

From the President



Rick Throop
MSTA President

With the leaves changing and the temperature dropping, we all look forward to cooler weather to work in. Not sure about the rest of you, but I am over the 90° heat and humidity that we get here in our wonderful Michigan summers. As we start to slow down, I find myself looking back at the summer and thinking about all the work we did, and also some of the things slip through the cracks as we get busy.

Some of those things that get forgotten about are the maintenance to trucks and machines and the repairs that need to be done. But instead, just kind of got a Band-Aid so we can keep plugging away. Now that things start to slow down all those issues will soon get addressed. Whether it is the small things like oil changes and greasing or the big things like worn out drive lines or pumps that need work, the winter seems to be a good time to do all those things.

MSTA recently had our fall meeting that was again held at National Vacuum Equipment in Traverse City, which really is pretty this time of year with the leaves changing. They provided us with a great lunch and beautiful facility as always. I would

like to send a special thank you to National Vac for being such a wonderful supporter of MSTA and all the help they provide. We had some excellent speakers that provided us with excellent information that we can all use in some way. We also did a gun raffle at this meeting, and I would like to congratulate all our winners.

MSTA is still working on a schedule for upcoming winter conference which will again be held in Mount Pleasant at the Soaring Eagle Casino. There should be an impressive list of speakers and educational credits that we all can capitalize on. Along with many great vendors supplying the products that we all need and use. This is a great opportunity for members to get together and talk about ideas that we all can use to better our businesses.

Lastly MSTA has switched to only doing three newsletters a year, so this will be the final one before the holidays. My how times flies, it seems like I was just saying this to everyone, but I would like to wish everyone a very Merry Christmas and prosperous New Year. I look forward to seeing many of you in February.

Thank You,
Rick Throop
MSTA President



*Fall along the Grand Traverse Bay
in Traverse City, MI*



MSTA Spring Meeting

Where: Imlay City, Michigan

Date: Saturday, April 15, 2023

Time: To be determined

Thank you, Paul and Melissa Lawrence, for hosting this meeting.

YOUR CLASSIFIED AD COULD BE HERE

Email classified ads to
jkreh@hotmail.com

Cost \$20/ad and
\$20/photo

40 word limit

MSTA editor reserves the right
not to advertise certain items.

CELEBRATING 95 YEARS 1926 2021
CENTURY CHEMICAL CORPORATION

We Make Portable Sanitation Smell Good!

AVIATION • WASTEWATER • CHARTER BUS
SEPTIC MAINTENANCE • RV • MARINE

Proudly making quality,
safe sanitation possible since 1926.

www.centurychemical.com

CENTURY CHEMICAL CORPORATION **Bio-Tab** **Toi-De Fresh**



Meet your 2022 MSTA Board of Directors

President

Rick Throop,
Woods-Utica Septic Service

Vice President

Jason Spangle,
Esch Septic Service

Secretary

Stephanie Powell,
Portable Toilet Services LLC

Treasurer

Tom Schunk,
County Wide Septic LLC

Directors

Ray Daniels, Daniel's Septic Service
Rodrigo Meirelles,
Williams and Bay Pumping Services
Randy Redmer, Michigan Waste and
Environmental Services
Ryan Carey, Sodergren Septic
Chris Sloan,
Sloan's Septic Tank Service
Tim VanRhee,
Kerkstra Septic Tank Cleaning
Dervin Witmer, Dig-it Excavating

Welcome to these new MSTA Members in 2022

Anne Hofman,

Affordable Home Septic – Galien
Michigan

Vicki Smith,

Beaver Island Septic Services LLC

Jake Petty,

Jakes Excavating – Glennie Michigan



2023 MSTA Annual Conference

Mt. Pleasant, Michigan

February 14-15, 2023

Make plans to attend or exhibit at the Michigan Septic Tank Association's Annual Conference. This event provides 2 days of networking time with fellow Septic and Portable business owners with up to 12 credit hours (6 each day). The Annual Banquet will be on February 14th along with a 50/50 raffle and auction.

Registration is now available on the MSTA website at www.msta.biz. Attendees can choose to come to both days or just one and the pricing is below.

Rooms at the Soaring Eagle Resort

Be sure to book your room right away if you want to take advantage of the MSTA Room Block with the room rate of \$139 plus taxes per night. This room block is for Monday night (February 13) and Tuesday night (February 14) only. To book your room go to www.soaringeaglecasino.com and use Group Code MSTA021323. You must book your room by January 23rd to get the discounted rate. If you don't want to book online, call 877-232-4532 and press option #1 for reservations.

