

Solid Waste Association of North America

YP NEWSFEED

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!](#)

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!](#)

Equipment Road-e-o

Looking to test your operating skills against your peers? Mark your calendars for the Equipment Rodeo slated to occur Fall 2018. The Equipment Rodeo will be a great opportunity to not only test your skills, but gain knowledge in safety, training, and professional development. Keep lookout for updates on the Equipment Rodeo. See the flyer on Page 10 of this Issue.

Coming Soon!

WASTECON 2018

SWANA's national event, WASTECON, will be held in Nashville, Tennessee from August 20th through August 23rd. 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 in Music City!](#)

WIRMC 2019

The 2019 Wisconsin Integrated Resource Management Conference will be held in Stevens Point. Check the WIRMC website (below) for registration and overall conference updates. Network and learn from a wide range of solid waste and recycling professionals.

[WIRMC 2019](#)

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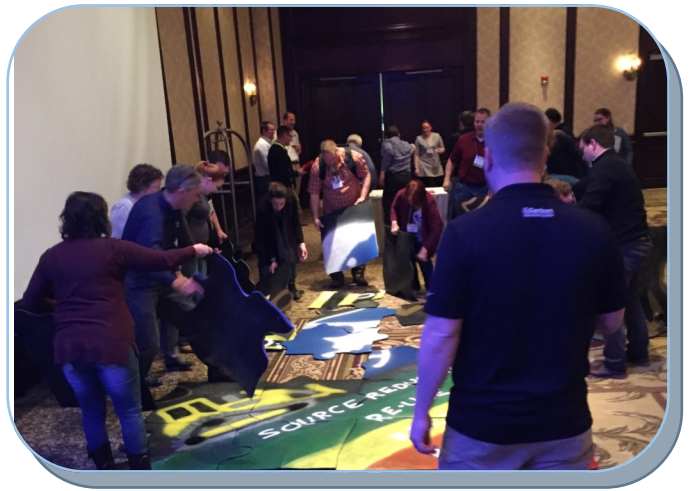


WIRMC Wrap-Up

By: Krystal Clark (Golder Associates)

The Wisconsin Integrated Resource Management Conference (WIRMC) was held at the Osthoff Resort & Conference Center in Elkhart Lake, WI on February 28th through March 2nd, 2018. There was an outstanding presence of SWANA Young Professionals (YPs) throughout the conference.

There were a lot of changes made to the structure of the conference this year by the WIRMC Planning Committee, but the persistence of a SWANA YP Social Event remained! George Shereda of TRC Environmental championed the YP planning. This year, there were four fun-filled activities during the social event including trivia, litter pickup, a geo-puzzle, and paper airplanes.



Geopuzzle assembly at the YP Olympics



Paper airplane construction at the YP Olympics..USA! USA! USA!

Megan Hines, Recycling Specialist for St. Croix County, led the trivia questions! There were five categories of trivia questions: Olympics, acronyms, recycling, solid waste, and composting. Each team had to answer three questions from each category. For the litter pickup, teams were designated as different countries. Each team was required to sort scattered litter into the correct bins: recycling, landfill, organics, drop-off recycling, and hazardous waste. The teams earned points for getting items into the correct bin. There was a catch though, they only had a limited amount of time to make decisions for their items!

Other participants had to use a different kind of strate-

gic thinking to complete a giant geopuzzle! Dave Hagenbucher and Eric Olson from Marathon County created the puzzle from a large piece of geomembrane. They spray painted the geomembrane with waste-related artwork and then cut it into puzzle-piece shaped sections. The participants had to figure out how to put the puzzle back together! Last but not least, other attendees fashioned various shaped paper airplanes in an attempt to get them into nearby metal trash bins and smaller plastic recycling bins which were farther away.

A unique opportunity for professional headshots was presented at the conference this year organized by AROW Emerging Leaders (ELs) and YPs. This convenience was offered at no charge to SWANA YPs and ELs. There were 33 YP/ELs that had their photo taken!



Litter pickup challenge.

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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 one individual at the 2018 WIRMC. Dave Hagenbucher, Solid Waste Operations Manager for the Marathon County Solid Waste Department was the recipient. Congratulations to Dave on his hard work and accomplishments!



