



AIR & WASTE MANAGEMENT  
ASSOCIATION  
SINCE 1907

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[www.AWMANFS.wildapricot.org](http://www.AWMANFS.wildapricot.org) or using the hardcopy form provided on the website.

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# THE RELEASE

Vol. 45 No. 1 September 2020

Kevin Sullivan — Editor

## Message from the Chair

**Kathy Moguel**

It is an honor to welcome back all members to the year ahead, and I am humbled to serve as your Chair for the upcoming year that will take us into the third decade of the century. I would like to extend my deepest thanks to the current and past Directors, Chairs, and all volunteers that have worked so hard to keep our Section going through the years. The Core Purpose of A&WMA is “to improve environmental knowledge and decisions by providing a neutral forum for exchanging information.” I feel that we serve a vital role in educating and supporting each other, and in helping industry and business thrive in WNY. Most importantly, YOU are the life-blood of the unparalleled free flow of information and expertise that facilitates debate and development in our discipline. Environmental leaders in our community benefit from this forum, where we enhance not only our regulatory and practical knowledge, but enrich the sense of community required to sustain the openness and camaraderie that enable our organization to thrive.

As we grapple with the dramatic change which have occurred due to the SARS-CoV- 2 pandemic, we must keep this mission in laser focus. Some technical organizations are taking a rest until the crisis passes, but I strongly feel that there are success stories to tell, and new situations to communicate and explain. Having said that, we will need to change how we do our work. Our main method of fellowship has been our monthly dinner meetings, with a tour of an area business or industry if possible. For our September meeting we are going to continue this in a COVID-19 modified way:

On Thursday, September 17, Triad Recycling will host a tour of its site, mostly outdoors (distancing and masks required). Then we will gather for a light box dinner and non-alcoholic beverages at the Niawanda Pavilion on the Niagara River in Tonawanda. Triad and Erie County will speak on the significant changes to RECYCLING today.

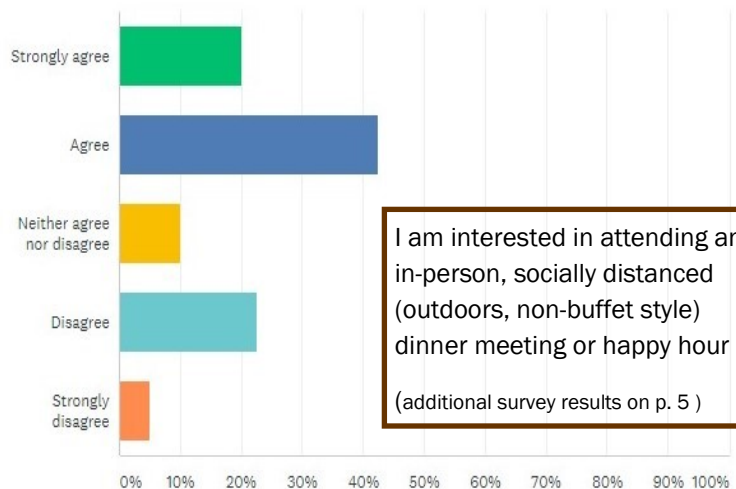
(Cont'd on p. 7)

## Meeting and Events Schedule

**Luke Donigan**

The effects of the COVID-19 pandemic are still rippling through all aspects of our lives. The AWMA-NFS is also continuing to seek resolution to the obvious questions that remain.

In early August, the Board sent around a survey to our members (40 total respondents) to help facilitate future planning of events. Those survey results are provided in this article. Going forward, it appears that large venues to maintain social distancing, accompanied with a webinar that can be accessed by those not in physical attendance, may be the best strategy to cover the range of preferences. The Board has (cont'd on p. 5)



I am interested in attending an in-person, socially distanced (outdoors, non-buffet style) dinner meeting or happy hour (additional survey results on p. 5)

## Earth Day Grants

Peter Grasso

The Air & Waste Management Association – Niagara Frontier Section (A&WMA-NFS) awarded 5 Earth Day grants this year. These grants are used to promote environmental awareness through creative and impactful educational activities and community engagement efforts. Each of the grants was funded at \$500, for a total amount of \$2,500 going back out into the community. For more information on each project, please visit our website at <https://awmanfs.wildapricot.org/2020-Earth-Day-Grant-Winners>.

