Farewell President’s Message

By Roy Van Houten

Well the winter finally came to an end, spring has sprung and summer is rapidly approaching! With the change of the seasons the MAC also has a change in President’s. I am proud to announce that Mr. John Peterson has taken over the reins and is now Your New MAC IECA president!

I am proud to have served as the MAC IECA President for the past two years. I faced many unique challenges along the way and at times it was a bumpy road, but do to the patience, guidance and assistance of all the MAC IECA Board members it was an educational and rewarding experience. The commitment and dedication of the MAC Board is second to none and I personally thank each and every board member for helping along the way!

I, along with a few other board members was fortunate enough to be able to attend the IECA EC11 Conference in sunny Orlando, Florida this past February. The conference was well attended and had a wide variety of vendors, presentations and classes for attendees to choose from. Next year’s conference EC12 will be held in Sin City….Las Vegas, Nevada! If you have not been to an IECA conference in a few years I would highly recommend attending EC12, the IECA Board is planning a conference that I think all will be impressed with.

The MAC Board, lead by Mr. Charles Riling is gearing up for our annual conference which will be held September 20-22 at the Embassy Suites in beautiful Charleston, West Virginia. If you would be interested in helping out organizing the conference or be interested in presenting or exhibiting please contact Mr. Riling at Charlie.R.Riling@wv.gov. Also, if you have any topics of interest that you would like to presented on contact your state representative and we will see if we can get a speaker to present on the topic!

As in years past the CPESC, CPSWQ and CESSWI review courses and exams are all being made available to attendees. You must be pre-approved by the Certification Committee before you will be allowed to sit for any of the exams. If you wish to take the CPESC, CPSWQ, or CESSWI you can get information on the application process at www.envirocert.org. Now is the time to get your applications filed out and submitted if you wish to sit for the any of the exams!

Thank you again for all your support over the past two years! I look forward to seeing everyone in Charleston in September. My contact information is (703) 679-5631 or by e-mail at ryanhouten@wetlandstudies.com, so if you are ever need anything please do not hesitate to contact me.

Cheers!
Roy
President Peterson’s Palaver

As I write this first message for our MAC year 2011, let e start by congratulating past president Roy Van Houton and the officers for the tremendous job they have done for the past 2 years. I’m prejudiced I know, but I believe the Mid-Atlantic Chapter has had the best and most loyal corps of officers, directors and volunteers in all of IECA, and we continue to welcome new and younger members into our ranks. Roy and his crew continued that tradition. Our MAC is also one of IECA’s most decorated chapters having earned many outstanding chapter awards over the years. It is humbling and an honor to serve as the MAC president for 2011. Why this title for the article? “Palaver” as a verb means to speak or have a discussion. The other two “P’s” just seemed to complete it.

Like many of you I remember the very first session at a North American IECA conference when we had our very first MAC organizational meeting. Other prospective chapters did the same. While we have always argued in a friendly way with our Western Chapter friends, I think the MAC was actually the first “chartered” IECA chapter. Western may have started out ahead of us, but I think we cleared our paperwork first. Eric Beuhl from DE was our first chapter president, and I was on the IECA Board at the time. Eric stepped down shortly after that meeting when he changed jobs. Our very first MAC conference and trade show was in Williamsburg, VA in 1994, and we could be back there for our 20th anniversary in 2013. How far have we come? Our conferences have matured until today they are among the best of any chapter in IECA. We have conducted some very successful workshops in our states over the years, and we need to get back to doing that. We have some workshop plans for 2011 that I hope work out. We have one of the best scholarship programs in IECA. We became IECA’s first “sister chapter” for a fledgling chapter in another country, when we adopted the Indian Chapter in 2005. They have been superb partners and we need to reestablish our close contact. We may be one of the most financially sound chapters in IECA. Our members and officers have always managed chapter affairs using proper business practices. In fact, I only remember one activity that we have done over all these years that didn’t work out, and that was a session in Roanoke many years ago where we had more speakers than attendees. Let me tell you, we all learned from that experience and have never allowed it to happen again. Some of my older colleagues remember it. We have always supported the Envirothon in our states. We have carried IECA’s flag to other organizations by traveling with our MAC exhibit to their conferences. And I won’t mention chasing the borrowed beer keg’s down the hall in those early years (Tommy). But enough reminiscing, 2011 is here.

