

# of mutual interest

A MONTHLY NEWSLETTER PUBLISHED BY THE ASSOCIATES OF CH2M HILL OMI FOR THE ASSOCIATES OF CH2M HILL OMI

May/June 2009

## Perspective

Message from your Global Leadership Team



Scott Haskins

Terms such as “sustainable” and “going green” are now part of most everyone’s vocabulary, but they have been part of our company’s agenda from the very beginning back in 1980 when CH2M HILL OMI was founded, where the

principal task at hand was to help protect and manage one of the world’s most precious resources: water.

More than two decades later, this priority has expanded to managing industrial utilities, public works departments, community development and entire municipal operations. With each of these new ventures, we are taking on responsibility for protecting and managing finite natural resources, ecosystems and urban development. And we are now working in our projects and across the CH2M HILL enterprise to develop new tools, to assist clients in developing green solutions and to adapt to the impacts of climate change.

As a new member of the Global Leadership Team, I’m excited to announce the launch of CH2M HILL OMI’s Sustainability Initiative. This strategic initiative is being developed and managed by our new Technology, Innovation and Quality group with the goal of aligning all O&M business groups – both new and existing – with sustainable practices.

Our strategic focus and upcoming action plan is on further enhancing and applying sustainability in our Communications, Practices, Project Delivery and Consulting areas. The Sustainability Team developed and chartered the initiative last spring. **Elisa Speranza** and I are the executive sponsors of the effort, with **Lindsay Ritter** serving as the team lead. **Susan Mays**, **Elliott Wheeler** and **Duyen Tran** are serving as the core team members to develop and execute the initiative with **Stan Warner**, **Lynn Kronowit**, **Jennifer Hagen**, **Catherine Wheeler**, **Greg Wilson** and **Rob Kuta** serving as adjunct team members to help guide and coordinate the initiative in their respective organizations.

The team has mapped its goals for 2009 and so far has identified existing sustainable solutions and several pilot projects. It is now seeking to include our projects and clients in industry research so that CH2M HILL OMI can lead the way in sustainable resource management.

Sustainability is important not only as a business model, but also as a company value. As a new member of the CH2M HILL OMI team, I look forward to exploring sustainable resource management and developing it further so we can continue to demonstrate leadership in sustainable practices and solutions. This also supports our mission of exceeding customer expectations, enhancing the environment and quality of life where we live and work and empowering our people to grow and innovate.

*Scott Haskins*

## Organizational changes and their impact on CH2M HILL OMI

CH2M HILL CEO **Lee McIntire** announced some important organizational changes on May 11. The changes are the outcome of five action areas that CH2M HILL’s leadership sees as critical to dealing with our short-term challenges and better positioning our company for continuing and future success:

1. **Cut bureaucracy** – Make it easier to do our work
2. **Round out people** – Accelerate the development of our people
3. **Free up talent** – Free up people to advance key opportunities
4. **Focus-streamline** – Increase our focus on growth areas
5. **Improve bottom line** – Improve our business performance

CH2M HILL OMI – the O&M Business Group – is ahead of the curve in several of these action areas because they align with the continuous improvement that’s part of our quality culture.

To improve CH2M HILL’s bottom line and focus on streamlining the overall business, the company has shifted from four client groups to three operating divisions to make it easier for all of us to develop and implement initiatives with others from across the enterprise. The O&MBG is part of the new Facilities & Infrastructure operating division, reporting to **Bob Card**. The other two operating divisions are Government-Environment-Nuclear, led by **Mike McKelvy**; and Energy, led by **Garry Higdum**. All three operating division leaders report to Lee.

In addition to the O&MBG, F&I includes the Water Business Group, led by **Bob Bailey**; the Transportation Business Group, now led full-time by **Mark Lasswell**; and the new Industrial & Advanced Technology (a combination of the former Manufacturing & Life Science and Electronics & Advanced Technology business groups), led by **Randy Smith**.

Among **Bob Card**’s leadership accomplishments are serving as President and Group Chief Executive for CH2M HILL International, as CEO for the \$7 billion decommissioning of the Rocky Flats Environmental Technology site and as Under Secretary of Energy in the U.S. Department of Energy. Bob has told CH2M HILL OMI President **Elisa Speranza** that growing our O&M business is a priority for him.

Although the O&MBG no longer reports to **Mark Lasswell**, we look forward to continuing to work closely with him. As part of our focus on achieving the greatest returns from our business, Lee has asked Mark to take on the leadership role for Transportation, one of our largest markets and one with tremendous growth potential. Mark also will remain responsible for the enterprise-wide Business Development Excellence initiative.

Another exciting part of the firm-wide reorganization is the combination of the Facilities Services Group (formerly part of the Industrial Client Group) with the O&MBG to create a new organization that will provide all O&M-related services for F&I. **Jeff Mervin** will continue to lead Facilities Services, reporting to Elisa. Both CH2M HILL OMI and Facilities Services will continue to operate as they have been while we evaluate how best to work together to serve our customers.



Look for more information about these changes in an upcoming issue of *Of Mutual Interest* and on *O&MZone*. And read a complete copy of Lee McIntire’s memo at [www.int.ch2m.com/omzone/news/memos/2009/050509\\_EnterpriseOrg.html](http://www.int.ch2m.com/omzone/news/memos/2009/050509_EnterpriseOrg.html).

## Rich D’Amato assumes Business Development leadership role

In our last issue of *Of Mutual Interest*, we told you about **Gary Miller**’s new assignment of creating new O&M business opportunities in the Middle East as part of a newly formed Civil Infrastructure Group team based in Dubai, U.A.E, which is in line with an important element of our 2009-2013 Strategic Plan to grow our business in North America and around the world.

Stepping in as Global Director of Business Development is **Rich D’Amato**, who also assumes a position on CH2M HILL OMI’s Global Leadership Team.



**Rich D’Amato** (right) meets with members of CH2M HILL OMI’s Marketing & Communications team. Also pictured, from left to right, are **Julie Kauffman**, **Sara Edwards**, and **Brent Temmer**.

Rich returns to the O&M Business Group after completing a leadership development assignment as Vice President and Executive Assistant to CH2M HILL CEO **Lee McIntire**. Prior to his current assignment, Rich was responsible for leading the CH2M HILL OMI sales team responsible for both municipal and industrial water and wastewater O&M.

