



**Solid Waste Association of North America**

## YP NEWSFEED

### MentorMatch Now Live!

SWANA's MentorMatch is the perfect place to pair up Experienced Professionals with Young Professionals and students looking for guidance to advance their careers in the solid waste management and recycling industry. Learn more and sign up using your MySWANA online account.

[Sign up today!](#)

### FREE Student Membership

Student membership is FREE! If you are a full-time student (undergraduate or graduate student) with an interest in environmental sciences, solid waste management, or recycling related professions, FREE SWANA student membership is perfect for you. Register on the SWANA National website.

[Register Here Today!](#)

### AROW Emerging Leaders Volunteering at Orton Park Festival August 27th

Associated Recyclers of Wisconsin (AROW) Emerging Leaders will be volunteering at the upcoming Orton Park Festival, Jazz Brunch in Madison on August 27th. AROW Emerging Leaders will be informing Festival goers on the concept of Zero Waste and AROW's mission. Find out more information on the event and potential volunteer opportunities on AROW's website.

[Orton Park Festival](#)

### YP's at WASTECON

SWANA's national event, WASTECON, will be held in Baltimore, Maryland from September 24th through September 27th. WASTECON will host numerous activities specifically catered to the interests of YP's. Activities will include workshops, networking events, presentations, and the student design competition. Learn more on the SWANA national website.

[WASTECON YP Schedule HERE](#)

### 2018 Wisconsin Integrated Resource Management Conference

Registration for the 2018 Wisconsin Integrated Resource Management Conference is now open! The conference will be held again at the Osthoff Resort in Elkhart Lake. This year's keynote speaker will be SWANA CEO/Executive Director, David Biderman. Network and learn from a wide range of solid waste and recycling professionals.

[Register Here](#)

## IN THIS ISSUE



### WIRMC WRAP-UP

PAGE 2

### DUNN COUNTY COMMUNITY OUT-REACH

PAGE 3

### YP SPOTLIGHT

PAGE 4

### STUDENT DESIGN COMPETITION WASTECON 2017

PAGE 6

### TIRES! TIRES! TIRES!

PAGE 7

### 2017 SCHOLARSHIP RECIPIENTS

PAGE 8



# WIRMC Wrap-Up

By: Phil Gearing, PE (SCS Engineers)

The Wisconsin Integrated Resource Management Conference (WIRMC) was held at the Osthoff Resort in Elkhart Lake, WI on March 1<sup>st</sup> through March 3<sup>rd</sup>, 2017. There was a HUGE presence of Young Professionals (YP's) in attendance and lots of YP activity throughout the conference.

A YP Welcome Event was held on the first evening of the conference and it definitely set the tone. SWANA YP'ers Amanda Haffele (Dunn County) and Phil Gearing (SCS Engineers) co-organized the event with help from other YP's. The event was a great time for networking and participating in on some team building/problem solving. The event consisted of an egg drop, where recyclables were used to develop an apparatus to protect the eggs. Teams



*YP's enjoying themselves at the Lounge.*



*Amanda and Phil inspecting egg drop construction in their HAZMAT Suits. Safety First!*

were randomly selected at the door to get a good mix of those in attendance. After destroying the constructed egg drop devices, most of the materials used were able to be recycled. Prizes were given out for various categories and fun was had by all!

A YP Lounge was coordinated by Dan Michiels (Foth) and was shared with the AROW Emerging Leaders program. A large number of YP's helped staff the booth and the goal was to network with anyone who entered the lounge. There were some small items and information cards that were given away during the day and some larger prizes given away at the end of the day. Anyone

that visited the lounge and provided some information had the chance to win a prize. The lounge was a great place to relax and catch up or meet fellow YP's during the conference.

YP's were also involved in presentations during track sessions. Dave Hagenbucher and David Vitt, both of Marathon County Solid Waste presented on landfill Alternate Daily Covers (ADCs). The session was very well attended and was very engaging. Dave and Dave put in a lot of time to develop the presentation, including countless hours of research.

A Young Professional of the Year Award is given out annually at WIRMC. The board of directors for the Wisconsin Badger Chapter of SWANA recognized two individuals at the 2017 WIRMC. These two individuals were recognized for their commitment and accomplishments in mentoring fellow young professionals, growing the Young Professional membership base, and maintaining the strength of the organization. The award recipients were Erik Lietz (Oakridge Engineering) and Phil Gearing (SCS Engineers), and both are featured in this Issue.