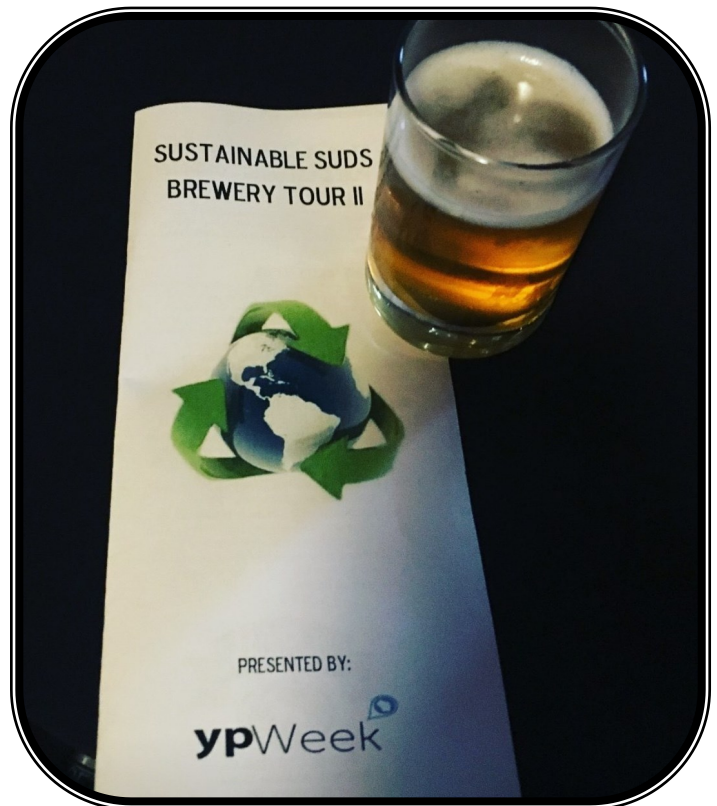
YP Olympic Trivia

2018 YP Week Recap

By: Allison Rath sack (Dane County Public Works)

YPWeek is a weeklong platform for discovery, adventure and meaningful conversations about the issues that matter among young professionals in Wisconsin. YPWeek Wisconsin is an annual event occurring in late April. Participants in the event include a diverse array of organizations and communities throughout the State. This year, the SWANA YP Badger Chapter was a promotional partner for YPWeek Madison.

The week long event includes a variety of activities and networking opportunities for YP's. YPWeek Madison hosted 10 events ranging from building little libraries to a scavenger hunt around Madison. With the help of Madison Rotary After Hours and fellow SWANA YP members, a bus circuit around Madison showcasing sustainable breweries was among one of the 10 events. Each stop included a free beverage from the following participating breweries; Great Dane Pub & Brewing Company, Old Sugar Distillery, Alt Brew, and Ale Asylum.



Sustainable suds brewery tour brochure and beverage.

YP SPOTLIGHT

By: Ryan Shimko, PE (Ayres Associates)



David Hagenbucher

Q: Where did you grow up, attend school?

I grew up in Kronenwetter, a smaller town just a few miles south of Wausau, Wisconsin. I went to school at D.C. Everest in Weston, Wisconsin. I graduated high school in 2008 and went on to college at UW Stevens Point. I graduated from UWSP in 2012 with a Bachelor of Science in Natural Resources with a focus on Waste Resource Management and a minor in Soil Science.

Q: What do you do for fun?

When I am not working, I enjoy spending time with my amazing wife, Laryssa. We are often found at home caring for our many animals and horseback riding. We have 5 horses at home, in addition to numerous other small farm animals including ducks, chickens, goats, cats, rabbits and dogs. Our animals are everything to us and have all become part of our family. We do everything with the horses from racing in rodeos, to easy weekend trail riding. I also have a few steel horses (motorcycles) in the garage, and I have been riding off-road motorcycles since I was about 5 years old.

Q: Did you always foresee yourself going into the solid waste field?