Rich previously served as Regional Vice President of Project Delivery in our former Central Region. During the past 17 years, he has held a range of development and delivery roles within the O&MBG and in CH2M HILL’s water and industrial businesses. He holds an M.B.A. from Duke University and an M.S. in Environmental Systems Engineering from Clemson University. He also is a certified wastewater operator.

AWARDS & ACCOLADES

## Florida projects take safety honors

Associates in DeFuniak Springs received the Wastewater Excellence Award from the Florida Department of Environmental Protection, recognizing achievement in compliance, safety, process, ethics and community relations.

This is the second FDEP excellence award for the project in 5 years. DeFuniak Springs Project Manager **Jayne Swift** and DeFuniak Springs Assistant City Manager Bill Holloway accepted the award earlier this year at an FDEP ceremony in Tallahassee.

"I am very excited about this award because it says a lot for my team and their hard work," says Jayne.

In addition, DeFuniak Springs associates were awarded a First Place Safety Award in the Wastewater Class C category from the Florida Water Environment Association, making it the third consecutive year the team has won the award.

And the safety awards for our Florida projects didn't stop there. The FWEA awarded associates in Quincy a First Place Safety Award in the Wastewater Class B category and awarded associates in Havana a Second Place Safety Award in the Wastewater Class C category. And both Quincy and Havana won the National Safety Council Occupational Excellence Achievement Award.



DeFuniak Springs, Fla., Project Manager **Jayne Swift** and Assistant City Manager **Bill Holloway** accept the Wastewater Excellence Award at the FDEP conference.

## Swainsboro gets lab honors

Associates in Swainsboro, Ga., were recognized by the Swainsboro City Council in December for receiving the Georgia Association of Water Professionals Lab Quality Assurance award in the less than 5-mgd category.

The award recognized the facility's outstanding laboratory quality assurance and was presented earlier in the year. Councilperson Cleve Edenfield presented the award to the rest of the council at a city council meeting. In addition to the award, Edenfield reported to council that recent water loss was the lowest on record.

"We are very proud of this award," says Lead Operator **Orson Hall**. "We have worked very hard to achieve this accomplishment because we have maintained our perfect compliance in water and wastewater for the last five years."

CH2M HILL OMI has provided O&M services for the city of Swainsboro's wastewater treatment facility and water wells since September 1992. In 1993, the city added operation of the entire Public Works department to our scope of work.



**Orson Hall** accepts the GAWP Lab Quality Assurance award from GAWP President **Pam Burnett**.

## Partnership earns national recognition



President **Elisa M. Speranza** (left) accepts the Outstanding Achievement Award on behalf of the Fayetteville-CH2M HILL OMI partnership.

The partnership between Fayetteville, Ark., and CH2M HILL OMI was recognized among the nation's best when The United States Conference of Mayors presented its annual Public/Private Partnership Awards in January.

The Outstanding Achievement Award was one of just five Public/Private Partnership Awards presented during the Conference's 77th Winter Meeting in Washington, D.C. The award recognizes the partnership between the city and company to promote sustainability at the city's wastewater facilities and in all city operations to help make Northwest Arkansas' "Green Valley" even greener.

CH2M HILL OMI has managed the city's wastewater facilities since 1987, and the partnership has extended beyond the wastewater facilities

to support the city's efforts to assure sustainability is a practice around the community by cooperating with business and academia to increase awareness about sustainability in the region.

Within the wastewater facilities, CH2M HILL OMI has replaced a truck with a tricycle and implemented a no-idling policy to reduce fuel and associated emissions. Associates got rid of paper cups and bottled water and replaced them with mugs and reusable water bottles. And the company tested and purchased a new oxygen system developed at the University of Arkansas that reduced energy and chemical costs by nearly \$35,000 annually at one treatment facility.

CH2M HILL OMI also was the first sponsor to sign on to Fayetteville's first Sustainability Summit, an all-day event held last October to help citizens, students and local businesses learn how Fayetteville, its business partners and its corporate citizens are leading the way in sustainable initiatives. The Summit showcased sustainable cities of the future with a keynote on Masdar City, the world's first zero-waste, carbon-neutral city in the United Arab Emirates.

"Fayetteville is truly a leader in implementing sustainable practices throughout the city and encouraging others to do the same," says President **Elisa M. Speranza**, who accepted the award at the Jan. 18 ceremony. "We're proud of our Fayetteville team as they work with the city to provide innovative environmental stewardship approaches and essential services every day."

The U.S. Conference of Mayors is the official nonpartisan organization of cities with populations of 30,000 or more. The Conference established its Public/Private Partnership Awards to encourage businesses and cities to work together to improve local communities. Selection criteria includes improvement in delivery of services, replicability, sustainability, cost savings, creativity of approach, benefits to both public and private partners, economic and business benefits, and measurable results.

This is CH2M HILL OMI's third Outstanding Achievement Award. The Conference recognized the company's municipal services partnership with Johns Creek, Ga., in 2008 and its wastewater operations and maintenance partnership with Augusta, Ga., in 2004.

## Associates in Gilroy/Morgan Hill land 4 more awards

The CH2M HILL OMI-operated South County Regional Wastewater Authority facility, which serves the cities of Gilroy and Morgan Hill, Calif., earned the 2008 Plant of the Year Award from the California Water Environment Association's Monterey Bay Section in February.

The Plant of the Year award honors the wastewater system that has demonstrated top compliance and reporting, innovative practices, cost-effectiveness and reduction, and other evidence of superior plant operation. The Gilroy/Morgan Hill facility also was named Plant of the Year in 2005 and 2007.

In addition to Plant of the Year, the facility and staff earned three other CWEA awards, presented Feb. 6 at the Monterey Bay Section's annual meeting:

- Safety Program of the Year Award, earned for the seventh time in eight years.
- Operator of the Year Award for Lead Operator **Oscar Baltazar**, for the second consecutive year.
- Laboratory Person of the Year Award for Laboratory Director **Jesus Luna**, who also won the award in 2007.

"This is a fantastic testament to the work we do. Winning back-to-back awards confirms that the SCRWA wastewater treatment plant is one of the top wastewater and recycled water facilities in California," says Project Manager **Brenda Miles**. "The staff is great, has worked hard and deserves this recognition. I am proud to be a part of this team."

CH2M HILL OMI has operated the South County Regional Wastewater Authority's facility since 1984, which consists of operating the secondary wastewater facility, water recycling plant, laboratory monitoring, odor control program and public information program.



