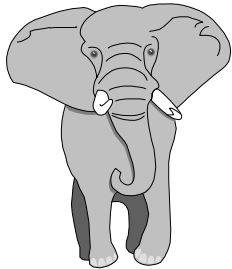


## ***The Chair's Corner***

“Taking a Bite out of the Environmental Elephant”, By Kevin Ovard



Once upon a time there were seven men, blind from birth. Because of their lifelong disability, they had never seen an elephant. As they grew older, they wished that they could at least touch an elephant and get a “feel” for what an elephant could look like. Their wish was granted and an experienced elephant handler presented to them an elephant to “feel”. The first man reached up and pulled the swishing tail of the elephant and declared that the elephant, “must be like a snake because the elephant felt long and rope like. The second man disagreed with the first as he felt the leg and said that it was, “like a tree, round and stout”. The third man having felt the side of the elephant, told the other two men how very wrong they were and described the side of a building as he felt the elephant broad sides. The fourth, fifth, sixth, and seventh man described something different as they each felt a different part of the elephant. This caused a great argument and much concern among these great “blind men”.

As members of the Air Waste and Management Association sometimes we look at the environmental issues as did the “blind men” in our story. Our backgrounds in legal, compliance, industry, education, consulting, and interested parties “feel” a piece of the environmental elephant and declare it to be this way or that. Often we may come to a difference of opinion concerning how we interpret the environmental issues we “feel”. Because of our interests we “see” things through a particular prospective, and we may not see the entire elephant for what it really is. An elephant to a blind man is a conglomerate of tree stumps, snakes, and walls. Yet we know that an elephant when put together is a single item of some complexity yet able to be moved by an experienced handler. The same thing applies to the environmental elephant we deal with within our professions. Alone we may see the immovable laws, twisting guidelines, or the impassible walls that seem to block our progress.

You may have also heard the thought, “how do you eat an elephant”? The answer is “One Bite at a Time”. As an association with a great membership, we should regard the elephant as opportunity to combine all the individual parts of industry, regulatory, legal, education, consulting and others into a single entity and work toward a common goal of taking a Bite out of the Environmental Elephant.

We need your help from “feeling” your individual responsibilities to helping all of us understand what OUR elephant looks like. With the great mix of professionals in this association we should be able to take on the environmental elephant to benefit the individual as well the whole. Each of us brings a certain experience in handling the environmental elephant. I hope that by the end of my term as Chair of the association, we have taken steps to harness this broad experience and have taken several bites out of the elephant.

### ***The Chair's Corner (continued)***

To harness this vast experience we need you to be part of your network, we need your problems, and especially we need your solutions. We have some great activities planned for this year. Your participation is vital. We have more activities to plan but we need you to tell us what you see as the elephant in your neighborhood. We invite you to participate in board meetings, presentations, suggesting of topics of discussion, we need speakers, and facilities for tours, but most of all we need to have FUN.

As we move into this New Year, we want this association to be what you want it to be. We want to help YOU, we want YOU to get to know us, and we want to be here for YOU.

Anybody ready for lunch?

### ***Changing of the Guard***

We would like to thank the efforts of the following Board members who have completed their terms, for their tireless service and support over the years of their involvement:

- Russ Christensen, Geneva Steel, who remained active this past year in his position of Past Chair, after serving as Chair in 2003, and
- Renee Zollinger, Kleinfelder, Inc., who greatly contributed to Board planning activities and as Secretary, thoroughly captured Board activities in the meeting minutes.

Thanks to Mike Tomko, Parsons, Behle, and Latimer, for his guidance this past year as Chair; Mike plans to remain active in Board activities in his new role as Past Chair in the coming year. Kevin Ovard, Holcim, has enthusiastically begun to fill his new position as Chair after serving the past year as Vice Chair.

We extend special welcomes to our new Vice Chair, David Jelmini of Holly Refining & Marketing Co, and to Regg Olsen of the State of Utah Division of Air Quality, who was selected to fill the position of Board Secretary.

### ***Recap of Major 2004 Chapter Events***



Approximately twenty members enjoyed a tour of Holly Refining and Marketing Company's Woods Cross Refinery on October 5, 2004. The Woods Cross refinery is one of five such refineries in Utah, and has a crude oil capacity of 25,000 barrels per day. During the tour, Holly's Mike Astin provided a highly informative summary of the regulatory drivers behind

## ***Recap of Major 2004 Chapter Events (continued)***

desulfurization, and the actions Holly is taking to meet new regulatory requirements. Holly is finalizing its clean fuels strategy for the Woods Cross Refinery, which will be required to address mandated lower sulfur content in on-road diesel fuel by June 1, 2006. The refinery is currently meeting the applicable new low-sulfur gasoline requirements that commenced in 2004.

Earlier in the year, on March 30, approximately sixty members and invited guests from industry, consulting, state government and academia participated in GBC's annual dinner at the Salt Lake Center Hilton. EPA Region 8 Administrator, Robert Roberts, attended and provided a speech to dinner participants on "Energy and the Environment". As always, the food was excellent and the event presented an opportunity for members to spend time getting to know one another, discuss their interests or work-related issues, and simply network in a relaxed atmosphere.

On August 31, 2004, GBC hosted its annual luncheon at The Point, located at the Huntsman Cancer Institute. Vickie Varela, Vice President of Public Policy with the Kennecott Land Company, was the featured speaker. Ms. Varela spoke on the subject of Kennecott's Daybreak Development, which is designed to incorporate the concepts of smart growth and sustainable development while addressing issues such as transportation and integration into the larger community along the Wasatch Front.