Conference Pricing for attendees and vendors

MSTA Members:

One day only	\$75 per person
Both days	\$130 per person

Non-Members:

One day only	\$100 per person
Both days	\$175 per person

Vendors:

Booth price if bringing item for auction	\$150*
Booth price if not bringing item for auction	\$250

* item must be valued at \$100 or higher

You can easily register and pay online at www.msta.biz or you can fill out the registration information on the top of the next page and send it to MSTA along with a check.

Name(s): _____

Company Name: _____

Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

Phone: _____ Email: _____

Attendance Type (Circle):

One Day only Tuesday, Feb 14 or Wednesday, Feb 15

Both Days

Booth No Auction Item With Auction Item

Amount Due: \$ _____

Send payment and this registration information to:

MSTA
1181 LaCosta Drive
DeWitt, MI 48820



Southeastern's proven tough fleet of new, used, and rental equipment is ready to help you get the job done. **CALL FOR A DEMO TODAY OR VISIT US ONLINE.**

800-798-LIFT | SOUTHEASTERNEQUIP.COM

This ad does not constitute an offer. Products subject to availability and varies by location. Southeastern reserves the right to substitute any of the equipment rented for like equipment at any time. Customer may be responsible for additional charges including, but not limited to, damages, cleaning fees, over hours, fuel and delivery/pickup. Credit approval and insurance required for all rentals. Southeastern reserves the right to refuse rentals for any reason.

Engineered For Performance



INFILTRATOR
water technologies



Quick4 Standard Chamber

Fast & Easy Installation

Chamber systems are easy to install. Engineered for strength and performance, they have greater design flexibility including a smaller footprint as compared with stone and pipe, and are made from recycled materials.



Synthetic Aggregate

Clean & Free of Fines

EZflow is an environmentally friendly replacement to traditional stone and pipe drainfields using an engineered geosynthetic aggregate modular design. Designed to improve drainfield performance by eliminating the fines, and reducing compaction and embedment associated with stone.



IM-540
IM-1060
IM-1530

Lightweight Durable Watertight

The strength and versatility of Infiltrator's IM-Series Septic Tanks enable a wide-range of installation possibilities including shallow installations and multiple and serial tank configurations.



Click and Lock Riser Technology

Watertight Gasket to Gasket Connection

The EZsnap riser is designed to create an easy-to-assemble watertight riser system for septic tanks, pump tanks, and cisterns.

The EZsnap Riser features click and lock technology eliminating the need for assembly tools, sealant/caulk, screws and hardware. The 24" diameter EZsnap Riser will be available in 2", 6" and 12" tall sections that nest together making for efficient storage and shipping.



CALL FOR INFORMATION AND A DISTRIBUTOR NEAR YOU!

Matt Johnson, Area Sales Representative • (616) 401-3396

mjohnson@infiltratorwater.com • www.infiltratorwater.com

The 2022 Fall Meeting was a success!

How can you not have a successful Fall Meeting when it's up north in beautiful Traverse City and you can get together with fellow pumpers? A special thank you goes out to Mike Chouinard, Matt Garvin, Ken Hall, Jason Reading and Cindy Alexander from National Vacuum Equipment for working closely with us to put on this great event. Natvac not only had a great presentation about Vacuum Pumps and Blower Maintenance from Mike and Matt but they also provided the beverages and lunch for all 65 attendees. We cannot thank them enough for their continued support of MSTA and their hospitality!

Among the three presentations we had at the meeting was Shawn Huston from Huston Real Estate. Shawn talked to our audience about why it's important for Septic Haulers and Real Estate Advisors to come together to solve septic issues between sellers and buyers.

Lastly, Kipp Rowland from EMC Insurance spoke to us about Pumper Truck Fleet Safety and all the things that could and would happen on the road if you don't put safety first for you and your employees.

During the meeting we had the MSTA Raffle. In the past, the raffle took place in January during the Michigan Onsite WW Conference but since MSTA is no longer part of this conference, the raffle was during the Fall Meeting instead. The winners of the raffle can be found in another article in this newsletter.

Each and every year we have approximately 70-80 people who attend the Fall /or the Spring Meetings and we very much appreciate your willingness to participate in them. They not only provide credits towards your license renewals but give you a chance to network with others to discuss common issues you may be having and to come together to help solve them.

We look forward to seeing you at the next gathering of members at the MSTA Annual Conference in February /or the MSTA Spring Meeting in April.







General Agency Company

Insurance Since 1915

Knowledgeable. Committed. Trusted.



General Agency Company understands the need for timely service and sensitivity to local concerns.