This years' awardees are:

- ⇒ **Engineers Without Borders UB Chapter** - Project Name: *La Laguna, Nicaragua Water Purification Initiative*
- ⇒ **Erie County Soil & Water Conservation District** - Project Name: *2020 Erie County Envirothon*
- ⇒ **Amherst Conservation Advisory Council** - Project Name: *Tree Planting Initiative at College Park in Amherst, New York*
- ⇒ **Buffalo Is Creative, Inc. - a 501(c)(3)** - Project Name: *Creative Mornings/Buffalo*
- ⇒ **Wild Spirit Education, Inc.** - Project Name: *Earth Day Anniversary Programs*

Updates on the progress made by one of these groups is shown at right and on page 3.

From: **Wild Spirit** <[wildspiriteducation@gmail.com](mailto:wildspiriteducation@gmail.com)>

I just wanted to let you know that we are using the funds from your generous grant to bring nature to more people in a "virtual" way this summer since Covid-19 regulations hinder our hopes of doing in-person programming. We have created a Wild Spirit Podcast that will explore ways that people can celebrate Earth Day every day by living a green lifestyle. We will present a new podcast each week throughout the summer and fall. We have already produced our first episode and included the sponsorship of AWMA-NFS in the podcast and on the podcast page as well as on our Facebook page. If you would like to check out the first episode it is at [www.wildspirit.org/podcasts](http://www.wildspirit.org/podcasts).

Thanks again for granting us this money and for allowing us to alter the grant in the Covid-19 world. We will have a full grant summary at the end of the summer for you.

Paul Fehringer  
Executive Director/Senior Naturalist  
Wild Spirit Education, Inc.

## 2021 A&WMA Enrichment Seminar

Pat Martin and Mike Hecker

The 2020 Annual Seminar was held on January 23 at Templeton Landing. We hosted 122 attendees and 10 exhibitors. Our Keynote Speaker was Mark Lowery, Assistant Director of the NYSDEC Climate Office, and he gave a presentation on the NYS Climate Leadership and Community Protection Act. The remaining presentations covered a wide-range of current topics, which were well received. The money raised from this annual event is used to fund scholarships for High School Seniors, College students, and teens attending NYSDEC Summer camps. Presentations made at the 2020 seminar can be viewed on our web site at <https://awmanfs.wildapricot.org/2020-Seminar>.

In the interest of maintaining the health and safety of our members and community, and the relative uncertainty associated with what the Winter will bring with the COVID-19 pandemic, we have made the decision to delay our January 2021 annual enrichment seminar. We will be reassessing things in the early part of 2021, with an eye towards rescheduling the enrichment seminar for some time in May 2021 or June 2021, if all goes well.

If you have any thoughts or feedback regarding the seminar, whether relative to last year's event or planning for this coming years, please contact either Patrick Martin ([ptmartin@golder.com](mailto:ptmartin@golder.com)) or Mike Hecker ([mhecker@hodgsonruss.com](mailto:mhecker@hodgsonruss.com)).

**Membership**

**Mark Hans**

Currently we have over 114 members in the Air & Waste Management’s Niagara Frontier Section with roughly a 25/75 split between international and local affiliates. For more information related to membership as well as the A&WMA-NFS in general, please log onto the [A&WMA-NFS Website](#).

Corporate memberships are valid for one year from the date of renewal while local memberships expire on August 31<sup>st</sup> annually. New members and renewal applications can be found on our [website](#). Payment can be made either through the website or mail. Refer to the table at right for membership categories and dues.

Local Affiliate Member	\$36
Local Affiliate Member [Full-Time College Student]	\$11
International Member	\$195
International Member [Young Professional - 35 or younger]	\$98
International Member [Full-Time College Student]	\$35
Corporate Sponsor*	\$325
Website Sponsor**	\$500

- \* Corporate Sponsor includes an International Membership for one person and a local affiliate membership for a second person.
- \*\* Web Sponsor includes an International Membership for one person and a local affiliate membership for a second person. In addition, the corporate logo of a website sponsor will be displayed on the home page of the A&WMA website.

If you have any questions about becoming a member or renewing your membership please contact Mark Hans at [awmanfsmembership@gmail.com](mailto:awmanfsmembership@gmail.com).

[A list of current membership can be found on the AWMS-NFS website.](#)

**Earth Day Grants (cont'd)**

**Peter Grasso**

**Engineers Without Borders UB Chapter Project Update**

Dylan Davignon <dgdavign@buffalo.edu> Sat, Feb 15, 2020 at 12:28 PT  
 To: Peter Grasso <awmanfsmembership@gmail.com>

Hi Peter,

I would like to again thank AWMA-NFS for selecting us as the recipient of the earth day grant. The money granted has been used to survey our future water pipeline for the village of La Laguna, Nicaragua.