Our chapter challenges for 2011 are significant. The economy is still in the doldrums, which has certainly affected membership. That cannot keep us from working at recruiting new members. What we (and IECA) have to offer in the way of continuing education is needed by the entire industry. I mentioned workshops. I surely hope we are able to conduct a one-day workshop with at least one conservation district or another partner in 2011. We are talking with a VA SWCD now and it looks promising. It would be nice if we could have more than one workshop in a state in 2011. Doing so would also help our membership. We talked about this at Front Royal. If any of you have a potential workshop partner in your state, please let us know and we will work with them. Past MAC President and current IECA Board Member Charlie Riling has already made the arrangements for our 18th Environmental Conference and Trade Exposition at the Embassy Suites in Charleston, WV for Sept. 20-22, 2011. Mark those dates on your calendar now, and let’s support our Mountaineer colleagues who have really supported us over the years. This will be our first-ever-annual conference in WV. Our 2011 scholarship program and Envirothon involvement is already underway and will again be a success.

So 2011, like every year, will challenge us to do well. Our MAC Chapter has always risen to the challenge. I have no doubt that with our dedicated members, directors and officers, we will again. What might be some attainable chapter goals in 2011? Here are some ideas for starters:

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President Peterson’s Palaver cont.

- Work with a partner organization such as a SWCD and hold at least one workshop in a MAC state (VA is a target right now).
- Conduct another successful annual conference and exposition, our 18th, in Charleston, WV, Sep. 20-22, 2011.
- Work hard to increase conference attendance by 10% over 2010.
- Conduct another successful MAC scholarship program.
- Provide “Envirothon” support to the state where we hold our annual conference, WV in 2011.
- Increase MAC membership by 15 members.
- Have our MAC exhibit at 5 partner meetings or functions in 2011. Roy, Jason and all of you have done a great job in this regard in past years.
- Increase communications with our sister chapter in India. If we learn that an Indian Chapter member will be in the US, invite them to visit or tour with us. If they are here during one of our events, provide them a complimentary attendance.
- Compete well in the IECA Chapter “Partners for Excellence” competition once again. Winning in this competition has been a MAC tradition. We intend to compete strongly every year.
- Review, revise, and update our Chapter bylaws.

“Like a Rock”

Rob Lawson – Election Committee

It is hard for me to describe our new board this way when I constantly preach replacing rock with “soft” engineering practices, but in this case it holds true! Bob Seeger and Chevrolet would be proud of the rock solid foundation of our new board. First let me thank everyone serving on last year’s board with their dedication and support, especially the leadership and guidance of our past president Roy Van Houten. In these lean times everyone is asked to do more with less at their work and so the unselfish job everyone on the board performs is a testimonial to their integrity and character. Having said that, let’s please recognize the ever so significant services of 1st VP - Sheaffer, 2nd VP - Craig Metzgar, Secretary - John Gonzalez and Treasurer - Scott Keefer for an outstanding job in 2010.

Our new 2011 executive board will be: President – John Peterson
1st V.P. – Robert Pickett
2nd V.P. – Craig Metzgar
Secretary – John Gonzalez
Treasurer – Scott Keefer

This truly is a board of expertise, knowledge and experience...a winning combination! Although John Peterson just turned 50... (our secret John!) his vast experience and accreditations will surely take this chapter to new heights. Let’s extend a special new executive welcome to Robert Pickett. Please take the time to thank each of these long standing board members individually for their service and dedication. I look forward to another exciting year in the industry we chose for our professions and that holds a special place in all of our lives! Holding to tradition, I cannot close without this invitation; “become active in our chapter, whether running for a board position or steering a committee, and experience the feeling of contributing to our greater cause and investing in self gratification”.

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IECA’S NEW LEADERSHIP

During the 42nd annual IECA’s conference and expo held in Orlando, Fl., February 20-23, 2011, the Board of Directors installed Beth Chesson as a new director. Beth began her 3 year term at this meeting. In addition, the IECA Board elected it’s leadership for the 2011 year.

Mr. Phil Handley of the South Central Chapter was elected as the new President. Assuming the position of Administrative Vice President is Brock Peters of the Great Rivers Chapter. Charles Riling of the Mid-Atlantic Chapter is the new Technical Vice President. Julie Etra of the Western Chapter and Tom Williams of the Mountain States Chapter retained their positions of International Vice President and Marketing Vice President respectively. Sandy Matthews of the Western Chapter remained the Secretary while Beth Chesson of the Southeast Chapter is the new Treasurer. Lee Johnson of the Mountain States Chapter and Rick Morse of the Australasia Chapter remain on the Board as Directors.

Mike Chase of the Western Chapter will continue his involvement on the Board as ex-officio board member as immediate past president.

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and their efforts

in erosion control, soil conservation and education.