I didn't always see myself going into the solid waste field. I originally wanted to follow my father's footsteps and go into law enforcement. However, after spending some time in extracurricular programs focused on criminal justice, I came to the realization that it just wasn't for me. My interest always returned to natural resources and the environment. I guess I just found it fascinating how absolutely everything on this planet is built off our environment, and we only get one. I often thought of the bigger picture, and what will happen to the human race if we don't focus on meeting the challenges of sustainability. Resources are being depleted at an excessive rate, and once they're gone, they will be gone forever. I knew coming into this career that every single day I would have the opportunity to make a positive impact on the future of the environment and natural resources.

Q: What is your favorite food?

Favorite food would have to be the classic Wisconsin grilled bratwurst.

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Q:What is most beneficial about SWANA?

The most beneficial aspect of SWANA is that they recognize and appreciate the ideas and opinions of young professionals in the industry. The entire organization views YPs as the next generation, and is dedicated to fostering growth and development among them. SWANA YPs now encompass around 10% of the overall membership. Personally, I am seeing an overwhelming amount of students beginning to focus more on what is next. The interests of Young Professionals are in waste diversion, and not really landfilling. The Millennial generation is the next to take over the industry, and with that comes their innovative and creative minds that will shift the waste industry faster than we've ever seen before. Every day there are more and more challenges in waste and recycling, but with the increase in YPs, and the backing from an organization like SWANA, these new challenges will be handled. Young Professionals are thinking big picture. They want to know what will happen 25, 50, and 100 years in the future, and they want to be part of the initiative to make those changes.

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

My favorite responsibility is providing education to our community and other young professionals. I have always loved the teaching aspect of my job. Over the past 8 years that I have been in this industry, I've provided guest lectures and tours to hundreds of students across the state. I strive to get people to think differently about the materials they are throwing out, and I make every effort to be on the forefront of changes that will help our community be more sustainable and environmentally friendly. I want people to understand the importance of environmental protection, and I want them to begin thinking of materials as resources that still have a value. Over the past few years, we've had 15 UWSP interns come through our program at Marathon County Solid Waste, all working on an education in integrated waste resource management. We provide students with an experience that a classroom cannot and delegate responsibilities that will teach them about the waste industry as a whole. Many of our past interns have secured jobs in Wisconsin, and are now well known solid waste professionals that are continuing to make a difference in the industry.



Dave and his wife, Laryssa.

Q:What advice would you give a YP entering the workforce?

If you want to make a positive impact on the environment and help in the effort to create a more sustainable society, then the waste management industry is likely where you belong. A career in waste management doesn't just mean you're going to be working with garbage all day long; there are so many other jobs that revolve around managing a dynamic solid waste system. I like to remind people what would happen without this industry in place, often sharing the history of waste and discussing Love Canal and the burning Cuyahoga River. Although we often don't get credit, individuals working in this industry play such an important role in protecting human health and the environment. Wisconsin specifically is among one of the best states to get involved, primarily because over half the SWANA members are YPs. Wisconsin is also very motivated and has been known to be on the forefront of new technology and ideas when it comes to managing solid waste and recycling. The industry professionals in the state are like a large family...everyone knows everyone else, and we use each other as resources to solve problems and advance our own management techniques.



Construction Safety Reminders

By: Erik Lietz, PE (Oakridge Engineering) - Badger Chapter Safety Ambassador

Now that warm weather is here, construction season is upon us again. Many of us YP's are tasked with various construction tasks. Whether we are involved in the construction activity itself, performing quality assurance tasks, doing regulatory inspections, project management, or just visiting a construction project, you are all subject to the same hazards. Construction projects can pose a significant safety hazard to your personal well-being. Dangers include working around heavy construction equipment and truck traffic, loose footing, steep slopes or trenches, inclement weather, radiation hazards (when using nuclear density gauges), and long hard hours.

If you are on a construction site occasionally you need to consider yourself as a visitor to the site and the normal construction staff are not used to you being there. If you are a regular construction site employee you need to be on the lookout for visitors. Visitors are not intimately familiar with how the site has changed since they were on site last which may have changed significantly. Visitors are also not aware of site hazards or working near heavy equipment.

Remember that PPE (personal protective equipment) should be considered your last line of defense. A safety vest will not stop a truck or piece of equipment from hitting you. Do not put yourself into harm's way in the first place.

Below are some reminders for all of us, experienced and new, that find ourselves on a construction project.