## ***Audio + Web Conferences***



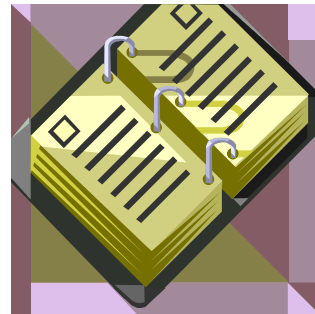
The GBC sponsored two web casts this past year. On July 27, 2004, "Clearing the Air – NSR Reform Update" was graciously hosted by Battelle in their West Valley office. On August 25, 2004, Kleinfelder hosted a web cast on the Ozone 8-hour standard.

We will continue to keep members informed via email and the GBC web site for any future GBC sponsored web casts.

## ***Upcoming Events***

Mark your calander for the following events being planned for 2005:

- **Thursday, February 24<sup>th</sup> – Luncheon at the Huntsman Cancer Hospital, with Speaker Joe Majestic, EG&G Deputy General Manager of the Tooele Chemical Agent Disposal Facility (for details contact Judy Moran at 801-585-1617 or [judy.moran@ehs.utah.edu](mailto:judy.moran@ehs.utah.edu)).**



### ***Upcoming Events (continued)***

- **Thursday, April 21<sup>st</sup> – Annual Dinner with guest speaker Leigh VonderEsch, Utah Film Commission**
- **Thursday, June 16<sup>th</sup> – Luncheon, including roundtable discussion on alternatives for achieving environmental performance with guest speaker John Harrison, Professor, Utah State University**
- **Thursday, August 25<sup>th</sup> – Luncheon, speaker to be determined**
- **Thursday, October 27<sup>th</sup> – Tour of Devil’s Slide Cement Plant**

Watch your email inbox and updates on the GBC website for notices and details on the above activities. If you have questions in advance, please do not hesitate to contact our Programs Director, Judy Moran, at 801-585-1617, or [judy.moran@ehs.utah.edu](mailto:judy.moran@ehs.utah.edu).

### ***Membership Update***



The Great Basin Chapter of AWMA is one of the largest Chapters in the country. We currently have nearly 90 members. Our members represent state and local government, consulting engineers, industry, environmental service providers and local universities. Membership benefits include networking opportunities, great industry tours, luncheon and dinner functions, and the sharing of ideas on current technical issues. We encourage you to keep your membership current by registering via the Internet at [www.awma.org](http://www.awma.org). Annual memberships start at \$165 for professionals and just \$30 for students. Most companies will reimburse their employees for the registration expense. Please sign up and encourage your co-workers and professional associates to join our Chapter. We also encourage you and your organization to consider an “organizational membership”. If there are any questions, please contact Glenn Roberts, Membership Director for the Great Basin Chapter, at 801-904-4000 or [Glenn\\_Roberts@urscorp.com](mailto:Glenn_Roberts@urscorp.com).

### ***Financial Update***

GBC Treasurer George Wilkerson, is pleased to report that the Chapter assets are at their highest levels in three years. Due to dramatic financial improvement, the National office of the A&WMA recently repaid a financial assistance loan to the Great Basin Chapter two years ahead of schedule. This year’s strong financial position has allowed the GBC to contribute toward three \$1000 student scholarships, which will be awarded early in 2005.



## Chapter Education Initiatives



The Great Basin Chapter is continuing this year with initiatives focused on the educational community; both at the high school and college level. A scholarship program will be offered once again this year to college-level students focusing their careers in the environmental arena. Applications will be available on our Chapter web site later this year. Please get the word out to any students you know who might be interested!

Also, as we did last year, the Chapter will be supporting State regional high school science fairs this coming spring by providing judges. **Volunteers are needed to support this very worthwhile activity.** Based upon feedback from last year's volunteers, the ability to interact with these motivated and talented students can be extremely rewarding. The science fairs will be taking place this year during the month of March. The tentative dates are: March 12 at Southern Utah University; March 18 at the University of Utah; March 24 at Weber State; and March 31 at BYU. If you are interested in volunteering to be a judge, or if you have questions regarding any of our education initiatives, please contact Deanna Anderson at 801-957-4650 or via email at [deanna.anderson@slcc.edu](mailto:deanna.anderson@slcc.edu).

## Web Site Enhancements



Have you logged on recently to our Chapter web site? If so, you may have noticed that we have added a new feature available to our members for posting job announcements. We felt that assisting members in obtaining qualified candidates for open positions, as well as potentially getting connected for future employment, was something our members would like as a service.

Is your current email address on file with us? In these fast-paced times where everything is "e-Something" the GBC Board relies heavily on communicating via email. Recently we have discovered that not all email addresses are up-to-date. If you know your email is going to change, please let us know and we will update it on our membership web page and on our distribution lists. You can reach our Communications Director, Elizabeth Lowes at 435-833-7832, or via email at [ealowes@egginc.com](mailto:ealowes@egginc.com). Please don't forget to utilize the GBC chapter web site located at [www.metsolutions.com/awma](http://www.metsolutions.com/awma) or link to it from [www.awma.org](http://www.awma.org). If you have questions, suggestions, problems, or just feel like sending a message to the GBC board, click "contact GBC" link and send us a message. Thank you!