That's why EMC Insurance Companies offers the Michigan Septic Tank Association (MSTA) Insurance Program to our customers through the General Agency Company.



Property • General Liability • Workers' Compensation
Commercial Auto • Inland Marine • Life • Safety Consulting
Group Health Benefits • Risk Management Services

Group insurance coverage endorsed by:



Mick P. Natzel Jr. • 989-817-4257 • mpnatzel@ga-ins.com

General Agency Company • 525 East Broadway Street • Mount Pleasant, MI 48858
Phone: 800-589-6982 • 989-773-6981 • Fax: 989-772-1855



MICHIGAN LOCATIONS

GRAYLING 989-348-8832

HOWELL 517-552-1702

INDIAN RIVER 231-238-9200

MT. PLEASANT 989-773-9938

TRAVERSE CITY 231-276-9282



RESIDENTIAL & COMMERCIAL



HIGH STRENGTH TREATMENT



WASTEWATER CONTROLS



PUMP PACKAGES



GRINDER PACKAGES



ACCESSORIES



MilanSupply.com



MSTA 2022 Fall Raffle Winners

Thank you to all of those that purchased raffle tickets for the Fall Raffle. The following people one either a gun or the cash prize:

- 1st place: Brian Knoper, Kerkstra Portables
- 2nd place: Dervin Witmer, Dig-It Excavating
- 3rd place: Dervin Witmer, Dig-It Excavating (lucky man)
- 4th place: Tim Sawrel
- 5th place: Charles Kitley, K & D Excavating
- 6th place: Bob Mitchell
- 7th place: Rick Burrows, Burrows Septic Service
- 8th place: James Schultz, Schultz Septic Service

- 1st place: Bergara B-14 Hunter 65 Creedmore Rifle or \$750 Cash
- 2nd place: TriStar Upland Hunter O/U 410 or \$450 Cash
- 3rd place: Savage A-17 HMR Semi Auto Rifle (Blue/Synthetic) or \$400 Cash
- 4th place: Savage Axis II Rifle 270 WIN (Blue/Synthetic) or \$350 Cash
- 5th place: Iver Johnson Pump 12 guage 3" Camo or \$300 Cash
- 6th place: Taurus G2 9mm Pistol or \$200 Cash
- 7th place: Stevens 320 Turkey Shotgun 20 guage or \$175 Cash
- 8th place: Ruger Wrangler Revolver (Silver Frame) 22 LR or \$150 Cash

Scholarship Fund Drives going on now!!!!



We recently lost two of the “Best of the Best of MSTA”, Mark Scott and Dave Snyder. They were both instrumental in the progress of taking the Michigan Septic Tank Association to where it is today. Together they have over 50 years of history and experience with MSTA and many of us have know each of them for most of those years.

During the MSTA Conference at the Soaring Eagle Resort in February, we were honored to host the Scott Family and Snyder Family to the banquet. Many people shared stories and memories of Mark and Dave during the banquet and enjoyed the slideshow that was displayed as well.

To honor Mark and Dave, we are doing 2 Scholarship Fund Drives starting now through the end of the year. The money donated to these funds will be distributed to SCOTT FAMILY SCHOLARSHIP FUND (in honor of Mark) and COMMUNITY FOUNDATION FOR MUSKEGON COUNTY (in honor of Dave). Both of the scholarships will serve the individuals well by helping in areas that were of interest to each of them. Every year we will start a new scholarship drive that will run from January to December with the money to be donated the following year. The first distribution of funds will happen in early 2023 and Mark and Dave’s family will be honored at the MSTA Annual Conference at the Soaring Eagle Resort on February 14, 2023.

PLEASE CONSIDER DONATING TO THE LEGACY OF THESE UNFORGETTABLE PEOPLE. If you would like to donate to the scholarships, please send a check to MSTA at 1181 LaCosta Drive, DeWitt, MI 48820 by December 31st. You can write the check to MSTA and make a note on the check that it is for both scholarship funds or whichever fund you would like to contribute to. You must send the check by December 31st to be included in the scholarship that will be given out at the MSTA Annual Conference in February.

(continued on page 14)

All Roads Lead To Polylok



Polylok 24" Rhino (10 Hole) Distribution Box

The Polylok 24" Rhino Box makes even the toughest applications a breeze with its strength and versatility. The Rhino Box has ten potential openings making it great for any drain field application. Polylok's 24" stackable riser system can be used to easily bring the Rhino Box to grade. The Rhino Box will accept 2", 3", 4" & 6" pipe.

WE ARE YOUR TRUSTED ONSITE WASTEWATER PARTNER!



