

Fall 2017



## From The President

I cannot believe I'm writing an article for the fall newsletter. What! Didn't we just start summer? Can we slow this bus down a little? Summer goes by way to fast and you need to take advantage of it when you can. Of course fall is a great time in the State of Michigan, but we all know what follows fall. Oh well, Michigan right. I wouldn't live in any other State.

I'm hoping by the time this issue is out that HB4438 is a thing of the past and got squashed in the Senate Committee. As you know this was the bill to let farms move portable restrooms up and down roads without being license like you and me. MSTa is fighting this tooth and nail and looks like we have support from some of the Senators to squash it. If it passes then we know a Senator can't keep his or her word and we need to make sure we don't re-elect a person like that to our legislation. Fighting the big money associations is a tough deal, but we will keep trying. We have a lot more recognition in Lansing then we ever had in the past. We have a great relationship with the DEQ and some of the good State Representatives and Senators. And with the help of our association members to act on the bills we support or don't support is the reason why. Our legislative consultant, Judy Augenstein, always says it starts with grassroots lobbying. So please support MSTa with your help by contacting your legislator when asked and support the MSTa PAC FUND.

As you may know our new website is up and running. I'm sure we will need to get some of the bugs out of it, but should be more user friendly and stream line the things we can do with it. Thanks to our Executive Officer Karlyn Wickham for getting this website rolling. We asked a lot from her when she replaced Chanin and she has done a fantastic job. If you get a chance when you see her, thank her for her dedication to MSTa.

I would also like to thank our MSTa Assistant Julie Kreh for her work putting together the directory and getting the problems resolved that we had with the first issue and her work putting together the newsletter. Remember if you have something to add to the newsletter please pass it on to Julie. You can get her phone number or email address in the directory.

Don't forget our fall meeting in Mount Pleasant on October 14th and the 4th Annual Chili Cook Off. Look for details within newsletter. See you there!

Sincerely,  
Dave W. Snyder  
MSTA President



## **MSTA Fall Board Meeting**

### **Day Agenda**

**October 14, 2017**

**9:00am to 3:00pm**

**(5 CSE Credits if you attend entire day)**

9:00-9:30	Coffee, doughnuts and networking
9:30-11:30	MSTA Board Meeting – 2 CSE Credits
11:30-12:30	Lunch/Chili Cook Off & Networking – 1 CSE Credit Educational Session – 2 CSE Credits
12:30 – 1:00	Driver Safety in the Septage Business
1:05 – 1:35	Legislation and the Septage Law
1:35 – 1:45	Break
1:45 – 2:15	Septic Treatment Plant Pro's and Con's
2:20 – 2:50	What you need to know when buying a new or existing business
2:50 – 3:00	Wrap up

\*Attendance is required at the entire Educational Session in order to receive 2 CSE Credits (no partial credits allowed)

## **2017 MSTA Fall Board Meeting SAVE THE DATE**

**Mark your calendars for the Fall Meeting  
and 4th Annual Chili Cook Off  
in Mt Pleasant.**

**Saturday, October 14, 2017  
Mount Pleasant.**

**Hope to see everyone there!**

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## **New MSTA Website**

The new Michigan Septic Tank Association (MSTA) website is here! You will soon be getting a personal email that will invite you to log into the MEMBERS ONLY section of the website. The MEMBERS ONLY section will allow you to add your employees to your membership, view association documents, view and change your contact information and it will soon allow you to view the Continuing Septage Credits you receive starting with credits from the 2017 Fall Meeting this October.

We are very excited about our new website because it will allow us to communicate with you better and allow for online registration of the Spring and Fall Meetings. Once on the website, you will notice a Scrolling Banner at the top of the page with 3 Truck pictures that scroll every 5 seconds. As a benefit to being a member of MSTA, you can have a picture of your truck on the website as well. If you would like to take advantage of this benefit, email a picture of your truck to MSTA. The picture should be a good quality picture in a JPEG file format.

Check out the new website [www.msta.biz](http://www.msta.biz)

Thank you for your support of this great association!

