

Executive Director's Message: Jeff Beiriger

How We Learn...

In the last few weeks, I've had the opportunity to listen in on presentations given by our instructors. I'm not an installer, so I can't say that I understand everything they're getting at, but I still found the programs interesting.

What's so interesting about a septic system?

First, you have to move beyond the idea that it's just a "septic system." It's much more than that. It's a system that allows rural development to happen. It's a system that protects public health and safety. It's a system that protects our groundwater.

At the risk of comparing a septic system to a painting by Monet, it's OK if some of the details are a little out of focus if you can see the bigger picture. And if I can continue the metaphor, the "painters" for these classes were masters at their craft!

To be in front of a group, especially doing technical education, requires a lot of knowledge, but what really separates the best instructors from the rest, I think, is their passion and their humility.

Even as they were teaching, the instructors were learning. That takes humility. Unlike many, who believe that being a "master" requires you to have all of the answers and to have them immediately, our instructors excelled because they worked through the answers with the class and in doing this, they provided participants not only the answer, but a process for answering other questions they might have. By not having all of the answers – and allowing the group to know that – they became even more effective as teachers.

And then there's passion. What always holds my attention is someone's passion for their subject. Maybe it's just me, but I can listen to someone speak with energy and excitement about things that, up until that moment, didn't really matter to me. I want to learn more because I want to understand why this person is so excited by their subject. And I'm not alone, because there are books, YouTube videos, TED Talks, Podcasts, and blogs about countless subjects, all presented by people who love their topic. There's too much out there for me to believe that nobody is listening. There's a big audience....



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Contact Us:

WOWRA
PO Box 833
Germantown, WI 53022
Phone: 888-782-6815
Fax: 888-287-4116
info@wowra.com
www.wowra.com

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What's good to know is that we have more great speakers coming. Jeff Hammes on soils, Sara Heger on water use and high strength waste, and two full days of other session speakers at our conference. Plus, our instructors for our code class and our POWTS Evaluator Certification class have already agreed to teach for us again in 2020!

Before long, you'll get another update about our advocacy work on behalf of the industry, so there's a lot going on. We're on the move! If you're already on board and a member, thank you. We look forward to your renewing and being a part of 2020 with us. If you're not a member, climb aboard. Together, we can grow the association and better serve the industry.

We look forward to seeing you at one of our programs soon!



Jeffrey J Beiriger
Executive Director

Where's the Government Relations Report?

No worries, it's coming, in a new and improved way!

The government relations report will be sent to you separately this month and in future months, so look for this additional communication each month from WOWRA, providing news and insights on the issues affecting our industry – licensing, plan review, executive orders, legislation, court rulings, code committees, technical advisory committees, study groups and task forces, elections and more.

There's a lot going on and WOWRA has you covered. Our goal is to highlight the work we do, every day, for you and the industry in a stand-alone publication.



Wisconsin Fund – A Reminder

While most of you are familiar, it's helpful every now and again to provide a reminder about the Wisconsin Fund, a program that provides grants to homeowners and small commercial businesses to help offset a portion of the cost for the repair, rehabilitation, or replacement of existing failing Private Onsite Wastewater Treatment Systems (POWTS). WOWRA has worked hard over the last several years to continue and increase allocations to the Wisconsin Fund and to review the eligibility requirements.

Currently, eligibility is based upon several criteria, including household income and age of the structure. 67 counties out of Wisconsin's 72 counties, the City of Franklin, and the Oneida Tribe of Wisconsin participate in the program. County government officials assist interested individuals in determining eligibility and in preparation of grant applications.

More information is available by clicking [HERE](#).

Safety Matters

The DSPS provides useful safety reminders on its website regarding best practices for POWTS installers, maintainers, and inspectors.

Manhole Covers

Be sure that the septic tank and its access ports have sound and secure covers that do not risk collapse and which cannot be removed by children.

The manhole in the cover of the septic tank is the large entrance (20" -24") through which the tank should be cleaned. The manhole may be buried below ground level, but should be close to the ground surface for easy access. It may be raised from the cover of the tank with concrete or plastic risers for easier access. It is usually located in at either end of the tank; older tanks may have the larger cover over the inlet end of the tank. Newer tanks should have a cover terminating above grade over the outlet end of the tank to accommodate the servicing of a filter located inside the tank. however, some manufacturers locate it closer to the inlet end of the tank. There may be more than one manhole, in which case they are usually located at the ends of the tank.

Covers may be concrete, plastic, fiberglass, or steel. Insulation may be added in cold climates. Unless you are a service professional, never remove the manhole cover! It is heavy and creates a large, dangerous opening.

Great Feedback on WOWRA Seminars!