Visit our web site for our complete line of more than 200 onsite wastewater & drainage products.

www.polylok.com / 1-877-765-9565

Scholarship Fund Drives going on now!!!! Continued

A huge thank you goes out to the following people who have already donated or pledged to donate towards the scholarships.

Rick Throop, Woods-Utica Septic Service
Rodrigo Meirelles, Williams and Bay Pumping Service
Rodrigo Meirelles and Daniel Meirelles, Northeastern Michigan Environmental (Halls Serv-All)
Mick Natzel, General Agency Company
Bob Burgdorf, Spartan Sewer & Septic Tank Service
Paul Lawrence, All American Septic Service
Susan Armstrong, Brendel's Septic Tank Service LLC
Chris Sloan, Sloan's Septic Tank Service LLC
Ray Daniels, Daniels Septic
Dave Tippett and Kara Roof, All In One Septic Service
Terry Kiel

*If you have any questions, please email Karlyn Wickham, MSTa Executive Officer,
at executiveofficer@msta.biz.
Thank you.*

**CAMERA SYSTEMS
LOCATORS
EQUIPMENT REPAIR
TRAINING**



THE ONE STOP SHOP FOR ALL YOUR UNDERGROUND INSPECTION NEEDS

 VirProteus.com

12600 NEWBURG RD.
LIVONIA, MI 48150

734-744-5557
INFO@VIRPROTEUS.COM



Valley Farms Supply



A DEEP WELL OF RESOURCES

SERVING MICHIGAN'S WASTEWATER CONTRACTORS

Valley Farms Supply serves Michigan's wastewater and geo-thermal industries. We offer a full line of wastewater pumps and polyethylene pipe and fittings, and we are proud of our fully-equipped pump test and repair facility.

See for yourself why the pros choose Valley Farms Supply as their official provider of quality supplies and service.



MICHIGAN LOCATIONS

FLINT 810-471-9450

GRAND RAPIDS 616-888-3999

LAKE CITY 231-839-4311

LANSING 517-703-0400

BARNES[®]



ValleyFarmsSupply.com

MSTA Member Spotlight - Rodrigo Meirelles

Rodrigo Meirelles was born in Brazil, in 1969, and raised on the family farm in close contact with the outdoors. By his own definition a dreamer and an explorer, Rodrigo was launched at a young age into a journey in search of knowledge that took him across countries and continents, and the world became the fertile ground for his many exploits.

True to the pioneer spirit Rodrigo set himself to explore the world, working and raising a family while maintaining his dreams alive and pursuing his passion for hunting and shooting wherever he goes, having visited and worked in over 70 countries and hunted in four continents.

He lived in The Netherlands for three years (1999-2002) and has lived in the United States since 2002, and became a naturalized US citizen in 2010. In 2011/2012 he lived in Italy.



Rodrigo holds a Master of Business Administration from Michigan State University and also earned a Bachelor of Science in Mechanical Engineering from Universidade Estadual de Campinas in Brazil and is fluent in English, Portuguese, Spanish and Italian.

Rodrigo lives in Traverse City with his wife Maria José, and their Britany, Hawk, since the spring of 2013. Their children Maria Eduarda, mother of Rodrigo's only competitor, the grandson Sylas, and Daniel also live in Michigan and are up here in "God's Country" as often as possible.

Rodrigo is the author of three books, *A Wild Beast at Heart*, *Caçadas: Estórias e Outras Mentiras* and *Shotgunning My Way*, and multiple magazine and newspaper articles published in the US, Brazil, Portugal and Spain. He also wrote regularly about hunting, fishing, firearms, books and traveling on his blog www.awildbeastatheart.blogspot.com.

After working for 25 years in the global commercial vehicle industry, Rodrigo decided to retire from the non-stopping traveling and become a small business owner. The acquisition of Hampel's Gun Co. on 31st December 2016 provided the stability and stepping stone for Rodrigo to be involved in the septic industry.



(continued on page 21)

THERE'S NEVER BEEN A BETTER TIME TO CHOOSE



*Always Have Been
and Always Will Be*

there when you need us

FAMILY OWNED & OPERATED

THE MOST EXPERIENCED SALES &
CUSTOMER SERVICE TEAMS

ACCESSIBLE REPLACEMENT PARTS

BEST WARRANTY IN THE INDUSTRY

PROVEN PRODUCT DURABILITY



Everything YOU need to KNOW
when they need to go!

