10-15% increase.

WWTP Upgrades

In 2020, Applied Technologies, Inc. completed a Facilities Plan recommending that Eden's WWTP be upgraded to replace aging infrastructure, meet the design year flows and loadings, and ensure compliance with the phosphorus effluent limits set by the Upper Fox and Wolf TMDL. The

continued on page 6

**Congratulations to the Village of Eden
on their WWTP Upgrade!**



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upgraded facility was designed to treat an average flow of 0.22 mgd and 0.88 mgd at peak flow.

Design of the upgrade was completed in 2021, construction was awarded to C.D. Smith in May 2022 and completed at the end of 2023, and startup began in early 2024. Key modifications included the following:

New Headworks Building

A new Headworks Building contains equipment for mechanical screening, influent pumping, influent sampling, and flow monitoring. A new at-grade screening facility located at the head of the plant houses both mechanical and manual bypass bar screens.

Secondary Treatment

The existing tankage for secondary treatment was converted to implement Enhanced Biological Phosphorus Removal (EBPR). For example, the existing primary clarifier was converted into an intermittent mixed anaerobic tank as a first step of EBPR. The existing aerobic digester was converted to provide a second aeration basin, which

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Interior and exterior of the new Headworks Building



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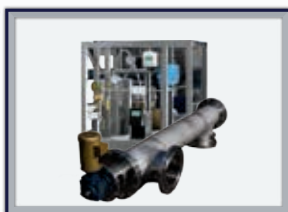
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doubled the WWTP's organic treatment capacity. The aeration basins were outfitted with high-efficiency blowers and new fine bubble diffusers.



Anaerobic tank and aerobic basin

Final Clarification

A new final clarifier was constructed to improve the separation of treated water from sludge, ensuring high-quality effluent discharge. The existing final clarifier was converted into a wastewater holding tank to receive and slowly feed hauled waste into the wastewater treatment process.

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Eden's old trickling filter (top) was demolished and replaced with a new final clarifier (bottom).



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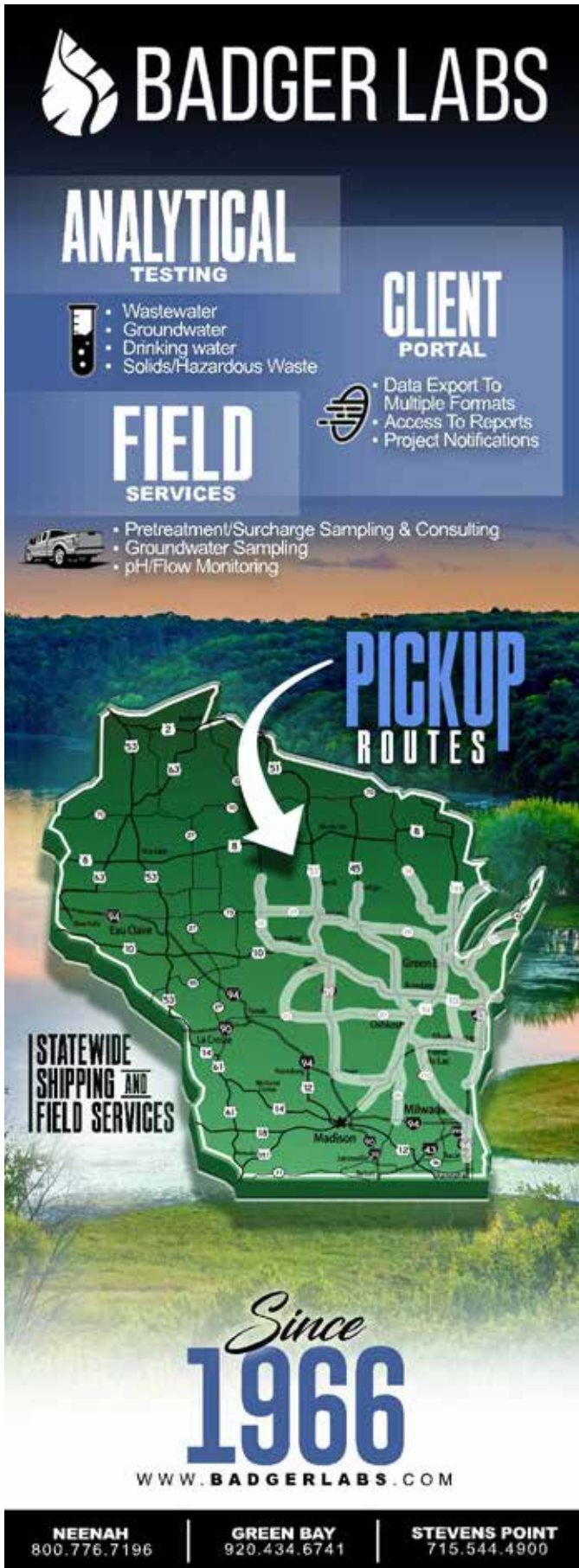
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Hauled Waste Receiving and Holding Tank