*Continued on page 3*

*Continued from page 2*

Tess Buege (WDNR), Mike Kleist (Buteyn Peterson Construction), David Vitt (Marathon County), Phil Gearing (SCS Engineers), George Shereda (TRC Environmental), Nate Schneider (Advanced Disposal), and Erik Lietz (Oakridge Engineering) were all part of a Landfill CQA Discussion Panel. The panel fielded questions related to various aspects of Landfill CQA. The group also presented the panel discussion nationally as a SWANA Webinar after WIRMC.



YP's gear up for the Landfill CQA Panel Discussion at WIRMC.

## Working Together for Education

*By: Amanda Haffele (Dunn County)*

**E**ight different agencies and non-profit groups worked together to give Dunn County students a taste of Environmental Science. Students were given the opportunity to experience hands-on learning at stations during two separate Environmental Field Days hosted by the Dunn County Environmental Education Steering Committee. Stations were set up at the Bjornson Education-Recreation Center near Knapp, WI and the forest behind the Elk Mound School District property in May.



Boyceville student fishing for steel cans before hopping like a rabbit back to the finish line to tag his teammate.



Jess Carstens with the WI DNR educating Colfax students about fur bearers.

Individuals from the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources, United States Department of Agriculture – National Resource Conservation Service, Red Cedar Basin Monitoring

Group, Lower Chippewa Invasives Partnership, Eau Claire County Recycling, St. Croix County Recycling, Dunn County Solid Waste & Recycling, and Dunn County Land Water & Conservation, shared their knowledge to make it a fun learning experience for the students.

Students participated in building a soil profile; learned about soil textures and colors; used keys to identify macroinvertebrates from nearby streams; competed in a recycling relay race; identified native and invasive plants; identified trees; and discovered the circle of life in the animal kingdom.

# YP SPOTLIGHT

By: Roxanne Wienkes (William S. Middleton Memorial Veterans Hospital)

**PHIL GEARING**

&

**ERIK LIETZ**



For the third year in a row, the SWANA Badger Chapter has recognized dedicated YP's at the annual WIRMC with the Chapter's YP awards. There were several impressive nominations this year, but two nominees' stood out due to their longevity in and commitment to the industry. Phil Gearing (pictured upper left) and Erik Lietz (upper right) were recognized at the WIRMC awards luncheon in Elkhart Lake earlier this year.

Some insight on how these two got where they are today and words of wisdom from these outstanding YPs:

**Q.** Where did you attend school?

**EL:** I grew up in Gillett, Wisconsin and went to college at Michigan Technological University - Houghton, Michigan.

**PG:** Black River Falls Senior High School, University of Wisconsin – Madison (Geological Engineering/Geology).

**Q.** How did you decide to go into the solid waste field?

**EL:** I worked for the City of Gillett during Summers, and one of our main jobs was riding on the back of the garbage truck picking up trash and curbside recycling. Once I was working full-time, I started in municipal engineering and our company picked up a LFG balancing project near our office and they were looking for volunteers. No one

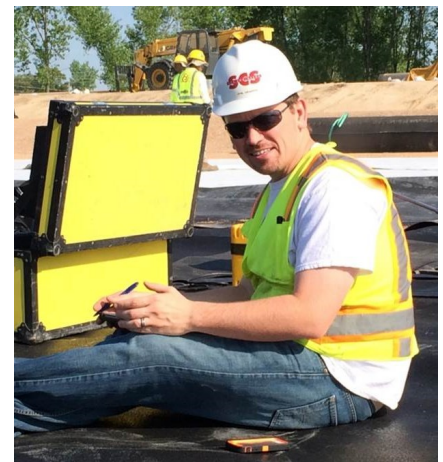
volunteered, so I said "I've been to the landfill once on the garbage truck." That was enough to be selected for the project and the rest is history.

**PG:** My senior design project in college was on the slope stability of a final cover system for a Wisconsin landfill. That work spring boarded me into my first job. I've been doing work in the solid waste industry ever since.