- ⇒ **Wear PPE, particularly high-visibility clothing**
- ⇒ **Wear other PPE as required or appropriate for the job**
- ⇒ **Know the site specific Health and Safety Plan**
- ⇒ **Sign in/out of a project**
- ⇒ **In absence of formal signing in and out, let the project supervisor or landfill manager know you are on-site and when you leave**
- ⇒ **Park your vehicle out of the way but visible**
- ⇒ **If you have to work around heavy equipment, make sure to make eye contact with operator(s) and stay uphill from equipment if possible**
- ⇒ **Be vigilant for steep slopes, stockpiles, and trenches for unstable soils**
- ⇒ **Stay away from nuclear density gauges unless you have proper training**
- ⇒ **Keep hydrated**
- ⇒ **Let your immediate supervisor know when you will be on a site and when you plan on leaving, call or text to verify that you are done at the site**

Into the Outdoors—Becoming Stewards

By: Dave Hagenbucher (Marathon County Solid Waste)

“Out of site...out of mind.” For professionals in the waste management industry, we have a clear understanding of what this phrase means. We hear this because most people have absolutely no clue where their garbage goes, and unfortunately, many of those people don’t really care. They take their trash to the curb once a week for pickup, a truck hauls it away, and life goes on. The following week, they do it all over again, and they never really understand the environmental impact that their choices have each and every time they decide to throw something in the trash. The story of waste and recycling in Wisconsin is one that many people don’t know about. That is why a group of Wisconsin leaders, including numerous Young Professionals, have decided to bring this subject to the forefront of education. SWANA, AROW, and WCSWMA have partnered with Discover Media-Works to develop an educational television program for the network’s “Into the Outdoors” television show. This program will be aired on public television with the title *Becoming Stewards: Uncovering the Solid Waste Story*.

“Into the Outdoors” (ITO) is an environmental-based television program that has been producing shows about Wisconsin’s natural resources for many years. The target audience of this program includes children and younger teenagers. Many of the ITO programs are utilized in schools throughout Wisconsin as part of educational curricula. Wisconsin waste and recycling industry Young Professionals have been involved in the planning and development process of the show over the past few months. Young Professionals including Kelly Adlington of Recycling Connections, John Welch of Dane County, Amanda Haffele of Dunn County, Dave Hagenbucher of Marathon County and many others have all been working on this project. In addition, many more YPs across Wisconsin will be interviewed for the project over the course of the next few months.

When we throw something away, it doesn’t magically disappear, even though it may seem like it does. For many years we have secluded landfills and waste processing facilities in rural areas where populations are scarce, and in areas where people can’t see the daily activities. This was great for protecting human health and the environment, however, we’ve essentially hidden solid waste management practices from everyday



Into the Outdoors planning committee hard at work.

life. By doing this, we have made the whole concept of throwing something out an acceptable behavior. Because of the way the infrastructure was designed, most people have absolutely no idea where their waste goes...until now!

Viewers will see almost every aspect of the solid waste and recycling industry. This program will include information on landfill construction, landfill operations, recycling facilities, MRFs, transfer stations, composting, waste to energy, incineration, anaerobic digestion, gas systems, renewable energy, hauling, hazardous waste, engineering, regulations, and emerging technologies. The show will not only explain what the various facilities and infrastructure are, but will focus on why they are essential to the protection of human health and the environment, and how everyone plays an important role in the future of Wisconsin’s waste and recycling resources. The ultimate goal is for the viewers to understand the importance of waste management and recycling in the state of Wisconsin, with the hope that they begin to think differently about the choices they make regarding waste generation. The program will also promote interest in the waste management industry, fostering young professional involvement in the YP effort.

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Why would anyone want to change their behavior if they don't realize that there's a problem? The reality of this situation is that we are all responsible for filling up landfills, and thus the "Into the Outdoors" program will aim to raise awareness and educate the viewers on what really happens to their waste and recycling. It will attempt to remove the shame that has been associated with waste management and help viewers understand the importance that this work has in Wisconsin.

This educational effort will also be a driving force in trying to change unsustainable lifestyle behaviors and neg-

ative connotations associated with Wisconsin's integrated waste resource management systems. With the potential to educate millions of viewers, a more sustainable future is right around the corner.

