



WASHINGTON DC CHAPTER ASPE NEWS

PO Box 3875 Frederick, MD 21705

April 2009 Issue

AMERICAN SOCIETY OF PLUMBING ENGINEERS
CHAPTERS ARE NOT AUTHORIZED TO SPEAK FOR THE SOCIETY

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President's Message



JUAN ROJAS,
PRESIDENT



Rain water harvesting!

Last month the tech presentation topic was about rain water harvesting. It was a very good and interesting presentation, thanks to the Joyce agency for putting it together. Without getting too technical in defining storm water, I'll focus on rainwater only.

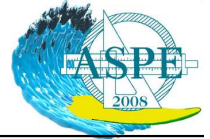
Rainwater can be collected from roofs, plazas, yards, courtyards and paved areas. Design of rainwater system is based upon the size of the roof area and the maximum regional rate of rainfall per hour to obtain a rate of discharge.

Since rainwater must be conveyed from drain areas as it falls onto these areas. We must obtain an approximate rate of discharge from any collection areas. Based on the rainfall rate for the Washington, DC metropolitan area of 3.25-inches per hour a building with a roof area of 60,000 sf. will generate approximate 2,040 gpm. That's a lot of water to take advantage of.

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The Lenten season is a time of personal reflection and in that same vein I did a little reflection on the code revision process. Recently I read an article in *The New York Times* concerning efforts to separate urine from solid waste in Europe and China by means of a dual system toilet. The purpose is to separate the minerals, etc. from the urine and use them as fertilizer. This reuse of the urine not only produces expense-free fertilizer but it aids the waste water treatment process. The sewage treatment process is slowed by the content of the urine and waste water treatment uses an enormous amount of water. Thus if the treatment process can be sped up a substantial savings in water is achieved. What does this have to do with the plumbing code revision cycle? We are all aware of the emphasis on LEED and ASHRAE 90.1 for example to conserve energy and the environment. It seems that the code revision process is falling behind the technological advancements that continue to be developed. For instance, say approval for the urine separation system was proposed as an addition to the IPC. If the system was approved and allowed to become part of the code it would not take affect until 2012 at the earliest. And because some jurisdictions such as Chicago, Ohio, etc. modify the code or are slow to update it could be another 3 years before being fully implemented. Now we are looking at 2015, meanwhile some local code officials may not accept or reject the system for various reasons resulting in appeals, etc. Therefore it is conceivable that it could take 6-10 years for this urine separation system to be widely used. Think of the advancements in plumbing design implemented over the last 10 years and what could evolve over the next few years. Unless there is a way to speed up the code revision process many very worthwhile energy and environmental alternatives, already in use in Europe and elsewhere, will languish in plumbing code purgatory. Please feel free to email me your comments and suggestions concerning this issue.

Reference

George, Rose (2009). Yellow is the new green. *The New York Times*. Downloaded February 27, 2009 from

<http://www.nytimes.com/2009/02/27/opinion/27george.html>

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President's Message Continued...

Discuss with your project team economic benefits to the system installation; remember an owner will question where the money is being spent.

So the next step is to put this water to good use, pending building parameters and location. This water can be reused for decorative fountains, landscape irrigation, urinal & water closet flushing. There are considerations to be taken for each use to determine which is the most economical for a given project. First, we would have to do some basic calculations for the system that we would want this water to be reused for. Let's say we decide to use it for urinal and water closet flushing to reduce total potable water consumption. Once we obtain the approximate water consumption of these fixture using load values, in water supply fixture units (wsfu) table found in any of the recognized plumbing codes. Based on this calculation the driving quantity is obtained and the rainwater tank collector can be sized.

Given the climate, seasonal variation in monthly rainfall should be considered; due to unusual weather patterns. Climatic data from a recognized organization should be consulted. So we determine volume of rainwater into the system, and calculated volume of water used from the system.