The Gilroy/Morgan Hill team. Front row, from left to right: **Gina Bonnell**, **Brenda Miles**, Chief Environmental Engineer **Saeid Vaziry** (our client), **Jesus Luna** and **Oscar Baltazar**. Middle row, from left to right: **Dan Ames**, **Dave Pollard**, **Ed Lopez**, **Duane Reische** and **Juan Zepeda**. Back row, from left to right: **Tony Hernandez**, **Richard Eglinton**, **Rick Trujillo**, **Brandon Burton**, **Ed Lujan** and **John Hernandez**. Not pictured are **Ambrose Rodriguez** and **Alfred Lujan**.

RENEWALS & NEW BIZ

## Key partnership continues toward 25-year mark

CH2M HILL OMI is continuing its partnership with the City of Key West, Fla., for an additional five years, providing O&M service to the city's wastewater treatment plant and stormwater drainage system.

Key West's Mayor and City Commission unanimously voted to renew the contract on March 3, which will mark a 25-year partnership in 2013.

"The key to a successful, long-term relationship is to treat the twentieth year of the relationship the same as the first year," says Project Manager **Greg Smith**. "The client needs to be confident that our goals and priorities are aligned and are accomplished with constant communication."

Greg also compliments the Key West team. "Of course it also helps to have 29 extremely talented, innovative and reliable associates," adds Greg. "I congratulate and thank them for their excellent work resulting in our successful contract renewal."

CH2M HILL OMI associates have been serving Key West for more than two decades. The team is actively involved in the community, supporting causes such as the Key West Boys and Girls Club, the Hospice & Visiting Nurses Association and the Keys Cancer Foundation. Read more about their charitable activities on page 4.

## Crestview signs on for 5 more years, additional engineering work

In a unanimous decision in March, Crestview, Fla.'s City Council chose to partner with CH2M HILL OMI for O&M services for an additional 5 years and 8 months, with the option for an automatic renewal after the first 5 years.

The City Council picked CH2M HILL, in a second unanimous decision, to perform engineering services for the design and construction of an expansion to the city's existing wastewater treatment facility, which will increase the facility's capacity from 2.75-mgd to 4-mgd.

"With 15 years and now a 5-year, 8-month renewal, we look forward to continued relations with the City Council and staff," says Project Manager **Paul Frigon**. "This is something that Regional Business Manager **Brent Stauffer** and I could not have done alone. It took the efforts of all involved – from the Crestview project team to all of the support groups – to provide the quality service that we do to the City of Crestview."

CH2M HILL Senior Project Manager **Joe Klaus** commented on the O&MBC's positive relationship with the client. "We owe a great deal of this success to Brent for initially identifying and providing us the opportunity to work with the city back in 2004, continuing to provide excellent service and establishing long-term relations with the council and staff," says Joe. "Brent and Paul's work is impressive and a great example of how to position our positive client relations and diverse business groups to obtain additional work that meets our clients' needs."

Crestview, located in Northwest Florida, has partnered with CH2M HILL OMI since 1994. The plant serves nearly 22,000 citizens. In addition to operating and maintaining the wastewater facility, a team of six associates operates a 205-acre land application facility for effluent disposal and a main pumping station with three 100-horsepower centrifugal pumps and two natural gas-powered backup pumping systems.

SAFETY BEGINS WITH ME

## Associates snag safety awards

Employees in Pennsylvania and Texas recently took home safety honors. Here's a rundown:

- **Lehigh County, Pa.:** The staff at the Lehigh County Authority Wastewater Plant won two major safety awards from the Pennsylvania Water Environment Association: the Class II Facility Safety Award and this year's George W. Burke Award, which recognizes active and effective safety programs in municipal and industrial wastewater facilities. CH2M HILL OMI has operated the facility since 1995.
- **San Marcos, Texas:** The staff that operates and maintains the wastewater treatment plant in San Marcos, Texas, recently took home three safety awards from the National Safety Council: the Certificate of Merit Award, the Milestone Award and the Occupational Excellence Achievement Award. CH2M HILL OMI has operated the facility since 2005.
- **Stephenville, Texas:** Like their colleagues in San Marcos, the staff that operates and maintains the wastewater treatment facility in Stephenville, Texas, also was awarded three NSC awards: the Safety Leadership Award, the Perfect Record Award and the Occupational Excellence Achievement Award. CH2M HILL OMI has operated the facility since 1996.



Lehigh County associates show off their safety awards. From left to right: **Tony Herstich, Charlie Yost, Diana Holder, Toby Mosser, Tony Mazziotta, Scott Ammon, Barbara Lilly, Joe Yandersits, Dean Vermeulen, Jacob Peck, Dave Koch and Thomas Van Norman.**

## Reaching for the STARS in the south

Associates in Florida and Georgia are reaching for the STARS – the state's Voluntary Protection Program STAR, that is.



Effingham County's **Guy Rodgers** (seated in the front), **Mike Connolly, Rick Leisner, Kyle Holder and Grega St. John** listen to the OSHA VPP STAR award presentation.

Following on the heels of associates in Walla Walla, Wash., the Mary Esther team hosted a class in April for projects interested in obtaining the Occupational Safety and Health Administration's VPP STAR award. VPP promotes effective worksite-based safety and health. OSHA's VPP approval is official recognition of the outstanding efforts of employers and employees who have achieved exemplary occupational safety and health.

OSHA's Leigh Jackson gave the presentation to Regional Director of Operations **Grega St John**, Regional Business Manager **Kyle Holder**, Regional Business Manager **Mike Connolly**, Americus, Ga., Project Manager **Rick Leisner**, Regional Health & Safety Manager **Mike Rapien** and Mary Esther Lead Operator **Stewart Duncan**, among others.

In addition to the OSHA presentation, associates provided a walkthrough of the Mary Esther waste water treatment plant so that interested projects get an idea of what OSHA looks for during an inspection. Mary Esther associates are currently working on submitting an application to become VPP-approved.

CH2M HILL OMI has provided O&M services to the City of Mary Esther since 2003.

## Hoboken saves lives and money

Associates in Hoboken, N.J., participated in the project's first-ever, in-house first-aid training earlier this year.

Previously, the project outsourced first-aid training but this year decided to create a cost-saving alternative by soliciting Northeast Regional Health & Safety Manager **Bill Greenhalgh**, who is an Occupational Safety and Health Administration-certified instructor, to conduct the training.