JohnTalk.com



DOWNLOAD OUR GUIDES

PJProductGuide.com | PJBuysGuide.com

2500 GASPAR AVE., WHITING, IN 46394

POLYJOHN.COM | 800.292.1305

MSTA Member Spotlight Continued

In 2017 Rodrigo and his business partner, Lynden Johncock, formed True North Environmental Corporation (TNEC) and in August of that year they acquired all operating assets and real state of Williams Pumping Services (established 1994) and Williams & Bay Portable Restrooms, located in Maple City, MI and serving the “Five Countries” around Traverse City (Grand Traverse, Leelanau, Benzie, Wexford and Kalkaska). That entity operates under the DBA Williams & Bay Pumping Services (www.williamspumping.com) performing septic pumping, portable restrooms and restroom trailers rentals, sewer & drain cleaning and septic inspections, which leads to our moto: “Williams & Bay, Much More Than Pumping.”

In the spring of 2018 TNEC acquired the operating assets of Decker Pumping (Empire, MI) and in the fall of the same year the septic pumping assets and customer’s data of Houdek Pumping (Lake Leelanau, MI), and these operations were integrated under Williams & Bay Pumping Services, which currently has 18 employees.

In the fall of 2019 Rodrigo with four other investors (daughter Maria Eduarda, son Daniel, front door neighbor Will, and Brazilian friend Arthur) formed Northeastern Michigan Environmental Alliance, Inc. (NMEA) in order to acquire all operating assets and real estate of Hall’s Serv-All (established 1986), located in Posen, MI and performing septic pumping, portable restrooms and restroom trailers rentals, sewer & drain cleaning and septic inspections for the counties of Alpena, Alcona, Presque Isle, Montmorency, Cheboygan and Otsego. NMEA continues to operate as Hall’s Serv-All (www.hallsservall.com) and currently has eight employees.



We have been active members of MSTA since we first got in the septic industry in 2017 and although our first septage education credits were earned from Michigan State University Extension Decentralized Wastewater Treatment online course. When we first joined MSTA, and attended the 2018 Wastewater Conference in Lansing, we were impressed by the professionalism of its members, commitment of its leadership, and crucial roles in both representing the members needs with state government and providing critical education both through formal sessions and especially with the networking of its members.

The most difficult aspect of the business (as in most any other business) is employee recruitment and retention. We have tried most online recruitment tools with different levels of frustration, and have found the word of mouth and employee referrals are the most effective ways to recruit good talent. Our goal is to be the employer of choice in our locations, and to do so we provide competitive pay, health (medial, vision and dental) and life insurance, and 401K retirement plan, on the job training and the possibility of personal and professional growth.

We have made a long-term commitment to the septic industry, and deeply appreciate and respect its professionalism and macro-economic fundamentals. We continue to reinvest in the business, with capital expenditure both in new equipment and technologies as well as management tools (e.g. IT infrastructure, routing software), marketing and advertising with great focus on social medias, and the expansion and improvement of our septage disposal capabilities through land application, both in our own properties and through partnerships with farmers and other land owners.



National Vacuum Equipment, Inc.

WE HAVE A BLOWER FOR ALL YOUR NEEDS



B500 VACUUM BLOWER | MAX PAK

- B500 high vacuum tri-lobe blower with 4-way vacuum/pressure change over valve
- Oil-less operation
- Exhaust air silencer
- Ballast air silencer
- 1:2 speed increasing right angle gearbox
- Blower flush kit
- Pressure relief valves
- Flows up to 431 CFM
- Approximate weight 760 lbs
- Designed, built, and supported in the USA

4310 VACUUM BLOWER | PRO PAK

- 4307 or 4310 high vacuum tri-lobe blower with 4-way vacuum/pressure change over valve
- Oil-less operation
- Improved slim design
- 3/8" powder coat painted frame
- Stainless steel cabinet
- Easily accessible service points
- Blower flush kit
- Internal ballast silencing
- Ballast check valve for pressure operation
- 500 series right angle 1:2 ratio gearbox
- Flows up to 940 CFM
- Approximate weight 1090 lbs
- Designed, built, and supported in the USA

Challenger Series

VACUUM PUMPS & BLOWERS



Designed. Built. Supported in The USA.

800-253-5500 | www.natvac.com

SIM/TECH FILTERS

Toll Free: 888-999-3290

E-Mail: sales@gag-simtech.com

Website: www.simtechfilter.com

1455 Lexamar Drive, Boyne City, MI 49712

A Michigan Manufacturer

Quality Wastewater Solutions

Pressure
Filters



Gravity
Filters



Pump
Screens



Snap-On
Float Tree



Cast Iron
Septic Lids



Safety
Nets



Orifice
Shields



Clean-out Sweeps, Sludge Samplers & More

Sim/Tech Filter offers quality products to protect onsite systems and to make installation and maintenance more efficient.

