Texas On-Site Wastewater
33rd Annual Conference

MARCH 9-11, 2026

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PROGRAM

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EXHIBIT HALL BY THE STAGE

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Open to compete Tuesday 9am - 5:30pm.
Compete during each break, lunch or 5pm-5:30pm reception.
FINALS round will be held 5:45pm-6:30pm.

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2nd & 3rd - Trophies and cash prizes

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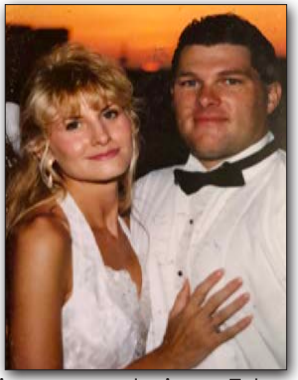
TOWA 2026
PRESIDENT'S WELCOME MESSAGE



Welcome to the 2026 TOWA Annual Conference. We are proud to host the largest education and exhibition in the Southwest for the OSSF industry. Please take time to visit and thank the vendors and sponsors. They are here to trouble shoot your issues, take questions and offer options. Without their support we could not provide the conference, catering or education.

As we navigate the evolving landscape of on-site wastewater management in the State of Texas, our commitment to education, innovation, and compliance is constant. TOWA continues to make great strides on providing education options for Installers, DR's, RS's, Maintenance Technicians, homeowners as well as now designers & pumpers. This is a critical time of growth in the on-site wastewater industry, but we all must do our part to protect the people and environment of the State of Texas. If we do not do our part to protect the water in the State of Texas, future generations will not have clean drinking water. Non-Standard Systems in Texas have been under regulations for over two decades and are now finally being enforced. We must be resilient to address issues for Non-Standard systems installed in Texas, that are now having performance issues due to improper design. Education and experience are vital for design to include high strength waste design, which is the key regarding Non-Standard system. To move to standardization and successful treatment, Non-Standard systems must be designed and installed appropriately and reviewed by TCEQ to make sure it meets the regulations that we all must abide by.

TOWA is proud to support local chapters and thank all the volunteers holding local meetings and networking. Get involved with TOWA and your local TOWA Chapters. Take advantage of monthly BMP & AMP training courses held in person, by experienced teachers. Contacts & dates are on the web site.

New benefits offered for 2026 include: New design & pumper education at the 2026 conference, AND an exciting new OSSF Resource Search Map added to our web site and shared with the public. This referral resource is FREE to members. As an attendee of this conference – you receive membership. Thank you to our speakers & board members for supporting these advancements.

This is my last conference as President, and I am happy to turn over the reins to Mr. Jim Prochaska as the incoming President of TOWA. Thank you to everyone that helped make a difference through the past legislative sessions, conferences and for the industry in Texas.

Sincerely,

Steven C. Murdock

Steven C. Murdock

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Thank you!

2026 CONFERENCE COMMITTEE

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TOWA 2026
CONFERENCE CE PROCESS

TOWA is an approved continuing education provider by TCEQ (**TCEQ Provider 0408**).
The conference is Course Code **#1316** and offers up to **20.5 CE contact hours**.
CE hours for Pre - Conference Courses are listed below.

- Attendees MUST wear their badge (with the RFID Code on the back) at all times.
- Attendance is tracked by RFID monitoring in each session room.
- You are welcome to be anywhere (Classrooms or Exhibit Hall) however you will only get CE Hours for time **spent in classrooms**. *Attendees will get* **.5 credit for Exhibit Hall attendance.**
- You will be scanned in and out of each lecture hall and total time will be calculated automatically.
- You must walk in and out through the towers. It's just that simple, nothing to sign.
- The total hours will be calculated automatically and a certificate with an evaluation will be emailed to you within a week.
- If you DO NOT have access to email, please advise the TOWA registration desk and we will fax or mail your copy.
- Total CE hours will be uploaded to the TCEQ following the conference and a CORRECT license number is required.
- You can verify hours uploaded under your license on the TCEQ website.
- For any questions, see the TOWA Conference Desk, or email txowaconference@gmail.com after the show.

TCEQ requires accountable attendance tracking for ce credit. Thank you for your cooperation and support of advancing education in the industry. Any unethical or fraudulent representation of attendance is subject revocation of your TCEQ license.

ADDITIONAL CEU INFORMATION

Pre- Conference Classes:

Design for OSSF - Includes High Strength
8 CE OSSF Hrs - TCEQ Approved
3/9 - 8:30am - 5:30pm

Advanced Maintenance Provider
16 CE OSSF hrs- TCEQ Approved
3/9 & 3/10 - 9:00am - 6:00pm

Pumper Technician Training
4 CE OSSF Hrs - TCEQ Approved
3/9 - 1:00pm - 5:00pm

Designing & Installing OSSFs
4 CE OSSF Hrs - TCEQ Approved
3/9 - 1:00pm - 5:00pm

Main Conference

UP to 12 CE OSSF hrs offered - TCEQ Approved
3/10- 6 hrs + .5 for Exhibit Hall
3/11 - 5.5 hrs (With AA 7am Breakfast talk)

REGISTRATION HOURS

March 9th	4PM - 6PM
March 10th	7AM - 6PM
March 11th	7AM - End

DESIGN FOR OSSF: INTRODUCTION TO HIGH STRENGTH DESIGN

Monday, March 9 from 8:30AM - 5:30PM | Room: Texas South

OSSF designs are discussed with respect to completeness and compliance with rule guidance. The design serves as an educational document for the facility owner and sets their expectations as well as responsibilities associated with system use. The design should be complete with respect to specifying the components and include the component literature to demonstrate compliance with design requirements as well as set expectations for equivalent components.

High strength wastewater challenges the industry because the treatment system limitation is organic loading rate rather than water flow rate. An effective treatment system starts with the design addressing both the flow and organic loading rate. The treatment train must include components that are not typically required to manage a residential wastewater. Because of loading rates, multiple treatment tanks must be connected together to achieve the treatment capacity. The interconnection of these tanks must be performed correctly to maintain treatment and support maintenance activities. Additionally, management options for adjusting the treatment processes should be included in the treatment train.

Pretreatment tanks are the first tank in the treatment train. The pretreatment tank can serve as a trash tank or anaerobic treatment tank. The pretreatment tank can provide trash removal, clarification, solids storage and treatment. As tank capacity increases, the pretreatment tank provides more functions. The clarification function of a pretreatment tank is achieved with approximately 50 % of the design flow rate. The sludge storage volume is equivalent to 30% of the tank volume. The treatment volume is generally considered as two to three days of detention time. The selected design volume determines the functions served by the pretreatment tank: sludge storage, treatment volume and clarification volume. The anticipated treatment is presented with respect to the Volatile Suspended Solids (VSS) concentration of the wastewater. The VSS fraction is the portion of the wastewater stream which can be settled from the wastewater and potentially digested within the treatment volume.

Flow equalization tanks can be an effective effluent controlling component of an onsite wastewater treatment system. A properly sized flow equalization tank can capture the water from daily or weekly peak flow events and allow the distribution of the water over a period of time. A timed dosing system is used to uniformly distribute the water over time. Because the tank will likely experience periods of low water volume, tank buoyancy should be considered and measures implemented to limit the risk of tank flotation. Special features of a flow equalization tank can be implemented such as dosing multiple treatment plants, restricting pump discharge rates and duplexing of pumping systems. Overall, controlling the flow rate and time distribution of effluent passing through a treatment system improves the performance of treatment components.

The treatment train components are selected based upon engineering/scientific principles and loading rates (hydraulic and organic). The design consists of a treatment train with components selected according to standard accepted practices and include the unit processes required for effective treatment. Most facilities require flow equalization due to the variable nature of wastewater flows and lack of distributed organic loading. The treatment component typically requires multiple parallel treatment trains. A method to uniformly distribute the wastewater between the parallel treatment units should be selected. The pump tank is designed to accept and hold the wastewater until distributed through the dispersal system. It is anticipated that a design safety factor should be included in component sizing to reduce stress on components, provide capacity for unknown peak loading events, and reduce operation and maintenance requirements.

The effectiveness of a soil treatment system depends on organic loading rates at the infiltrative surface, where wastewater first enters the soil and active treatment begins. As organic material accumulates, a biomat forms that regulates liquid movement and supports treatment within the aerobic "biozone," where microbes break down contaminants, ammonia, and pathogens. Maintaining proper oxygen levels and appropriate loading rates is essential to ensure effective treatment and to properly size the soil trench or bed area.

Operation and maintenance activities are critical to keeping the treatment system operating. Because treatment processes are generally operated at rates closer to design capacity, operation and maintenance requirements are increased. Performance monitoring of treatment systems serving facilities with high strength wastewater should be included in the overall management system.