MSTA

## **MSTA Annual Raffle Tickets On Sale Now**

We are happy to be hosting the 5th Annual Raffle at the MSTA Banquet during the 2018 Onsite Wastewater Conference in January. Below is a list of prizes you could win:

- 1st: Weatherby Orion I over / under Woodstock 12 or 20 OR \$750 Cash**
- 2nd: Browning AR II Synthetic/Blued (choice of caliber) OR \$500 Cash**
- 3rd: T/C Triumph 50 cal Muzzleloader Stainless/Camo OR \$450 Cash**
- 4th: Ruger American Riffle w/ Nortege Scope Black Synthetic OR \$350 Cash**
- 5th: Glock G43 9mm Pistol OR \$300 Cash**
- 6th: Ruger LCP II 380 OR \$200 Cash**
- 7th: CVA Hunter 44 mag Riffle OR \$175 Cash**
- 8th: Ruger 10/22 Wood/Blue OR \$150 Cash**

Thank you to BRENDLE SEPTIC for sponsoring the raffle tickets this year. The tickets are 3 for \$25 and you do not have to be present to win. They would make a good present for the deer hunters on your Christmas list or just for yourself! Contact Chris Sloan if you want to purchase tickets. Call Chris at 989-845-6280 right away as the tickets will go quickly. If there are any left, they will be available for purchase at the conference.

Sincerely,  
MSTA Raffle Committee



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## Where Education Ends

Michigan's licensed septage haulers, septic installers, and health department regulators are better educated in their fields today than ever before. But does that knowledge continue on, to permeate our greater communities? Where does the local lake, river, or watershed association fit in? Many of our communities host these groups of concerned citizens, who have interest in maintaining pristine water conditions, or helping waters return to cleaner conditions. However, these homegrown environmentalists can be difficult for haulers and installers to work with, because association goals demand tighter regulation and often call for radical changes that would make it difficult, at best, for waterfront homeowners to even flush a toilet, much less install new tanks and drain fields. There is also an abundance of misinformation surrounding wastewater disposal practices in our communities. Environmentalists frown on "dumping" of septage, and haulers frown on the red tape and hurdles imposed by community pressure that make responsible disposal difficult and pricy. We all want to play in, drink, and bathe in clean water, but we also all want to enjoy the comforts of toilets, showers, washing machines, and dishwashers within our own homes. So how do we come together to merge these differing goals as far as possible? The answer continues to be the same, time and time again: education.

In this vein of thought, I decided to attend a local daylong seminar on June 24, 2017, hosted by the Higgins Lake Foundation, with presentations provided by MSU Extension. The seminar was entitled "You and Your Lake – An Overview of Life on the Lake," and was primarily geared toward providing waterfront homeowners on Higgins Lake an introduction to basic lake ecology, identifying invasive aquatic plant species, developing natural shorelines, promoting healthy stewardship practices, encouraging neighbors to be environmentally conscientious, and understanding septic systems and their maintenance. I must confess that I greatly enjoyed the presentations (and even wondered for a brief moment why I did not pursue biology in college), but I was eager to attend the You and Your Lake program mostly to hear what local homeowners understood, or were saying, about septic systems.

I expected to hear some negative chatter from lakeside homeowners concerning septic systems, but it turns out that they were willing to listen, exceedingly positive, and keen on absorbing any information that would help them preserve the natural beauty of Higgins Lake. However, observing the Higgins Lake property owners' desire to promote clean water, it did surprise me how little these individuals knew about how septic systems function, and the number of myths that seem to pervade understanding in even the most willing, well-educated, environmentally-minded homeowner.

This is most definitely a massive failure on the part of installers, haulers, and regulators in my locality to educate homeowners on an integral, living part of their homes. Certainly, the Roscommon area is not alone in this problem. It is one thing for professionals to pursue education for their own ends (CSE credits or otherwise), but if we do not make every effort to pass our knowledge on to homeowners in a genuine, positive way, we are at least partly, albeit passively, responsible for direct damage to our environment.