All our wishes to a wonderful future!

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Almost Heaven in 2011

by: Charlie Riling

John Denver knew all about the secrets when he had his hit song “Take Me Home, Country Roads”. As the song starts out “Almost Heaven West Virginia, it will be my pleasure to welcome the MAC’s 18th Annual Conference, Workshop & Trade Show back to West Virginia after seven long years since we last meet in Martinsburg. It is time to show you a different part of the state and the city I call home.

The conference will be held at the Embassy Suites in downtown Charleston, West Virginia. The dates are September 20-22, 2011. As usual, we will start off on the 20th with our annual golf outing followed by the “Exhibitors Social” later that evening. The conference will commence on the 21st and we will offer two days stuffed with technical sessions to broaden ones knowledge and plenty of time to take in the trade show to see what the latest line of products are available.

EnviroCert International certification review classes (CPESC, CPSWQ, CESSWI, CEMS4S) will be held on the 22nd with the 23rd set aside for the certification exams. If you wish to take one of the certification exams, please contact EnviroCert at least two months in advance to ensure that you have been approved to sit for the exam.

The SOIL Fund is a charitable arm of the IECA that was developed with the vision to further the utilization of erosion and sediment control practices to improve the lives of those impacted by the process. The goals develop by the fund and shown on the web page www.ieca.org/soil/soilhome.asp are: 1) To fund research that advances our knowledge of the impacts of erosion and the techniques to control it. 2) To fund erosion control education and applied technology. 3) To fund projects that improves the lives of those impacted by erosion and sediment.

The Mid-Atlantic Chapter at its March 9, 2011 Board of Directors tele-conference voted to donate $1000 dollars to the SOIL Fund and to lay down a challenge to all other Chapters within IECA to match or better this donation. It is easy to make a donation. All you have to do is go to the above web page and you can make the donation online in a matter of a couple of minutes. I encourage all individuals to make a donation. You are not only supporting a worthy cause, it is a tax deductible donation.
MAC explores SOIL project with sister chapter in India

John Peterson, president, VA, DC, MAC Director

How many MAC Chapter members know that since 2005 our MAC Chapter has been a Sister Chapter to a new IECA Chapter formed in India? That close relationship grew out of friendships developed at IECA North American Conferences with IECA members from India, Australia, and the U.S. In 2004, current MAC president and past IECA president John Peterson was invited to India by a close friend, Mr. C.R.R. Varma, at one time an IECA Honorary International Director who served on the IECA Board with John. To make a long story short, that visit resulted in a number of India IECA members electing to start an India IECA Chapter, and our MAC offering to be a sister chapter offering our friends in India whatever help and support we could provide. That was also another IECA first as John suggested the notion of India having the MAC as a sister chapter, the MAC agreed, so did IECA, and the rest is history. C.R. Devaraj, president of Charankattu Coir-India, from Shertallay, Kerala State, India, became the India Chapter’s president. Australian IECA member Doug Wimble is also part if this story. Doug was with John and Varma in India and was IECA president at the time. He was always very supportive of this relationship, and Doug was also a principal in getting IECA to set up its SOIL (Save Our International Land) fund inaugurated in 2008. Other IECA chapters now also serve as sister chapters to chapters just getting started.

The SOIL fund exists to provide a permanent source of funding for programs and projects that improve environmental quality through education, research and applied technology. The SOIL fund is now 3 years old, and has already assisted with some small projects that have made a difference in the lives of people around the world. Examples are the Tsuraku Project in Ecuador, which focused on bringing clean water to a community of over 40 families and a revegetation project on Easter Island. Noted Actor Jim Sicking (among his many credits - Hill Street Blues, Doogie Howser, M.D, etc.) serves as the public face of SOIL. By the way, any of you can contribute to the SOIL fund. Just ask John, Charlie or Roy how. This fund extends the reach of IECA members to affect real change in our world by providing some funding to start worthwhile projects.

Now fast-forward to 2011. Wimble, who still serves on the SOIL Fund Committee, asked John if the MAC might work with the India Chapter and see if a small project from India might be appropriate for consideration by the SOIL Fund Committee. John contacted Devaraj and Devaraj immediately suggested two small projects in the Tamil Nadu State in India.

One project would help rural women needing a livelihood make coir hand knotted fishing nets with coir yarn. This effort could result in giving 100-200 women employment. The women would be trained and in a regular production setting each could earn up to 125 Rupees/day, about $3.00 US. A second possibility would be to work with local people in Tamil Nadu and use coir logs for the growth of mangroves and to control sea erosion. Both these projects need more specific activities defined, but they sound like the kind of thing the SOIL fund might take on.