A new screen and pit were installed to protect process equipment and accommodate the rapid unloading of trucked-in hauled wastes. Downstream of the hauled waste



New hauled waste receiving station

screen, the existing final clarifier was converted into a holding tank to provide equalization of the rapidly unloaded high-strength wastes.

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Sludge Storage

The existing sludge storage tank had over 400,000 gallons of excess volume, providing 380 days of storage at design year conditions and greatly exceeding the required 180 days. Since it would no longer be used as a seasonal aerobic digester, its aeration system was removed, and mechanical mixing was added.

Funding

The \$5.3 million project was funded through a combination of municipal funds, state grants, and loans. It received significant support from the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources, including a \$1.4 million Principal Forgiveness (PF) grant, a portion of which was a Phosphorus Priority PF grant that covered eligible project costs associated with phosphorus reduction improvements. The final clarifier costs were a critical component of this grant, as they ensured that the facility could achieve the phosphorus limits necessary for compliance.

Key Benefits

- **Doubled Flow Capacity:** The WWTP can now treat 133% more flow than its previous peak day capacity.
- **Improved Water Quality:** EBPR results in cleaner effluent with less chemical addition, benefitting local water bodies and ecosystems.
- **Energy Savings:** Upgraded equipment and systems, such as the aeration blowers and fine bubble diffusers, boost energy efficiency and reduce operational costs and environmental impacts.
- **Reliability and Compliance:** The facility will consistently and reliably meet current and anticipated regulatory requirements.
- **Remote Monitoring:** The Village Superintendent can control the plant from any location.

Thanks to Eden's WWTP Upgrade project, the Village's residents and businesses will continue enjoying reliable, efficient, and sustainable wastewater treatment for decades to come! 🌱

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MORNING SESSION: Collection System Technical Sessions

AFTERNOON SESSION: Vendor and Equipment Displays, Door Prizes, Product Demonstrations

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Platteville hosts March Southern district meeting

The City of Platteville hosted the first Southern District regional WWOA meeting of 2025 on March 6th at the Broske Center by welcoming the 66 guests that attended the event including operators and other industry professionals. There were also 8 vendor exhibits.

Josh Sablam of Brentwood Industries kicked off the day's technical sessions with a presentation on "Fixed Film Systems for Biological Wastewater Treatment". He spoke on the pros and cons of different fixed film systems, as well as when the addition of a fixed film system may be beneficial to your facility. Josh noted that the type of media is also important and has huge impacts on treatment efficiency. Most new systems are going towards a plastic media due to its adaptability in terms of surface area or weight.

Next, Brent Coyner from Chemtrade Logistics, Inc. gave a "hands on" demonstration of chemical phosphorous settling, using jar testing. Brent performed a series of jar tests using wastewater samples from the City of Platteville's plant to show how different chemical dosing rates affected



Brent Coyner of Chemtrade Logistics, Inc. providing a hands on jar testing demonstration

phosphorous settling. During the hands-on demonstration, he was able to show the importance of optimal dosing rates and stressed the fact that "More isn't always better" when it comes to chemical treatment. Due to the wet weather experienced a few days prior to the meeting, attendees

were able to see the impacts that inflow and infiltration can have on a system when it comes to chemical dosing rates. This was a great learning opportunity as it demonstrates how different loadings can dramatically change dosing needs. A final note from Brent, was that dosing rates don't always perfectly translate from jar tests to full scale operation, jar testing can give you a range of potential.