Despite cold and snowy weather, feedback from our POWTS Evaluator Certification program held October 30-31 in Waukesha were excellent! The instructor for the program was Todd Stair of Herr Construction. Todd is a WOWRA Board Member and Past President, a Certified POWTS Evaluator, a Master Plumber Restricted Service, a Certified Soil Tester, and a POWTS Inspector.

Here's what people had to say....

Exceeded my expectations!
Todd's first-hand experience is great.
Great job. Thank you for your professionalism.
Thank you for the awesome lessons.



On November 1, a group gathered in Johnson Creek for a presentation by Dean Petersen and Pat O'Neill. The two are instructors at Madison Area Technical College and Waukesha Community Technical College respectively. Attendees had this to say about their program:

Beyond excellent. VERY excellent.
Both Dean and Pat were very good. Class was well worth the cost. Learned a lot. Everyone in POWTS should take this class and especially those who are going to take their JM and Master's exam.
LOVED the presenters. Factual, realistic, used a lot of graphics. HIGHLY valuable.

And There's More Where That Came From!

Registration Now Open

December 5, 2019 (8:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m.)
Soil Science and Septic Design (4 hours CE)
Radisson Hotel
Fond du Lac, Wisconsin
Instructor: Jeff Hammes

[Register](#)

Registration Opens Soon

January 16, 2020
POWTS Maintainer Training (6 hours CE)
Chula Vista Resort
Wisconsin Dells

January 16-17, 2020 (All-Day)
Joint Winter Conference (10+ hours CE)
Chula Vista Resort
Wisconsin Dells
Keynote: Sara Heger + Breakout Sessions + Trade Show

Joint Winter Conference Registration Opening Soon!

WOWRA, along with the Wisconsin Liquid Waste Carriers Association, will once again hold a Joint Winter Conference. We'll be returning to the Chula Vista Resort in Wisconsin Dells for two days of training. Our keynote speaker is Sara Heger from NOWRA and the University of Minnesota. Last time she joined us, Sara's presentations drew comments like these:

Excellent! Sara knew her stuff. Very informative.
She is always very good with lots of good info.
Very knowledgeable and easy to understand.
Lots of good information and thought-provoking.
Excellent speaker and talks at the group level.



Sara will be presenting her keynote and two additional breakout sessions. Additional POWTS-related classes are planned, along with programs on business, the WOWRA Annual Meeting, networking opportunities, and exhibitor displays.



Order Your Septic System Operation & Management Booklets

Order Form

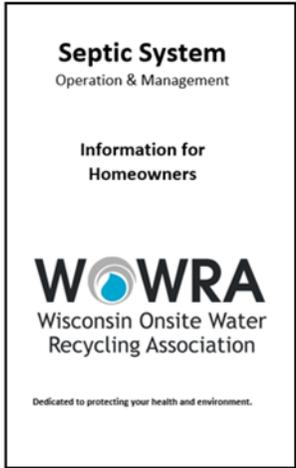
WOWRA Homeowner's Manual

The WOWRA Homeowner's Manual is a great tool for onsite professionals to provide customers with information on their septic system!

The manual includes information on septic system operation and management and provides answers to frequently asked questions.

Manuals are available for purchase for \$0.75 per manual plus shipping (varies by quantity).

Questions? Contact the WOWRA office at 888/782-6815 or info@wowra.com.



To purchase, complete the form below and return to WOWRA.

Company Name _____
 First Name _____ Last Name _____
 Address _____
 City _____ State _____ ZIP _____
 Phone _____ Email _____

_____ Quantity x \$0.75 = \$_____.00 (+ Shipping)

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By Credit Card:

Name on Card _____
 Type of Card MasterCard Visa AmEx Disc
 Account # _____
 Exp. Date _____ CVV Code _____
 Billing Address _____

Send to: WOWRA
 P.O. Box 833
 Germantown, WI 53022
 Email: jeff@assocmgmtservices.com
 FAX: 888/287-4116

Online Training Opportunities Approved for Credit in Wisconsin



Whether you are new to the onsite/decentralized industry or continuing your professional development, you have come to the right place for septic system related education!

Taught by experts in the industry, NOWRA's Academy offerings cover the fundamentals of the profession as well as advanced training in multiple topics. Offerings include those developed from a national perspective and those meeting specific state requirements.

The courses included can be taken at a discounted rate as a WOWRA/NOWRA Member or at a higher rate as a Non-Member of NOWRA. You can become a member of NOWRA by joining WOWRA. These courses have been approved for DSPP continuing education for master plumber, journeyman plumber, master plumber restricted service, journeyman plumber restricted service, commercial and UDC plumbing inspector, POWTS inspector, POWTS maintainer, and soil certification tester.