Visit our website for more information and to see video demonstrations. www.simtechfilter.com

Thank you to our 2021 PAC Fund Donors

(IN NO PARTICULAR ORDER)

RODRIGO MEIRELLES

DARRELL BUTLER JR.

JUDY AUGENSTEIN

LARRY AND TONI SPIES

DEREK EVENHOUSE

SCOTT EDWARDS

THOMAS AND KATHLEEN MULAR

TOM SCHUNK

MARK AND BRENDA LINDEBLAD

DONALD BOLLINGER

ART AND RHONDA GOODWIN

MARK AND JAIMI KENT

RAY DANIELS

JULIE AND DEAN KREH

We want to remind everyone that we can only make our political efforts possible through the help of our membership donations to the MSTA PAC fund. We hope to continue having a prominent voice in the capital by representing our member's ability to effectively conduct business in the State of Michigan.

With that being said, we would like to encourage engagement from our general members and provide transparency to the use of our PAC dollars. If any members have specific pain points they feel should be communicated, we are happy to review them at the PAC committee so we can properly plan how to address them with legislators. Additionally, any contributions are appreciated and begin to add up when considering the potential scale of our association. For example, if we have 150 of our members donate \$100, we have \$15,000 of fire power to move forward our initiatives and make sure our voice is heard in Lansing.

Please note that all PAC donations must come from personal checks and we can't accept checks written from business accounts.

Best regards,

MSTA PAC Committee



Golden Circle Advisors
SELL SMART, BUY SMART

A business brokerage firm specializing in the Septic Pumping & Portable Restroom industries since 2015.

Commute Before Selling



Commute After Selling



Realize your dream by selling your business at the highest price.

TRAVERSE CITY

Curtis D. Kuttner
(231) 922-9380
curtis@teamgca.com

PLYMOUTH

Fred G. Manuel
(734) 320-6667
fred@teamgca.com

www.goldencircleadvisors.com

Our Services Include:

- Selling a Business
- Buying a Business
- Business Auctions
- Valuation Services
- Financing Services
- M & A Advisory



Karlyn Wickham
MSTA Executive Officer

HOW TO NAVIGATE THE MSTA WEBSITE

www.msta.org

HOW TO LOG IN TO YOUR PERSONAL PORTAL OF THE MSTA WEBSITE

1. Log into your account on www.msta.biz

If you do not remember your username /or password, click on “Forgot Your Password?” on the MSTA Homepage. You will receive an automatic email with instructions to get your username / password. Follow the instructions on this email to log in.

GETTING YOUR CSE CREDITS OFF FROM THE MSTA WEBSITE

As you already know, we have a new website and database system to track your membership and CSE credits. The old website contained all your CSE Credits prior to August of 2017. If you don’t have records of your credits prior to August 2017, you will not be able to get them by logging onto the website. Instead you will have to send an email to the address below to request a report of those.

The new website contains your CSE Credits from August 2017 through now. To get a record of the credits you received from the Fall 2017 meeting or the 2018 Michigan Onsite WW Conference, follow the steps below:

1. Log into your account on www.msta.biz If you do not remember your username /or password, click on “Forgot Your Password?” on the MSTA Homepage. You will receive an automatic email with instructions to get your username / password.
2. Once you are logged in, go to “My Membership Information”
3. Click on the “other information” tab
4. Click on “Prior Event Registrations”
5. Find the class you just attended and click on the symbol with the checkmark inside the square
6. A copy of your transcript will appear showing the credits you earned by going to the meeting
7. Print this page and keep it for your records to be turned into the DEQ when you renew your license.

Please save these instructions for future use. Please also save your username and password somewhere safe as well so that you can log onto the MSTA website again. By the way, your username and password can be changed to something you remember more easily by clicking on “Member Information / change username and password” (right next to the “other information” tab).