During a 3-day stay, Bill provided the training equipment and material to a class of 40 associates. In addition to first aid, employees learned cardiopulmonary resuscitation and how to use an automated external defibrillator. The project saved between \$2,500 and \$3,000 by conducting the training in-house.

CH2M HILL OMI provides O&M services to the North Hudson Sewerage Authority, where we serve the cities of Hoboken, Union City and West New York.



Laboratory Analyst **Adan Sarduy** (left) and Operator **Greg Berenzon** practice CPR techniques.

IN OUR COMMUNITIES

## Key West associates make a difference

Key West, Fla. associates donated \$1,000 each to three charities: the Keys Cancer Foundation, the Key West Boys and Girls Club, and the Hospice & Visiting Nurses Association in January.

Many of the associates' lives have been impacted by the three organizations. Associates raised the money from snack and soda sales in the break room.

In addition to their most recent donations, Key West associates also donate to Water for People and youth football, baseball and soccer programs each year. They also make an annual donation to a local, non-profit environmental group called Reef Relief.

"We use this as a way to maintain public awareness of our company and what we do. It's an important part of building a good relationship with your client," says Project Manager **Greg Smith**. "If you don't stay visible in your community, you risk the local politicians wondering who CH2M HILL OMI is at contract renewal."

CH2M HILL OMI associates have operated Key West's 10-mgd wastewater treatment plant for two decades.



Key West Project Manager **Greg Smith** presents Key West Hospice Manager **Chris Burchard** with a check for \$1,000.

## Boys & Girls Club thanks Twin Falls

Twin Falls, Idaho, associates have supported the Boys & Girls Club of America, Magic Valley through the years, one of many community involvement activities the project team supports.

This year, members of the club showed their appreciation and presented Area Manager **John Keady** with a cookie basket and book, which contained pictures and signatures from all of the kids, for the project's continued support.

The project donates money to the club and provides facility tours for the kids.

"It has been a terrific experience meeting some of the kids and the great staff of the Boys & Girls Club," says Administration Specialist **Jeri Pierson**. "We have had the pleasure to give tours to the kids, and we encourage them to be involved with the environment; we are proud to be able to contribute and support the kids of Magic Valley."

CH2M HILL OMI has operated and maintained the Twin Falls wastewater facility and industrial pretreatment facility for nearly 25 years.



Children from the Boys & Girls Club Magic Valley thank **John Keady** for continued support of their club.

## Celebrating Earth Day at our projects

Many of our projects took time out to celebrate Earth Day on April 22.

In New Haven, Conn., associates celebrated with our client, the Greater New Haven Water Pollution Control Authority. Everyone enjoyed pizza, Earth Day cakes and a presentation about how to apply sustainability to everyday life.

GNHWPCA Engineer Azayla Mitch, Executive Director Sidney Holbrook and Board Member Stephen Mongillo organized an Earth Day presentation that included information on how to reduce energy consumption and gave a reminder about vehicle idling times, which reduces vehicle emissions. They also encouraged using reusable bags instead of disposable plastic bags and drinking from a refillable water bottle rather than buying and disposing of individual plastic bottles.

In Hoboken, N.J., associates participated in the 2009 Union City Environmental and Wellness Fair.

Adults and children stopped by the CH2M HILL OMI informational booth to watch an instructional video on wastewater treatment. Associates handed out flowers, pencils and North Hudson Sewage Authority Earth Day T-Shirts. "Everyone had a great time – especially the children," says Client Services Manager **Steve Hudock**.

Look for more Earth Day coverage in the July issue of *Of Mutual Interest*, including clean-up celebrations in Milton, Ga., and Centennial, Colo.



New Haven staff and our client celebrated Earth Day together, learning ways to practice sustainability in day-to-day activities.



**Steve Hudock** passes out flowers to a fair attendee.

## Fayetteville associates teach job seekers about water careers

Associates in Fayetteville, Ark., participated in the Northwest Arkansas Community College Job Fair in early April.

Operations Manager **Tim Luther** and Office Specialist **Michelle Strange** talked with several college students and local residents who wanted to learn more about a career with CH2M HILL OMI. Many of the people visiting the booth were surprised to learn about the numerous career opportunities available in the water and wastewater industry. Those visiting the booth also were impressed with the advancement opportunities, benefits and growth opportunities with CH2M HILL OMI.



**Tim Luther** (left) speaks to a job fair participant about careers in the water and wastewater industry.

"The job fair benefits our Fayetteville project in several ways: It gives us the opportunity to recruit local talent for our projects and company, it showcases CH2M HILL services to the local folks, and it gives our employees the opportunity to be proud of our company's business," says Project Manager **Tran Duyen**.

Fayetteville's participation in the job fair led to more than 20 job seekers applying online.

CH2M HILL OMI has provided full contract O&M services for the Fayetteville's wastewater and water treatment plants for more than 20 years.

## Associates get chillin' in Florida

Associates in The Villages, Fla., participated, for the first time, in the local rotary's 12th Annual Rotary FireFight Chili Cook-off in February.

Nearly 32,000 people attended, with the chili cook-off taking place simultaneously on both town squares. Each town square held 30 chili competition teams, assorted vendors and entertainment. Many other community organizations, such as the American Cancer Society and the United Way, competed alongside CH2M HILL OMI.

Associates had fun cooking their "First Time Chili." Although they didn't place, it was all for a good cause. The Rotary Club of the Villages was able to give out more than \$65,000 to area schools, seniors and non-profit groups with the money raised during the cook-off.

CH2M HILL OMI has provided complete O&M of all public and private utility systems for The Villages, Fla., for more than 15 years. Read about the work they're doing with their city's recycling program on the next page.

## Prescott Valley in for the long haul

Associates and their family members participated in the P.F. Chang's Arizona Rock 'n' Roll Half Marathon, earlier this year, as a way to challenge themselves, collectively in a team environment.

"OMI Team Arizona" was well represented in the half marathon and was comprised of Project Director **John Bowman**; Lead Operator **Chris Humbert** and his wife Shelly; Christie Padilla, wife of Maintenance Manager **Patrick Padilla**; and Operations Supervisor **Stefan Padilla's** daughter, Kaylee.

This was everyone's first attempt at a half marathon, and they all finished.

"Training and focusing on a long distance race and reaching our goals allows us to remember an experience we will never forget; that is, until the next race," says Chris.