Instructors:

Sterling Maynard, P.E. is a licensed Professional Engineer and the Founder and Principal Engineer of Sterling Engineering Consultants, a Texas-based design-build engineering firm providing civil, utility, stormwater, building, and on-site sewage facility (OSSF) design and construction services. He is certified as a Texas OSSF Installer II and Site Evaluator, and holds a Class D Water Operator license. Mr. Maynard has extensive hands-on field experience designing and constructing on-site sewage facilities ranging from small residential systems to large commercial installations, including RV park facilities up to 5,000 gallons per day. His work emphasizes TAC Chapter 285 compliance, constructability, system hydraulics, and practical, field-driven design.

Bruce J. Lesikar, P.E., Ph.D.: see bio under Speaker & Session Overviews

Pre Conference Classes - **SEPARATE REGISTRATION REQUIRED**

ADVANCED MAINTENANCE PROVIDER

Monday, March 9 & Tuesday, March 10 from 9AM - 6PM each day | Room: Texas North

To take the AMP Course and Maintenance Provider License exam, an individual must hold one of the following licenses: Installer II, Class C or higher Wastewater Treatment Plant Operator OR have three (3) years of experience as a registered maintenance Technician. Please reference all requirements for a Maintenance Provider License on the TCEQ website to determine if you are eligible. The MP exam is available in Spanish. http://www.tceq.texas.gov

Instructor: Ron Moomaw

PUMPER TECHNICIAN TRAINING

Monday, March 9 from 1PM - 5PM | Room: Ranger Room

This program provides the essential regulatory and safety framework for Texas Pumper Training operating in the On-Site Sewage Facility (OSSF) industry. Regulated by TCEQ (TAC Chapter 285) and TXDOT, the training standardizes the safe removal, transport, and disposal of septic waste. Key focus areas include:

- Regulatory Compliance: Strict licensing mandates for compensated work and adherence to the 10-foot roadway clearance rule.
- 2026 Industry Shifts: Navigating the PFAS "disposal squeeze" and new CERCLA liability risks for septage haulers.
- Operational Safety Mastery: High-risk protocols for Confined Space Entry, atmospheric monitoring (H2S and Methane), and overhead hazard identification.
- System Specialized Care: Differentiating pumping techniques for Conventional vs. Aerobic (ATU) systems to prevent component damage and maintain biological health.
- Environmental Stewardship: Mandatory use of TCEQ-authorized disposal sites, manifest tracking, and the necessity of Pollution Liability Insurance to mitigate spill-related financial risks.

Instructors:

Dominic Rosales Owner of Juice's Septic & Grease Pumping, Dominic is a hands-on expert specializing in complex system cleaning. Known globally for his "Poor Pumper Society" educational content, he holds Installer II and Maintenance Provider licenses and is a frequent international speaker on wastewater challenges.

Brian Wakefield: With over 25 years in wastewater experience, Brian serves on the TOWA and NOWRA boards. As President of B & J Wakefield Services, Homefield Onsite Environmental co-founder and area Rep, Aerobic Guard co-founder, VP and Texas Wastewater President, he leads industry-wide efforts in OSSF installation, maintenance, distribution, and technology manufacturing. He is a licensed Installer II and Maintenance Provider.

DESIGNING & INSTALLING OSSF'S IN THE FLOOD PLAIN

Monday, March 9 from 1PM - 5PM | Room: Lone Star

This session was developed to provide the audience with an overview of Floodplain Management and its relationship to the On-Site Wastewater Program. Participants will develop the knowledge to determine if a property is in the 100-yr floodplain, as well as how to identify the zone it's located in, and the depth of flooding anticipated, based on the mapped Base Flood Elevation BFE. Once a flood zone has been determined, a deep dive into Federal, State, and Local regulations will be discussed, with applicable statutes presented. Floodway requirements will be explained regarding who can design the system and certify compliance as required by law. The "no net fill "provision requiring removal of tank and trench excavation materials outside the 100yr floodplain will be explained. The common mistake of failing to elevate aerators, control panels, and alarms above the BFE will be discussed. Additionally, the Substantial Improvement provision of 44 CFR 60.3 will be explained, along with its effect on bringing an OSSF into compliance.

Instructor:
John Blount, P.E.: see bio under Speaker & Session Overviews

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	A	B	C
1	**2026 TOWA Annual Conference - Grounded in Change: Building Resilience for a Growing Texas**		
2	**March 9, 2026 - Monday (Pre-Conference)**		
3	**TIME**	**Pre-Conference Events**	
4	7:30 - 9:00	**Room: Lobby** **Pre-conference Class Only- Registration**	
5	9:00 - 6:00	**Pre-conference Classes:**	
6	8:30 - 5:30	**Room:Texas South** **"Design for OSSF: Including Sizing & High Strength Design" 8 CEU/** Instructor: Bruce Lesikar,P.E & Sterling Maynard, P.E.	
7	9:00 - 6:00*	**Room: Texas North** **"Advanced Maintenance Provider"**-2 Day Class- **16 CEU** (9-6pm Mon & Tues) Instructor: Ron Moomaw	
8	1:00 - 5:00	**Room: Ranger** **"Pumper Technician Training: Intro to Pumping OSSFs"- 4 CEU/** Instructors: Dominic Rosales & Brian Wakefield	
9	1:00 - 5:00	**Room: Lone Star** **"Designing & Installing OSSF's in the Flood Plain"- 4 CEU/** Instructor: John Blount,P.E.	
10	4:00 - 6:00	**Room: Lobby** **General Conference Attendee & Exhibitor Registration opens**	
12		**March 10, 2026 - Tuesday**	
13	7:00 - 7:45	**Breakfast - Exhibit Hall & Registration Opens (Lobby)**	
14		**Keynote Address - Main Session (Brazos Ballroom)**	
15	7:45 - 8:00	**Opening Introductions** - Randy Chelette	
16	8:00 - 9:00	**Deep Roots, New Growth: Resilience in a Rapidly Changing Landscape** - Colin Bishop, MS, REHS, RS	
17	9:00 - 10:00	**Exhibit Hall Opening & Roe-D-Hoe Contest** **>Hall Open from 9:00AM until 6:00PM; > Day 2 of 2 - AMP Class 9:00AM to 6:00PM (Texas North)**	
18		**Industry Direction Sessions - Brazos South**	**Design/Regulatory Sessions - Brazos North**
19	10:00 - 11:00	**Design, operation and maintenance of Low Pressure Dosing Systems** - John Buchanan, P.E.	**TCEQ Update: OSSF Program** - Joseph Hopkins, P.G.
20	11:00 - 12:00	**TxDOT guidelines for Commercial Vehicles serving OSSFs** - Jim Galyean	**Collection Systems: Guidelines for designing to meet flow requirements** -John Blount, P.E.
21	12:00 - 1:00	**Lunch & Roe-D-Hoe Contest - Exhibit Hall**	
22	**During Lunch*	**TOWA Annual Meeting - Exhibit Hall/ McClennan Section**	
23	1:00 - 2:00	**The perfect pump chamber** - Dennis Hallahan, P.E.	**Anaerobic tank design and installation considerations** - Bruce Lesikar, P.E.
24	2:00 - 3:00	**Installation and maintenance of flow splitting methods** - Montel Rutledge, Installer, M.P.	**Reviewing Proprietary Aerobic Treatment Unit Testing Data during NSF Standard 40 testing** - John Blount, P.E.
25	3:00 - 4:00	**Exhibit Hall Break & Roe-D-Hoe Contest**	
26	4:00 - 5:00	**Installation and maintenance of compliant electrical systems** - Doug Hensarling, Installer, M.P.	**Design considerations for drip irrigation systems** - John Buchanan, P.E.
27	5:00 - 6:30	**Exhibit Hall Mixer & Roe-D-Hoe Finals**	
29		**March 11, 2026 - Wednesday**	
30	7:00 - 8:00	**AA Round Table Breakfast Session - (1 CEU) How the Tacoma-Pierce County Health Department solved the staffing and reporting system requirements to provide effective regulatory oversight.** Moderator: Robert Suggs, Environmental Health Specialist III, Tacoma-Pierce County Health Department **Exhibit Hall Breakfast 7:00AM - 8:00AM**	
31		**General Sessions - Brazos South**	**Engineer Design Systems - Brazos North**
32	8:00 - 9:00	**Lessons learned through implementing an installer bond in Oklahoma** - Nicholas Huber	**Nitrogen management in treatment systems** - Kevin Sherman, P.E.
33	9:00 - 10:00	**Texas A&M AgriLife OSSF Program Updates** - Anish Jantrania, Ph.D. P.E.	**Nitrogen Loading – Nitrogen dispersal into the receiving environment** - Colin Bishop,MS, REHS, RS
34	10:00 - 10:30	**Exhibit Hall Break - Closes 11am**	
35	10:30 - 11:30	**TCEQ Licensing Update & Rules Revision Discussion** - Renata Kosicki	***Professional Ethics in OSSF Design & Industry Practice-** John Blount, P.E.
36	11:30 - 1:00	**Commercial conundrums: challenging onsite commercial systems** - Dennis Hallahan, P.E.	**Surface Application Systems - Design, Installation, Operation, and Maintenance** - Bruce Lesikar, P.E.
37	*Agenda Subject to changes and TCEQ approval. AMP Class- 16 hrs. Full conference with AMP Class, CEU = 20.5; Main Conference Tues & Wed = 12 . * Professional Engineering Ethics, One-hour, CEU Course*		