Cody Richie and Tim Holzer of Davy Laboratories gave their presentation on "Lab Sampling Behind the Scenes and Operator Best Practices". They discussed the common issues that they run into when doing contract work with municipalities and industries, and how those issues can be avoided. Often time's problems arise on the chain of custody side, where forms are incorrectly filled out or forgotten about. Understanding hold times and scheduling needs for different sampling parameters can also lead to issues if clients and labs are not on the same page. The DNR places full responsibility on the treatment facility when it comes to properly labeling and handling of samples. They spoke on some of the future tests and testing frequencies that may be coming with new permits as well as where sampling requirements for water testing can be found using the DNR website. <https://apps.dnr.wi.gov/dwsportalpub/DS/Search>

A presentation on lift station maintenance was given by Josh Voigt from Xylem. Josh reminded us of the importance of safety and following "Lock Out Tag Out" procedures, as well as offered several tips to add to preventative maintenance lists when doing station checks.

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Some of these tips include:

Pump fails during cold weather? Common cause is a heater fail in the electrical cabinet.

Are you checking your retrieval equipment routinely? Check balls/arms? Isolation valves? You don't want to wait until an emergency situation to find out you can't easily access your equipment.

Having issues reseating pumps after servicing them? Check the slide bracket. This is a common wear point.

Along with routine pump maintenance, maintaining retrieval equipment, check balls, and exercising valves are also important pieces of a PM plan and are vital during emergency events. Meter checks can be done on the pumps electrical parameters such as the Meg and Ohm values, to verify the health of a pump and can be used as a tool to estimate lifespan of equipment. Knowing the signs to look for is critical when doing PM work.

Caitlyn O'Connell of the DNR gave us updates on the WI DNR Switchboard portal as well as a brief overview of how

to navigate the website. She provided some helpful tips to make Switchboard use, more user friendly.

Joe Thompson, President of the WWOA, Southern District called the business meeting to order. Board members were introduced in their roles for 2025. Joe Thompson as president, Matt Castillo as Vice President, Marc Zimmerman as Treasurer, and Tyler Burbach as Secretary. Marc presented the updated "Treasurer's Report" for the Southern District for approval. Josh Voight also gave an update and reminded everyone of the annual conference taking place October 14-17 in Lacrosse. He encouraged members to find ways to get



Joe Thompson providing the "Southern Region Meeting Host" plaque to Cheryl Cushman of the City of Platteville WRRF

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POP QUIZ!

QUESTION: WHY INSTALL SHINMAYWA CNWX SUBMERSIBLE PUMPS WITH SCROLL IMPELLERS?

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involved, whether through joining the board of a local region or signing up for the operator competition.

The last presentation was provided by Dr. Michael Penn, a professor at the University of Wisconsin-Platteville, who is in charge of the UW Platteville Senior Design Projects. Dr. Penn along with Matt Castillo of MSA, explained how the design program offers a great opportunity to students and “clients” alike. Municipalities and industries can come with an idea for a facility upgrade or need for new technology, and work with a team of students who will research, design and budget out each project. This opportunity provides a “win-win” as it allows for the student design teams to get real world practical experience and show off their skills, as well as “clients” to receive valuable information and can help determine if a project should be pursued. To any company

or municipality interested in participating in the program, we highly encourage you to reach out to Dr. Penn directly at mrpenn@uwplatt.edu.

Matt Castillo ended our day at the Broske Center by giving an overview of the City of Platteville WRRF before heading to their facility for a tour. Platteville’s WRRF is a 2.05 MGD facility with an average flow of just over 1 MGD. Platteville is currently operating off an MDV permit. It is an activated sludge system that also has trickling filters, along with chemical phosphorous removal, chlorine disinfection and sand filtration.