*Continued on page 5*



Phil and his family at National Lakeshore Grand Sable Banks in Upper Peninsula Michigan (photo courtesy of Facebook/Elizabeth Gearing) (left). Phil performing landfill construction quality assurance (right).



*Continued from page 4*

**Q:** What aspect of SWANA do you find to be the most beneficial?

**PG:** The sense of community and the ability to make connections with others in the industry. As I have become more involved with SWANA, I have found that the number of connections that can be made through SWANA and SWANA events are numerous.

**Q:** What is the most enjoyable part of your job?

**EL:** Solving client's problems in a practical and responsible manner.

**Q:** What do you find to be the most valuable quality of a good leader?

**PG:** Communication. If a task or a plan is not communicated effectively to the people being lead then things can go amiss very quickly. I would argue it is impossible to be a great leader without being a great communicator.

**Q:** How do you think social media plays a role in your career?

**EL:** Hardly at all. Personally, I see social media as a distraction, although I do realize that many people use social media as an information tool.

**Q:** How do you balance work and personal life?

**PG:** As life gets busier and faster it gets harder and harder to balance work with your personal life. Trying to be as organized as possible is key. I like lists and prioritizing. Having three children ages 8, 6, and 4 also helps put things in perspective. Prioritizing my kids' activities and trying to work

*Erik presenting past president, Chad Doverspike with an award of recognition for his service at the 2017 WIRMC. Erik pictured to the right with his wife Leah (photo courtesy of oakridgeeng.com).*

around those aspects of life make the balance with work possible.

**Q:** What is one piece of advice you would give for a YP entering the workforce?

**EL:** Try as many new topics, tasks, or roles as possible within your profession or career to truly find what you enjoy and then pursue that passion.

**Q:** What do you do for fun?

**PG:** If I could, I would golf every day. I like to attend UW Badgers Football and Basketball Games and dominate fantasy baseball leagues. I love hiking with the family and just being outdoors. Hanging with my kids and being goofy can be some of the most fun.

**Q:** What is your favorite movie?

**EL:** All of the Star Wars movies. Growing up, I thought they were real, not just science fiction.



Erik is founder and Principal Engineer of Oakridge Engineering of Chippewa Falls, Wisconsin. Oakridge specializes in agriculture and commercial site design, non-metallic mining, surface water (dams and erosion protection) and solid waste engineering.

Phil has worked for SCS Engineers in Madison, Wisconsin since 2008. Phil's work includes landfill design and construction quality assurance as well as landfill gas extraction/venting system construction. His project experience also includes groundwater and air monitoring, storm water modeling, and various geotechnical-related analyses including slope stability and settlement.

# Student Design Competition WastCon 2017

By: David Hagenbucher  
(Marathon County Solid Waste)

This September in Baltimore Maryland, the University of Wisconsin - Stevens Point will be representing the SWANA Badger Chapter in the Student Design Competition at WASTECON 2017. This challenge will push the six student competitors to explore integrated solid waste management options while they provide consulting services to the fictitious urban area of Crab Cake County; a community with a failing waste management system. Abby Lichtscheidl, Alex Thomas, Andrea Berger, Lindsey Carlson, Lydia Campbell, and Paul Swannell are all students of the UWSP Waste Resource Management

program, and all of them have been working diligently on this project since 2016 when it was originally assigned. These students are compiling all the knowledge and experience they've acquired over the years of classes and internships at UWSP, in an effort to identify the ideal management techniques to handle this complex waste management problem.

The situation involves a solid waste management department that accepts trash and recyclables for processing at a MRF and incinerator facility, but over the years, the current infrastructure and methods have become increasingly expensive and unsuccessful. It is up to the students to strategize and design a system that will not only be successful, but will also keep the three tiers of sustainability in full consideration; economic, environmental, and social. The students have been working in teams to create a variety of scenarios, and after analyzing all the different options, they will pick the best implementation strategy to present at the conference in September.



