

Northwest Connections

*Quarterly Newsletter of the
Northwest Association of
Environmental Professionals*

President's Letter



Aron Borok

Dear Members:

Even though our membership "year" begins in January and ends in December, the fall months are always great for planning. As a result, for our Portland members, I am anxious to receive your input on what programming you would like for the upcoming year. Please come to the

Broadway Bar and Grill on September 26. In addition to having a normal social hour, I would like to give a bit more structure and solicit your ideas for speakers and other events and, maybe get some of you to volunteer to organize some events (hint! hint!)

In October, we already have a speaker arranged. Jackie Dingfelder, Portland member of the Oregon House of Representatives and Chair of the House Energy and Environment Committee, will be coming to speak about all things environmental in the latest legislative session. We are very excited to have this opportunity to welcome Jackie. Details will be forthcoming.

Our Seattle group also has some exciting programming. Lucia Athens, Chair of the City of Seattle Green Building Team, will talk about Creating Public Policy for Sustainable Building on September 25. Don't miss it.

Our very successful workshop series continues with Owen Schmidt, recently retired Senior Counsel with the U.S. Department of Agriculture, Office of the General Counsel, who will present "Writing the Perfect FONSI" on October 12. This is a very affordable workshop for such a distinguished trainer. See page 2 for more details.

Thanks for reading. I look forward to seeing you soon!

Aron

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Chapter News

NWAEP Newsletter Naming Contest

NWAEP is happy to announce the winner of our Newsletter Naming Contest.

Drum roll, please,

for **Carol Snead**.



As winner of the contest, Carol will receive a free membership to NWAEP for

one year! Carol's winning entry was **Northwest Connections**, and this is the first edition with the new title. Congratulations, Carol! And many thanks to those of you who entered the contest. We appreciate having such good names to choose from.

NWAEP Board of Directors

It is with regret that we bid farewell to Emily Moshofsky, who recently retired from the Board of Directors. Many thanks to Emily for helping move NWAEP to a more formal organization. We wish Emily well. Carol Snead, former President, will serve out the remainder of Emily's term through next March.



Owen L. Schmidt

Owen L. Schmidt Presents “Writing the Perfect FONSI”

On **October 12, 2007**, in Portland, NWAEP will present a half day workshop, **Writing the Perfect FONSI**. It will be held from 8 a.m. to noon at the Billy Frank Jr. Conference Center, Ecotrust Building, 721 NW 9th Avenue, in Portland. The fee for the workshop is \$95 for NWAEP and/or NAEP members, and \$115 for the general public.

Presenter **Owen L. Schmidt, BA, MA, JD** has more than 32 years of service with the Federal Government. He has served as Senior Counsel with the U.S. Department of Agriculture, Office of the

General Counsel in Portland, Oregon, where he advised the Forest Service, Natural Resources Conservation Service, and other USDA agencies in Washington and Oregon. He was also a Special Assistant United States Attorney in the District of Oregon. This workshop focuses on the difficult problem of giving reasons why impacts are “not significant,” and thus why an EIS will not be prepared. Mr. Schmidt will demonstrate a model that will account for all that science can tell us, with all that the law requires,

and give us the rules for when to cut it off safely. Write what is necessary, leave out what you can – the “perfect” FONSI.

Planners, environmental specialists, project managers, decision-makers, attorneys, and those in related fields who are responsible for preparation or review of EAs and FONSIs prepared under the National Environmental Policy Act should attend. Seating is limited; register now to reserve your spot. You can print a registration form at www.nwaep.org.

Welcome, New NWAEP Members

We just keep growing! Please welcome these new members:

Carlotta Cellucci
Jeff Jenkins
Carol Grant
Douglas Henry
Chad Kean
Elaine Blatt
Hilary Anderson

Ivy Edmonds-Hess
Kevin Freibott
Rebecca McCoun
April Zohn

Did You Know...?

You can put your NWAEP membership to work! Take advantage of our relationship with the Northwest Environmental Training

Center, www.nwetc.org, a non-profit organization that provides professional development opportunities and technology transfer to environmental professionals. NWETC offers a discount to NWAEP (it varies according to course cost). Find an opportunity to sharpen your skills—and save money—by checking NWETC’s offerings!

Upcoming Chapter Meetings and Events

Portland

September 26, Networking Social and Planning Meeting. Join us for a no-host gathering of environmental professionals. We’ll socialize and get your input and ideas for programming for the upcoming year. Come join us at 5:00-7:00 p.m., Broadway Grill, 1700 NE Broadway, Portland.