We would like to thank the vendors who attended: Crane engineering, Dorner Company, Energenecs, LAI Ltd., LW Allen, Mulcahy Shaw Water, William/Reed, and Xylem-Flygt. 🌐



*Overhead view of
Platteville WRRF*



*Primary clarifier at
the City of Platteville
WRRF
(Trickling filters in
background)*

*Top side view of the
trickling filter at the
City of Platteville
WRRF*



*Sand filters at the
City of Platteville
WRRF prior to
upgrades*

Sportsman's board



Jeff Simpson 2024 Wild Boar Hunt in Stout, Ohio.
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April 2025 Dept. of Natural Resources update

Clean Water Fund and Facility Plans

Due to the anticipated number of CWFP submittals, if you plan to apply for a CWFP loan for State Fiscal Year 2026 and you have not already done so, please submit your facility plan as soon as possible to ensure the DNR is able to review and approve the plan before the CWFP application deadline. The Department generally reviews proposed facility plan submittals on a first in/first out basis and may not be able to ensure that regulatory review of submittals received later than June 30, 2025 will be completed prior to September 30, 2025. The June 30th date may be adjusted if necessary, depending on workload and staffing, so we strongly recommend proposed facility plans be submitted as soon as possible.

An approved facility plan is a required component for all CWFP applications, regardless of project classification.

Facility Planning Updates

The Department of Administration's Demographic Services

Center recently published updated population projections based on the 2020 Census. Going forward, proposed facility plans must be in conformance with these updated population projections, pursuant to s. NR 110.09 (2)(j)1., Wis. Adm. Code. For questions on the facilities plan requirement, please contact DNR wastewater systems plan review staff.

Updated DOA population projections can be found: https://doa.wi.gov/Pages/LocalGovtsGrants/Population_Projections.aspx

CMOM and CMAR:

CMARs will be released April 30th and an email will be sent out to permittees letting them know they can access the form.

CMARs are due June 30, 2025. Be sure to leave time for a resolution or Owner's statement to occur prior to submission!

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Coming Soon: Online Data and Pay Portal

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More information can be found here: Compliance Maintenance Annual Report (CMAR) | Wastewater Treatment Works Compliance Maintenance program | Wisconsin DNR

Facilities should be sure a documented update of your CMOM is occurring each year.

EPA Technical Assistance Program

EPA's Water Technical Assistance Program aims to assist wastewater, drinking water, and stormwater utilities and local government with identifying water challenges, planning for solutions, building technical, financial, and managerial capacity, and developing application materials for funding. Interested communities can find more information here: <https://www.epa.gov/water-infrastructure/water-technical-assistance-waterta> and the technical assistance request form here: <https://www.epa.gov/water-infrastructure/forms/water-technical-assistance-request-form>. Please reach out to your basin engineer with questions.

Coming Soon – My Wisconsin ID And Multi-Factor Authentication For SWIMS System

As a reminder, SWIMS is switching to a new login system called MyWisconsin ID on May 13, 2025. This move will improve security when accessing state government systems.

Some state systems will transition to using MyWisconsin ID sooner than others. In the meantime, you may need a WAMS ID for some systems, and a MyWisconsin ID for others.

Register For A MyWisconsin ID

You can set up you MyWisconsin ID and multi-factor authentication (MFA) preferences now to ensure a smoother experience once the move to MyWisconsin ID has occurred.

Details and a step-by-step guide are available on the Department of Administration's **MyWisconsin ID Self Registration webpage.**

Note: Some customers may already have a MyWisconsin ID due to other state business. An individual person only needs one MyWisconsin ID to access systems at both the DNR and other Wisconsin state agencies.

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Tips For Successful Registration

- Registration is time-sensitive. Once the base information is entered, registration must be completed within 2 hours (including MFA setup).
- A specific MyWisconsin ID is for an individual person, not a facility or company and should NEVER be used by others.
- Because multi-factor authentication is used, the MyWisconsin account cannot be shared with others – all users must have their own account.

What Happens Next?

Once we have completed the move to MyWisconsin ID for SWIMS, we will provide a final email with instructions about logging in.

Recognize individuals in this amazing profession!

It is important to elevate and to help advance our profession and the people that work in it! One way to do that is to recognize those around us that have made a difference. So many people in this organization work so hard to help others, without expectation of any recognition. Yet, being recognized is an overwhelming experience as the individual comes to realize that their efforts have been noticed by their peers. Receiving an award in front of one's peers at the annual awards banquet is both a humbling and pinnacle moment for recipients.