This survey consists of a complete roadmap to how our pipeline is going to be designed, and laid out. It also consists of housing/pipe junction elevation, pipe length, and positioning data for where to put our storage tank.

With this data collected EWB-UB will now be able to effectively simulate, and implement, a sustainable, low-maintenance, and long lasting water filtration, sanitation, and delivery system to the struggling village of La Laguna, Nicaragua. We have attached all the files, pictures, and data that we collected during the survey, and if you have any questions regarding the survey process please feel free to reach out.

Thanks For Your Support,

Dyain Davignon  
 EWB-UB President

**People on the Move**

**Mark Hans**

Hal Pierce recently advised the Board that he will be stepping back from his duties as the “Badge Man” for A&WMA -NFS. Many of you have gotten to know Hal as he greets you after signing in at meetings and handing you your badge, or when he chases you down before you accidentally leave with your name badge. Hal always had a smile on his face and a word or two for each of you.

What you may not know about Hal is the many contributions he has made to our section. Hal served for many years as a Director heading up the Seminar Committee. After stepping down from his Director position, he served as Financial Secretary for another 7 years. At Board meetings Hal would frequently share how it ‘used to be done’, he had the experience to know and teach us. He also served as our “Badge Man” for many years. For his many contributions to our Section, Hal was presented with the William A. Faust Award in 2006.

Thank you, Hal, for your many years of service to the Section! Hopefully, we will see you from time to time at our meetings once the Corona Virus pandemic is behind us.

If you have changed jobs, received a promotion or retired, let us know. Information can be sent to Kevin Sullivan (newsletter editor) at [ksullivan@TRCCcompanies.com](mailto:ksullivan@TRCCcompanies.com).

## Scholarships

Peter Grasso

The Air & Waste Management Association – Niagara Frontier Section (A&WMA-NFS) awarded 2 Dave Sauer High School Scholarships and 3 College Scholarships. A total of \$3,500 was awarded during the summer of 2020.

### Dave Sauer High School Scholarships

College scholarships were given to high school seniors in memory of Dave Sauer, a well-respected local environmental professional who was very active in A&WMA. This year's awardees were:

**Samantha Moeller (\$750 Scholarship)**

Samantha graduated from Iroquois High School. She plans to attend Daemen College to enter the Physical Assistant BS/MS program.

**Christian Kolaga (\$750 Scholarship)**

Christian graduated from City Honors High School. He plans to attend SUNY College of Environmental Science and Forestry to study Conservation Biology.

### College Scholarships

A scholarship was awarded to the following students currently enrolled in college:

**Callan Izatt (\$500 Scholarship)**

Callan is a freshman attending the University of Vermont studying Environmental Science.

**Adam Van Kerkhove (\$500 Scholarship)**

Adam is a sophomore attending the State University of New York at Buffalo studying Civil Engineering.

**Taylor Monnin (\$1,000 Scholarship)**

Taylor is a senior attending the State University of New York at Buffalo studying Environmental Engineering.

## James G. Strickland Memorial Scholarships

Peter Grasso

The A&WMA-NFS **Jim Strickland Memorial DEC Environmental Education Summer Camp Scholarships** are given in memory of Jim Strickland, a long-time employee of the NYSDEC and a Director of A&WMA-NFS at the time of his passing in 2018. Fourteen \$350 camp scholarships were awarded, enabling the following middle and high school students to attend DEC summer camp:

- |                |                    |                     |                       |
|----------------|--------------------|---------------------|-----------------------|
| ◇ Erin Lehene  | ◇ Jaden Kamery     | ◇ Laurel Muench     | ◇ Lillian Lewandowski |
| ◇ Ryan Filey   | ◇ Max Kern         | ◇ Josephine Smith   | ◇ James McDonnell     |
| ◇ Devin Furick | ◇ Ella Noe         | ◇ Nathan Hemmerling | ◇ Josh Hemmerling     |
| ◇ Joe Burg     | ◇ Syvonne Forgette |                     |                       |

