

North Carolina Waterworks Operators Association

GO WITH THE FLOW Training Tomorrow's Water Professionals Today

33 53

December 2020 Volume 23, Number 3

Turning Point Ray McCall

We have all had times in our life where events happen which causes a turning point. For some it might be graduation from high school or maybe when entering military service. For others it might be the challenge of finding steady work or landing a job that might become a lifelong career. Surely for everyone it's the day we realize that the fun times are over and we must move on into the work phase of life.

For Don Price, Education Specialist for NCWOA and former Water and Wastewater Treatment Plant Consultant for NC DENR/DEQ, it was while living with his grandfather Horace Price in Rutherford County in the mid 1970's.

While still in high school at R.S. Central, Don worked afternoons at the local Winn Dixie store. He worked in all departments and was considered a jack of all trades by the management at the store. One day, near the end of his shift, his manager called him to the office where he complimented Don on his work and encouraged him to attend manager's school. He told Don that, "he would make a good grocery manager."

The next morning, while still pretty excited about the news from his store manager, Don told his arandfather that the Winn Dixie wanted him to train to be a store manager and he had decided to guit school to pursue that calling. Don's grandfather did not have much to say but informed him that if he were not returning to school, he would need his help that day working on the farm. Don described being put to work clearing a fence line which was very laborious work. Near lunch time his grandfather told him it was time to get cleaned up so he could go on to his job at the "Dixie" store. By the time Don returned home late that evening he said, "I was plum worn out from working from daylight until dark that day".

Waking the next morning he again joined his grandfather at the breakfast table. His Grandfather immediately announced to Don, "you need to hurry with that food because we have a The purpose of GO WITH THE FLOW is to keep you, the operator, informed of some of the training opportunities that are available for your certification needs (new and renewal). Events may be scheduled by: NCWOA, Public Water Supply Section, State Laboratory of Public Health, and other sources. This newsletter may also contain information on new regulations, news from the Certification Board, and important need-to-know resource contacts.

Check out our website! www.ncwoa.com

If you would like to nominate an operator for a spotlight article please contact Heather Cagle at *heather@ncwoa.com*.

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lot of work to do around here today". Don said he looked at his grandfather and announced, "I thought I might just go back to school today". He said the old man just smiled back at him and did not say anymore.

Don speaks of that experience as being one that truly set him on his way in life. From there he graduated from R.S. Central and enrolled at Isothermal Community College where he received a degree in Business in 1976. He then joined the US Navy and served as a Hospital Corpsman. After service with the Navy, he enrolled at Western Carolina University and received a B.S. in Social Science.

After college at Western, Don began his working career in the textile Industry and later landed his first teaching job as a Textile School Instructor with the NC Center for Applied Textile Technology in Belmont, NC. While there he taught various courses and seminars which led him into Water Pollution Control Systems operation. It was there that he obtained his love for teaching and an interest in water treatment.

After several years Don took another turn which led to many years working for municipal government as well as the textile industry. First, it was the Town of Spindale working in municipal wastewater treatment. Later he would return to industrial work as a Process Engineer for the New Cherokee Corporation and for the Hoechst Celanese Fiber Plant in Shelby, NC. The Hoechst job also included working as the operator in responsible charge of the .9 MGD industrial waste Activated Sludge Treatment system. Later in the early 2000's, he went to work for the City of Mount Holly as Utilities Director.

Don's early years set the tone for a long and successful career in both the water industry, where he would become both a Wastewater and Water Treatment Superintendent at several towns and cities in Western North Carolina, as well as in South Carolina. Along his way he started teaching operators through both the NC AWWA/WEA, NCWOA and the NC Rural Water Association.

Due to his extensive experience, in 2005, Don was hired with NC DENR/DEQ to become their Wastewater Treatment Plant Consultant working to provide technical and regulatory assistance to many towns

> and cities. He worked directly with treatment plant staff in the construction, operation, and training of operators. Because of his dedication to training operators, Don was recognized by NC AWWA and NCWOA receiving the "Donald E. Francisco" Educator of the



Year Award in 2008 and Educator of the Year Award in 2017, respectively.

After 8 years as a consultant for NC DENR/DEQ, he left to become the Water Treatment Plant Superintendent for the City of Marion. While at Marion, Don built a lifelong relationship with the management and staff and made great strides to update their treatment facility and train and mentor their existing staff.

Yet again the State of North Carolina was calling and hired Don to become a Water Treatment Plant Consultant in the Asheville Regional Office with the Public Water Supply Section. During that job he continued to teach operators. Don stayed with the regional office for a few years working mostly with water plant superintendents in the approval, construction, and operation of drinking water plants. Finally in 2019 Don decided to retire from the state and joined NCWOA to become their Education Specialist in the Western part of the state.