Check www.nwaep.org for more details. Bring business cards, resumes, and favorite work stories. Look for our NWAEP sign. All NWAEP members and guests are welcome.

Seattle

September 25, Presentation by Lucia Athens – Creating Public Policy for Sustainable Building. 5:30-7:30 p.m.,

600 Stewart Street, Seattle. Lucia is Chair of the City of Seattle Green Building Team. She’ll talk about design issues, policy framework, challenges and successes, strategies, resources and tools of the green building program. Please join us for this engaging speaker and informational event. No charge; light refreshments.

Save the date!
Our NWAEP
Seattle Holiday
Social and 2008
Event Preview is
December 4, 2007,
5:30 – 7:30 p.m.
More details to follow.

Member Spotlight: Kristen Maines

Kristen lives in Seattle near Green Lake, where you can often find her walking her two dogs, Sunny and Suzie Q. She enjoys being in the outdoors, reading, hanging out with her two young nephews, and traveling. Kristen is an active member of the NWAEP and NAEP and was recently elected to the national board of directors of NAEP.

Kristen Maines is a senior environmental planner and

project manager with HDR, Inc. She has a Masters of Economics from North Carolina State University and Bachelor of Science from the University of Massachusetts at Amherst. She has been with HDR for more than six years. She has ten years experience providing environmental and economic planning services such as environmental impact assessments and benefit-cost analysis. For the past two and a half years, she has been a full-time member of the

Washington State Department of Transportation I-405 Corridor Project's Environmental Team, writing "reader-friendly" environmental assessments.

Kristen's environmental "passion" is recycling, and she thinks everyone should reduce, reuse, and recycle as much as possible. She'd like to encourage everyone to start recycling a little bit every day "because it's such an easy way to have a positive impact on the environment."



Kristen Maines

Deadline Extended to Sept. 30 - Call for Papers for 2008 NAEP Conference

Changing Climates is the theme of the 2008 NAEP/AEP Annual Conference in San Diego. Papers and presentations are requested for individual speakers, panels, hot topic luncheons, and poster displays. Papers/presentation proposals are requested in a number of topical areas.

The 2008 Conference Committee will evaluate

abstracts using the following criteria:

- Relevance to the conference theme
- Originality
- Quality
- Clarity of information
- Practical solution and application

Find more information and submit your abstract through

the online submission form at www.naep.org. Choose Annual Conferences and 2008. If you have questions, contact John S. Irving at John.Irving@inl.gov or 208.526.8745. Student research papers are welcome and will compete for cash awards. The Abstract Deadline is extended to **September 30, 2007**.

The 2008 NAEP/AEP Annual Conference will be held March 25-28, 2008, in San Diego.



NAEP Nominations Extended for President's & Environmental Excellence Awards

The NAEP Presidents and National Environmental Excellence Awards will again be presented at our March 2008 Conference in San Diego. The deadline for submitting nominations for 2008 has moved to **September 30, 2007**.

Nominations are accepted in one or more of these broad Award areas:

- NEPA Excellence
- Educational Excellence
- Environmental Management
- Planning Integration

- Public Involvement/Partnership
- Environmental Stewardship Conservation Program(s)
- Best Available Environmental Technology.

For more information and a nomination form, go to www.naep.org. Questions? Contact Lynn McLeod at mcleod@batelle.org or 781.952.5291.





NWAEP

*Quarterly Newsletter of the
Northwest Association of
Environmental Professionals*

We're on the Web:

www.nwaep.org

The Northwest Association of Environmental Professionals (NWAEP) was founded in 1992 and became official affiliate of the National Association of Environmental Professionals (NAEP) in 2005. We are a nonpolitical interdisciplinary organization made up of professionals in Washington and Oregon. Our members are from the full range of environmental professions, including environmental management, planning, impact assessment, environmental protection, compliance, research, engineering and education.

Our **goal** is to provide opportunities for and to encourage the professional development and recognition of members through meetings, conferences and other activities.

Our **policy** is to promote advancement in scientific interdisciplinary environmental education, research, planning, assessment, review and management.

Our **objectives** are to encourage and facilitate full participation in NWAEP goals and activities by all persons qualified to be members of NWAEP, and to encourage diversity among members of NWAEP in order to assimilate the widest range of views and concerns of professionals engaged in the environmental field.

Northwest Connections

This issue of the NWAEP quarterly newsletter introduces our new name – *Northwest Connections*.

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