Our professions are also at stake when we do not educate homeowners in an honest and positive manner. I was extremely dismayed upon hearing one of the "You and Your Lake" presenters introduce the topic of septic system maintenance by stating that (1) septic systems were never meant to be so widespread, (2) a statewide sewer system was intended from Michigan's inception, but (3) now that we understand it will never become a reality, let's learn about how septic systems function. These kinds of negative sentiments are detrimental to our communities. This series of opinions (none of these statements are based in fact), imply at least three flawed notions.

**(1)** Septic systems are a substandard wastewater disposal method and should be avoided in favor of sewer and wastewater treatment facilities if at all possible, in order to better preserve the environment. In fact, and in a much more positive light, well-maintained septic systems do a wonderful job of naturally cleansing our water and returning it to a usable state, free of chemicals and costly processes necessary to "purify" wastewater in a sewer-based treatment facility. Where does "purified" waste water from sewers go anyway? It eventually ends up in the same places as septic system waste water, although often directly "diffused" into our lakes, rivers, and oceans. The only difference is that final "purification" (including phosphorous removal and disinfection) often occurs by adding manmade chemicals and compounds to the waste. Neither sewer nor septic boast perfect processes for cleansing our water, but I would argue (with a caveat) that traditional septic is preferable to sewer because it does not add more compounds in the process of wastewater purification. The aforementioned caveat occurs when

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## 67TH MICHIGAN ON-SITE WASTEWATER DISPOSAL CONFERENCE

Please mark your calendar for January 9-11, 2018 (Tuesday – Thursday) for the 67th Michigan On-Site Wastewater Disposal Conference. The conference will be held once again at the Kellogg Center in East Lansing, MI. The 2017 conference brought in a good crowd of onsite professionals and was quite successful. The annual conference is a great time to learn more about our industry. You have the opportunity to rub shoulders with suppliers, regulators, colleagues, competitors, friends, and educators. Furthermore, this GREAT educational opportunity is offered at a time of year most onsite professionals are not as busy.

Arrangements are being made for Michigan Department of Environmental Quality (MDEQ) accreditation of all the conference sessions to count toward continuing education credit hours required for MDEQ licensed septage haulers.

Vendor Booths are planning to be open Tuesday afternoon and through most the day Wednesday. Please contact Dan Milan, onsite wastewater vice-chair and vendor coordinator at 800-756-4526, if you are interested in a booth this year.

Some of the topics discussed at the previous planning meetings for possible inclusion in the 2018 conference are:

- Keynote (Topic TBA)
- Portable Sanitation Panel Discussion
- MDEQ Question & Answer Session
- CDL Drug Testing and Recommended Training
- U.S. EPA Part 503 and the Septage Industry
- MDEQ Onsite Wastewater Program Sessions
- Do you have a Pollution Prevention Plan?
- Michigan Truck Safety Simulator
- Innovative Septic System Accessories
- GIS Session
- Preparing Yourself for Dog Encounters
- Succession Planning for the Family Business
- Vacuum Pump/Blower Session
- Electronic Reporting for Onsite Systems
- What's New in Liquid Waste Disposal
- Internet ideas for promoting my Sanitation Business
- State Wide Sanitary Code Session

Round Table Discussions (including):

- Portable Restroom Discussion
- Health Care Reform Update
- Understanding Your Credit Card Processing Statement and What You Are Paying
- Proper Techniques for Solvent Welding Plastic Joints
- What's New in Liquid Waste Disposal
- MDEQ Onsite Wastewater Program and LHD Accreditation
- Many more TBA

The next wastewater conference planning meeting is scheduled after the fall newsletter goes to print. Please contact one of the MSTA planning committee members with suggestions of what you would like to see at the 2018 conference. Members include: Jason Spangle (Esch Septic Service, LLC at 989-848-2391) Ralph Bailey (American Rentals at 517-719-6412) and Mark N. Scott (Scott's Excavating at 989-275-5011).