While teaching and mentoring operators for well over 30 years (to assist them with licensing), Don himself has acquired a lot of certifications in both North Caro-



Don Price presenting AWOP award to Forest City

lina and South Carolina. Not only does he hold the top licenses in water and wastewater, he also holds licenses in subservice land application, water and wastewater distribution and collections as well as being a BCP (Bureau of Certified Safety Professionals) certified instructional trainer and is BMP storm water certified. He is also NIMS (National Incident Management Systems) trained and First Aid and CPR certified. He holds EPA certificates in Water and Wastewater Sanitary Survey and Evaluation as well as being EPA certified in Surface Water Plant Evaluations through the Area Wide Optimization Program (AWOP). While working with the AWOP program, he served on the EPA Region 4 Evaluation Team. He also has been a lifelong member in both NC AWWA/ WEA, NCWOA and the NC Rural Water Association.

It is safe to say that Don has spent a working lifetime in the training of water operators. He has always done it with a smile on his face and with a great enthusiasm for sharing his knowledge with everyone in our water and wastewater industry. He has been a champion for the good of our industry and for all us water operators.

As of late, Don speaks of retirement settling in at his small farm in Rutherford County and spending more time with his first love and wife of 35 years, Louisa, with his second love being small farming taught by his grandfather. He loves old tractors too, and recently purchased a 1952 Ford model tractor that he would like to restore. He still plans to work part time and has recently began helping Pine Mountain Utility with some much-needed repair of their wastewater treatment plant. He says that he still wants to help in our water industry and besides, "once an operator always and operator" is his motto.

As for our opinion, Don is much more than an operator. He has been a dedicated and faithful servant to all operators needing training and a great example what you can accomplish if you set your mind and heart to it. He has also worked throughout North Carolina to keep our drinking water safe from both the upstream and downstream side. Thank you Don for the many, many years of your dedication to our water industry and to the training of thousands of water and wastewater operators. As you were described in the Belmont Banner News many years ago for outstanding work and dedication, the article was titled, "The Price is Right for the Job". We agree whole heartedly!!





Gizmon & GadgetAs Dual media filter assessment tool and mounting bracket

The DE Benton WTP went online in 2010 with a capacity of 16 MGD. This added a much-needed 2nd treatment plant in the City of Raleigh/Raleigh Water. The Benton plant treats water from Lake Wheeler and Lake Benson in Garner. The plant uses raw ozone for taste and odor control, ferric sulfate for coagulation, Super Pulsator clarifiers, GAC biofilters, and UV disinfection. Both the EM Johnson and DE Benton plants have received the Partnership for Safe Water (PfSW) Phase III Director's Award since 2013 and 2014 respectively. Part of the requirements of the PfSW Phase III is a combined filter effluent turbidity below .10 ntu for 95% of the samples measured. Both plants also participants in the Area Wide Optimization Program (AWOP) since 2013. In order to meet the requirements of the PfSW and AWOP, a filter profiling program was started at both plants which included turbidity measurements and measuring the filter media expansion level during the high backwash cycle of the filter wash.

Upon plant startup DEB WTP staff recognized the need for a simple but effective filter assessment tool to assist in monitoring filter performance and media expansion in order to optimize wash water flow to achieve optimum expansion during seasonal water temperature changes.

There were a few on the market that had been fabricated and marketed by ex or current water plant staff around the country as well as private companies. These were often expensive, bulky and cumbersome to use. The current maintenance supervisor (Robert Bonham) along with input from operations staff designed and fabricated a simple and easy to use "media expansion tool". The tool allows the operator to perform a media expansion analysis in real time during the backwash cycle. The tool is positioned on the top of the filter media bed prior to backwash and secured to safety railing using our patent pending "Media expansion tool mounting bracket" that was fabricated to specifically secure the tool in place during the backwash cycle. The tool has "media wells" spaced out every 2.0" over a range of 14.0". This allows media to only collect in the wells equal to or below the expansion depth. Once the high backwash cycle is complete the operator removes the "media expansion tool" from the filter and notes on the filter profiling log the inches of expansion observed then calculates % media bed expansion. AWWA recommends between 20-30% for adequate backwashing. When we started using the media tool the operator would go out to the filter they were washing and make marks on the pole with O-rings as a reference to the top of the bed and would need to remain there with the

tool during the entire backwash to hold the tool in place and we saw this as an opportunity to design and fabricate the "filter assessment tool mounting bracket". The mounting bracket allows the operator to secure the tool to the railing still using the top of the media bed as the starting reference and be free to perform other tasks during the backwash cycle such as pulling turbidity profiling samples and washing down filter walls without the need for additional staff. Filter profiling is an important operator skill that should be utilized at least seasonally to monitor media expansion and used to adjust backwash water flows to maintain adequate media bed expansion.