Contact local authority to confirm system installation is allowed in the project location. The followings can have a great impact in the final installation cost: - Storage tank type of materials - pumps - treatment - filtering - disinfecting - dyes. Several codes require the coloring of reclaimed water to distinguish from potable water. In general examine building and determine water streams which can be reclaimed and don't shy away from innovation.

Election time:

It is the time of the year when the chapter must elect and/or re-elect board officers. During the month of May at the monthly meeting the current board will perform elections for chapter officers. If you are interested in getting involved with your local chapter, please submit you name for consideration and nomination along with the desired officer position.

Looking forward to seeing you at the next meeting.

Sincerely,

Juan Rojas

President

ASPE DC Chapter

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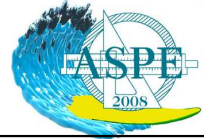
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Welcome, Welcome, Welcome!

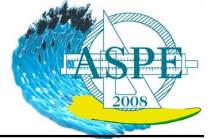
During the ASPE Convention delegates voted on changing our membership policy. Our current policy allows a 90-day grace period for those who have not renewed by the expiration date. This policy was amended and now states there is no 90-day grace period for those missing their expiration date and from that point going forward they are no longer a member of ASPE. The recommendation is that renewing your membership should be deemed as a high priority. Now if you fall in the category of having received your second notice, please renew as quickly as possible so as to not be dropped from the official roster.

On another note, we fell short of our goal to grow our chapter to 200 members before the end of the year but guess what? We have a whole new year to attain this goal. So for those sitting on the fence, we ask that you get in the game and be a member of this great organization. For those of you who know of or have access to individuals who would benefit from joining us have them contact me at dewilson@ghtltd.com or any other officer listed in this newsletter.

Lastly, the chapter hosted its annual holiday social in December at Phillips Seafood in Annapolis. I was informed that it was a great turnout and the food was delish! If anyone has ideas about a new location feel free to contact the board. We are open to a new adventure

Thanks for lending me your ear.

V.P. Membership
Derek E. Wilson



I'd like to thank March's technical speaker Benjamin Sojka from Rainwater Management Solutions who spoke about rainwater harvesting developments. The presentation was very informative and provided a lot of insight on the subject. If you have any questions or would like a copy of the presentation, feel free to email Todd Joyce of the Joyce Agency. Tjoyce@thejoyceagency.com It was a great time. Thanks to all that were able to come.

Also, I would like to thank Todd Joyce and the Joyce Agency for being the Table Top Presenter. The tabletop was Elkay Manufacturing, sinks and watercoolers.

The April 15, 2009 speaker will be Frank Murphy, PE from AECOM Design and the topic will be fire hydrant flow testing. Gareth Koogle/Tim Mullineaux with STH will be the Table Top Presenter. Don't miss out!

Future speakers and presentation are:
May 20, 2009 - Mike Gilmore - ATS Specification writing

If there is topic or speaker you would like to see at a technical session at the monthly meeting, please feel free to contact me at matt.lane@aecom.com.

Hope to see you there.

Matthew Lane, CPD, LEED® AP, CFPS
VP Tech

FUN STUFF

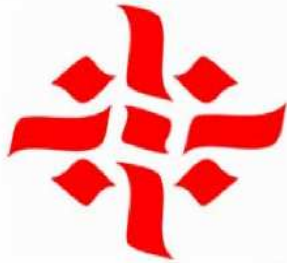


I figured it would not be fair if I did not include myself. So here is a picture of my trip to Long Beach for the convention.

Here is an award found in the halls of STH. And he is our treasurer?



A little fish tale from our resident angler. Looking forward to our next trip.



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Chapter Meeting Location

Washington Chapter meetings are currently being held at the Olive Garden located on Route 7 (8133 Leesburg Pike) in Tyson's Corner. Please join us for our **General Meeting April 15, 2009**
Call for directions: (703) 893-3175



All Reservations for dinner are requested by:
Noon, Tuesday April 14, 2009

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