It's often hard to determine who exactly deserves one of the WWOA awards because so many individuals are deserving. I encourage you to take a look at the lists of past winners of these awards (WWOA Annual Awards page www.wwoa.org/events-awards/annual-awards), and then consider individuals that meet the award criteria that have yet to be recognized.

It is time to start filling out the nomination papers for the Annual Conference Awards. Please take the 5 minutes to nominate someone today. There are many people in our industry that are deserving of these awards.

We are looking for nominees for the following awards:
ASSOCIATION AWARDS (Note: WWOA Board members are not eligible for these awards)

George F. Bernauer Award: Criteria include successful plant performance, and/or successful solution of important or complicated operational problems, and/or outstanding contributions in the field of wastewater technology in the State of Wisconsin. The nominee may be a municipal,

Questions?

- Visit the MyWisconsin FAQ webpage for answers to common questions or contact the MyWisconsin account service desk at 608-471-6667.

Contact DNRSWIMS@wisconsin.gov for support with the SWIMS system.

Wastewater and Drinking Water reporting is still using WAMS Switchboard but will be switching over at some point in the future. Please keep an eye out for emails with updates regarding the switch. The Switchboard Log In website will also list what systems have switched over: Switchboard Log In Options || Wisconsin DNR 📧

industrial, or institutional operator, administrator, or educator in Wisconsin. It is not limited to WWOA members.



Koby Crabtree Award: Presented to a WWOA member for excellence in technical support provided to others in the field of wastewater treatment. The individual should be a recognized authority in some aspect of wastewater, share knowledge through presentation, contribute to problem solving, and provide service regardless of compensation.



Albers-Templeton Service Award: Presented to a person who has made an outstanding contribution to the WWOA in the areas of promotion, operation, management, program

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participation, or education. The nominee must be an active member of WWOA for a period of ten years.

Newcomer of the Year Award: Recognizes an operator, support staffer, or environmental technician with less than three years of experience as of August 1st of the year nominated. The nominee should demonstrate higher than average growth in their place of employment, a willingness to learn, innovation on the job, and exceptional enthusiasm for their profession. The nominator should be a supervisor, manager, peer, coworker, or DNR personnel familiar with the day-to-day efforts of the nominee. WWOA membership is not required, and a two-year membership or renewal is included in the award.



Membership Award: Presented to the WWOA member who sponsors the most new WWOA memberships.

REGIONAL AWARDS

Regional Operator of the Year Awards: Given out to someone who has demonstrated excellent plant performance, and/or successful solution to a problem, and/or contributions to the wastewater field. It is open to Wisconsin Certified operators of municipal, industrial, or institutional wastewater treatment facilities.

This award is not just limited to actual plant operators, but is open to those working in a variety of areas, including biosolids, collections, engineering, lab operations, maintenance, etc. The nominee must be at least a five-year member of WWOA.

The nomination form and instructions for all the awards can be found on the WWOA website www.wwoa.org/events-awards/annual-awards. Please note, the Regional Operator of the Year Award nominations should be submitted to the Regional officers listed on the nomination form by

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July 22, 2025. All other awards need to be submitted by August 5, 2025 for consideration.

Feel free to contact me if you would like any further information on the awards, the nomination procedure, or if you have a question if a potential nominee meets specific award criteria.

Thank you in advance for taking the time and effort to nominate individuals and allowing WWOA to recognize these deserving recipients!

Sincerely,
Ben Brooks

Awards Committee Chair



WWOA helps fund your goals

The purpose of tuition aid is to encourage the continued education of members of WWOA through the attendance at advanced seminars related to wastewater treatment or for credit courses taken at a technical school or college while working towards a degree related to the wastewater/water industry.

One type of tuition aid offered is a \$1000 reimbursement for courses taken related to a member's career in wastewater. Applications are due in June and the award checks are sent out on in September. A member may apply for this reimbursement one time per year.

The second type of tuition aid is a \$250 payment available at the beginning of each year. This type of aid is meant to provide funds to a member whose employer may not cover certain training costs. This aid will be awarded as needed any time after the 1st of the year.