Both plants have future goals to meet the PfSW Phase IV turbidity requirements for Individual Filter Effluent turbidities. Innovative ideas from Raleigh Water staff such as the filter media expansion tool and media tool mounting bracket will help us get closer to these goals.

Jeremy Ennis Operations Supervisor Dempsey E. Benton – WTP Garner NC, 27529





NCWOA Upcoming Workshops & Training Events (tentative schedule as NCWOA monitors COVID situation)

All NCWOA seminars listed on pages 6 are for 6.0 contact hours and are pre-approved by the NCWTFOCB for treatment and distribution operators. Some of the seminars will also qualify for 6.0 wastewater contact hours. Individuals that attend an entire seminar will receive a Certificate of Attendance for 6.0 contact hours. Please see each individual seminar agenda or description for details. Seminar agendas and locations are tentative and may be subject to change.

Spring Certification School

March 15-19, 2021 Hickory Metro Convention Center Hickory, NC

Advanced Day - March 17

More information coming soon

Water & Wastewater Seminar 6 hours

As NCWOA monitors the ongoing impacts of COVID-19 our training schedule will be continuously updated and amended. We are currently working on in-person and virtual options.

NCWOA appreciates your continued support and patience as we move forward in 2021.

Virtual C-Level Certification School

June 2021 (Multiple 3-hour sessions)

More information coming in 2021

Virtual Training Requirements

Participants must have broadband internet access, computer audio with microphone (or the ability to dial in by phone) and a web camera. We must be able to see the participant at all times during the sessions.

For more information and online registration, please visit our website at www.ncwoa.com

More detailed information coming in 2021

NCWOA SEMINAR REGISTRATION FORM

Deadline for entry is receipt at least 4 business days before a seminar. Space is limited - First Paid, First Accepted

Please Print or Type				
NAME (First, MI, Last):		Nickname	e (For Tag)	
SOCIAL SECURITY # (last 4 digits): XXX-XX	EMPLOYER:			
Mailing Address				
CITY:	COUNTY:		_ STATE:	ZIP:
WORK PHONE:	Ext:	_ FAX:		
EMAIL ADDRESS:				
NC WATER TREATMENT CERTIFICATE # (OPERATOR ID #)	:	NCWOA MEMBER	R # :	
NC WATER TREATMENT CERTIFICATE TYPE:ASBSCS	AWBWCW	DWAD	_BDCDDD	CC/BFNone
NC WASTEWATER CERTIFICATION # (OPERATOR ID #):				
NCWOA MEMBER PRICE IS \$65.00 (Must put your INDIV	IDUAL NCWOA member	rship number on th	e line above to qua	lify)
NON-MEMBER PRICE IS \$125.00				
TBD				Cost \$

Please make checks payable to "NCWOA" or "North Carolina Waterworks Operators Association." We do NOT accept Purchase Orders. Credit Card payments may be mailed, faxed, or scanned but NOT called in. A confirmation letter/receipt and map will be mailed to each attendee once full payment is received.

REFUNDS: We will issue a refund (minus a \$25 administrative fee), if the refund is requested, in writing, at least 7 business days prior to the event. Refunds will be made in the same manner as payment. Substitutions may be made. Please inform us, as soon as possible, of substitutions so that the appropriate certificates of attendance may be generated. **PLEASE SEND APPLICATION AND PAYMENT TO:**

Heather Carlo NCMOA Administrator

CREDIT CARD PAYMENT Credit Card Type: Visa MC AmEx Discover Name on Credit Card: Credit Card Number:		Credit Card Payment	
Exp Date: Month Year Security Code from back of Card		• Cannot be Processed • Over the Phone	
Cardholder's Signature:		• • • • • • • • • • • • • • • • • • • •	
If cardholder is other than attendee, what email address should the CC rec	eipt be sent to?		
To ensure that you receive the emailed receipt, please add heather@ncwc	a.com to your email address book.		
NCWOA USE: Amount: CK#	E S Processed:		

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All sectional training is open to anyone regardless of your particular section. Training agendas and dates are tentative and may be subject to change. More detailed information coming in 2021

Western Sectional Training

March 30 May 20 August 19 October 19 **Questions/RSVP to Brendan Kelley at (828) 232-4574 or <u>BKelley@ashevillenc.gov</u>**