CHANGING CONTACT INFORMATION FOR YOUR MEMBERSHIP

1. Log into your account on www.msta.biz If you do not remember your username /or password, click on “Forgot Your Password?” on the MSTA Homepage. You will receive an automatic email with instructions to get your username / password.
2. Once you are logged in, go to “My Membership Information”
3. Click on the “Membership Information” tab
4. Click on “change contact / profile”
5. Change your profile information
6. BE SURE TO PRESS SUBMIT AT THE BOTTOM OF THE PAGE

ADDING EMPLOYEES OR ADDITIONAL PEOPLE TO YOUR MEMBERSHIP

1. Log into your account on www.msta.biz If you do not remember your username /or password, click on “Forgot Your Password?” on the MSTA Homepage. You will receive an automatic email with instructions to get your username / password.
2. Once you are logged in, go to “My Membership Information”
3. Click on the “Membership Information” tab
4. Click on “additional individuals attached to this membership”
5. Click on “add an additional member”
6. Fill out the information about this member
7. Do this for every person you would like to add to your membership

Tower Hill Rd

SEPTIC SERVICE SHORT STORIES WITH OLIVIA

10-4-22

PUMPTHATSEPTIC.COM

I got a call from an agent. He scheduled a real estate inspection for Tower Hill Rd along lake Michigan. He also said that the tank was up by the house and the field was by the parking area. I just smiled and nodded to myself writing the info in the notes. But there is no way that the drain field is by the parking lot and in working condition I predicted to myself.

Fall, the most beautiful time of the year to be working outside. I rode along with Lucian in the pumper. My phone rang and I answered it as we neared the next job. Driving between the sea walls and drop offs, down the narrow dirt road. Mansions new and old towered on either side. The truck stopped and Lucian got out to see what we had to work with. I finished firing questions at the customer, scheduled the appointment and hung up. I grabbed some gloves, swung around, hopped down the steps and slammed the truck door. I rounded the back of the truck and looked up. ‘Are you kidding me?’ A staircase climbed up a hill finally ending at a house. I felt like I was looking up Jacobs ladder. Except not. There was only one thing I was looking forward to, seeing how many flights of stairs my phone tracked, for bragging rights. I started to climb. As I neared the top my legs burned, and I wasn’t even carrying anything. Beside the stairs was a lift that had probably been used to build the house, it was locked. I could see the bottom of the house supported by pillars that I could walk under. There were lots of trees that blocked the view of the lake and the sun but not the wind. The house seemed to be sitting atop a pile of sand that some monster kid in a sand box had built and was ready to knock over.

At the front of the house Lucian had found the septic tank and a second little tank with a huge filter. “The top of the tank is cracked.” He diagnosed. ‘This is going to take forever,’ I complained. ‘well the pumper won’t even have to pump this tank.’ Lucian positively observed. He whizzed his hand downhill, making a whistling sound. I laughed. He wasn’t wrong. I was more dreading dragging the hoses up the stairs. ‘they are just going to slide down as soon as we drag them up’ I laughed again, a little less humored. Unfortunately, I wasn’t wrong either. The clamps were also determined to get stuck on every step. Lucian clomped down the stairs to help me. He pulled and I pushed, stopping to clamp each hose as we went. Finally, we had a big snake zigzagging the staircase. I sat down and started a report on an iPad. For the first time I noticed the address, Tower Hill Rd. Ha, how accurate.

Everything was hooked up and ready. Lucian opened the valve on the pumper and videoed the climb in a parkour style for the business Instagram. Then he dropped the hose into the tank. The hose shook with the signature swish and the suction did all the work. But the mixed gravity and suction just about pulled the hose out of the tank. I sat on the hose, to keep it from sliding, as I worked on the report. I felt like I was going to be yanked off my seat any minute. To our delight, Lucian found a third tank. He dug that one up and pumped it out too. It was about twelve thirty already. We sat down to eat lunch on a little platform at the bottom of the staircase that looked out at not much of a view. We joked and laughed and caught up on planning different evening events. After all the work of dragging the hoses up I could not wait to let them slide down. The hoses sang as they rubbed against the stairs, gravity was on my side this time. I pulled them around the truck roadside and started loading them up one by one.



Next, I lugged the camera up the stairs stopping at each flight. I know. Weak. I finally handed it over the stair railing to Lucian and he started it up. He shoved the camera down the pipe. I tracked it with the locator. Sliding downhill I felt like I could single handedly erode the whole hillside and leave the house standing on nothing. The camera ended up in the parking lot. Lucian yelled down at me and I marked the cameras location. He rammed it further, yelled, and I marked it again. The property agent pulled up in an old car. He was a tall older gentleman with an almost singsong voice, I recognized it from when he had called to schedule. I was ignorantly marking the camera, so I directed him up to the house where Lucian was. He ascended the stairs. In the distance I could hear his singsong rambling and Lucians ‘yup, right, ahhaa,’ I couldn’t help but giggle. It sounded like the guy was telling Lucian everything he already knew. Lucian revealed that the mysterious places, that I had been marked, were T’s leading to big rectangular drywells. The top of the tanks where what we thought was the cement parking area. So far it was actually working perfectly He who laughs last laughs best. I had been wrong.