It is the intent of these annual wastewater conferences, organized as a joint venture by the Michigan Onsite Wastewater Recycling Association (MOWRA), the Michigan Department of Environmental Quality (MDEQ) with the Michigan Environmental Health Association (MEHA), the Michigan Septic Tank Association (MSTA), the Michigan Water Environmental Association (MWEA) and Michigan State University, to educate people involved in the onsite wastewater field.

So, if you want an educated approach to competing in your industry this is an excellent opportunity for you and your employees. There will be more on the conference in the winter newsletter. Hope to see each of you there!

Article submitted by: Mark N. Scott  
(Member - Michigan Wastewater Conference Planning Committee)



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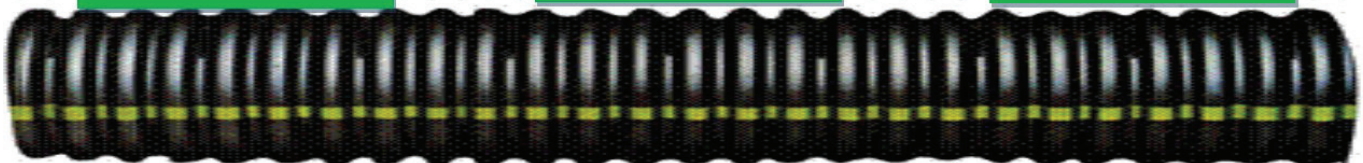
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## SJE-Rhombus Factory Training 2017



**Pictured Left to Right, Front Row: Jim Felker (Sales Service Plus), Mark Scott (Scott's Excavating). Back Row: Andre Janisse, Danielle Gerdes (both of Scott's Excavating).**

Last year, at the annual Michigan Onsite Wastewater Conference, representatives from SJE-Rhombus extended invitations to a training opportunity at one of their factories. Mark Scott, Andre Janisse, and I were happy to accept the offer and flew to Detroit Lakes, Minnesota for a two-day training course in mid-June.

We flew into Fargo, North Dakota, on the morning of June 12, and were promptly picked up by Vince Hannesson, the SJE-Rhombus Regional Sales Manager for Michigan, among other states. Vince took us to lunch at a relaxed little restaurant on the water with outdoor seating, then we checked in to the local Holiday Inn, where other trainees from across the continent were also lodged. The hotel sits right on one of Minnesota's innumerable lakes and boasts a sand beach, shady trees, a deck, a dock, and kayak, paddleboard, and pontoon rentals. We enjoyed dinner, shop talk, and socialization with Rhombus employees and trainees from as far as Washington, Saskatchewan, Ontario, Florida, and New Mexico – all while soaking in the sun, relaxing in the light breeze, and watching the dragonflies and damselflies flit around our heads.

Training began early the next morning at the Detroit Lakes SJE-Rhombus Factory. We were set up in a classroom-style atmosphere and given all necessary tools, including a voltmeter and a three-ring binder filled with Rhombus literature and product ordering information. Over the next two days, speakers presented on a range of topics. We saw picture slides that showed panel and float switch production processes, worked our way through the logic behind order and part numbers, learned about the organizational structure of the 100% employee-owned SJE-Rhombus, handled several Rhombus products, saw photos of various Rhombus products installations, and listened in amazement at the number of applications SJE-Rhombus products could support. One presentation even delved deep into the design, engineering, math, and science behind the electrical components of SJE-Rhombus products. From large farm irrigation to small residential septic system high water alarms, these complex little circuit boards, panels, and float switches fulfill a broad range of duties and are always crafted with care and pride.

