SEDA's Spring 2009 Symposium will be held on incredible Clearwater Beach at the Clearwater Beach Hilton on June 7th through 10th. The program is titled “Making the Best of Existing Infrastructure” and will feature various presentations addressing upgrades, modifications and operational changes that can benefit membrane plant operators and owners in today’s economically stressed times. Topics will include wellfield rotation and rehabilitation, cartridge filter optimization, membrane retrofits, optimizing cleaning and energy savings techniques. Of course, we will have a couple of case histories in the session as well plus hands-on training at the City of Dunedin’s Reverse Osmosis Water Treatment Plant.

As always, the program will include several networking/social events including the always enjoyable Operator’s Challenge. The Challenge will be held Tuesday evening at 5 pm. A similar format to the wildly popular challenge of 2008 will be followed. Teams will be asked to identify membrane equipment parts and pieces and answer questions related to membrane technology and water chemistry. All contestants will get a prize and the top three team members will be awarded gift cards in the amounts of $100.00, $50.00 and $25.00. Sign up will take place at the Symposium and teams will be limited to the first ten teams.

This program is specially designed for plant operation and maintenance staff, plant managers, owners and regulators who would like to network with others in the industry, learn what others are doing to keep their system up to date and earn CEUs in the process. Be sure to watch for the program brochure in your mail or download it from the SEDA website.
Message From The President

Dear SEDA Membership,

The Southeast Desalting Association (SEDA) was created in the summer of 1994, following a series of discussions and meetings dating back to 1993. This summer will mark the 15th Anniversary of the organization and its mission “to enhance the knowledge and understanding of membrane processes and operations”. This will be my third and final year as President of this organization. I have served six years on the Board of Directors and have reached my Board term limit. I am grateful that I was able to serve the membership for this period of time, and I have enjoyed getting to know our members and their organizations during my term as President.

As I look back, I am encouraged by what this organization has accomplished and maintained throughout its short history. We have grown to a healthy membership of almost 1,000 individuals, and we have provided and continue to provide top-notch training programs and symposiums in the state of Florida and beyond. We have worked with and assisted our affiliate organizations of AMTA, SCMA, and SWMOA, and other organizations such as FWPCA and FSAWWA. The Membrane Operator Certification (MOC) School, under the leadership of the MOC Committee, has expanded to multiple venues each year, and includes the best instructors and training materials available in the membrane treatment industry today.

Thank you again for your support of the organization, and please remember to check our website often for upcoming events and committee updates. I look forward to seeing you at the SEDA June Symposium “Making the Best of Your Existing Infrastructure”, and to passing the reins of the organization to the new and capable Board of Directors.

Jill M. Hudkins, PE
SEDA President

Letter from the Editor

Well here it is Springtime already and we all have to start thinking about turning on our A/C again. And the associated increase in the power bill. Our June SEDA Symposium offers ways to introduce treatment strategies to save money on plant operations without reducing quality. There are always ways to improve operations outlined at SEDA events. By attending SEDA Symposia, the chances of a treatment facility being on the leading edge of operations and cost savings are enhanced. Some of the upcoming topics include wellfield rotation and rehabilitation, cartridge filter optimization, membrane retrofits, optimizing cleaning and energy savings technologies and eliminating acid for pretreatment. I hope you will be able to join us in Clearwater this June or in Miami in October.

We are always looking for ways to improve the newsletter and our communications with our membership, so if you have a suggestion please let me or any of the board know.

Thanks!