After the agent left Lucian turned to me, ‘He told me two old ladies are going to buy this place.’ ‘Ha,’ I coughed. He added, ‘At least they won’t have to go to the gym.’ I could only imagine those poor ladies carting their groceries up those stairs. I made another trek to the top. My legs were so weak I felt like I couldn’t do anything with my arms. But I pulled the camera back and added the drywells to the report. Lucian started closing up the tank. ‘Olivia, come here and look at this.’ I hauled myself to my feet. He had a shovel and was prying at something on the bottom of the tank. ‘Look, there is a log laying at the bottom and then this giant branch is jabbed straight into the bottom so deep I can’t even get it out. Someone mislaid a tree, it came smashing down, cracked the top and went straight through the bottom of the tank’ He narrated ‘Shoot, there is sewer going straight into the ground.’ I observed the obvious. ‘How are we going to replace this?’ There was no way to get any kind of truck up that hill much less an excavator. ‘It will have to be replaced by hand.’ He concluded. That was going to cost pretty penny. We made it to the bottom of the stairs with the last of the tools. Loaded up and headed out. I had climbed about fifty flights.

To this day I have never had so many people call me to ask about one job, the estimate for Tower Hill Rd. We never ended up doing the repair. I wonder if that house ever sold and if those two old ladies will ever get their workout climbing those stairs.



Legislative Report for MSTA

Judy Augenstein, Legislative Consultant

Democratic Governor Gretchen Whitmer will face businesswoman and conservative commentator Tudor Dixon in November in the race for governor. Former state representative Shane Hernandez has been selected as her running mate.

Democratic Attorney General Dana Nessel will face Republican Matt PePerno a Portage attorney.

Democratic Secretary of State Jocelyn Benson will face educator Kristina Karamo from Oak Park.

In January the legislature will see a big change with half of the legislature leaving due to term limits, redistricting and/or election losses.

The months leading up to the August 2 primary were certainly not without drama as a number of candidates did not make the ballot for reasons pertaining to residency or campaign finance.

Four incumbent legislators running for re-election lost their primary elections while a handful of other races saw incumbent legislators running against each other due to redistricting.

Michigan's Congressional delegation will also see significant changes since the state lost one seat in the 2020 census and redistricting caused some members to be drawn into the same seat, some facing off in primaries or choosing not to run and some choosing to retire.

In November Michigan voters will also see a handful of ballot initiatives.

Proposal 1 is officially on the ballot and would amend the Michigan Constitution to change our term limits law.

Currently, legislators may serve a lifetime limit of three two-year terms in the House and two four-year terms in the Senate.

Proposal 1 would reduce the number of years legislators could serve to 12 years, but would allow that time to be served in either chamber and would subject legislators to annual financial and other transparency disclosures.

The House Natural Resources Committee has received HB 6101 sponsored by Rep. Jeff Yaroch. The bill creates the Septic Tank Inspection Act, which would require inspection of septic tanks during certain property transfers and sales. Under the measure the condition and functionality of a septic tank would be required.

The Michigan Realtor Association opposes the bill and since they are a powerful and "well funded" group it will be interesting to see how far and if this bill travels through the legislative process.

The legislature will be in session next week then recess until November 9...



Judy Augenstein
Legislative Consultant

716 E. Scott St
Grandledge, MI 48837
Phone 517-242-2186
Fax 517-627-2186
JaugensteinGee@juno.com

IT'S TIME TO SWITCH TO IMPERIAL



OFFERING A WIDE RANGE -FROM SLIDE INS TO DOT UNITS - WE BUILD IT ALL:

At IMPERIAL INDUSTRIES, we have been going the extra mile designing and manufacturing specialized commercial sanitation tanks for more than 40 years - constantly evolving to meet the changing needs of your industry. It is our mission to provide you, our valued customers, with dependability for the road ahead.

Tanks available in your choice of metal - steel, aluminum or stainless steel.

Better efficiency means bigger profits...let us help you get the results you want!

1-800-558-2945

IMPERIALIND.COM

SEPTICTRUCKCENTER.COM

SALESINFO@IMPERIALIND.COM



**IMPERIAL
INDUSTRIES INC**



*1181 LaCosta Drive
DeWitt, MI 48820
www.msta.biz*



MSTA PAC Update

We are continuing to fight for legislative issues that benefit MSTAs members. Your donation to the PAC Fund will help tremendously in these efforts! If you would like to donate, a “personal check” (not a company check) should be made out to: MSTAs PAC Fund.

Please mail your
“personal check” to:
MSTA
1181 LaCosta Drive,
DeWitt, MI 48820