Many of the presentations were far above and beyond my extremely basic understanding of the high-water alarms we sometimes install for pump septic systems. However, there were plenty of hands-on activities involved in the training that helped to broaden my understanding. During class breaks, individuals were encouraged to "install" a disassembled alarm panel onto a wall and test for proper alarm function, while timed by an SJE-Rhombus employee. The fastest time was about 90 seconds – wow! We were also given a factory tour, during which we saw employee-owners create parts of panels and float switches. The factory was not large, but every bit of space was impressively utilized in the most efficient way, from offices built upstairs, compact work stations, space-efficient robots, a packaging and shipping station that used more space overhead than across the floor, all the way to product parts stored on mechanically-operated, vertically inclined systems that rotate to allow easy access. The floor was clean and the work atmosphere was one of steady, detail-oriented production, geared toward putting forth the best. One of the most engaging activities involved troubleshooting a series of purposely sabotaged panels that mimicked real world circumstances we might encounter in the field. We plugged in loose fuses, connected loose wiring, identified fried panels, corrected dosage and time settings, and even learned how to program one panel's settings using Bluetooth technology.



**Andre Janisse and Danielle Gerdes (Scott's Excavating), working on the "Build a Panel" project.**

On the evening of the first full day of training, we attended a banquet, during which we were able to look at the newest products available from SJE-Rhombus, speak with company representatives, and discuss panels with SJE-Rhombus employee-owners, salesmen, and other installers. The evening concluded with a massive storm that knocked out the power, felled trees around the lake, and spit large hail from the sky. Regardless of the damage, trainees were still able to partake in their choice of recreational activity the next afternoon: fishing or golfing. I can't comment on the golfing, but the fishing was a blast. We reclined on a pontoon,

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## Say NO to Slow Season Before it Begins.

We know better than most that it's hard to even think about the slow season, while being bombarded with work. It's tough to look 6 months into the future when you barely have time to think about the 'now'. That being said, if you don't plan for the winter now, it'll be too late by the time your business slows down. Without money constantly streaming in, you may have to stretch the funds you brought in during the summer and fall. As a business owner, you can prepare for the busy season and make the most of your slow season. Here's how to manage the ups and downs of your sanitation business.



### Spend Wisely

When you have extra funds lying around during the busy season it may be all too tempting to spend, spend, spend... Don't Do It!! Be conscious of your company's long term needs, and stay disciplined. Do not spend more just because you have it. This would be a good lesson to learn in our personal lives too... but that's for another day. Either way, if at all possible, defer spending and try to saving an increase of funds. Wouldn't it be nice to know you have a little wiggle room while all of your competitors are struggling?



### Manage Time

Juggling your time with the fluctuations between the busy and slow season is tough. Sanitation isn't seasonal, but many sanitation businesses are. That's why it takes a lot of planning to succeed when it's slow. Try not to overlook meetings, make too many extraneous deadlines or take on additional projects during the busy season. If at all possible, try to schedule some of these activities during the winter to save yourself some stress. Let all of your employees know about the rush time expectations, and additional hours expected. Look into a new workflow to handle your increased volume of demand. Is it possible to extend service hours in the summer and reduce them in the winter? Is it

possible schedule meetings, maintenance and busy work for the winter? Could you offer winter season services to help ease the transition between mind-blowingly busy and dead slow? Take some time, think about it and see what works for you.

### Plan Ahead

The whole point of this blog... so it's pretty obvious. Plan ahead at least 6 months. You can do this by understanding the cycles of your industry and basing your plans about seasonality on sales data from the past few years. If your company is brand new, look at your peers and competitors. Chances are, someone is picking up the business where you leave off. It's not a bad thing to look at those competitors to pick up ideas.

Look back on how much you've already done this year and what you had to do to accomplish so much success. Evaluating data trends will help you make smart purchasing decisions for the future – we can help you there. It will give you time to choose the best financing options – we can help you there. Give yourself time to make any staffing adjustments and inform current employees what their schedules will look like, to avoid losing your profits on payroll. Whatever you do, just try to avoid excess inventory of any kind. Maybe a late season fire sale of services could help with that.

### Slow Time Strategy

We hate telling you to put things off for the slow season. It's not normally good advice under any circumstance. That said, the slow season may be the best time to deal with administrative and marketing tasks. Use this time to make your team do some catch-up work for the company: organize files, deep clean the office and file away paper work on closed orders.