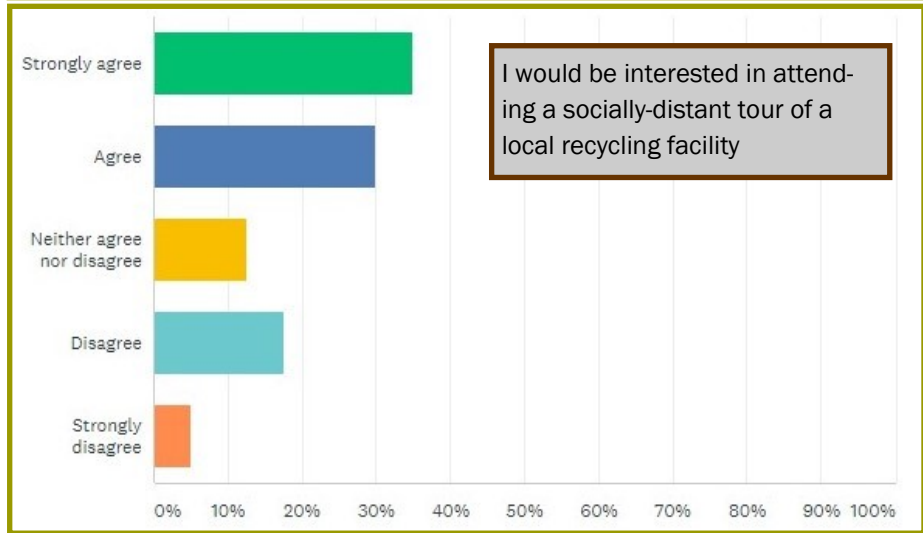
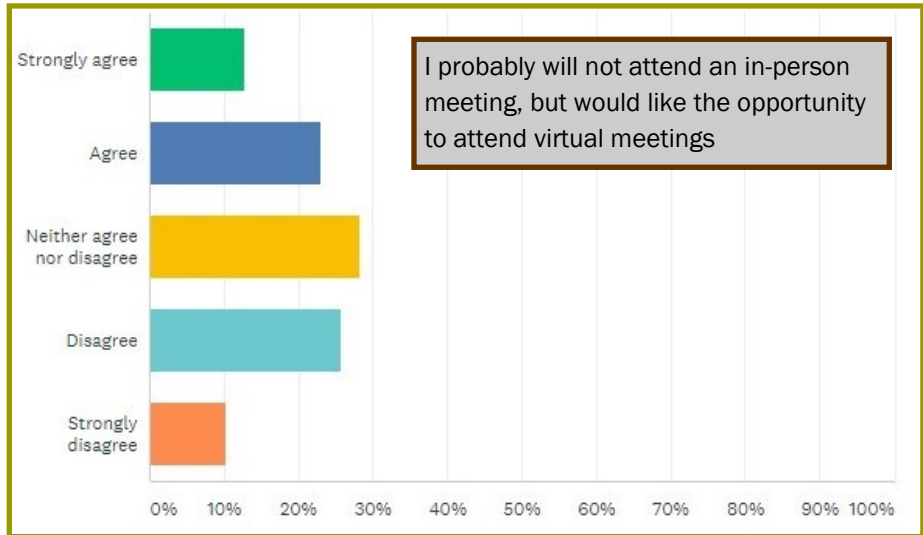
Unfortunately, the 2020 summer camps sessions were canceled due to COVID-19. Hopefully summer camp will resume in 2021 and we encourage all to re-apply to the scholarship next year.

### Meeting and Events Schedule (cont'd)

Luke Donigan

considered the survey results in guiding its planning discussions, and continues to ask members to provide us with your thoughts on venues, speakers, topics, and other suggestions. Please send these comments to Luke Donigan at [LDonigan@phillipslytle.com](mailto:LDonigan@phillipslytle.com). See additional survey results at right and below.

Clearly the COVID-19 pandemic is continuing to affect the way we conduct our business and social affairs and meetings. Please continue to check the [AWMA-NFS website](#) for more details.



### Message from the Chair (cont'd)

Kathy Moguel

We will record the talk and post it (or at least the slides) on the website. We encourage everyone who can come to try to make it. We need your suggestions and assistance, not only for topics for future meetings, but also for the best ways to gather.

We are delighted to report that we were able to award our funds to the grant and scholarship applicants, detailed in this newsletter, to support the next generation of aspiring environmental professionals and non-profits. Although this year's Envirun had to be postponed, we plan to hold it in 2021, and it will be the 30th anniversary run! The event was planned for Goat Island in 2020 and hopefully we will be able to continue that plan for 2021!

Once again, I'd like to thank you for being a part of this incredible and enduring organization, and hope to see you at our upcoming dinner meetings. Please feel free to contact me (716-597-1022) with great ideas for safe and enriching tours and meetings!

Thank you! Be well!

Kathy Moguel



The Niagara Frontier Section of the A&WMA, Inc. publishes its newsletter, **THE RELEASE**, quarterly as a service to its members.

If you would like to submit an article for the next issue of **THE RELEASE**, please contact:

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All other organization related correspondence may be directed to:

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Niagara Frontier Section

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