CH2M HILL OMI has operated Prescott Valley's wastewater treatment plant and municipal water system since 1993.

HELPING OUR CLIENTS

# Recycling program gains momentum

The Villages, Fla., recycling program has been a great success in the community – so much success, in fact, that earlier this year, a second truck and additional crew had to be added to meet the demand.

More than half of the residents in The Villages participate in the recycling program, separating recycled materials from ordinary trash.

CH2M HILL OMI started the program to develop an effective and cost-efficient system to handle recyclable materials – such as newspapers, glass, plastic and cardboard.

“The success of the recycle program is a great example of the partnership between The Villages and CH2M HILL OMI,” says Project Manager **Russ Vaughn**. “We worked closely with them to initiate a cost-effective program that meets the needs of the community.”

CH2M HILL OMI has provided complete O&M of all public and private utility systems for The Villages, Fla., for more than 15 years.

*The Villages’ associates take time out for a picture in front of the recycling trucks before heading out on their rounds.*



# Unruly weather, but associates weather storms

While the Midwest felt the impact of heavy rain in March, the Northwest saw snow.

Associates in West Liberty, Iowa, received nearly 4 inches of rain in a 3-day period in early March, and Oregon employees in Sandy, Dallas, Hood River and Sweet Home saw the snow fly in January.

In Iowa, flooding caused the plant to be in overflow mode for 35 hours, with an estimated volume of nearly 1.8 million gallons.

To handle the flooding, associates turned off aerators to the activated sludge system and used the sludge tanks as large clarifiers during the overflow period. The clear water was then discharged to the final clarifiers to reduce the number of back-ups in the collection system.



*Rain overflows West Liberty’s aerated grit tanks, which can handle approximately 6-mgd.*



*The screw pump works to reduce water on the wastewater grounds from the overflow pipe and aerated grit tanks.*

And in Oregon, the temperature dropped to sub-freezing levels for two weeks. Between the rain and thawed snow and ice, some projects accumulated nearly 4 feet of precipitation. To keep the projects running smoothly, associates responded to equipment failures and erratic callouts for 4 days and nights.

During the first week of January, Hood River associates documented record plant flows, while trying to maintain plant processes. And associates in Sandy had to deal with a major mountain slide, which meant they had to drive an extra 3 hours to get to and from work.

In Dallas, the snow and ice produced multiple short losses of power that affected the equipment and the ultraviolet disinfection system, which needs to operate continuously in order to disinfect wastewater effluent. The high flows exceeded plant capacity, flooding some equipment.

Due to the unusual influx of snow in Portland, Sweet Home employees experienced plant flows as high as 6-mgd, and the effluent meter was pegged at 7-mgd for a period of 12 hours during the course of 2 days. Associates turned off the aerators in the aeration basins to prevent the high flows from washing out the microorganisms and installed a temporary chlorine pump in the launderer of one of the clarifiers to try and help with help with in an attempt to help chlorine contact time.



“For a plant that has a peak instantaneous flow of 7.4-mgd, we were pushing the limits,” says Sweet Home Project Manager **Shawn Moffitt**. “I was surprised at how little snow it took to create a lot of problems. Snow is so rare here that they don’t have the equipment to handle it.”

“Inclement weather and high flows test ‘what if’ scenarios,” says Dallas Project Manager **Pat Kavan**. “In turn, reality develops operator ingenuity, skills and experience to get the job done.”

No adverse effects developed from the winter weather – thanks to our associate’s knowledge, responsibility and commitment to efficiently operate the projects they serve. We know our clients appreciate it!

*Snow blankets CH2M HILL OMI’s Sweet Home project.*

# Sustainable practices help our clients

Associates at the Gilroy/Morgan Hill, Calif., and Hoboken, N.J., projects understand the importance of sustainability and cost-saving practices and what it means to our bottom line and our clients’.

Process improvement is a big part of the Gilroy/Morgan Hill team. A recent and fresh idea, brought to the table by an Operator-in-Training, is now saving the client chemical costs and operator time. Associates decided to cover the secondary clarifier weirs and launderer to inhibit the growth of algae. Since the covers have been installed, staff has noticed a large reduction in personnel hours, and there hasn’t been a need to clean the weirs and launderer.

“We don’t know yet how much we will see in chemical savings, but we won’t not need to chlorinate the weirs as often or clean them as much either,” says Project Manager **Brenda Miles**. “This saves the client time and money and frees up the operator’s time, which can be used for other tasks.”



*Covers added to the Gilroy/Morgan Hill secondary clarifier helped reduce the amount of algae growth and person hours needed to tend to the issue.*

In Hoboken, the Operations department undertook an experimental project to conserve energy while being financially-friendly that included replacing standard, incandescent light bulbs with more efficient fluorescent bulbs. The test is being conducted on 24 bulbs at a cost of approximately \$6 each.

The new bulbs are advertised to have a 5-year service life. The replaced bulbs had a 6-month service life, costing \$1 each.

To keep the same area lit using the old-style bulbs, the cost would be \$48 per year for 5 years, for a total cost of \$240. Based on \$.10/Kwh, the new bulbs will save an estimated \$53 in energy consumed per unit during the entire life of the bulb or a total energy savings of \$1,272. This brings the total project savings to \$1,368.

# Company helps sponsor city event



*CH2M HILL OMI helped sponsor the 2009 Centennial State of Our City Address on April 22. CH2M HILL OMI provides public works operations to the city. The 5-year partnership began last year. Pictured, from left to right, are Sales Director **Pete Cohlma**, Transportation Business Group President **Mark Lasswell**, Senior Vice President and Chief Financial Officer **Catherine Santee**, Marketing & Communications Director **Susan Mays**, Assistant Business Manager **Scott Neelley**, City of Castle Pines North Mayor **Maureen Shul**, City of Castle Pines North Councilperson **David Neely**, Centennial Director of Public Works **Dave Kotecki** and Communications Specialist **Sara Edwards**.*

## ALL ABOUT YOU

## Grega St John selected for RDO position in East Region



**Grega St John**

Grega St John was selected to fill the Regional Director of Operations position in the East Region in March.

Grega was chosen because of her outstanding track record on safety, financial and business development performance, along with her enthusiasm for both the position and location.

The RDO position became vacant last November when Gary Wood was selected to head the East Region as the Regional Business Group Manager.

"We are very excited to have Grega move into this important role in our Delivery organization," says Director of Operations Steve Meininger. "We look forward to Grega continuing her positive track record of leading successful projects/teams, expanding client relationships and growing our business."

