

South Bend Represents Indiana at WEFTEC in October



Operators and technicians are specialists at overcoming flooding, sewer collapses, process failings, and other emergencies. One way to show off the skills and expertise learned in the field is to be a part of the Indiana Water Environment Association's (IWEA) Wastewater Challenge. The winning team, South Bend's Mr. Hankey's Crew, took first place this year and will have the honor of representing Indiana to compete for the title of Best Wastewater Collection and Treatment Personnel in the World at WEFTEC.08 this October.

IWEA's Wastewater Challenge was created in 1986 by a group of volunteers and has provided Indiana operators a fun and educational way to earn IDEM approved continuing education units for the past 22 years. The two-day event took place at the Anderson Water Pollution Control (AWPC) on a cool, but sunny May 20-21. AWPC's Superintendent, Nara Manor, also chairperson for the IWEA Municipal Pretreatment Committee, and her staff made what can be a difficult challenge, as host site, seem effortless. A special thank you to Lynn Brabec, Elkhart Public Works and Utilities for stepping in to help chair this year's event in the absence of long time chairman, recently retired, Herb Corn. Thanks also to Rose Whitehead, Laboratory Supervisor for AWPC and Jeff Weber, AWPC Supervisor for their part in finding sponsorships and organizing the schedule for the challenge.

Winners are determined by a weighted point system for five events, each designed

to test the diverse skills required for the operation and maintenance of wastewater treatment facilities, collection systems and laboratories. The IWEA committees plan the hands-on and written portion of the challenge that relates to their specific committee.

The challenge began at 9:00 am and continued throughout the day, switching events every hour and taking a break for lunch, which was sponsored this year by Godwin Pumps. The challenge ended at 4:00pm, allowing contestants time to rest, prior to that evenings scheduled activities that took place at Shout's Pub & Eatery. There, participants played games and bowled for free thanks to sponsorship by BL Anderson Company, Inc., Roberts Services Inc. a Unit of the Roberts Filter Group, Rortork Controls Inc. and The Mattison Corporation.

The second day of the challenge provides a celebration to the contestants and recognizes the winners. A breakfast buffet at the Anderson Days Inn was sponsored by Henry P. Thompson Company, Eutek Systems Inc., and Parkson Corp prior to the awards ceremony. Teams are recognized through a variety of awards; Overall first through third place winners, section winners, 'Team Spirit Award' and the 'Golden Spade Award.' The overall awards were provided through sponsorship from ITT Water & Wastewater Indiana, LLC.

The challenge is not just about awards, it is a time for fun and education. IWEA thanks all of the

teams who participated and look forward to another fun event next May. If your facility is interested in becoming a host site please contact Libby Denehie, IWEA Executive Director, 317-328-2151.

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