This is also a GREAT time to increase employee training and brainstorming sessions. Get your team involved with some high level planning. Strengthen your client relations by taking the time to meet with them and gather feedback. You'll develop new ideas and keep your clients happy!

### Diversify

Ask yourself, if it possible to set up an alternative revenue stream? Who else can your business reach out to in the slow season? You don't have to come up with a new product. It may be an untapped market that you're yet to discover. Do some research by reading up on other industries and figure out how you can carve out a niche. This is probably the hardest step and honestly, many of us (ourselves included), have a hard time with this one. Cold weather has an effect on more than our customer's order habits. Sometimes portable sanitation products don't work well in extreme winter environments. While this can be the case, it's still important to beg the question. Don't miss out on business just because of an industry trend... prove it, one way or the other.



### Keep Your Brand Visible All Year Long

Just because you aren't making sales, doesn't mean you need to go into hibernation mode. Keep your business active throughout the year. Keep posting on social media, writing blogs about the industry, show off photos from customers you did service earlier in the year and so on. It's important to be creative with how you stay in touch with customers. Do you offer monthly services to your customers, or long term contracts? Incentives (such as lower winter pricing) to accept long term contracts could keep your customers coming back, even in the slow season.

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We're not saying we know every detail about your business cycle, or customer base... the goal here is to get you thinking outside the box we often find ourselves in.

### **Counter-cyclical Promotions**

According to Stephen Sheinbaum, Founder of Merchant Cash and Capital, you should take advantage of the period when your competitors have low activity. Your customers, and your competition's customers, may be just as interested in purchasing before the busy season is at its peak if you offer a promotion BEFORE your competitors do.

You're all entrepreneurs... and that's one of the toughest challenges in the world. Surviving the slow season depends on developing skills and smart practices to keep your company profitable in the off season. If you build seasonality into the planing process of your business, you will ensure your company's success.

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## Legislative Report for MSTA

Judy Augenstein, Legislative Consultant

### July 2017

Legislation designed to prevent the further introduction of chronic wasting disease in deer into the state will now bear the name of former Rep. John Kivela. The Senate passed HB 4424 on a unanimous vote after adopting an amendment by Senator Tom Casperson, R-Escanaba adding Mr. Kivela's name to the title of the bill. The legislation would prohibit bringing whole deer, elk or moose harvested in other states as well as any brain or spinal tissues of those animals, the primary sources of the prions that cause the disease. The bill would allow importing meat, hides, antlers and finished taxidermy. The bill is expected to be concurred in by the House and sent to Governor Rick Snyder for his signature. Rep. Kivela is still sorely missed by his Lansing colleagues, friends, his district and his family. R.I.P. Rep. John Kivela.

The Board of Canvassers did not rule on the form of the petition to make the Legislature part time at its meeting after Lt. Governor Brian Calley, the plan's key spokesperson, charged a member could have a conflict of interest. Calley said that in his testimony before the Board that he found out the night before that a member of the Board could have a financial conflict of interest and thought it would be inappropriate for the Board to choose a side. Though he never named the board member with alleged conflicts, Lt. Gov. Calley expressed concern the chair could have unseen influence even if he were to abstain.

The board chair, former Senator Norm Shinkle, is a consultant for the Michigan Freedom Fund. Calley said the group vocally opposes a part-time legislature. Mr. Shinkle said he was unaware during the meeting of whom Mr. Calley was accusing of having conflicts of interest and said he was unaware of the Michigan Freedom Fund's position on the issue. He said he supported a part time legislature when he was a state senator in the 1980's, but said it has to be done right.

HB 4644 sponsored by the House Transportation and Infrastructure Committee Chair, Rep. Triston Cole, R-Mancelona, is receiving final House action. The bill will be referred to the Senate Transportation Committee, Chaired by Senator Tom Casperson, R-Escanaba. Senator Casperson has agreed to schedule the bill for committee debate as soon as possible. The bill allows Michigan truckers to use a multiple use permit which is tailored after Wisconsin law.