"I am excited about the experience, potential and commitment that Grega brings, as well as the opportunity to work directly with her again," adds Gary.

Grega has worked for CH2M HILL OMI for 20 years. She started with the company as an Operator-in-Training, in Fayetteville, Ark.

## Georgia water pro turns into professor

Associate Don Patterson typically works as a water reuse operator in Hinesville, Ga. But earlier this year, he played professor as well.

Don visited an elementary school to help support its Career Fair 2009, speaking to a fifth-grade class about the importance of water conservation. He also explained how his job in water reclamation reduces dependence on aquifers and replenishes the Earth's fresh water.

To help illustrate, Don created a display for all of the fourth- and fifth-grade classes to share water conservation tips and show examples of reuse water. "The students were amazed at the difference in the water before and after treatment," says Don, who has been with the company for six years. "They were very impressed at the work that goes into treating water, and it was fun to help teach them about it."

CH2M HILL OMI began providing services for Hinesville's wastewater treatment plant in 1984, and added the entire public works function in 1992.



Operator Don Patterson poses with students and examples of reuse water during a career fair.

## 10-year associate inducted into meeting Hall of fame



Meetings & Events Director Cari Strouse (left) with Colorado Meetings + Events' Lisa Lindgren.

Cari Strouse was inducted into *Colorado Meetings + Events* magazine's Hall of Fame in March as the best Meeting Professional in the state.

A 10-year veteran with CH2M HILL OMI, Cari, known as Cas around the enterprise and the industry, leads a meetings and events team that today serves not only the O&M Business Group but also the entire CH2M HILL enterprise.

"We're fortunate to have such amazing talent, and we're proud to see Cas recognized by the industry for the tremendous value she brings to CH2M HILL," says Business Manager Natalie Eldredge. "We don't hear complaints about meetings, and that's because Cas and her team work hard to make everything seem flawless to us."

Cari and her team of four planners arranged nearly 170 meetings and events for internal customers last year, including PM Summit 2008, Board of Directors meetings and a major client event held in conjunction with the Democratic National Convention. From sourcing and contracting through on-site support, the team's mission is to help internal customers deliver effective meetings while reducing costs and liabilities to the company.

When Cas first joined CH2M HILL, most meeting planning was sourced to outside vendors. Cas brought the function in-house, centralizing projects and connecting with the travel manager and contracts manager to ensure the greatest efficiency and best cost-control for the company.

"It changed the way things were done," she says.

In addition to securing venues and vendors, contracts now are reviewed not only for the best price, but also the least risk to the company. Cas believes 2009 will be a big year for the department as it prepares to launch a customer-oriented Web site by third quarter and put an even greater focus on service.

The biggest opportunity, she says, is to help internal customers at CH2M HILL understand the benefits of using the meeting and events team, allowing them to do the behind-the-scenes work of sourcing, contracting and execution to make a customer shine.

Cari is on the board of directors for the Rocky Mountain chapter of Meeting Professionals International and has served as the organization's vice president of the professional development strategic group for the past three years, responsible for researching trends and opportunities, securing speakers and working with selected venues to provide educational opportunities for MPI's members. This year, she'll serve as vice president of finance for the chapter. She is a Convention Industry Council Certified Meeting Professional and holds her Certification in Meeting Management from MPI.

This is Colorado Meetings + Events' second annual Hall of Fame induction, honoring people whose innovation, extraordinary customer service and commitment to the meetings industry set them apart from the rest. The magazine editorial advisory board, comprised of professionals from the meetings and events industry around the state, selected the winners.

## Georgia Dawg storms squared circle

Savalas Everette is a hard-working family man with a wife and three children – and his life story could serve as the foundation for another great sports movie such as *Rocky* or maybe *Pumping Iron*.

By day, he takes out the trash as a sanitation worker in Hinesville, Ga. On the weekends, though, you can call him "E-Dawg" and thrill to his moves in the squared circle.

Located in southeastern Georgia, Hinesville was home to four signers of the Declaration of Independence. Savalas, in turn, is making his own history: He's a four-time, tag-team wrestling champion in the independent Georgia Wrestling Federation.

You don't want to mess with him. His signature move is the "gangsta death drop," akin to something Team 3D (the Dudley Boyz) might pull. His partner, G-Smooth, throws the opponent into the ropes and picks him up by the legs on the bounce back. E-Dawg then jumps up, catches the poor guy, and takes him down for the count.

Sporting camouflage pants and sleeveless shirts, the duo certainly sounds intimidating. But when asked why he does it, E-Dawg, er, Savalas' tone takes an unexpected turn. "I do it to see the kids and their faces light up," he says. "I take time to sign autographs and meet the people." Being a wrestler, after all, was something he wanted to do when he was a kid just like the ones who come to see him wrestle now.

For Savalas, it's all about providing Hinesville, a fairly small city of roughly 30,000, with a taste of sporting entertainment not regularly served – live, at least – by large wrestling organizations such as WWE. Regarding that titan of wrestling, the WWE, Savalas modestly says, "If they came calling, we wouldn't mind."

Booked for wrestling gigs every weekend 'til the fall, Savalas is currently in training and getting into tip-top shape, not only in the event that the WWE does pay a call, but also for a big War Games match coming up in October.

Being a six-year employee at CH2M HILL OMI, the question of balancing wrestling and safety naturally comes up. After all, E-Dawg gets into some interesting situations in the ring, including a little something called the "flaming table match," which is exactly what it sounds like. (Look him up on YouTube; simply search for E-Dawg and Gangsta Nation.)

Well, his colleagues are good sports about the matter. Aside from some "gentle ribbing," they know his heart and mind are in the right place and it's merely one more avenue of pursuit for Savalas. On top of it all, he occasionally "takes out the trash" as a bouncer, and on weeknights, he still manages to find the time and energy to deliver pizzas.



It was the hope of many associates in the South that Savalas, pictured here, would have the opportunity to show Regional Vice President Herb Washington "a thing or two" before Herb moved on to his current role in Business Development.

ALL ABOUT YOU

**Editor's note:** Because of the conversion of the Human Resources and Payroll information system to Oracle, we're having difficulty obtaining accurate lists of new hires, promotions, certifications and anniversaries. We may begin posting service anniversaries, new hires and promotions on O&MZone. If you have a certification you would like to share, please send the information to Of Mutual Interest Editor **Carolyn Brinkers** (carolyn.brinkers@ch2m.com), as we will publish it in a future issue of Of Mutual Interest.