North Piedmont Sectional Training

March 4 June 10 August 5 October 7 Questions/RSVP to Melanie Clark at (336) 627-1009 ext 101 or <u>mclark@edennc.us</u>

South Piedmont Sectional Training

March 25 June 17 August 26 October 21 **Questions/RSVP to Tena Mullis at (704) 920-5163 or <u>mullistm@concordnc.gov</u>**

Northeast Sectional Training

March 2 May 4 August 10 October 12 Questions/RSVP to Dail Booth at (252) 551-1559 or boothrd@guc.com

Southeast Sectional Training

February 23 April 27 July 15 October 14 Questions/RSVP to Robin Miller at <u>robin.miller@faypwc.com</u>

> If training continues to be virtual please note: Virtual Training Requirements

Participants must have broadband internet access, computer audio with microphone (or the ability to dial in by phone) and a web camera. We must be able to see the participant at all times during the sessions. Must be an active member to receive credit hours.

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We Appreciate Our Corporate Sponsors!



Interested in sponsorship? Multiple Opportunities Available

Please contact:

Allen Daniels, Public Image Committee (252) 230-8424 Email: allen@waterguardinc.com Heather Cagle, NCWOA Administrator (252) 764-2094 ext. 1 Email: heather@ncwoa.com

or check our website at www.ncwoa.com

What's happening at your plant?

Are you going through an upgrade, adding some new features, starting a new process? Want to share your experience with other operators?

NCWOA would love to include an article in the Go With The Flow or if you are intersted in hosting a sectional training meeting please contact Heather Cagle at 252.764.2094 ext. 1 or heather@ncwoa.com.

North Carolina Waterworks Operators Association MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION

MISSION STATEMENT: To provide knowledge, skills & educational opportunities for drinking water professionals; develop working relationships with other water treatment organizations; project a positive image and communicate the importance of safe drinking water.



		hip Applica		
First Name:	Middle Initial:	Last Name:		
Nickname:	_ Social Security # (last 4 digits): x	xx-xx If R	enewal, what is yo	our NCWOA Member #:
YOUR Individual Operator Certif	fication #: (Issued by NCWTFOCB)			
Certificate(s) Held:				
A-Surface B-Surfa	ce C-Surface A-Well	B-Well C-	Well D-Well	
A-Dist B-Dist	_C-DistD-DistCross-Co	onnection		
	W	/astewater #'s		
None Yet You are	e not an Operator & do not plan to	become Certified.		
PLEASE SELECT YOUR PREFERI	RED ADDRESS (This is where conf	irmations & memb	ership info will b	e sent.)
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Employer Name:				
MAILING Address:				
City:	State	Zip	County:	
Work Phone :	Ext: Fax: _			
Home Phone:	Cell Phone:		-	
Email Address:				
How would you like to receive y	your issues of Go With The Flow? F	ostal Delivery	<u>OR</u> En	nail
How would you like to receive y	vour Section Meeting notices? Po	stal Delivery	<u>OR</u> En	nail
NOTE: Memberships are based membership number, and mem	l upon a calendar year. Membersh nbership expiration date.	nip cards will be maile	ed with receipt. Th	hese cards will contain your name,
NOTE: Please make checks pa Orders. Credit Card payments r	yable to "NCWOA" or "North Caro may be mailed, faxed, or scanned	lina Waterworks Ope but NOT called in	rators Association	." We do NOT accept Purchase
CREDIT CARD PAYMENT		Heather Cag	APPLICATION ANI le, NCWOA Admii	
Credit Card Type: Visa	MC AmEx Discover	PO Box 5466 High Point, N		
Name on Credit Card:		Fax: 252-764		
Credit Card Number:		Email: heathe	er@ncwoa.com	Credit Card Payment
Exp Date: Month Year _	Security Code from back of C	ard		Cannot be Processed
Cardholder's Signature:		_		Over the Phone
If cardholder is other than atter	ndee, what email address should th	e CC receipt be sent	to?	

To ensure that you receive the emailed receipt, please add heather@ncwoa.com to your email address book.