TOWA 2026
SPEAKER & SESSION OVERVIEWS

Deep Roots, New Growth: Resilience in a Rapidly Changing Landscape - *Keynote Presentation*
Texas is changing fast — new regulations, new growth patterns, new expectations. But amid that change, our foundation remains the same: professionals dedicated to protecting water and community. In this keynote, Colin Bishop explores how being grounded means staying connected to what matters most while adapting with purpose in a rapidly evolving technological world. Drawing on lessons from both engineering systems and human performance, he challenges attendees to strengthen the roots of their practice by cultivating knowledge and relationships with focus and integrity. In doing so, resilience becomes not just a concept, but a practical way of working and leading in a growing Texas.

Nitrogen Loading – Nitrogen dispersal into the receiving environment
Nitrogen management remains one of the emerging and increasingly complex challenges in onsite and decentralized wastewater systems, particularly as growth intensifies and regulatory expectations evolve. This presentation examines how nitrogen moves beyond the treatment system and disperses into the receiving environment, with emphasis on the mechanisms that influence loading, attenuation, and transport. Drawing from field experience, system design principles, and regulatory context, the session explores how site conditions, system selection, operational performance, and cumulative impacts affect nitrogen outcomes. Attendees will gain a clearer understanding of how nitrogen mitigation occurs through combinations of treatment and dispersal practices, why performance on paper does not always translate to performance in practice, and how informed design using a mass loading model can better protect water resources.

Colin Bishop MS, REHS, RS: Colin Bishop helps people and systems move from complexity to clarity, and from problems to practical solutions. His work sits at the intersection of community development, environmental health, and human performance, shaped by more than three decades of experience across environmental technology, onsite and decentralized wastewater systems, regulation, planning, and leadership in both the private and public sectors. As Community Development Director for Santa Cruz County, Arizona, Colin leads planning and zoning, land use, building, and long-range infrastructure efforts, working closely with development stakeholders to improve regulatory clarity, collaboration, and implementation outcomes. His focus is on processes, systems, and codes that support innovation while aligning growth with environmental stewardship, including water resources. He is also the founder of The Everything Coach, where he develops practical, human-centered frameworks that help professionals, organizations, and communities navigate change, improve performance, and strengthen decision-making in complex environments. His perspective is grounded in both education and lived experience—from science and systems thinking to leadership and athletics, and more than 30 years of experience, including senior leadership and partnership roles at Anua.

TCEQ Update: OSSF Program
Introduction to PSEAD's Technical Programs Team, who we are, what we do (and some of what we don't do). Overview of nonstandard reviews covering, regulatory requirements, what a nonstandard OSSF is, the nonstandard review process and the expectations.

Joseph L. Hopkins, P.G.: Prior to joining the TCEQ, Joseph was a high school science teacher and coach at a small school in west-central Texas. Joseph began employment with the TCEQ as an Environmental Investigator in the Lubbock Regional Office in 2005. His assigned responsibilities included: On-Site Sewage Facilities, Water Rights, Water Quality, Confined Animal Feeding Operations, Emergency Response, Petroleum Storage Tanks, and Public Water Supply. In 2017, Joseph transferred to the Waco Regional Office where he worked primarily as a Public Water Supply Investigator and served on the Disaster Response Strike Team. Joseph is currently the Team Leader for the Technical Programs Team, which includes the OSSF and Landscape Irrigation programs, of the Program Support and Environmental Assistance Division. Joseph lives in Waco with his wife and four children. Vanessa is a high school guidance counselor. Hayden is a graduate of Texas Tech University. Kamren is a senior and stays busy with cross-country, soccer, band, student council, and working. Westen is a junior and plays football, basketball, track, and soccer. Keslee is in 8th grade and enjoys horses, playing youth volleyball, basketball, and keeping her brothers in line. Joseph spends his time trying to keep up with his kid's activities and sometimes has a chance to enjoy some outdoor activities and volunteer with his local church's youth program.

Design, Operation and Maintenance of Low-Pressure Dosing Systems
Onsite residential and commercial sewage facilities depend on the soil to provide final treatment of wastewater before it is dispersed back into the environment. One means of maximizing the soil's potential to renovate wastewater is to provide uniform distribution of septic tank effluent across the whole drainfield. A gravity conventional system can only place effluent at the beginning of the trench and uniform distribution does not occur until ponding starts to develop within the trench. With a low-pressure dosed drainfield (LPDD), a small diameter pipe (typically 1.25" diameter) that has small diameter perforations every 60" is used to apply the effluent along the entire length of the trench with each dose of the system. In Texas, LPDD systems are considered nonstandard disposal systems (§285.33(d)(1)). However, this alternative disposal system should be evaluated for sites with limited soil depth. The required trench depth and vertical separation over rock is less than what is required for conventional gravity systems. This session will focus on the hydraulic design of a

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low-pressure dosed drainfield, which includes dose volume, pipe and orifice sizing, float placement, and pump selection. We will conclude with a discussion of LPDD system operation and maintenance.

Design considerations for drip irrigation systems

When working with shallow soils, we need to use wastewater application methods that can take full advantage of the limited soil resource. Subsurface drip dispersal systems ensure that the whole distribution area receives uniform doses and can maintain aerobic conditions within the soil. However, in order to accomplish this, drip systems must be based on good design, installed with care, and maintained by professionals. This session will focus on the critical design parameters, the installation techniques, and long-term maintenance that must be understood when selecting a drip dispersal system for residential and small community wastewater management.

John Buchanan, Ph.D., P.E.: Dr. John R. Buchanan is a Professor Emeritus, recently retired from the Biosystems Engineering and Soil Science Department at the University of Tennessee, Knoxville. He has greater than 36 years of teaching, research, and outreach experience in the areas of onsite and decentralized wastewater management, water supply, water quality, and storm water engineering. Dr. Buchanan has B.S. and M.S. degrees in Agricul¬tural Engineering and a Ph.D. in Civil Engineering, all from The University of Tennessee. John is a member of NOWRA, and the American Society of Agricultural and Biological Engineers. He most recently served as the undergraduate director of the Construction Science and Management Program housed within the Biosystems Engineering and Soil Science Department. John is a registered professional engineer in Tennessee.

Collection Systems: Guidelines for designing to meet flow requirements

This session was developed to give the audience an overview of how collection lines are sized and how the applicable slopes are determined. TCEQ Chapter 217 requirements will be discussed and outlined as best practice, and implications of TBPELS Policy letter 15 will be covered. Topics include grinder vs. solids-handling pumps, as well as minimum pipe sizes and slopes. Plan and profile examples will be given. Alternative collection systems will also be discussed.

Reviewing Proprietary Aerobic Treatment Units Testing Data during NSF Standard 40 Tests

This session was developed to give the audience an overview of how NSF Standard 40 Units are tested and can be implemented as a component of a high-strength wastewater treatment train. The Standard 40 test will be explained by extracting actual BOD reduction capabilities from several brands' test results. Often, designers are unaware of the actual capabilities of treatment units, which will be discussed in detail. Additionally, the common mistake of using the maximum organic loading rate rather than the average organic loading rate as a design factor will be discussed. The development of a unit's average organic loading reduction rate will be demonstrated through a design example.

Professional Ethics in OSSF Design and Industry Practice

The designer has an ethical requirement to protect public health, public safety, environmental health and environmental safety. Protection of our water resources is critical and is supported through environmental health and environmental safety. As a professional designer, the public perceives them as a resource to protect them from liability associated with malfunctioning systems. The professional engineer has a code of ethics that shall be followed when performing their duties. It is the responsibility of the professional engineer to serve their client but also protect the public and the environment. Effective wastewater treatment system designs provide wastewater treatment and protect the public. Design safety factors, redundancy of components and owner education can be effective means to improve system reliability.

This presentation will explore ethical considerations of Designers, Site Evaluators, Installers, Maintenance Providers, and Regulators in the Onsite Wastewater Industry. Engineering ethics will be demonstrated through numerous real-life and fictional examples, encouraging audience participation.