Certifications

Name	Position	Location
Joseph Quintana	New Mexico Collections 1, New Mexico Wastewater Systems 1	Grants, N.M.

## Associate tackles new challenges as elected official



**Gary Gilliard** (center) was joined by his family, including his mother, **Jackie Gilliard** (seated), at a swearing-in ceremony to become the County Commissioner representing Liberty County's District 5.

Hinesville Project Manager **Gary Gilliard** is the newest commissioner in Liberty County, Georgia.

Representing District 5, Gary took office on Dec. 29. He was one of 13 elected officials who took their oath of office before citizens, family and friends during a swearing-in ceremony at the Liberty County Board of Education building in Hinesville. He is an active community member, serving as the director of the drug and alcohol outreach program for his church, and ran unopposed (a true testament to his standing in the community) in last year's primary.

Gary assured his constituents they will be represented properly in local government saying "Liberty County, believe me when I say, you have a voice downtown, and you can rest assured that I'll listen to you, and if need be, I'll speak up for you."

He hopes to hold town hall-style meetings with his constituents during his 4-year term. Among his other priorities is leveling the playing field for all residents and businesses in the county. Gary's not daunted by the hard work ahead, noting the reason why he ran for office: "I'm blessed with a giving spirit so wanting to give back to the community of my youth is something that I'm interested in."

## Make healthy eating a family goal

Family meals are a comforting ritual for both parents and kids.

Children like the predictability of family meals, and parents get a chance to catch up with their kids. Research indicates that kids who take part in regular family meals are also:

- More likely to eat fruits, vegetables and grains.
- Less likely to snack on unhealthy foods.
- Less likely to use drugs or alcohol and are more likely to perform better in school.\*

What counts as a family meal? Any time you and your family eat together – whether it's takeout food or a home-cooked meal with all the trimmings. Strive for nutritious food and a time when everyone can be present. This may mean eating dinner a little later to accommodate a child who's at sports practice or setting aside time on the weekend, when everyone's time may be more flexible.

### Be a role model

Kids will follow the lead of the adults they see every day. By eating fruits and vegetables and not overindulging in the less nutritious stuff, you'll be sending the right message without saying a word.

Another way to be a good role model is to limit portions and not overeat. At the table, talk about being full. You might say, "This is delicious, but I'm full, so I'm going to stop eating." Similarly, parents who are always dieting or complaining about their bodies may foster these same negative feelings in their kids.

### Don't battle over food

Well-intentioned parents might find themselves bargaining or bribing kids to eat healthy foods. A better strategy is to give kids some control as to what they eat (while you control what healthy foods to which they have access). Here are some other helpful ideas:

- Establish a predictable meal schedule. Kids and adults alike are less prone to eat mindlessly if they know when to expect the next meal or snack.
- Don't force kids to clean their plates. Doing so teaches kids to override feelings of fullness.
- Avoid using dessert as a bribe for eating their meal. And don't use food as a way of showing love.
- Encourage children to try at least one bite of something new.

### Get kids involved

Most kids enjoy deciding what to make for their lunch or dinner. Some might even want to help shop for ingredients and prepare the meal. Involving kids at a young age teaches them how to make healthy food selections when they're out on their own. In the kitchen, select age-appropriate tasks so your child can play a part without getting injured or feeling overwhelmed. And at the end of the meal, don't forget to praise the chef!

### Help is available

Our Employee Assistance Program, offered through Magellan Health Services, has some great parenting resources. For more information on positive parenting, log on to [www.MagellanHealth.com/member](http://www.MagellanHealth.com/member), or call 800.888.2273. Counselors are available 24 hours a day, seven days a week to provide confidential assistance at no cost to you.

Source: Magellan Health Services  
\*National Center on Addiction and Substance Abuse. (2006).

## Associate lends expertise in Egypt

Senior Operations Specialist **Darrel Blanchard** spent a month developing an operator certification program in Egypt for USAID earlier this year and had some fun in the process.

Darrel's involvement will entail several 1-month trips to Egypt.

During his first visit, he participated in a project chartering session with representatives from USAID, Housing and Urban Utilities Development, the Egyptian Water and Wastewater Regulatory Authority and representatives from several governmental agencies. The chartering session was presented in English and later translated to Arabic.

Operator certification was one of several components discussed during the chartering session and involves several complicated tasks, from developing a system for operator grade levels and corresponding competencies, to implementing and monitoring the certification program nationwide.

Darrel got started by comparing all of the different certification programs in the U.S. and choosing the best elements of each.

"It's a daunting task, but I have enjoyed the challenge," says Darrel.

USAID (U.S. Agency for International Development) is an independent agency that provides economic, development and humanitarian assistance around the world in support of the foreign policy goals of the United States.



Darrel got to do a bit of sightseeing in Egypt – some from the back of a camel! He's pictured here, seated on the camel. His wife, **Peggy**, is on his left. Also pictured are employees **Roop Lutchman** and **Nancy Barnes**. Roop and Nancy were in Egypt to work on another CH2M HILL project for USAID – the successful closeout of a water and wastewater policy reform program for the country.

## New arrivals Denver, Colo.

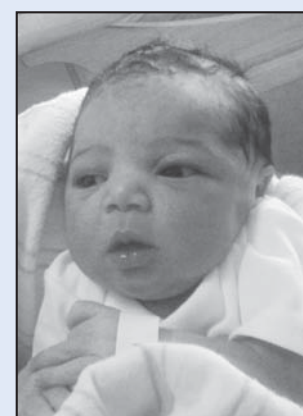


Graphic Designer **Moria Howsare** and her husband, Mike, adopted **Isabella Anne** in January. Isabella was born on Jan. 16, and she weighed 7 lbs., 8 oz., and was 20 inches long.

Isabella Anne Howsare

## Sandy Springs, Ga.

Assistant Director of Planning and Zoning **Patrice Ruffin** and her significant other, **Tory**, celebrated the birth of **Sydney LaShawn**. Sydney was born on April 8, and she weighed 5 lbs., 13 oz.



Sydney LaShawn

## Kicking arsenic out of water

Rio Rancho, the third-largest city in New Mexico and home to more than 80,000 residents, also is home to new, advanced water treatment facilities designed to reduce arsenic levels in potable water.