John, Charlie and Roy attended sessions on the SOIL fund while at EC11 in Orlando. They have SOIL project proposal forms and the MAC will work with our friends in India and submit a formal proposal. For this small project, maybe all MAC need to do is assist India IECA in applying for the funds. The work would be done on the ground with the oversight and support of India IECA Chapter members. From small steps like these, over time IECA, MAC and other IECA chapters are making a difference.
WALNUT BROOK RIPARIAN RESTORATION

By: Grace Messinger, NJ Resource and Development Council

A model approach to restoring stream corridors in urbanizing areas

The Walnut Brook Riparian Restoration Project is an excellent example of an effort that incorporated innovative stream channel stabilization measures, a large riparian buffer restoration and enhancement component, and floodplain management through wetland creation. A project of this magnitude could only be accomplished through the dedication and cooperation of an extensive network of private and public entities, as well as, volunteers committed to the health of the local ecosystem.

Planning for the project began in 2004 when the North Jersey RC&D, a regional nonprofit which has completed numerous stream restoration projects, saw an opportunity to address the impaired water quality of the Neshanic River. Partners were brought on board early in the process including the Natural Resources Conservation Service, Princeton Hydro, Raritan Township, Hunterdon Land Trust Alliance, Hunterdon County Soil Conservation District, NJ Water Supply Authority and South Branch Watershed Association. Significant funding ($692,260) was obtained from the New Jersey Wetland Mitigation Council and the NJ Department of Environmental Protection.

The initial goals and objectives of the project were to restore the floodplain from its current agricultural setting to a diversified wetland habitat and wildlife sanctuary. However, the scope of the project expanded as the group realized the interconnection between the stream, the floodplain, the tributaries, the history of the property, and the current needs of the system. With an additional $100,000 of volunteer services and in-kind donations, the partnership was able to accomplish the following:

1. Stabilize over 800 feet of severely eroding streambank in Mine Brook Park and on the Hunterdon Land Trust owned Dvoor Farm property. With the innovative use of minimal rock and maximum vegetation, the excessive energy of the stream is dissipated in the new riffle-pool sequences, and the stream is re-connected to its floodplain.

   Extensive hand labor was required during installation of the in-stream practices to move logs, hand-place rock, and place hundreds of dormant pole plantings in the rock keys and in live siltation trenches. Through the extensive use of volunteers, the educational value of the project is far-reaching.

   We estimate an annual reduction of approximately 1,000 cubic yards of sediment into the Walnut Brook and eventually the Neshanic River downstream. Non-point source pollution has been identified as the primary water quality problem in the Neshanic Watershed.

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2. Plant 1,505 native trees and shrubs on both sides of the Walnut Brook to further stabilize the stream corridor and shade the open waters of the Walnut Brook. The restoration process started with the eradication of three acres of invasive plants, primarily multi-flora rose. Most of the plant material was obtained from local nurseries specializing in native plants. Some of the planting was performed under contract; however, the majority of the planting was done by volunteers during nine events. At least 300 volunteer hours went into planting the riparian corridor.

3. Create three acres of wetland habitat in the floodplain of Walnut Brook. The wetlands created will help to reduce excess nutrient and sediment input into the stream system and will also reduce flooding downstream. The floodplain enhancement element of the project focused on the creation of riparian wetland communities that would enhance the site’s functions relative to flood storage, nutrient and sediment removal and nutrient transformation. The constructed wetlands will increase the ecological diversity of the area and offer additional passive recreation opportunities. This phase included earthmoving activities consisting of the removal of fill from the floodplain in order to re-connect the stream to its natural floodplain. These areas were planted with native riverine wetland herbaceous and woody vegetation. Approximately 9,500 cubic yards of material were excavated and 11,169 native wetland herbaceous, shrubs and trees were planted.
“Almost Heaven In 2011”

18th Annual Conference, Workshop & Trade Exposition

Sept. 20 ~ 22, 2011

Embassy Suites Charleston
Charleston, West Virginia

Topics Include: CPESC, CPSWQ & CESSWI Review Courses and Exams, as well as many more technical sessions covering a variety of topics. Continuing Education Units will be provided for all technical sessions.

Reserve the dates of September 20~22, 2011 on your calendar for the Mid-Atlantic’s 18th Annual Conference, Workshop & Trade Exposition.

Golf Outing ~ September 20, 2011

For additional information regarding the conference please contact:
Charlie Riling ~ (304) 558-9761 – Charlie.R.Riling@wv.gov

or go to
www.macieca.org