John Blount, P.E.: John is a 1984 graduate of the University of Houston. After college he served as an Army Corps of Engineers officer on both active and reserve duty, achieving the rank of captain while being stationed in the United States, Republic of Germany, and the Republic of Honduras. He has worked in the civil engineering field for thirty-seven years and is a Registered Professional Engineer (WI) (TX) (ME) as well as a LEED Accredited Professional, Certified Flood Plain Manager (CFM) and Envision Sustainability Professional (ENV SP). He was employed by Harris County for over thirty-four years starting as an Inspector and advancing to the position of County Engineer responsible for 766 employees and over a billion-dollar annual infrastructure program. He previously served on the National Sanitation Foundation (NSF) Joint Wastewater Committee and was previously Chairman of the Texas Onsite Wastewater Research Council appointed by the governor. Currently, John is principal of Civil Solutions, a Consulting Engineering firm located in Houston.

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The perfect pump chamber
This presentation reviews the necessary elements of design and the components along with operations and maintenance and safety provisions for a pump chamber.

Commercial conundrums: challenging onsite commercial systems
This presentation reviews actual design submissions, discuss unique, real projects that faced differing problems and what was done to resolve the issues to advance the project. This presentation will help designers, engineers, and contractors be able to recognize and respond properly for an improved system design, installation efficiency, and how address liabilities. The plans to be presented were sent in with very limited information, and we will look at each project and discuss with the audience possible solutions to address each site.

Dennis Hallahan, P.E.: Dennis has over 30 years of experience with the design and construction of on-site wastewater treatment systems. He has authored dozens of articles for on-site industry magazines and has given numerous presentations nationally on the science and fundamentals of on-site wastewater treatment systems. Dennis also is responsible for product research and testing at universities, test centers and with private consultants. His department develops system sizing charts for national and international approvals and assists customers and field representatives in the planning and review of large commercial decentralized systems. Many of these systems have design flows in excess of one million gallons per day. He received his MS in civil engineering from the University of Connecticut and his BS in civil engineering from the University of Vermont. Dennis is a registered professional engineer in Connecticut. He has been with Infiltrator Water Technologies for 19 years and holds the current position as Technical Director. Dennis also holds patents for on-site wastewater products and is a member of the Water Environment Federation and of the National Onsite Wastewater Recycling Association. Dennis has served for several years on the NOWRA Technical Practices (currently serving as chairman) and Educational Committees and is also a member of the Water Environment Federation's Small Communities Committee.

TxDOT guidelines for Commercial Vehicles serving OSSFs
This presentation will cover the guidelines for operating commercial vehicles. Transportation requires are applicable to installers, maintenance providers, maintenance technicians and pumpers. Equipment requirements along with hazardous material transport will be discussed.

Sgt. Jim Galyean: is an officer with the Texas Department of Public Safety, working in Commercial Vehicle Enforcement since October 1995, totaling over 30 years of service. He has been stationed in various Texas locations, including Weslaco, Sherman, Laredo, and currently Waco. Prior to DPS, he served three years in the U.S. Army as an Artillery Surveyor and attended Texas Tech University. He supervises Troopers responsible for enforcing the motor carrier safety regulations, managing weight, size, and hazardous materials transportation across 13 counties in central Texas.

Anaerobic tank design and installation considerations
Pretreatment tanks are the first tank in the treatment train. The pretreatment tank can serve as a trash tank or anaerobic treatment tank. The pretreatment tank can provide trash removal, clarification, solids storage and treatment. As tank capacity increases, the pretreatment tank provides more functions. The OSSF rules include table II to serve as guidance for calculating septic tank minimum liquid capacity (30 TAC Chapter 285.91(2)). The minimum liquid capacity relative to design flow rate decreases for larger wastewater design flows in this table. The clarification function of a pretreatment tank is achieved with approximately 50% of the design flow rate. The sludge storage volume is equivalent to 30% of the tank volume. The treatment volume is generally considered as two to three days of detention time. The selected design volume determines the functions served by the pretreatment tank: sludge storage, treatment volume and clarification volume. The anticipated treatment is presented with respect to the Volatile Suspended Solids (VSS) concentration of the wastewater. The VSS fraction is the portion of the wastewater stream which can be settled from the wastewater and potentially digested within the treatment volume.

Surface Application Systems - Design, Installation, Operation, and Maintenance
Surface application systems are used to distribution effluent on the ground surface. The uniform distribution of effluent is critical to limiting the risk of saturation and protection of public health. Sprinkler irrigation technologies are available to uniformly distribute effluent. The proper equipment is selected for incorporated into a site specific-design to meet the customer's requirements. Multiple design approaches are available to uniformly apply the effluent. The sprinkler head coverage pattern, nozzle discharge rate, and operating pressure impact uniformity of effluent coverage. An example of component matching for a site is presented. Zone operational time is another method to utilize sprinkler heads with different application rates to achieve matched precipitation rates for the spray field. The sprinkler industry has uniformity of application estimation methods. Design considerations and general guidance for achieving uniform effluent application will be presented.

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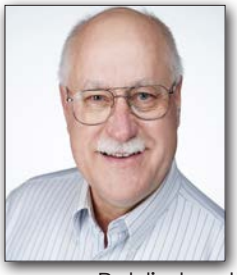

Bruce J. Lesikar, P.E., Ph.D: Bruce holds graduate degrees in Agricultural Engineering from Texas A&M University and University of Illinois. Bruce served in multiple roles during his professional career including: educator, professor, researcher, director of engineering for a water treatment system OEM manufacturer, and technical sales for rental of mobile water treatment systems. He is currently serving as a contract engineer to the Texas Commission on Environmental Quality. Bruce provides support to design reviews, educational material development, and conducts training events. Bruce supports the Texas Onsite Wastewater Association in development and delivery of educational programs. Bruce enjoys developing and delivering educational materials for communicating effective use of our water resources. Wastewater is a resource to meet our water needs and we must effectively utilize the resource. Public health, public safety, environmental health and environmental safety are critical aspects of beneficial use programs. The educational materials are delivered through short courses and meeting presentations.

Installation and maintenance of flow splitting methods

Flow equalization tanks dose the downstream treatment components. Several flow splitting methods are available for splitting the flow between multiple treatment units. Distribution boxes, orifices, indexing valves, vertical weirs, distribution manifolds and globe/ball valves are methods used to split flow between treatment units. Each of these flow-splitting methods will be described and discussed relative to the advantages and disadvantages. Possible advantages include self-cleaning for solids removal, ability to change flow rate, isolation of individual treatment units, and operation and maintenance activities. Possible disadvantages include lack of flexibility for management, ease of setting flow rate and determining flow volume to individual treatment plants.

Montel Rutledge, Installer, M.P.: Montel is a graduate of Texas A&M University, class of 1982. Montel is a licensed OSSF Installer, Maintenance Provider, Site Evaluator and Retail Public Water Distribution. His professional activities include TOWA Past President, Texas On-Site Wastewater Treatment Research Council Past Chairman. He served as the President of Brazos Valley Septic & Water, Inc. and is retired.

Installation and maintenance of compliant electrical systems

Electricity is a critical energy source for implementing OSSFs. Electrical circuits are needed to energize the equipment and alarm circuits. The discussion will highlight components of 285 guidance that are covered by the National Electrical Code. The citation will be presented along with pictures and diagrams to communicate proper implementation of compliant electrical systems. As professionals, we need to understand how to construct, operate and maintain electrical systems in a safe manner. The operator must be able to identify how to deenergize the electrical system and verify it is deenergized before working on components. The National Electrical Code is written and distributed through the National Fire Protection Association, which signifies the risk to property and people when electrical systems are not constructed to minimize the risk of improper energy release.

Doug Hensarling, Installer, M.P., S.E.: For 22 Years - worked in the Cable Television Industry from burying Coaxial House lines to Engineering and Support of 14 Cable Systems in Central East Texas from Nacogdoches South to Victoria. In 1999 - purchased a home in the unincorporated area of Bryan, Texas which has an OSSF. Due to the non-cooperation of the original Installer to perform any inspections or repairs and was forced to acquire a Class D Wastewater License and get factory certified to maintain the OSSF. Word spread and this led to phone calls from other homeowners in the same situation and in 2002 started a secondary side business Aerobic System Inspection and Maintenance. In 2004 – left the CATV Industry and went full time into the OSSF Industry. September 2006 – was featured in the Onsite Installer magazine with an article titled – "I Can Do This". Currently, Licensing includes: Installer Class II, Maintenance Provider, Site Evaluator, and Designated Representative.

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AA Round Table Breakfast Session - How the Tacoma-Pierce County Health Department solved the staffing and reporting system requirements to provide effective regulatory oversight.