The application for both of these types of tuition aid is available on the WWOA website. Questions can be e-mailed to scholarships@wwoa.org

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Any student—regardless of future plans—can benefit from an apprenticeship. It's a powerful model of education that reveals multiple options to careers and higher education. Youth Apprenticeship (YA) is a 1 or 2-year program that gives juniors and seniors in high school the chance to explore a career area of interest. Students spend part of their school day earning credit and wages while they gain valuable industry experience under the guidance of a local business mentor.

Every Youth Apprentice student that successfully completes the career path program requirements will earn an Occupational Skills Proficiency Certification. This certification verifies that they have gained the skills, knowledge, and experience necessary to be successful in their chosen industry within the state of Wisconsin.

There are some requirements for an employer to be involved in the YA program. The youth apprenticeship is a paid position that must meet minimum wage. There is a minimum of 450 hours that must be achieved throughout

the summer and the corresponding school year. Of the 450, 200 hours can be counted in the summer toward the YA. Students continue the remaining 250 hours throughout the school year so schedule flexibility can play a role in meeting that requirement. These are all discussions to be had with the representative in your area as well as the student and school staff.

WWOA is partnering with Inspire WI to promote our membership's opportunities for employment, education, and involvement with local students. Inspire WI works in unison with CESA, they promote the industry to aid in that connection between students, educators, and our incredible career pathways. This network puts our industry in touch with interested people we may not have had a chance to reach and it does this through a few clicks of a mouse at any



time.

Through this partnership, WWOA members can be visible and engaged. This can be a proactive approach for future vacancies or provide an opportunity to fill a seasonal role and at the same time provide that experience to hopefully promote a desire to continue in our field, either through education or a career.

For more information or to get started, go to

Upcoming meeting dates

June 5

Classic Collection System Seminar

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North Central region summer meeting

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South East regional meeting

July 24

Northwoods Collection Seminar

August 12

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I bet every operator has that one innovative idea that he or she uses almost everyday. Operators are some of the smartest and most innovative people I know. Maybe it is something you do to help with the treatment process.



Maybe it is something you do to make maintenance easier. No matter what it is, your fellow operators want to hear your ideas. Maybe something you do might help someone else.

Here what I want you to do – email me your idea. Or you can call. I'll draft a short article on your behalf about your idea. You approve the article, and we'll include it in an issue of the Clarifier. What could be easier?

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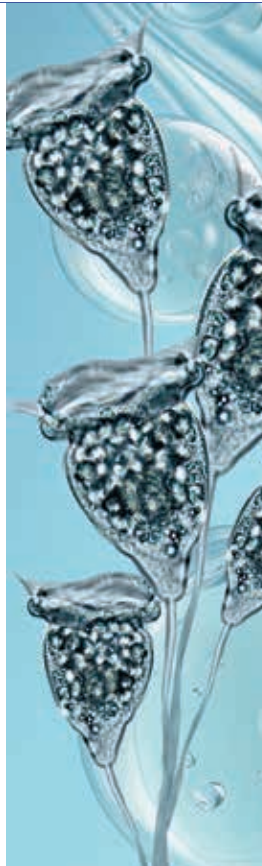
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Scholarships available through WWOA

Several scholarships are awarded each year to assist full time students enrolled in degree programs relating to the field of wastewater treatment and waster resource management.

A college or university student can submit one application packet in order to be considered for all of the available scholarships. If the student is selected for more than one opportunity, the scholarship committee will recommend the student receive the scholarship of greatest dollar value.

Annual application deadline for all scholarships is July 1.

The scholarship program has grown over the years due to the increasing demand for professionals in the wastewater treatment field and the dedication of those sponsoring scholarships.

Member partner Crane Engineering generously sponsors a \$2000 scholarship each year.

WWOA North Central Region is sponsoring the \$2000 Ryan Giefer Memorial Scholarship

Member partner North Central Laboratories generously sponsors one \$5000 scholarship annually. The NCL scholarship is paid out over two academic years. (\$2500 the first year, and \$2500 the second year)

WWOA sponsors three \$2000 scholarships annually.

The WWOA is now offering a scholarship for students enrolled in a degree or certificate program in the field of wastewater treatment or water resource management. This is a \$1000 scholarship and is available to full and part-time students.

Please direct any questions to: scholarships@wwoa.org

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