Available courses are shown below. You can receive credit for each unit or for the entire program. Find out more at <https://www.pathlms.com/NOWRA>.

- Treatment Overview (1.5 Hours Credit)
- Wastewater Characteristics (1.5 Hours Credit)
- Soil and Site Evaluation (1.5 Hours Credit)
- Soil Based Gravity and Pressure Distribution (1.5 Hours Credit)
- Pumps and Controls (1.0 Hours Credit)
- Operations and Maintenance (1.0 Hours Credit)
- A to Z Overview (8 Hours Credit)

We're also pleased to announce that NOWRA has recently introduced *another* online program. That program is currently being reviewed by the DSPP for continuing education credit. More information will follow.

WOWRA Membership



2020 WOWRA MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION

STOP! For faster service and to pay by credit card, please register & pay on-line at www.wowra.com.



MEMBERSHIP RATES

PLEASE NOTE: Approximately 25% of your annual WOWRA dues are spent on lobbying related issues. This 25% may not be deducted from your taxes as a business expense. Please contact your tax consultant for further information.

\$230 (1 person)

Full Member

\$115 (unlimited)

Employees of a Company with a Full WOWRA member.

\$75 (State dues only)

Govt. Personnel or those with indirect interest in the onsite industry.

\$110 (State + NOWRA Dues)

Govt. Personnel or those with indirect interest in the onsite industry.

Full Member: This person will be listed first on all publications. Please note any edits (print clearly).

Name: _____

Company Name: _____

Member Type: _____ Rate: \$ _____

Address: _____ City/State/Zip: _____ County: _____

Phone: _____ Fax: _____

Email: _____ Website: _____

Circle the counties you work in. Needed for Website Directory.

Adams	Calumet	Door	Grant	Juneau	Manitowoc	Oconto	Portage	Sawyer	Washburn
Ashland	Chippewa	Douglas	Green	Kenosha	Marathon	Oneida	Price	Shawano	Washington
Barron	Clark	Dunn	Green Lake	Kewaunee	Marinette	Outagamie	Racine	Sheboygan	Waukesha
Bayfield	Columbia	Eau Claire	Iowa	La Crosse	Marquette	Ozaukee	Richland	Taylor	Waupaca
Brown	Crawford	Florence	Iron	Lafayette	Menominee	Pepin	Rock	Trempealeau	Wausara
Buffalo	Dane	Fond du Lac	Jackson	Langlade	Milwaukee	Pierce	Rusk	Vernon	Winnebago
Burnett	Dodge	Forest	Jefferson	Lincoln	Monroe	Polk	Saint Croix	Vilas	Wood
							Sauk	Walworth	ALL COUNTIES

Services Provided (Check all that apply): Installer Pumper Designer Inspector

Regulator Educator Soil Scientist Soil Tester Excavator Manufacturer Supplier POWTS Evaluator

POWTS Maintainer Plumber Surveyor Other: _____

Additional Member #1: (Please list any additional members on separate sheet with all contact information)

Name: _____ Email: _____ Membership Rate: \$ 115

Phone: _____ Fax: _____ Website: _____

Counties you work in: _____

Additional Member #2:

Name: _____ Email: _____ Membership Rate: \$ 115

Phone: _____ Fax: _____ Website: _____

Counties you work in: _____

Additional Member #3:

Name: _____ Email: _____ Membership Rate: \$ 115

Phone: _____ Fax: _____ Website: _____

Counties you work in: _____

Total Due: First WOWRA Membership \$ _____ + \$ _____ (_____ Additional WOWRA Memberships @ \$115 each) =

Check enclosed (Payable to WOWRA)

TOTAL Amount: \$ _____

Please mail to: WOWRA | PO Box 833 | Germantown, WI 53022

Business Promotion Program



Business Promotion Offer Your *Best Value* for 2020

WOWRA is pleased to offer a simple way to cover all of your promotional activities for 2020. Select the package that works for you! Some including a membership (\$230 value), a Joint Conference exhibitor booth (\$500 value), tabletop displays at our seminars (4+ at \$200 each); advertising in the monthly newsletter to the industry (\$1,200, \$700, \$500, \$300 value, depending on size of ad), ad/link from website (\$300 value), and published press releases (\$50 each).

	Platinum Promotional Package	\$2,500
	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• 2020 Membership• Joint Conference Exhibit Booth• Tabletop at WOWRA Seminars• Full-page ad (8½ x 11) in monthly WOWRA News• Up to 4 press releases in WOWRA News• Link on the WOWRA Website to your website	
	Gold Promotional Package	\$1,500
	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• 2020 Membership• Half-page ad (8½ x 5½) in WOWRA News• Tabletop at WOWRA Seminars• Up to 2 press releases in WOWRA News• Link on the WOWRA website to your website	
	Silver Promotional Package	\$900
	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• 2020 Membership• Quarter-page ad (4¼ x 4½) in WOWRA News• 1 press releases in WOWRA News• Link on the WOWRA website to your website	
	Bronze Promotional Package	\$400
	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Eighth-page page ad (2½ x 3½) in WOWRA News	

This is a great opportunity to promote your business to your target audience! There's simply no better value for those interested in reaching the POWTS industry.