The Tacoma-Pierce County Health Department (TPCHD) is the responsible management entity for onsite wastewater treatment systems in Pierce County Washington. In 2001, changes to the Washington State Department of Health Onsite Wastewater code required local health departments to create an Operations and Maintenance (O&M) program. At that time, the minimum requirements placed on the local health jurisdiction was to; notify owners of the required inspections, track inspections while ensuring failing systems were noted and corrected. Unfortunately, no additional funding was included in this new legislation.

Tacoma Pierce County Health Department has approximately 94,000 registered onsite wastewater treatment systems in their jurisdiction. Within six months of the reporting program implementation, the department staff was overwhelmed by the paperwork associated with receiving, entering, and reviewing paper copies of inspection reports. The Health Department did not have the funding to implement their duties as a responsible management entity as outlined by the state. Due to the enormity of the Operations and Maintenance program and lack of adequate funding, TPCHD reduced our program to only require the 18,000 advance treatment systems to have inspections. State code never allowed for the exclusion of conventional septic systems, nor was there funding available to manage the data and notify owners.

The TPCHD Operations and Maintenance program struggled to pay for itself until 2010 when TPCHD updated their Local Onsite Wastewater Code. In this update, they contracted with a data management company to assist them with managing the inspection reports and the collection of user fees. The data management company receives all reports electronically, collects a county required fee of $58.00 per report to support the county program. The data management company retains $3.50 of each paid fee for management. The data management website maintains a database for all inspections and pumping reports available to the public. This website allows for analysis of the data to identify specific county required compliance items, identifies reports indicating malfunctioning components, sampling data not in compliance with appropriate standards, and identifies systems requiring specific actions.
The State of Washington requires inspection every 3 years of Onsite Wastewater Treatment systems consisting solely of a sewage tank and a Gravity Subsurface Soil Absorption System. Annual inspections for all other systems include Pressure Systems and Proprietary Treatment Products. Although not fully implemented throughout the county, last year we received 16,716 paid inspections and 8,306 paid pumping reports.

Robert Suggs: Robert Suggs started his career as a marine science technician. From 1984 to 2007, he worked for environmental consulting firms. His work included field sampling, technical support and project management of marine and freshwater scientific projects. In 2003, he began working for an onsite wastewater designer in Washington applying his scientific training to the business. He trained under an experienced designer for 2 years then obtained his onsite wastewater designer license. In 2007, he started at Tacoma-Pierce County Health Department in the Onsite Program. Robert is a volunteer for the Washington State Board of Engineers and Land Surveyor where he helps maintain the Onsite Wastewater Designers test. He also volunteers for Washington State Onsite Wastewater Technical Advisory Group.

Lessons learned through implementing an installer bond in Oklahoma

Oklahoma's certified installer program began in the late 1990s and signaled the move from DEQ inspectors looking at every septic system constructed to self-inspection by the contractor. The inception of this program also saw the implementation of surety bonds. Licensed and bonded contractors bring with them a peace of mind that elevates the on-site industry in Oklahoma and elsewhere. This discussion will cover the various types of surety bonds, the potential use of said bonds, and why they are needed. I will also discuss the evolution of bonds in Oklahoma and provide a case study of an installer and how his bond was used to address the issues we discovered

Nicholas Huber: Nicholas is a 2003 graduate of Oklahoma State University. He started his career with the Oklahoma Department of Environmental Quality in the fall of 2003 as an Environmental Specialist. Over the next fifteen years he was heavily involved in the implementation of the on-site program across much of northern Oklahoma. Nicholas's involvement in the program included training both new DEQ staff and installers, along with serving as the lead trainer for DEQ's soil profiler certification program. From 2018-2024, Nicholas served as the manager of the State's on-site program. Along with his responsibilities with the Oklahoma DEQ, Nicholas is currently the President of the State On-site Regulators Association and a board member with the National On-site Wastewater Recycling Association.

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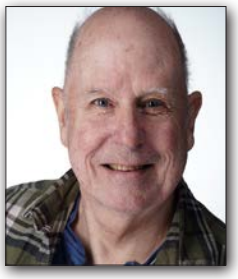
Nitrogen management in treatment systems

The most common nitrogen compounds found discharged by On-Site Sewage Facilities are ammonia, nitrite, nitrate and organic nitrogen. Reducing the nitrogen concentration in wastewater is a critical process to prevent nutrient overloads to nearby water bodies or in groundwater. To better protect the environment and public health a two-step process of nitrification followed by denitrification has been shown to be effective in large volume centralized systems in Texas and in smaller volume single-family decentralized systems elsewhere. On-Site Sewage Facilities in the state of Texas have unique effluent dispersal techniques, site and soil conditions that could be optimized to be very efficient at nitrogen reduction.



Kevin Sherman, P.E.: Kevin Sherman is director of engineering and regulatory affairs for SeptiTech, Inc. of Lewiston, ME. SeptiTech is a wholly owned subsidiary of BioMicrobics, Inc. In addition to 20 years working in the manufacturing sector, Dr. Sherman has been a state-level regulator, a designer, researcher, instructor and association executive during his career. He was the third president of NOWRA. In 2024, Kevin received the Richard J. Otis Industry Achievement Award.

Texas A&M AgriLife OSSF Program Updates

Since the 2025 TOWA Annual Conference in Galveston last March, the TAMU-OSSF Team has been busy completing the three research projects funded through the 3rd round of the Texas Onsite Grant Projects (TOGP) as well as offering extension programming services related to homeowners and license professional education, both in-person and online/on-demand format. During this one-hour session, TAMU-OSSF team members, Drs. Jantrania, Bonaiti, and Wolfe will give overview of the extension and research projects completed during the past year and will briefly discuss their plans for new research, extension, and education programs planned for the coming two years. After their presentation, time-permitting, audience will have an opportunity to ask questions

Dr. Anish Jantrania: Dr. Anish Jantrania is a full Professor and Extension Specialist with the Texas A&M AgriLife and Department of Biological and Agricultural Engineering. He has been with the university since August 2014. During his 10+ years leading the TAMU-OSSF Team, Dr. Jantrania has successfully rejuvenated the TAMU OSSF and Reuse Research Center, completed numerous grants and contracts, and cooperated with local, state, and federal agencies to move the Texas OSSF industry forward. His program offers educational, research, and extension programs to Texans who rely on using OSSF for wastewater management and to the industry professionals who provide OSSF services to Texans. Before joining the TAMU-OSSF team, Dr. Jantrania worked in the onsite wastewater industry in several capacities in West Virginia, Massachusetts and Virginia. He is a registered professional engineer holding current licenses in both Texas and Virginia.

Dr. June Wolfe, III: is involved in research investigating water resource development, management, and protection. He directs the Water Science Laboratory (WSL) at Texas A&M AgriLife Research's Blackland Research and Extension Center in Temple, Texas, U.S.A. where environmental field instrumentation is used to monitor hydrological parameters of interest. When combined with water quality data, experimental results are used to evaluate both aquatic and terrestrial conditions, processes, and effectiveness of agricultural land management practices. Dr. Wolfe has been a member of the Texas A&M University – On Site Sewage Facility (OSSF) Research Team for more than 10 years and has investigated the performance and improvement of OSSF aerobic treatment units in both real-world field installations and at the TAMU RELLIS Campus OSSF Research Center. Currently he monitors wastewater systems at commercial facilities and collects data to assist designers and regulators with developing and managing future OSSF systems. Dr. Wolfe also currently serves on the National Sanitation Foundation's Joint Committee on Wastewater Technology.

Dr. Gabriele Bonaitii: is an Extension Program Specialist and has been employed by Texas A&M AgriLife Extension since February 2009. During this time, he has developed and implemented educational programs for water districts to help them conserve and efficiently use water resources, and for homeowners and license holders to help them correctly manage onsite wastewater and water resources. Among other projects, he is currently supporting the Texas Commission on Environmental Quality's - Coastal Zone Act Reauthorization Amendment projects by developing and implementing methodologies for building and maintaining an inventory of On-Site Sewage Facility systems (OSSF) along the Texas coastal zone and in other Texas watersheds.

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TCEQ Licensing Update
Licensing considerations, policies and processes are discussed. Changes to the processes and procedures are highlighted.

Renata Kosicki: License and Permit Specialist, Occupational Licensing Division, Texas Commission on Environmental Quality. Renata Kosicki's role as a license and permit specialist at TCEQ showcase her commitment to managing and enhancing the on-site sewage facility licensing program. Her dedication reflects her effort to assist the community in understanding and meeting licensing requirements for the industry.