From left to right: Paul Swannell, Andrea Berger, Lyndsey Carlson, Lydia Campbell, Abby Lichtscheidl, and Alex Thomas

This will be the first time in 25 years that SWANA is partnering with ISWA (International Solid Waste Association) to bring together some of the biggest names in the solid waste industry and greatest leaders from all corners of the globe. This partnership means that there will be 10 Universities presenting from around the entire world, not just North America. This is a tremendous opportunity for these students, and while it may be challenging, it will provide them with a real-world experience like no other. This project illustrates the real life challenges that our world is facing at this very moment, and furthermore, it will prepare the students for similar issues they'll encounter after graduation. Students will grow professionally as they strengthen skills in teamwork, problem solving, resource management, resourcefulness, and communication. But most importantly, each one of them will begin their transition from students into the solid waste leaders of tomorrow.

# Tires

By: Amanda Haffele (Dunn County)

In 1983, seven million waste tires caught fire in Rhinehart, Virginia and burned for nine months. Toxic smoke spread to three neighboring states. Three years later in Wisconsin, millions of waste tires went up in flames in Somerset and burned for weeks. During this time it was estimated that 15 to 20 million waste tires lay stockpiled in Wisconsin. Waste tires, as defined by the Wisconsin State Legislature, are tires that are no longer suitable for their original purpose because of wear, damage or defect. Stockpiles were formed to avoid landfill fees as many landfills stopped accepting them for disposal or property owners thought one day the tires would have re-sale or reuse value.

Due to fires and stockpiling of waste tires the state Legislature passed a law, in May of 1988, creating a Waste Tire Removal and Recovery Program in the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources. This program provided staff and funding to address the problems associated with stockpiling and the lack of markets. A \$2 per tire fee on new vehicles was created to fund this program. It is estimated that the WDNR cleaned up 12 million tires at 162 sites and private organizations cleaned up 4 million tires at 408 sites. The tires were processed into fuel and used to generate energy. The

Legislature ended this program in 1997.

Waste tires were identified as problematic in landfills and are known to breed disease carrying mosquitoes and rodents. In landfills, tires don't compress well and spring back to shape, taking up valuable air space.



They also migrate or float up to the surface of closed landfills and puncture the top liner or barrier. Due to these hazards, as well as to encourage recycling markets, waste tires were banned from landfills beginning on January 1, 1995.



1986 tire fire in Somerset, WI

## Test Your Tire Knowledge

### True or False

*America generates 300 million waste tires a year.*

According to the product stewardship Institute approximately 300 million waste tires are discarded in America each year.

It's estimated that at least 111 million of them lie in stockpiles across the country. That's enough to make wall-to-wall recycled rubber flooring for more than 1,000 Empire State Buildings, or to cover the entire state of Connecticut in recycled rubber 14 times!

# 2017 BADGER CHAPTER SCHOLARSHIP RECIPIENTS

## Category I—Students Entering College

By: Roxanne Wienkes (Veterans Hospital)



**BRENNA DOVERSPIKE**

(daughter of Chad Doverspike)

Ashwaubenon High School

Concordia University of  
Wisconsin—Nursing



**ABIGAIL QUINNELL**

(daughter of Brenda Quinnell)

Adams Friendship High School

University of Wisconsin—  
Lacrosse—Biology



**TERESA FURLONG**

(daughter of Casey Furlong)

Antioch Community High  
School

University of Illinois—  
Urbana—Engineering



**KIRBY KATERS**

(son of John Katers)

Green Bay West High School

University of Wisconsin—Green  
Bay—Environmental Science/  
Business Management

## Category II—College Students Studying in a Related Field



**PAUL SWANNELL**

*University of Wisconsin—Stevens Point*

Paul is a current student at the University of Wisconsin at Stevens Point and SWANA member, is already an established member in the solid waste industry. He has attended our state conference and WASTECON in past years and will be attending WASTECON this year as a Student Design Competition participant. Paul is an active participant in the Chapter's Young Professionals group and serves as an important link between the Chapter and the University.

# About this Newsletter

This Newsletter is intended to benefit the Badger Chapter Young Professionals. It serves as a communication tool to help keep members informed on group activity, past and future networking events, and expand outreach to new and prospective members. We want to hear from you about how we can improve the content of this newsletter. Our intent is to distribute this newsletter bi-annually to Badger Chapter members. If you have comments, questions, or are interested in helping create the next issue, please contact Ryan Shimko.

## Contributing Writers

Thank you to fellow SWANA YP's Amanda Haffele, David Hagenbucher, Phil Gearing, Roxanne Wienkes, and Ryan Shimko for their contributions to this Issue.