Bill Lazenby, Editor
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Fall 2009 Symposium

This year’s Fall Symposium will feature Microfiltration (MF) and Ultrafiltration (UF) technology with invited speakers from the major MF/UF manufactures and will take place in Miami, October 25 - 26, 2009 at the Miami Beach Resort and Spa. A full exhibit area will be available with equipment on display and demonstration of processes. To encourage full descriptions of individual offerings, the speakers will be allowed to discuss their specific company offerings in addition to spending time describing the technology for Membrane Bioreactors (MBR), Seawater pretreatment, water reuse and pretreatment for RO systems. This symposium will be of interest to operators wanting to learn more about MF/UF technology and at the same time earn CEU credits but should also be important to engineers, utility directors and government personnel considering membrane treatment. Currently GE Water - Zenon, Pall Corporation, Norit X-Flow, Toray, Hydranautics, Memstar, Dow UF, TriSep and Siemens - Memcor have all accepted speaking positions to discuss the various aspects of MF/UF membrane technology. Gil Turner and Harold Fravel are Co-Chairman for this Symposium which will attract attendees from all over the United States in addition to SEDA membership. Mark your calendar and watch for more information on the SEDA website and in the next Recovery Zone!
A Cleaning Gone Wrong

By attending one of the SEDA short schools many of us have had the opportunity to learn how to clean a membrane system under the supervision of someone who is very familiar with the proper procedure.

What happens if you mix the wrong chemicals together?

Recently a colleague of mine sent me some photos of a cleaning gone wrong. This particular site contacted him after a very unsuccessful cleaning.

Unfortunately the Operators at this facility had not had any recent training on cleaning procedures. They had to rely on the information that was contained in their O&M. They attempted to follow the procedures to the letter. Unfortunately they did not realize that after cleaning with a high pH cleaner you must completely rinse the system before introducing a low pH cleaner.

Mixing the two chemicals in the skid created a white gelatinous precipitation that was similar to cookie dough and in sufficient quantity to completely plug the membranes. You could actually scoop the material up in your hand and make dough balls.

This unfortunate mistake resulted in the need to replace all of the membrane in the skid.

If you have a tip or a suggestion for a future article please contact Ben Mohlenhoff at (772) 546-6292 or bmohlenhoff@aerexindustries.com.
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Jon’s Fun Facts

What is lightning on the fringes of space called? Green Elves.

If eight glasses of water a day is good, is more than that even better? Probably not, although it won’t hurt you. Those who drank 12 glasses had blood plasma volumes that were 10 percent higher, but their well being was not impacted positively or negatively.

What is lightning on the fringes of space called? Green Elves.

Cars were first made with ignition keys in 1949.

Alexander Graham Bell, who invented the telephone, also set a world water-speed record of over seventy miles an hour at the age of seventy-two.

Sunlight can penetrate clean ocean water to a depth of 240 feet. And the average ocean floor depth is 12,000 feet!

Awards:

By: Brian Matthews

The SEDA Board of Directors agreed to extend the deadline for application submission and it has paid off. As of March 31, 2009, we have received TWELVE Outstanding Plant Award nominations. We received SIX nominations for Outstanding Operator and the Awards Committee will determine the Educator of the Year. It is anticipated that additional awards in other categories may be selected by the committee.

Seda Quiz

Sorry, this quiz is no longer available. Please see our latest issue for a new quiz!
Monday – Friday
May 4-8, 2009
MOC Short School
Pompano Beach, FL
Water Treatment Plant

Sunday
June 7, 2009
SEDA Board Meeting
Clearwater Beach, FL

Sunday – Wednesday
June 7-10, 2009
2009 Spring Symposium
Clearwater Beach, FL
Hilton Clearwater Beach Resort

Sunday – Tuesday
Oct. 25-27, 2009
2009 Fall Symposium
Miami Beach, FL
Miami Beach Resort
These are the latest group of SEDA certified Reverse Osmosis Specialists receiving their training at The Palm Coast Membrane Operator Certification School held March 2-6, 2009. All who attended will receive 3.4 C.E.U.s towards their State License renewal for the 2007-2009 cycle. Very well organized, very good instruction, interesting. Course was presented in a manner where all levels of experience benefited. It covered a lot of material in a short time, all beneficial and geared toward operators. Excellent instruction. These were the opinions expressed by some of the attendees. The next MOC School will be held May 4-8, 2009 at the Pompano Beach WTP and is expected to be as well received as Palm Coast was. Later this year you will have another opportunity to attend a MOC School on the West Coast most likely at Dunedin in the fall.