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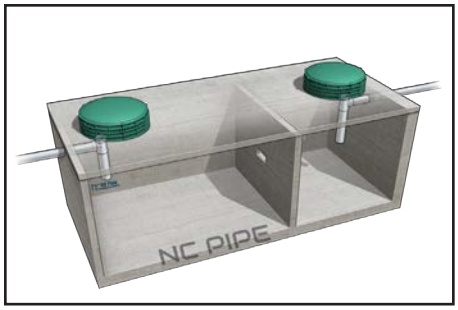

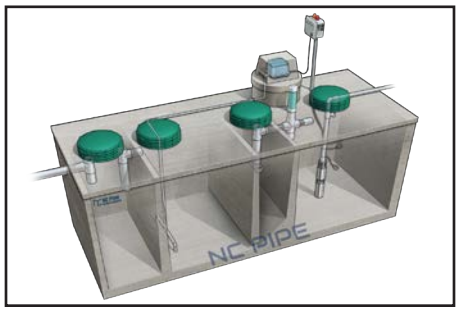

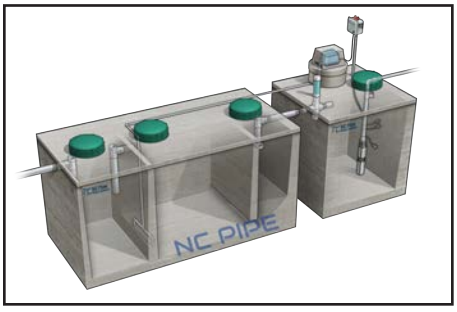

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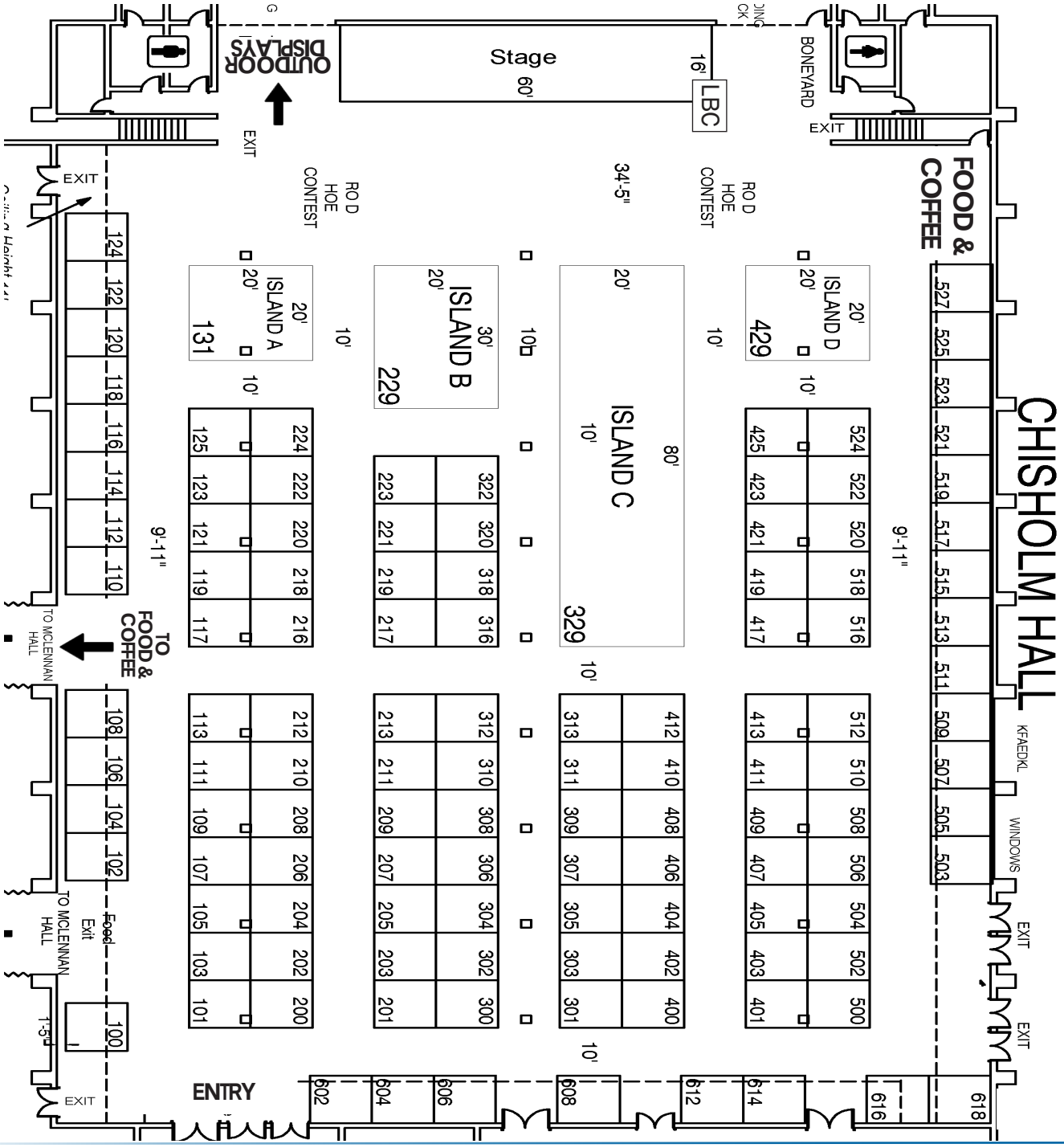
EXHIBIT HALL MAP & INFORMATION

MARCH 9TH
- 1:00PM-6:00PM Exhibitor Setup
- 4:30PM-6:00PM Exhibit Hall Preview Happy Hour

MARCH 10TH
- 7:00AM-7:45AM Breakfast
- 9:00AM-6:00PM Exhibit Hall Open
- 9:00AM-10:00AM Grand Opening Break
- 12:00PM-1:00PM Lunch in Exhibit Hall
- 3:00PM-4:00PM Break in Exhibit Hall
- 5:00PM-6:30PM Mixer & Roe-D-Hoe Finals

MARCH 11TH
- 7:00AM-11:00AM Exhibit Hall Open
- 7:00AM-8:00AM Breakfast
- 10:00AM-10:30AM Break in Exhibit Hall
- 11:00AM Exhibit Hall Closes
- 11:30AM-3:00PM Exhibitor Tear Down

** NO blocking aisle or drive in until after 11:30am*



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101	Clearstream Wastewater Systems
102	RNB Controls, Inc,
103	Clearstream Wastewater Systems
104	SAFE Program LLC
105	Clearstream Wastewater Systems
106	Anua/Geoflow
106	Longhorn Inc
107	Imperial Industries
108	Anua/Geoflow
109	HomeField Onsite Environmental
110	**Hoot Systems, LLC***
111	Aerobic Guard, LLC
112	**Hoot Systems, LLC***
113	**Enviro-Flo, Inc.***
114	Pumps of Houston, Inc.
116	Vacuum Tank Sales
117	**JNM Technologies***
118	INFRASTRUCTURE DYNAMICS
119	Capital Septic
120	Southwestern Controls
121	Capital Septic
122	GEOSHACK
123	K-Rain Manufacturing
124	GEOSHACK
125	Tyler Products Sales, Inc
131	**Ecological Tanks Inc.***
200	**Aquafit Chlorination Systems***
201	**Septilink Inc.***
202	**Aquafit Chlorination Systems***
203	Wholesale Septic Supply
204	FieldBase Onsite
205	Wholesale Septic Supply
206	Roth North America
207	Groundbreaker Marketing
208	FPZ INC
209	Armal, Inc
210	Cox Concrete
211	**Aeris Aerobics***
212	**Enviro-Flo, Inc.***
213	**Aeris Aerobics***
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221	National Vacuum Equipment
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224	Tyler Products Sales, Inc.
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300	**Septilink Inc.***
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302	Chlorination Concepts
303	Tank Depot
304	RJR Controls LLC
305	ATER Company
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307	Jet Inc
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312	**Aeris Aerobics***
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316	**DEL ZOTTO PRODUCTS***
320	**Norweco, Inc.***
322	Polylok
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401	Waste Managment Tracker
402	Hugh M. Cuningham Companies
403	Preferred Pump
404	E-Z Treat
405	WWIP CORPORATION
406	Advantis, LLC
407	WWIP CORPORATION
408	10X Business Broker Mergers & Acquisitions
409	WWIP CORPORATION
410	SepticCycle
411	SJE Rhombus (SJE Inc.)
412	**Wholesale Pump & Supply, Inc.***
413	Polypure Systems Inc
417	**Pro Flo Aerobic Systems***
419	Quality Concrete Products
425	**TUF-TITE, INC***
429	**Construction Edge Equipment***
500	Fujimac Air Pumps
502	Advanced Wastewater Promotions
504	Propipe a Shenandoah Company
506	Rigby Slack
508	Omega Liquid Waste Solutions
510	The Turner Co.
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527	Crane Pumps & Systems
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604	**Austin Pump & Supply***
606	**Austin Pump & Supply***
608	Gicon Pumps
612	Fuji Tank of Texas
614	Fuji Tank of Texas
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FieldBase Onsite	204
FPZ INC	208
Fuji Tank of Texas	612/614
Fujimac Air Pumps	500
GEOSHACK	122/124
Gicon Pumps	608
Groundbreaker Marketing	207
HIBLOW USA*	**308**
HomeField Onsite Environmental	109
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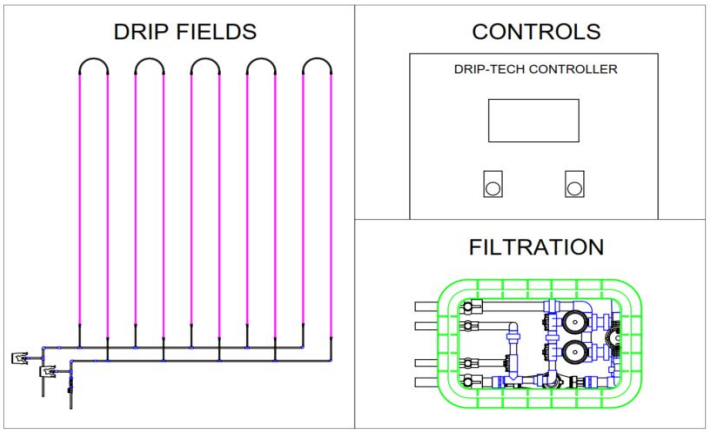