House members approved legislating blocking state agencies from adopting rules more stringent than those applied by the federal government. HB 4205, sponsored by Rep. Triston Cole, R-Mancelona, has moved to the Senate for further debate. HB 4205 prohibits a state agency from making rules more stringent than federal standards unless it is specifically authorized to do so by state statute, or if the director of the agency "determines that the preponderance of the evidence establishes a need to exceed the federal standard."

HB 4438, sponsored by Rep. Tom Barrett, R-Pottersville was fast tracked through the House, but not without a fight from MSTA. The bill allows farmers to install, service and move porta johns from field to field for their migrant workers. We worked the committee and counted two Republicans with us along with the Dems. Overnight the Dems switched to "support" over a simple word added to the bill. We tweaked the bill with floor amendments and were able to include language in the rule making process to require "possible spills" by farmers to follow the same protocols as a porta john/septic hauler. HB 4438 was referred to the Senate Natural Resources Committee and not the Senate Ag. Committee where we had 3 of the 5 votes. It is important to contact

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*(continued from page 5 )*

population density increases to the point where sewer becomes the common-sense solution to wastewater purification. The erroneous statement above should be inverted to read, "Sewer systems are a substandard wastewater disposal method and should be avoided in favor of well-maintained septic systems, as common-sense dictates, in order to better preserve the environment."

(2) The State of Michigan always intended to build a massive infrastructure to support wastewater disposal for every plumbed structure within state boundaries. If the State of Michigan had ever intended on extending sewer to all of Michigan's plumbed buildings, it was certainly a pipe dream (pun intended), contrived by a city dweller who never considered Northern Michigan's many isolated dwellings. The costs of sewer installation and infrastructure maintenance in rural Michigan would be in the laugh-illions of dollars, impossible to support via a sparse tax base.

(3) Even though the State of Michigan is sorely disappointed that septic systems are a reality, it will begrudgingly educate homeowners about them. Michigan is not stuck with a poor option in septic systems, with little recourse but base education. Michigan is blessed with a simple, but ingenious system that works absolute miracles within nature, down to an incredibly small biological level. Neither sewer treatment nor pit toilets can compete.

These are only three of many unfounded or one-sided notions which we can begin to right in our everyday course of business. In addition, please consider extending your knowledge to your local water quality preservation/environmentally conscious association, foundation, or club. Volunteering a small amount of your time, energy, and knowledge to give a brief presentation on how septic systems function, best practices for maintenance, and myth-busting can go a long way to preserving our waters, our reputations, and the financial health of our businesses.

Article Submitted by:  
Danielle Gerdes  
Scott's Excavating  
Roscommon, MI



**Hello Everyone. This happened in the Fort Wayne Indiana area. This was sent over by my daughter Sharon, she lives there. This was on her news. The guy lost his load in creek.**

Carol Kovalak  
Jim Kovalak Excavating & Septic Tank Cleaning, Inc.

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the members of the Senate Natural Resources Committee and local public health departments, townships, municipalities to educate them of the health risk of HB 4438 present to the public.

**Committee Members:**

Senator Tom Casperson, R-Escanaba, Chair

Senator Phil Pavlov, R-St. Clair

Senator Dave Peterson, R-Grand Blanch

Senator Jim Stamas, R-Midland

Senator Rebekah Warren, D-Warren

Please contact the members of the Natural Resources to express your opposition to the bill and or to recommend an amendment to the bill requiring farmers to have a licensed hauler service the porta john before it is moved to avoid spills. We do not have much time because the Legislature is scheduled to meet on July 12. The Senate Natural Resources Committee meets on Wednesdays and a meeting could be held on July 12 to address HB 4438.

The Legislature has recessed until mid-July when they tentatively plan to be in session for 1-2 days, again in August where they might hold one session day.

**August 2017**

Before the Legislature recessed in June, House Republicans introduced legislature which would ensure various financial aid programs in the state are available only for U.S. citizens and permanent residents. Rep. John Reilly, R-Oakland Township, the primary sponsor of the package, commented that the legislation is needed for programs that lack citizenship requirements and because of “recent movements to make services available to people illegally residing in America”. House Bills 4829, 30, 31, 32, 33 and 34 create or clarify citizen requirements for nursing scholarships, the House Development Authority, state competitive scholarships, the part-time independent student grant program, the Michigan Promise grant and work-study programs.

