



Minnesota Water Quality Association



Want to know more? Visit us at www.MWQA.com

July 2011

Issue 3

Why MWQA?

Education. Opportunities for continuing education through seminars and workshops pertaining to the water quality improvement industry, including annual seminars to help prepare for the state Water Conditioning Contractor's and Installer's license exams.



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License Exams Scheduled for September

The Minnesota Department of Labor & Industry will offer exams for anyone wishing to obtain a state license to install water conditioning equipment. Water Conditioner Installer and Contractor Exams will be offered in September in Brainerd, Mankato and St. Paul. Applications for the exams are available by contacting the Minnesota DLI and will be accepted after July 1. They are due, along with a fee and reference letters, no later than August 15. Information on the exam applications is available on the DLI website, which is at www.dli.mn.gov.CCLD/PlumbingWater.asp.

Please note that the shutdown of the state government, which was taking place at press time, may affect the Department of Labor & Industry exams. Check the Department's website for updates.

It is suggested that applications for the exams be submitted at least two weeks prior to August 15, in order to allow the department time to review your application and give you time to resubmit if necessary.

Exam dates & locations are:
Central Lakes College - Brainerd
September 20

South Central College
North Mankato
September 15

Minn. DLI - St. Paul
September 21, 22, 23
Maximum 52 per exam date

Study guide for the exams is the latest Minnesota Plumbing Code. Order it by calling the Minnesota Bookstore at 651-297-3000 or 1-800-657-3757.

WQRF Seeks Funding for Softener Study

A new study conducted through Virginia Tech will examine the effects water softeners might have on septic tanks, the Water Quality Association has announced. The investigation is being funded by WQRF (Water Quality Research Foundation), which also announced it is seeking funding for the project and other projects. The study is expected to be completed in summer, 2012.

Dr. John Novak of Virginia Tech is heading up the research. Novak has earned awards and recognition for more than 30 years for his studies on wastewater treatment and other projects.

The goals are to find out whether various water softener operation patterns might have a negative effect on septic tank performance, and, if so, to develop operating

guidelines to minimize problems.

The septic study is expected to cost \$95,000. WQRF, a not-for-profit foundation, is seeking donors for the project and other initiatives. More information on donations can be obtained at WQRF@wqa.org or by calling WQA at 630-505-0160.

Studies have shown that in activated sludge systems, an imbalance of the cation ratio in wastewater can lead to poor flocculation. The imbalance is typically caused by excessive sodium and can lead to poor settling, which might ultimately clog outlet filters. Water softeners operated primarily for removal of calcium and magnesium produce a discharge that has a cation ratio that has been alleged to impact septic tank performance.

Minnesota Water
Quality Association
PO Box 48452
Minneapolis, MN 55448
763.754.2123
info@mwqa.com



MWQA Board of Directors Meeting Schedule

MWQA Board meetings are open to any member and start at 9:30 a.m., usually ending by 11:30 a.m. If you are interested in updates on pending legislation affecting the water quality improvement industry, or just want to discuss industry issues, join us! Call the MWQA office at 763-754-2123 to verify meetings dates and locations, as they may change.

Friday, August 12
Friday, September 16
Friday, October 14
Friday, November 18
Friday, December 16



Why MWQA?

Spreading the word. MWQA members get assistance with news releases, public relations and advertising both in print and on the MWQA Website!

WQA Professional Certification Program

The Water Quality Association Professional Certification program helps consumers and employees identify individuals in the point-of-use/point-of-entry water quality improvement industry who have demonstrated a certified level of professional expertise and are dedicated to high professional standards.

WQA Certification is a voluntary credentialing process. To achieve any WQA-certified title, the candidate must pass a comprehensive exam and accept the WQA Code of Ethics for the Water Quality Improvement Industry.

Benefits of certification to the Water Treatment Professional:

- Consumer Confidence
- Certification patches and pins instantly identify certified personnel to consumers
- Credibility from a third-party organization
- More business opportunities
- Greater employment opportunities
- Listing on the WQA website as a certified individual



Members, check out your listing on the MWQA website at:
www.mwqa.com
To make changes, contact:
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PO Box 48452
Minneapolis, MN 55448
763.754.2123
info@mwqa.com





MWQA Board of Directors

Mike McGowan, President

(2010 - 2013)
McGowan Water Conditioning
Mikem@mcgowanwater.com

Mike Herman, Vice President

(2011 - 2014)
Ultrapure & Industrial Services
Mikeh@ultrapure.com

Jeff Hill, Treasurer/Secretary

(2009 - 2012)
Robert B. Hill Company
Jeffhill@hillwater.com

Bob Archbold

(2010 - 2013)
Archbold Water, Marshall
Archbold@live.com

Gus Davis

(2011 - 2014)
Culligan/Mayer Water, St. Peter
gus@clgn.biz

Noah Hawkes

(2011 - 2014)
Culligan of Austin & Albert Lea
Noah@ultrapure.com

Aaron Rieland

(2009 - 2012)
Finken Water Centers, St. Cloud
Arieland@finkens.com

Mike Ritter

(2011 - 2014)
Culligan of Rochester & Kasson
Mike.ritter@ultrapure.com

Scott Schiesser

(2011 - 2014)
Driessen Water
Scott.schiesser@ultrapure.com

Associate Directors

David Ghostley

Independent Water Tech
Dlg2959@cs.com

Terri Feldman

United Salt Corporaiton
Tfeldman@unitedsalt.com

Lori Jansen

Administrative Assistant
info@mwqa.com
www.mwqa.com
763-754-2123

MWQA New Members

MWQA welcomes the following new members to the Association:

Fringe Benefits Design

7760 France Avenue South, #810
Bloomington, MN 55435
Kevin Miller
Phone: 952-896-2020
Email: Kevin.miller@fbdmn.com

Water Doctors

8201 Old Central Avenue, Suites F & G
Spring Lake Park, MN 55432
Robert Hoey
Phone: 763-535-1800
Email: rghoey@waterdrs.com

Tonna Mechanical

2411 7th Street NW
Rochester, MN 55901
Daniel Nesbit
Phone: 507-288-1908
Email: sales@calltonna.com



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MWQA Offers Member Benefits Package

MWQA recently announced the establishment of the MWQA Multiple Employer Retirement Trust to be offered exclusively to MWQA members. The multiple employer retirement plan could offer MWQA members significant savings while allowing them to customize their retirement and savings plans.

The goals of the plan, offered through Fringe Benefits Design, are:

- Fee Reduction
- Optimize Plan Operating Efficiency
- Reduce Fiduciary Liability Exposure
- Provide a reliable retirement plan consulting resource
- Utilize money managers that are at a level that may not be attainable as a standalone plan

Fringe Benefits Design has been providing services to multiple employer programs since the early 1990s. Several MWQA members have utilized them for more

than a decade. Fringe Benefits Design can administer 401k plans, profit sharing, defined benefit and many other types of benefit plans.

Fringe Benefits Design will offer, at no cost to you, a comparative analysis of your current plan vs. what they can offer through MWQA. This analysis can help you identify advantages, if any, between the MWQA plan and your current plan.

If you are interested in contacting Fringe Benefits Design for a comparison of your plan and what they offer, contact Lori Jansen at the MWQA office at 763-754-2123 or info@mwqa.com.

Fringe Benefits Design can be reached directly by contacting Kevin Miller at Kevin.miller@fbdmn.com or at 952-896-2020.

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