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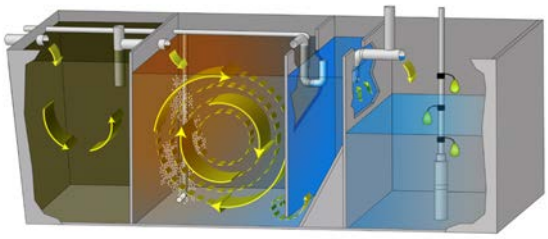

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Texas OSSF Public Resource Search Map

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We encourage all members to participate to increase visibility and referral opportunities.

- Published on the TOWA website
- Shared with local agencies
- Promoted on social media
- Shared by vendors & members

SUBMIT YOUR LISTING

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If you have 2 or more companies, please fill out a survey for each one.
Edits may be submitted to txowaconference@gmail.com, and will be updated quarterly.

Scholarship Opportunities

The Texas Onsite Wastewater Association Scholarship Fund was established in 2017 to provide assistance for students that plan to continue their education attending a Community College, four-year college, University or Trade School. Children & grandchildren of TOWA members can apply by May 30 each year. **Applications are available at txowa.org.**

Thank you Scholarship Fundraiser Partners!

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Drawing times will be announced. All items must be claimed by 12pm Wednesday or forfeited.

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2025 TOWA SCHOLARSHIP WINNERS

Ron Suchecki Memorial Scholarship - $5,000

Kayla Vaughn - Spring, TX

Kayla Vaughn is a first-year Physician Assistant student at the University of Texas at San Antonio. Guided by her faith in Christ, Kayla has long aspired to serve others through a career in healthcare. Diagnosed with Type 1 diabetes along her journey, she has transformed what could have been a setback into a source of empathy and connection—especially for children and families managing the same condition. Kayla plans to specialize in pediatric endocrinology, offering both medical expertise and personal understanding, with the goal of inspiring patients to pursue their dreams while living with a chronic illness.

General Scholarship - $4,000

Cambree Williams - Pineland, TX

Cambree Williams is currently attending Angelina College and plans to pursue a career as a Physical Therapist. She is passionate about helping others, spreading positivity, and sharing her faith in Jesus. In her free time, Cambree enjoys spending time with her family and looks forward to making a difference in the lives of those she serves.

General Scholarship - $2,500

Tripp Phillips - Mt Pleasant, TX

Tripp Phillips, the 18-year-old son of Stayce and Charlotte Phillips of Mt. Pleasant, TX, graduated in May from Chapel Hill High School with distinction and honors. A dedicated member of FFA since the age of eight, Tripp has shown hogs and cattle across Texas, served as chairman of multiple committees, and held the role of Parliamentarian for his chapter. This fall, he will attend East Texas A&M University–Commerce to pursue a degree in Agricultural Education, with plans to later transfer to College Station. While his exact career path is still taking shape, Tripp is committed to advocating for agriculture in whatever role he chooses.

General Scholarship - $1,500

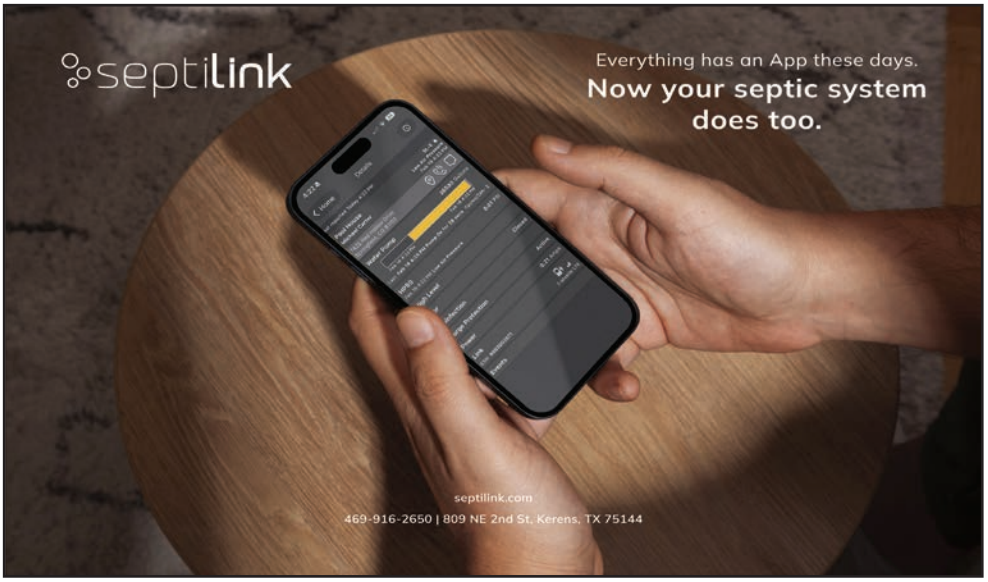
Hailey Turner - Hunt, TX

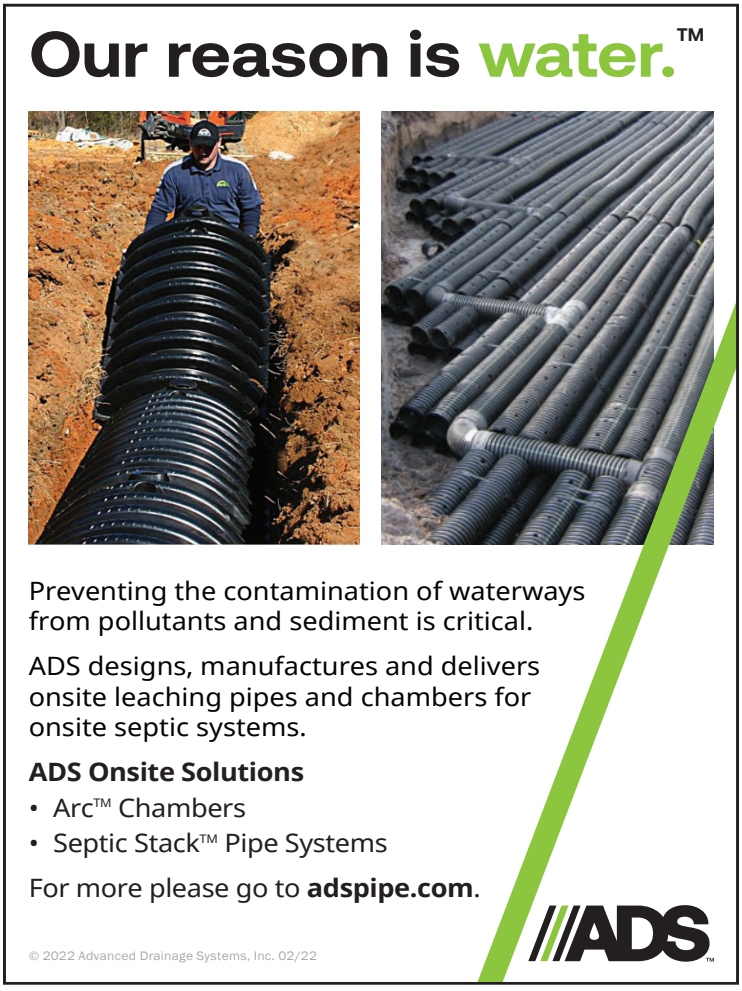
Hailey Turner is pursuing a Bachelor of Science degree with a major in Range & Wildlife Management. Passionate about conservation, Hailey intends to deepen her expertise through internships and hands-on experiences with a variety of organizations during and after her college career. Her goal is to focus on research and sustainable resource management while also educating future generations on the fundamentals of agriculture and the importance of environmental stewardship.