NCWOA USE:	Amount:	СК#	E S	Processed:
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1919-5

Committee Members

2021 Executive Committee

President

Ken Loflin OWASA Phone: (919) 537-4232 Email: kloflin@owasa.org

First Vice-President

Sam Molinas Broad River Water Authority Phone: (828) 286-0731 Email: smolinas@ncbrwa.com

Second-Vice President

Steve Pope Piedmont Triad Regional Water Authority Phone: (336) 382-2373 Email: spope@ptrwa.org

Secretary

Michelle Clements The East Group Phone: (252) 758-3746 x 131 Email: michelle.clements@eastgroup.com

Treasurer

Leslie Carreiro City of Asheville – North Fork WTP Phone: (828) 271-6105 Email: *lcarreiro@ashevillenc.gov*

Past President

Jeff Isley Email: *Isley1062@aol.com*

Chair – Board of Examiners

Pat Irwin Dare County Phone: (252) 475-5603 Email: pat.irwin@darenc.com

Chair - Public Image

Allen Daniels Water Guard, Inc. Phone: (252) 230-8424 Email: allen@waterguardinc.com

Chair – Nomination Committee Chris Smith Fayetteville Public Works Phone: (910) 223-4708 Email: chris.smith@faypwc.com

Chair – Western Section

Brendan Kelley City of Asheville Phone: (828) 232-4574 Email: *BKelley@ashevillenc.gov*

Chair - North Piedmont Section

Melanie Clark City of Eden Phone: (336) 627-1009 ext 101 Email: mclark@edennc.us

Chair – South Piedmont Section

Tena Mullis City of Concord Phone: (704) 920-5163 Email: mullistm@concordnc.gov

Chair – Southeast Section

Del Coffman Fayetteville Public Works Phone: (910) 223-4706 Email: del.coffman@faypwc.com

Chair - Northeast Section Dail Booth Greenville Utilities Phone: (252) 551-1559 Email: boothrd@guc.com

Distribution Officer

Julius Patrick Greenville Utilities Phone: (252) 551-1561 Email: *patricje@guc.com*

2021 Committees

Finance Committee Board Director: Julius Patrick

Chad Flannagan (Chair) Leslie Carreiro Julius Patrick Sam Molinas Ken Lofin Jeff Isley

Professional Development Committees

Board Director: Sam Molinas

<u>Seminars</u>

Steve Pope (Chair) Jeff Isley Leslie Carreiro Don Price Mike Richardson Melanie Clark Tena Mullis Dail Booth Brendan Kelley Del Coffman Julius Patrick Carl Scharfe Allen Daniels Rodney Horne

<u>Annual Schools</u> Sandra Bradshaw (Chair)

Del Coffman Garrett Gilbert Tiffanie Hawley

Lab Analyst

Chris Goforth (Co-Chair) Bernadine Wardlaw (Co-Chair) Chad Flannagan(Co-Chair) Jeff Isley Amy Watters Dustin Guyer Erik Ruff Patricia Quinichett Elizabeth Meyer David Livingston

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Public Image Committees Board Director: Allen Daniels

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Operator of the Year Award

Jeff Isley (Chair) PWS Representative - Joey White Charlie Colie

Leadership Committees Board Director: Steve Pope

Nominating

Chris Smith (Chair) Tena Mullis Dail Booth Melanie Clark Brendan Kelley Del Coffman

<u>Rules</u>

Mack Edmisten (Chair) Chris Smith Jay Van Hoose

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Heather Cagle, Administrator N.C. Waterworks Operators Association PO Box 5466 High Point, NC 27262 *www.ncwoa.com*

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Important Phone Numbers & Websites

Main Phone # for Certification Board	919-707-9040	https://deq.nc.gov/about/ divisions/water-resources/ operator-certification/drinking- water-operator-certification/dw operator-certification-wtfocb
Bob Midgette, PWS Section Chief	919-707-9088	
Linda Raynor, Compliance Services Branch	919-707-9095	
Jay Frick, Operations Branch	919-707-9102	
Rebecca Sadosky – Protection & Enforcement Branch	919-707-9096	
Bethany Goodwin, PWS – Consumer Confidence Reports	919-707-9079	
Public Water Supply Offices:		www.deh.enr.state.nc.us/pws
Central Office	919-707-9100	
Asheville	828-296-4500	
Mooresville	704-663-1699	
Winston-Salem	336-776-9800	
Raleigh	919-791-4200	
Fayetteville	910-433-3300	
Washington	252-946-6481	
Wilmington	910-796-7215	
NC State Laboratory of Public Health	919-733-7308	
SDWA Hotline	800-426-4791	
EPA SDWA Website		www.epa.gov/safewater
EPA Microbial & DBP Data from Drinking Water Systems Website		www.epa.gov/enviro/html/icr
NC Waterworks Operators Association (NCWOA)	252-764-2094	www.ncwoa.com email: heather@ncwoa.com
NC Rural Water Association	336-731-6963	www.ncrwa.com
NC AWWA-WEA	919-784-9030	www.ncsafewater.org

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