If you are interested in learning more about Uncovering the Solid Waste Story, please visit www.becomingstewards.com. You can be a part of this amazing endeavor by contributing as little as \$10. If you wish to contribute to the success of this story, scroll down the page to the Donate button.

WMM Study Group - Food and Organics Residual Reduction Management

By: David Hagenbucher (Marathon County Solid Waste)

As landfill tonnages continue to rise and humans transform rural landscapes into mountains of discarded trash, industry professionals are looking for new ways to divert materials from landfill disposal and manage those materials in the most efficient way possible. The leaders of the solid waste industry and Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources are aiming to implement more sustainable waste management practices across Wisconsin. The Waste and Materials Management (WMM) Study Group is a committee focused on Wisconsin's most challenging waste issues. The Study Group is an effort that was initiated by the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources, and has grown to include professionals from both private and public sectors. Under the leadership of Meleesa Johnson of Marathon County and Chad Doverspike of Brown County, it has been a collaborative effort to find solutions to some of the toughest problems that our state is currently facing. The issues that this group has been working on over the past few years include alternative caps, construction and demolition, groundwater monitoring, recycling innovation, and organics diversion.

The Food and Organics Residual Reduction Management (FORRM) committee is a subgroup of the Study Group, and is a compilation of waste resource leaders focused specifically on organics diversion. This subgroup is also one that has really gained momentum with the Young Professionals.



Appleton Food Bank.

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YPs Matt Bergeon of Golder and Dave Hagenbucher of Marathon County co-chair the committee, and work alongside numerous other YPs including Krystal Clark (Golder), Kelly Adlington (Recycling Connections), Lindsey Carlson (WDNR), Casey Lamensky (WDNR), Serena Kuczmariski (UWSP), and Dave Barbier (UWSP). The group has been meeting regularly and continues to develop strategies and a network of experts dedicated to this cause. The meetings have also been wrapped around other educational opportunities including touring the Bio-Digester with Brian Langolf at UW Oshkosh, a presentation with Kelly Adlington of Rising Sands Organics, and a tour of the Appleton Food Bank with Ross Younger of Feeding America.

So what should we do with unwanted food? We could eat it, give it to someone in need, compost it, digest it, or not even purchase it in the first place. The FORRM group has been tasked with developing a strategy to steer Wisconsin in the right direction in regards to food waste. Wisconsin has a robust recycling program, however, the infrastructure and ability to manage food residual is marginal. The quickest option would be to implement a landfill ban, but FORRM quickly realized that legislative action in this political climate is an unlikely approach. Given all these factors, FORRM felt that the best approach would be to change people's behavior.

People play the largest role in reducing waste, however,

people are also inclined to do what's cheap and convenient. FORRM's goal is to drive behavioral changes that will make people think differently about food residuals. The idea is to make it easier for businesses, organizations, and individuals to practice food waste diversion, therefore, the group developed 4 action items to bring about this behavioral change. These action items include developing a mapping system, building relationships, increasing backyard composting, and promoting education. A UW Stevens Point Food and Nutrition capstone class of 20 students has already begun extensive work on developing a portion of this project, and will continue to focus efforts on it next semester.

FORRM doesn't just want to educate people, they want to change behavior. The group is confident that these initiatives will lead to greater diversion of food waste currently going to Wisconsin landfills. The ultimate goal and big picture solution is to minimize our dependence on landfill disposal. Landfills are an option, but they are not necessarily the best option. We all know that it would be wrong to put an automobile into a landfill; this sort of attitude should be the exact same when it comes to food and organics. Once we are there, we will look back and wonder why we didn't do this sooner.

If you are interested in learning more about FORRM or the Waste and Material Management Study Group, please visit the Wisconsin DNR website.

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 Allison Rathack, David Hagenbucher, Erik Lietz, Krystal Clark, Roxanne Wienkes, and Ryan Shimko for their contributions to this Issue.





EQUIPMENT ROAD-E-O FALL 2018



DOZER - LOADER - COMPACTOR - EXCAVATOR - ROUTE TRUCK
▪Networking ▪Training ▪Safety ▪Development



OPERATORS AND VOLUNTEERS WANTED!

ARE YOU INTERESTED OR DO YOU KNOW SOMEONE WHO IS?

Contact

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