General Scholarship - $1,500

Carson Sydnor - Montgomery, TX

Carson Sydnor is a student-athlete currently playing baseball for the Wharton County Pioneers. His future plans include continuing his baseball career at a Division I university while earning a degree in Engineering. Carson is driven to excel both on the field and in the classroom as he works toward his long-term goals.





TOWA EDUCATION RESOURCES

TOWA OFFERS TRAINING COURSES: BASIC & ADVANCED MAINTENANCE PROVIDER

BMP Courses and AMP Courses are approved by TCEQ and will earn 16 CEU hours towards all OSSF Licenses. If you only need 8 CEU hours the first day of either course may be taken. Both courses are two days and meet 8am-5pm each day. Space is limited and most classes do sell out. To **register** for these courses, go to www.txowa.org and DOWNLOAD form or register online. The downloadable form can be scanned, faxed or mailed.

Both classes are held in San Marcos, TX.

Embassy Suites San Marcos – Hotel & Conference Center
1001 E. McCarty Lane, San Marcos, TX 78666

2026 BMP CLASS SCHEDULE

- March 20-21, 2026
- April 2-3, 2026
- May 11-12, 2026
- June 26-27, 2026
- August 7-8, 2026
- September 10-11, 2026
- October 8-9, 2026
- December 4-5, 2026

2026 AMP CLASS SCHEDULE

- May 15-16, 2026
- July 10-11, 2026
- November 20-21, 2026

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TEXAS A&M TEAM

Texas A&M OSSF Team to Present at TOWA's 33rd Annual Conference

At this year's TOWA Annual Conference, the Texas A&M OSSF Team will provide an overview of ongoing projects funded by TCEQ under the Clean Water Act §319(h) program and the Texas Onsite Research Grant Program (TORGP), along with a preview of our emerging work on the On-Site Water Facility (OSWF) concept. Many in the TOWA community may be less familiar with the federal §319(h) Nonpoint Source Grant Program. Administered in Texas by TCEQ and the Texas State Soil and Water Conservation Board, this program supports projects that prevent or reduce nonpoint source pollution. Onsite Sewage Facilities (OSSFs) are recognized as a significant nonpoint source of pollution, and a portion of §319(h) funding is allocated, on a competitive basis, to support homeowner education, system inspections, pump-outs, and the repair or replacement of failing systems.

During the first half of our presentation, Ms. Lisa Prcin will highlight current §319(h) activities in the Lampasas River, Lake Livingston, and Village Creek–Lake Arlington watersheds. For more than 20 years, Lisa has led implementation efforts across multiple counties of the project area, delivering homeowner education programs and coordinating repair and replacement of failing OSSFs as shown in photo-1. Over the past five years, our team has worked together to expand these initiatives, helping communities upgrade failing systems and improve local water quality. Lisa will also discuss ongoing collaborations with the Trinity River Authority and how TOWA members can support repair and replacement efforts in targeted counties. This year, we are also partnering with TOWA and Lamar University to evaluate how correcting failing OSSFs improves surface water quality in the Beaumont area.

Photo-1: A failing OSSF site.

The second half of our presentation will focus on research supported through TORGP. As many of you know, each OSSF permit issued in Texas includes a $10 research set-aside fee. These funds, administered by TCEQ, support applied research to improve system performance and regulatory practices. Since TORGP was reactivated in 2019, the Texas A&M OSSF Team has been selected to conduct multiple research projects. By the end of 2025, we completed nine projects and this year we initiated our tenth project. Completed research topics include:

1. ATU performance, effects of high-strength and time-dosing, ATU-Phase-I.
2. LPD design configuration, by the rules and new concepts.
3. Reuse wastewater for toilet flushing, treatment-train performance.
4. RV Parks and ATU performance in real-world, RV Park-Phase-I.
5. Drip challenges and recommendations for improvement.
6. Effluent flow reduction to minimize need for disposal area.
7. RV Parks data collection and performance analysis, RV Park-Phase-II.
8. Research the Research a database with containing OSSFs literature, and
9. Flow Equalization to determine an optimal dosing period for ATUs, ATU-Phase-II.

Final reports from the first six projects are available on the TAMU OSSF website, and we are finalizing the remaining reports in coordination with TCEQ. At this conference, I will present draft findings from the Phase II RV and ATU studies, along with our plans for the tenth project, which will characterize wastewater from five types of commercial facilities.

Photo-2: Onsite One Water

Last year, I introduced the concept of "Onsite One Water," which we now describe as the On-Site Water Facility (OSWF) approach. This concept moves beyond traditional onsite wastewater treatment and considers integrated management of all onsite water sources, mainly rainwater, potable supply, and reclaimed wastewater, to enhance sustainability, resilience, and water security. To advance this vision, we have installed a research and demonstration system that integrates rainwater harvesting with onsite reclaimed wastewater reuse, see the photo insert-2. This site will serve as a graduate research platform and a proof-of-concept for decentralized water sustainability. Our objective is to encourage the OSSF community to think beyond sewage treatment toward comprehensive onsite water management. Water is fundamental to economic growth and environmental protection in Texas and beyond. Strengthening research, education, and demonstration efforts around onsite water systems is essential for communities not connected to centralized infrastructure.

We look forward to seeing you in General Session – Hall B at 9:00 AM on Wednesday and welcome you to visit our booth to learn more about our current and future initiatives.

TOWA CONTACT INFORMATION

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Wimberley, TX 78676
512-269-0255 or text 512-626-3674
TXOWAConference@gmail.com

www.txowa.org

Authorization to Release/Display License Contact Information on TCEQ's Website

As required by SB 510 of the 88th Texas Legislative Session, email addresses, home phone numbers, and home addresses were deemed confidential and exempt from disclosure under Section 552.11765 of the Public Information Act. As a result, this information was withheld from public viewing on TCEQ's website effective September 1, 2024. This has made it difficult for customers and/or employers to reach out to licensees for potential business or employment opportunities. The Public Information Act under Section 552.229 allows for people to consent to the release of information that is excepted from public disclosure if they are 18 years old or older and the consent is in writing. Consenting to making your information available to the public on the TCEQ website is completely voluntary and may allow potential customers and employers to reach you. Please complete the Authorization to Release/Display Confidential License Contact Information form if you wish to have certain information made available on TCEQ's Website. You may update or revoke this authorization at any time by sending an email to licenses@tceq.texas.gov.

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Support your local politicians.

Contact Wiley Cloud, TOWA Past President or Randy Chelette, Executive Director for information on resources & donations.

CONFERENCE FOOD and Fun HIGHLIGHTS

Monday

		Sponsored by:
4:30pm	Exhibit Hall Preview Happy Hour	Ecological Tanks Inc.

Tuesday

7:00am	Breakfast Tacos in Exhibit Hall	Enviro-Flo, Inc.
9:00am	Exhibit Hall Opens & Roe-D-Hoe Contest Begins	
	Coffee Break Sponsored By: American Tank Company	
12:00pm	Lunch	NC Pipe Precast Products
3:00pm	Break in Exhibit Hall	NC Pipe Precast Products
5:00pm	Exhibit Hall Mixer & Roe-D-Hoe Finals	Block Creek Concrete Products

Wednesday

7:00am	Breakfast Tacos in Exhibit Hall	HIBLOW USA
10:00am	Break in Exhibit Hall	

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The more sold, the more you win!

Silent Auction
Win great & unique items!

Roe-D-Hoe
How good are you in the field?
Try your skills. Cheer on the contestants.
Finals: 5:45-6:30pm Tuesday

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Safety Lid in 6" Tall Riser

4 screws included with each Safety Lid

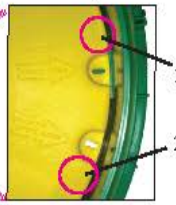
Access hole allows pump-out without removal

Safety Lid Top and Bottom View

For safety the lid can be filled with concrete. Our 'Concrete Keepers' lock the concrete into the lid.

24"-RISL-FLAT-SL is made with 2 sets of screw holes for proper alignment in 6" tall and 12" tall risers.

(close-up view)



24x12

24x6

Available in 4 diameters.

Size	Part No.	Qty / Carton
12"	12-RISL-FLAT-SL	38
16"	16-RISL-FLAT-SL	30
20"	20-RISL-FLAT-SL	20
24"	24-RISL-FLAT-SL	17

Safety Lids sit on Riser Ledges with matching screw holes

12-RISL-FLAT-SL in 12-RIS-GREEN

16-RISL-FLAT-SL in 16-RIS-GREEN

20-RISL-FLAT-SL in 20-RIS-GREEN

24-RISL-FLAT-SL in 24x12-RIS-GREEN

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