The city is spending more than \$42 million on 10 new arsenic treatment facilities. The first went online in October 2008, followed by two others at the end of last year; the remaining seven are expected to be up and running by the end of this year.

The new facilities, all managed by CH2M HILL OMI, are the result of efforts made by New Mexico Senator Jeff Bingaman, who considers Rio Rancho's water infrastructure a top priority, to fund the high-tech projects.

The goal is to bring the arsenic levels down to less than 10 parts per billion. The amount of arsenic, a naturally-occurring element in Rio Rancho's geography, can vary dramatically based on the well's location – and those wells run deep, drilling down 2,400-3,000 feet. In some spots, arsenic levels are zero or extremely low, but within only a couple miles, another well might have arsenic levels at more than 40 ppb.

"It's a showcase facility," says Project Manager **Cliff Leeper** of the first treatment plant. It's the kind of place that impresses, both in terms of the cleanliness of the water it produces and the cleanliness of the facility itself, which can be described as "eat-off-the-floor" clean.

A facility scheduled to begin system trials this spring will be the largest of its kind in the Southwest, providing a treatment capacity of more than 12-mgd.



Senator Jeff Bingaman made a visit to one of the new arsenic treatment facilities. From left to right are **Cliff Leeper**, CH2M HILL OMI Project Manager; **Lisa Vorn Holt**, Rio Rancho Director of Public Works; **Scott Sensenbauger**, Rio Rancho Head of Engineering; **Larry Webb**, Rio Rancho Utilities Division Manager; **Jeff Bingaman**, New Mexico U.S. Senator; **Tom Swisstack**, Rio Rancho Mayor; **Bob Swisher**, CH2M HILL OMI Operator; **John Ketchum**, Rio Rancho Engineer; **Ramish Narasimhan** with NCS Engineering; **Mick Jakymiw**, CH2M HILL OMI Water Production Manager; and **Steve Gallegos**, Utilities System Engineer.

## CH2M HILL workplace wins 2 awards

For the fourth time ever and the second year in a row, CH2M HILL has been named to *Fortune* magazine's list of the "100 Best Companies to Work For."

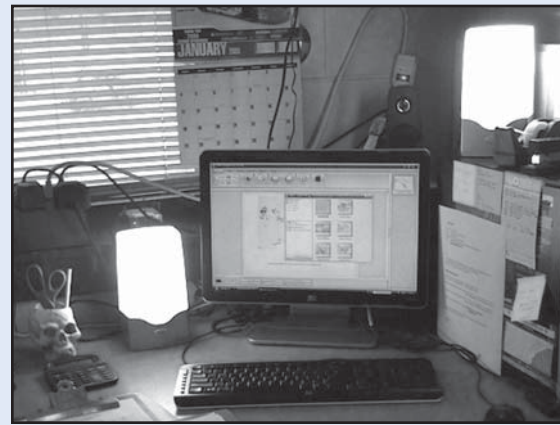
The firm was highlighted for its employee-ownership culture and opportunities to work on cool projects. The full list and more information appeared in the Feb. 2 issue of *Fortune*.

In addition, CH2M HILL was one of four recipients of the 2009 Catalyst Award, which honors exceptional initiatives from companies that support and advance women in business. According to Catalyst, this year's winners "reflect true innovation and the success of a customized approach." Catalyst is a nonprofit that works globally with businesses to build inclusive workplaces and expand opportunities for women.



Check out the complete list at <http://money.cnn.com/magazines/fortune/bestcompanies/2009/>.

## Everything's bright in Connecticut



Associates in West Haven, Conn., are using light therapy to counteract the effects of limited exposure of natural sunlight in office settings. Light therapy is a growing field of research and product development that uses light as therapy to treat the symptoms of many diverse medical problems, including seasonal affective disorder. Light therapy mimics natural sunlight and makes use of different colors of light to treat different ailments.

## CH2M HILL is a Fortune 500 company

CH2M HILL for the first time is a *Fortune* 500 company, coming in at No. 436 based on 2008 revenue.

*Fortune* magazine publishes its list of the 500 largest U.S. companies that report revenue publicly to a government agency.

"We are proud that our company continues to grow and prosper," says CH2M HILL Chief Executive Officer **Lee McIntire**. "It is a testament to our people and their dedication to providing sustainable solutions that help make our customers more successful."

CH2M HILL's 2008 revenue was \$5.6 billion, which does not include unconsolidated revenue from joint ventures such as those at Department of Energy facilities in Washington and Idaho. Total revenue for last year was \$6.4 billion.

Twelve engineering and construction companies are on the 2009 list, and CH2M HILL is ranked No. 9.



Go to [http://money.cnn.com/magazines/fortune/fortune500/2009/full\\_list](http://money.cnn.com/magazines/fortune/fortune500/2009/full_list) to see a complete listing of America's largest corporations.

ofmutualinterest  
A MONTHLY NEWSLETTER PUBLISHED BY THE ASSOCIATES OF CH2M HILL FOR THE ASSOCIATES OF CH2M HILL OMI

### Share your news

We rely on your news so we can tell everyone what's happening at our company. So tell us about community involvement, new contracts or renewals, awards, client feedback, an innovative solution, associate achievements, project celebrations and safety successes, and we'll tell the rest of CH2M HILL OMI.

Send as much basic information (the news, names, job titles, location and date) as you can. We'll write the story and contact you if we need more information. The best way to enhance your story is with pictures, or copies of client letters or certificates. When you send pictures, include the names of everyone in the photo, identified from left to right. And if the picture is of a "thing," tell us what it is (for example, pump repair work). Shoot your pictures in the highest possible resolution, and send them in their original format (for example, .jpg or .bmp).

Send your articles, story ideas and photos to *Of Mutual Interest* Editor **Carolyn Brinkers**. Mail, e-mail ([carolyn.brinkers@ch2m.com](mailto:carolyn.brinkers@ch2m.com)) and fax (720.286.8208) submissions are welcome. Or give Carolyn a call at 720.286.4227.

*Of Mutual Interest* is an internal newsletter intended for the associates of CH2M HILL OMI.

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### Recycle this!

Please recycle this newsletter when you're done reading it.



## Don't miss July's issue



Associates in Mary Esther, Fla., learn how to work safely around electricity. The safety training class is a rollout of a new program that consists of classroom study and hands-on experience. Read this story and much more in the July issue of *Of Mutual Interest*.