In early July, Rep. Lee Chatfield, R-Levering and Senator Wayne Schmidt, R-Traverse City hosted a tour of the Soo Locks for fellow legislators to demonstrate the need for a new lock at the Sault Ste. Marie facility. The tour took legislators through the workings of the passageway linking Lake Superior and the Upper Peninsula to the lower Great Lakes. The locks, built between 1896 and 1943, are vital to the national economy with an annual cargo of 75.1 million metric tons going through every year.

Rep Chatfield commented, “Only one of the four locks at the Soo is large enough to accommodate the modern super tankers that commonly traverse the Great Lakes and when it was shut down for 20 days for repairs two years ago, it delayed delivery of nearly 2 million tons of cargo. If something were to happen to the Poe lock and it were shut down, the impact on domestic steel production would be catastrophic.” Senator Schmidt stated “Because of the critical importance of the Soo Locks to national and international commerce, Michigan plays an essential role in ensuring the economic health and security of the entire nation. An astonishing 99 percent of the usable iron ore in the United States comes from mines in Michigan and Minnesota, the situation is urgent, Congress must act”.

Rep. Triston Cole, R-Mancelona, Chair House Transportation & Infrastructure Committee, issued a press release touting the passage of HB 4464 by the House of Representatives. The bill allows applicants to obtain an annual over-sized vehicle transport permit. Rep. Cole commented “Traditionally the driver would have to permit the trailer and every piece of equipment individually that it hauls each time it travels. This bill simplifies

the permitting process for vehicles that routinely carry over-sized equipment or routinely exceed weight requirements. The permit may also be stored and presented by the holder using a mobile device.

At the request of MSTA, Senator Tom Casperson, R-Escanaba, Chair, Senate Natural Resources Committee will NOT hold a committee meeting on August 16 when the Legislature returns for a one day session. The committee's standing committee day is typically on a Wednesday. Senator Casperson continues to oppose the bill as does other committee members including Senator Jim Stamas, R-Midland, Senator Rebekah Warren, D-Ann Arbor. Senator Wayne Schmidt, R-Traverse City, also opposes and is actively working with us in our effort to defeat or amend the bill.

I highly recommend MSTA prepare an amendment to require a porta john be pumped before it is moved from field to field by a farmer; so I can hand it off to Casperson, Stamas or Schmidt for introduction. Please contact your senator urging him/her to oppose HB 4438, legislation to allow farmers to provide and move porta johns from field to field without being serviced.

Judy Augenstein  
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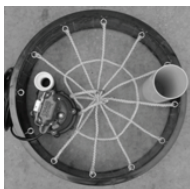
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enjoyed a cooler of drinks and bag of snacks, trolled several areas, caught a few varieties of fish, bragged about our children and grandchildren, and told wild fish tales. The last day of training wound down at a family restaurant/bar about five minutes from the hotel, where a classic car show was also taking place on the street between the restaurant and water. The building, packed with families and classic car buffs, looked as though it had started out as a simple ice shanty years ago and



**June 2017 SJE-Rhombus Customer Training Participants**

grown, room by room, over time. There was live music, piping hot pizzas of creative flavors, a couple of bars, and a variety of indoor and outdoor seating. It was the perfect end to an active, informative, and fun packed couple of days.

I would recommend the SJE-Rhombus Factory Training to any installer who uses, or is considering using SJE-Rhombus products. I learned more than I thought I could, met engaging peers from across North America, and thoroughly enjoyed Detroit Lakes. Be sure to stop by the SJE-Rhombus booth this winter at the 2018 Michigan Onsite Wastewater Conference and meet the SJE-Rhombus reps! You just might find yourself in Minnesota next summer.

Article Submitted by: Danielle Gerdes  
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