BONUS: You'll receive the appreciation of the industry! We appreciate the value you bring through information about products and services that can save time and money. We also appreciate your support for and commitment to WOWRA and the work we do to protect and advance the industry – something that benefits all of us!

Questions? Contact us at 888-782-6815 or info@wowra.com.

[Click Here to Sign Up](#)

Apply Today for the 2020 WOWRA Scholarship

This scholarship is established to award students planning to obtain higher education. It is funded by income generated by association members. **Applications must be received or postmarked on or before December 20, 2019. No exceptions will be made.**

Applicants must be:

- A. A Full, Additional or Associate Member in good standing of the Wisconsin Onsite Water Recycling Association for 2 years or more; or
- B. An immediate family member (spouse or child) of a WOWRA member who has been in good standing with the WOWRA for 2 years or more.
- C. A family member of an employee of a WOWRA member who has been in good standing with the WOWRA for 2 years or more.
- D. Scholarships will be awarded at the annual conference. WOWRA will notify the recipients in writing immediately thereafter and issue a check in the amount of the award in August of the year awarded, after your college enrollment is verified.
- E. No person may receive more than one award.
- F. Applicant must be a member of the senior high school class or graduate of a secondary school, including those who are older than high school age desiring to continue their education. This award is also available to past or current college students.
- G. **Instructions for applying for a WOWRA scholarship:** Use the following [LINK](#) to submit your application, (2) reference letters and essay to the WOWRA Scholarship Committee

NOTE: Applications will be invalid if not filled out completely or not accompanied by two reference letters and the essay.

- ✓ Scholarship Application form;
 - ✓ Reference letters from two persons unrelated to the applicant (teachers, employers, coaches, clergy, etc.) who can attest to the applicant's character and assess academic ability.
 - ✓ 500-word essay on a topic related to wastewater and/or water quality.
- H. The Robert Lindner Memorial Scholarship and the Gretchen McQuestion Memorial Scholarship may be awarded each year. The amounts may be changed at the discretion of the Board of Directors. Additional scholarships may be awarded at the Board's discretion.

SCHOLARSHIP SELECTION PROCEDURE

1. All applications are scanned and kept on file at the WOWRA office.
2. Winning essay(s) may be printed in the WOWRA newsletter.
3. The original applications, letters of reference and essays are sent to the selection committee composed of qualified scholarship judge(s) not affiliated with any of the applicants.
4. The scholarship judge(s) will rate the applications using a numerical scale (1 being the best) as well as review the essays for writing ability.
5. The WOWRA Board will conduct a blind review of the winning essays for content and make the final decision on the winning applicants.
6. The winners, if any, will be announced during the annual conference in January 2020.

[Click Here to Apply](#)



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Interested in Board Service?

WOWRA will hold its Annual Meeting during the 2020 Joint Winter Conference, January 16-17 at the Chula Vista Resort. During the meeting, there will be an election of Officers/Director for the association. Those elected at the January 2020 Annual Meeting would serve through the Annual Meeting in 2022.

If you would like to know more or want to indicate your interest, contact Mark Wieser, WOWRA President, any of the Directors listed above, or the WOWRA office. Nominations can be accepted before the meeting and from the floor during the meeting.

WOWRA Board of Directors (2019/2020)

President/Director

Mark Wieser
Wieser Concrete Products, Inc.
Phone: (608) 742-4464
markw@wieserconcrete.com

Todd Stair
Herr Construction
Phone: (262) 968-2550
todd@herrcorp.com

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Phone: (608) 455-6392
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Executive Director
Jeffrey J Beiriger
PO Box 833
Germantown, WI 53022
Phone: (888) 782-6815 x1
info@wowra.com

Directors At Large

Shea Geffert
Blakeslee R.S. & S.T., Inc.
Phone: (608) 963-5895
shea@rucls.net

Damon Huibregtse
Dirkse & Huibregtse LLC
Phone: (920) 980-3606
Dhinc88@gmail.com

Government Relations

George Klaetsch
10 E. Doty St.
Suite 523
Madison, WI 53703
Phone: (608) 283-2587
gklaetsch@kpasllc.com



Mission Statement:

To advance the education of and to protect and promote the profession of onsite wastewater technology in Wisconsin on behalf of our membership.